

## Gender & Sexuality Diversity Books: Pre--K, Elementary, Middle School (updated 9/23/2016)

These books are organized by themes and recommended for: 1) GSD inclusivity, 2) socio-emotional skill development, 3) critical thinking skill development. Bilingual selections noted; favorites are starred. In addition to using these books as interactive read-alouds<sup>1</sup>, look for ways to invite students to critique stereotypes and messaging, and help them practice and incorporate the SEL and critical thinking skills!<sup>2</sup> This tool for selecting diverse texts from Teaching Tolerance<sup>3</sup> helps teachers thoroughly assess the merits of including books. Great way for teaching teams or divisions to collaborate, share evaluations and make recommendations.

### All Kinds of Families

*Bedtime for Baby Teddy* (1-3) Tamara Arc-Dekker

A gentle bedtime storybook for young children of lesbian parents.

\**Everywhere Babies* (2 and up) Susan Meyers

Babies of every hue, body type and hairstyle, the illustrations show mom/dad, single parent, gay/lesbian and multi-ethnic families.

\**Mommy, Mamma and Me* (2-4) Leslea Newman

A board book about a toddler's day with two moms.

\**Daddy, Papa and Me* (2-4) Leslea Newman

A board book about a toddler's day with two dads.

*The Many Colored Love/El Amor de Todos Los Colores* (3-6) Lucia Morena Velo **English/Spanish**

Maite was born from the many colored love; now her moms are expecting again.

*My Really Cool Baby Book* (3-7) Todd Parr

A wildly nontraditional record book, this one is designed especially for a child to fill out, with bright colors and lots of choices about parents, pets, friends, relatives and things they like.

*Oh The Things Mommies Do! What Could Be Better Than Having Two?* (3-5) Crystal Tompkins

Children of all ages living, playing and loving two moms. Multicultural illustrations a plus.

*And Baby Makes 4* (3-6) Judith Benjamin

A playful photo essay of a family getting ready for a new baby. Two moms explain to their daughter what to expect. Helpful read for any child waiting for the arrival of a sibling!

\**The Family Book* (3-6) Todd Parr

Typically silly and reassuring, Parr celebrates all kinds of families.

\**A Tale of Two Daddies* (3-6) Vanita Oelschlager

A girl answers the questions of a curious friend about her Poppa and Daddy. Kids answering kids questions a plus.

\**A Tale of Two Mommies* (3-6) Vanita Oelschlager

A boy answers the questions of a curious friend about his Momma and Mommy. Kids answering kids questions a plus.

\**Who's In My Family? All About Our Families* (3-8) Robie Harris

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.k5chalkbox.com/interactiveread aloud.html#sthash.tSVKYAKK.dpuf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/strategy-list-35-dimensions-of-critical-thought/466>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/Reading%20Diversity--Extended%20Edition2016\\_VFF.pdf](http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/Reading%20Diversity--Extended%20Edition2016_VFF.pdf)

Harris is known for accessible books about bodies and reproduction. Here she creates a comprehensive, lively survey of ALL family configurations.

*The Not-So-Only-Child* (4-7) Heather Jopling

A wonderful addition to the all-kinds-of-families genre. Larissa, an only child, describes her big, diverse extended family: married couples, singles, grandparents, aunts, uncles, pets.

*Saturday is Pattyday* (4-7) Leslea Newman.

An important story about what happens to a young girl when her two moms separate.

*In Our Mother's House* (5-8) By Patricia Polacco Well-known children's book author captures the concentric circles of a multi-racial, multi-generational lesbian family.

### **All Kinds of Families: Adoption**

*White Swan Express* (3-6) Jean Okimoto

In China four baby girls wait in an orphanage while four families (including a lesbian couple) in North America prepare for the exciting trip to bring them home.

*\*We Belong Together: A Book About Adoption and Families* (3-6) Todd Parr

A sensitive, colorful description of how adoptive families come together.

*How My Family Came to Be-- Daddy, Papa and Me* (2-6) Andrew Aldrich

A story about adoption, two fathers and an interracial family.

*Felicia's Favorite Story* (3-8) Leslea Newman

A bedtime story about adoption by two moms.

*Why Don't I Have A Daddy: A Story of Donor Conception* (3-8) George Anne Clay

A mother tells her cub about how their family came to be.

### **Marriage**

*Donovan's Big Day* (3-8) Leslea Newman

Donovan gets ready for a very important celebration---his moms are getting married!

*Uncle Bobby's Wedding* (4-8) Sarah Brannen

Chloe worries that she won't be her Uncle Bobby's favorite anymore as he prepares to marry his boyfriend. Set in an alternative family, but focused on relationship between uncle and niece.

*Mom and Mum are getting Married!* Ken Setterington

Rosie tries to figure out what her role will be in this special celebration.

*\*King & King* (3-6) Linda de Haan

The queen decides it is time for the prince to marry a princess but the prince has other ideas!

*The Princes and The Treasure* (3-6) Linda de Haan

Disrupting the fairy tale stereotypes. A girl doesn't need to be rescued. A boy & girl don't need to marry each other unless they are in love. Boys can fall in love and marry each other.

*\*The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage* (5-10) Selina Alko

The story of Loving v. Virginia and the fight for interracial marriage. Kid friendly narration, illustrates a pivotal ruling in the history of marriage equality. Great for classroom use.

### **Alphabet; Counting; Colors**

*ABC A Family Alphabet Book* (2-6) Bobbie Combs

Learning the alphabet with pictures of LGBT families.

*123 A Family Counting Book* (2-6) Bobbie Combs

Count multicultural LGBT families.

*One Hundred is a Family* (2-6) Pam Munoz Ryan

Readers count from 1 to 100, seeing many types of families doing things together.

*\*Monday is One Day* (3-7) Arthur Levine

Simple tale of parents, including 2 dads, going to work each day of the week, missing their kids

*\*One* (3-6) Kathryn Otoshi

Blue is a quiet color. Red's a hothead who likes to pick on Blue. Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple don't like what they see. How to be an upstander and work together.

*Pink is Just a Color, and So is Blue* (3-6) Niki Bhatia

Bhatia's humorous story teaches young readers that they should be free to choose what they like without someone dictating what it should be.

*Best Best Colors/Los Mejores Colores* (3-6) **English/Spanish**

A story about having "more than one" favorite color, best friend, mom

*\*The Day The Crayons Quite* (4-9) Drew Daywait, Oliver Jeffers

The crayons are on strike, tired of feeling stereotyped and misunderstood. Excellent resource for discussing a range of emotions: bored, frustrated, happy; exhausted.

*\*Red: A Crayon's Story* (4-10) Michael Hall

Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. Everyone tries to help him be red, but Red is miserable. He just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries! A friend offers a new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue! This funny, heartwarming, colorful picture book about finding the courage to be true to your inner self can be read on multiple levels, and it offers something for everyone!

*Pinky and Rex and the Bully* (Chapter Book) by James Howe

When a bully tells seven-year old Pinky that his nickname and favorite color are "girlish," he must decide whether it's time to change or to stand up to his tormentor.

## **Animals/Pets**

*Emma and Meesha My Boy* (3-6) by Kaitlyn Considine

Emma learns from her two moms how to care for Meesha Kitty

*The Different Dragon* (3-8) Jennifer Bryan

This bedtime story about bedtime stories shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his willing moms, can lead to magical and unexpected places.

*And Tango Makes Three* (3-8) Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

Wonderful picture book that tells the true story of two famous gay dads --penguins Roy and Silo-- from New York's Central Park Zoo.

*Pugdog* (3-8) Andrea U'Ren

Pugdog loves to drool, chase squirrels and romp in the mud. When the owner discovers that "he" is actually a "she," Pugdog gets a depressing make-over driven by gender stereotypes.

*Wabi Sabi* (3 & up) Mark Reibstein

This beautifully illustrated book follows a cat named Wabi Sabi on his journey of self-realization and acceptance through the Japanese art of haiku.

*Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible* (8-12) Ursula Vernon

A quirky retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*, Harriet the Hamster Princess finds herself invincible due to a spell that will put her in a deep sleep at the age of 12. Until then, however, she lives fearlessly.

*Marty McGuire* (Chapter Book) Kate Messner

Marty would rather romp around in the woods than play dress up with the other girls, so she is surprised to be cast as the princess in the school play. Deciding a real, live frog "prince" would be better, Marty puts on an unforgettable show.

*Marty McGuire Digs Worms!* (Chapter Book) Kate Messner

Marty gets into more shenanigans when she decides the best way to save the earth for her school science fair is to glean fertilizer from the worms in her grandmother's garden.

*Tanny's Meow* (Chapter Book) Ursula Ferro

A two mom family moves to a new town and discover a kitten waiting for them.

*Wishing for Kittens* (Chapter Book) Ursula Ferro

In this sequel to *Tanny's Meow*, Rachel and her family decide to let Tanny have kittens.

*Pet of My Own* (Chapter Book) Ursula Ferro

The latest book from Ferro focuses on Rachel's friend, Gabe, who has two dads and is longing for a pet of his own, especially now that he has a new baby sister.

### Holidays/Special Days/Back To School

*Pearl Power* (4-8) Mel Elliot

Pearl moves to a **new school** and proves that being told she does things "like a girl" isn't a bad thing and that she can do anything the other kids can do even though she's small!

*Molly's Family* (4-8) Nancy Garden

Getting ready for **Parent's Night** in Molly's kindergarten class prompts everyone to consider what different families look like.

*Stella Brings The Family* (4-8) Miriam Schiffer

Stella's class is having a **Mother's Day** celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? It's not that she doesn't have someone who helps her with her homework, or tucks her in at night. She just doesn't have a *mom* to invite to the party.

*The Purim Superhero* (4-9) Elisabeth Kushner

A young Jewish boy struggles with whether to wear the popular costume for **Purim** or the one he truly desires. Max's fathers and sister support him in making his decision & costume.

*Antonio's Card/La Tarjeta de Antonio* (4-9) Rigoberto Gonzalez **English/Spanish**

A **Mother's Day** story featuring Antonio, his Mami and Mami's partner Leslie.

### The Concept of Same and Different; Both/And; In between

*No Two Alike* (2-4) Keith Baker

Beautiful simply illustrated picture book with 2 little red birds exploring the concept of similar and unique by observing everything from snowflakes to forests to fence

*Monicka's Papa is Tall* (2-6) Heather Jopling

Papa and Daddy are different in many ways. See how their family puzzle fits together!

*Ryan's Mom is Tall* (2-6) Heather Jopling

Mom and Mummy are different in many ways. See how their family puzzle fits together!

*Yoko* (4-7) By Rosemary Wells

Yoko's heritage and lunch are "different" from her classmates. A not heavy-handed story about the challenge of developing genuine respect for one another's differences.

*Mixed Me!* (4-8) Taye Diggs

Actor Taye Diggs tells the story of a day in the life of Mike, a mixed-race child.

*All the Colors of the Earth* (4-8) Sheila Hamanaka

Different skin colors, animals, earthtones are the rich tapestry of Hamanka's look at race.

*Shades of People* (4-10) Shelly Rotner, Sheila Kelly

Rotner uses photos of children and families to illustrate the array of skin colors. "Even in the same family there can be many shades."

*I Am Mixed* (4-8) Garcelle Beauvais, Sebastian Jones

A positive, uplifting look at mixed race twins who, when compared to each other, their parents and peers, are the same, different and both.

*Same, Same But Different* (4-10) Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

A book about pen pals (America, India) who write letters about the ways their lives are the same but different. Lively illustrations that convey the concept of "same and different"

## **Gender Roles, Gender Stereotypes**

### Activities/Hobbies/Toys

*Man's Work* (2-4) Annie Kubler

A modern take on man's work in spite of being published in 1999. A boardbook that shows father and son doing a variety of household chores: mopping, dishes, laundry.

*Mister Seahorse* (2-6) Eric Carle

Worth a read because the emphasis is on father's role in helping babies hatch.

*I Look Like a Girl* (3-6) Sheila Hamanaka

Exuberant girls burst both the limits of the page and confines of traditional expectations, imagining life as free and wild as that of a tiger, dolphin, mustang, wolf.

*Phoebe and Digger* (4-7) Tricia Springstubb

Phoebe has a new baby brother who is taking lots of her mom's attention. They go to the park, Phoebe plays with her favorite truck (a backhoe named Digger) & stands up to a bully

*Ballerino Nate* (4-8) Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Kindergartner Nate sees a ballet performance while on a school field trip and decides to become a dancer. His older brother tries to dissuade Nate, because "boys can't be ballerinas."

*Keep Climbing, Girls* (4-8) Beah Richards

An African American girl climbs a tall tree, while at ground level, a worried Miss Nettie frets, postures, admonishes, disdains, and issues orders for her to come back down.

*Kate and the Beanstalk* (4-8) Mary Pope Osborne and Giselle Potter's

A clever twist on a classic fairy tale, stars a whip-smart girl instead of traditionally lazy, not-so-bright Jack.

*Fire Engine for Ruthie* (4-8) Leslea Newman

Ruthie and her Nana find they like to play with different things, and Nana discovers that girls can love fire engines and motorcycles as much as girls love dolls and dress up.

*Amazing Grace* (4-8) By Mary Hoffman

Grace loves acting out stories, but when classmates tell her she can't play Peter Pan because she is black and a girl, important lessons are learned all around.

*Weslandia* (4-9) Paul Fleischman

Wesley isn't like other boys, a fact that irks his parents and invites the torment of his peers. Resilient, creative, Wesley invents his own civilization that others eventually want to join.

### Sissies and Tomboys

*19 Girls and Me* (4-7) Darcy Pattison

This story of a single boy and 19 girls in a kindergarten class is ripe for deconstruction! The terms "sissy" and "tomboy" are used throughout. Should raise lots of questions.

*The Sissy Duckling* (4-8) Harvey Fierstein

Elmer is not like other boy ducklings and is teased for his love of baking and decorating until he teaches a life lesson to the whole flock about embracing the special qualities we all have.

*Oliver Button is a Sissy* (4-8) Tomi dePaula

Oliver's love for music and dancing brings ridicule and eventually triumph.

*Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir* (12 and up) Liz Prince

Growing up the author refuses gender boundaries, yet unwittingly embraces gender stereotypes at the same time. She realizes along the way you can be just as much of a girl in jeans and a T-shirt as you can in a pink tutu.

### Music

*Rainbow Train* (birth-8) Chana Rothman

This album on gender freedom covers themes from in utero gendering to the joys of playing dress up across genders. From lullabies to disco dance songs, the album can be enjoyed by adults and children together. (<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/rainbowtrain>)

### Clothing

*My Princess Boy [A mom's story about a young boy who loves to dress up]* (3-7) Cheryl Kilodavis

A nonfiction picture book by a mom about her 4 y/o son, who likes wearing dresses. There are good moments and hard moments with friends, family, school, shopping. A story about the importance of accepting kids for whoever they are and however they wish to look.

*Jacob's New Dress* (3-8) Sarah and Ian Hoffman

Trouble begins in the dress-up corner and ends when Jacob gets help from his mom to sew what he wants to wear to school.

*Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* (3-8) Christine Baldacchino

Morris copes with peers who don't approve of his dress, winning them over with creativity.

*10,000 Dresses* (4-8) Marcus Ewert

Every night, Bailey dreams about magical dresses. Unfortunately, when Bailey's awake, no one wants to hear about his beautiful dreams. "You're a BOY!" parents tell him.

### Princesses

*Not All Princesses Dress In Pink* (3-6) Jane Yolen

These princesses wear their sparkly crowns while playing soccer, getting muddy, and biking.

*The Paperbag Princess* (4-8) Robert Munsch

A feisty princess outsmarts a dragon and dumps the sexist prince.

*The Worst Princess* (4-8) Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie

A rhyming romp about a non-compliant princess, a cousin of The Paperbag Princess??

*The Princess Knight* (5-9) Cornelia Funk

A funny, unapologetic feminist tale. The king trains his sons and plans to marry off his daughter

Violetta but she has other plans.

### Sports

*Hoops With Swoops* (2-6) Susan Kuklin with Sheryl Swoops

Photographs of one of the best female basketball players ever in action. Swoops demonstrates jumping, catching, passing. For young basketball fans of every age and gender.

*The Basket Ball* (4-9) Esme Raji Codell

When the boys won't let her play, Lulu holds a basket "ball," inviting girls from around the world to try out. A multi---dimensional portrait of girls who are "girly" & "sporty."

*Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare* (5-9) Patricia Polacco

Trisha and her brother enter into a double dare that entails trying each other's favorite activity. Trisha learns how brutal ice hockey is; Richie understands the challenges of ballet.

*Double Exposure* (middle school) Bridget Birdsall

This YA novel follows intersexed teenager Alyx Atlas as she adapts to a new town in the Midwest and joins the girls' basketball team to make friends. Soon, a social rival seeks to expose her, thus jeopardizing the team's eligibility for the state championships.

### **Gender Identity**

*When Kathy is Keith* (4-8) Wallace Wong

The story of a young girl who identifies as a boy.

*All I Want To Be Is Me* (5-10) Phyllis Rothblatt

An affirmation in rhyme about children whose gender identities do not conform to stereotypical assumptions about who boys are and who girls.

*Be Who You Are!* (5-10) Jennifer Carr

A story about a transgender child who receives support from his family and gets their help in navigating life at school.

*Red: A Crayon's Story* (4-10) Michael Hall

Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. Everyone tries to help him be red, but he just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries! A friend offers a new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue! A story about the courage to be true to your inner self can be read on multiple levels.

*I Am Jazz* (5-10) Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings

The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings, who has become a spokesperson for transkids everywhere.

*Roller Girl* (9-12) Victoria Jamieson

This story of self-discovery and friendship follows Astrid, a 12 year old who falls in love with the roller derby and finds herself at odds with her best friend with different interests.

*George* (10 and up) Alix Gino

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. When her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*, George wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of a friend, George gets far more than the part in the play.

*Wandering Son* (12 and up) by Shimura Takako



A sensitive graphic novel from Japan's most prominent creator of LGBT manga. Shuichi is a boy who wants to be a girl, & Yoshino is a girl who wants to be a boy. Shimura portrays Shuishi and Yoshino's very private journey with affection, sensitivity, gentle humor.

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*Parrotfish* (12 and up) Ellen Wittlinger

Angela becomes Grady in this warm, poignant story about a young transgender teen finding himself and facing family, friends, and high school.

## **Gender and Sexuality Diversity: Biography and Historical Fiction**

*Rough, Tough Charley* (Elementary) Verla Kay

Charley Parkhurst was a respected stagecoach driver in the old West. Charley also kept one of the biggest secrets anyone could keep --- he was a woman who lived life as a man.

*Sarah Gives Thanks* (Elementary) Mike Allegra

The story of Sarah Josepha Hale, the pioneering woman writer who convinced the president of the United States to establish a national holiday for the giving of thanks.

*My Name is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth* (Elementary) Ann Turner

This picture book biography tackles the life of former slave and abolitionist Isabella Baumfree, better known as Sojourner Truth. Educator's notes included.

*Odd Boy Out* (Elementary) Don Brown

A look at young Albert Einstein and his difficulty fitting in.

*Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* (4-8) Kathryn Russell-Brown

A celebration of the talent and success of a little-known African American female musician. Music lovers will enjoy this picture-book biography of Melba Liston (1926-99), child prodigy and virtuoso trombonist who collaborated with most 20th century jazz greats.

*Mighty Jackie: The Strike-Out Queen*, (Elementary) Marissa Moss, C.F. Payne

Legend has it that Virne Beatrice 'Jackie' Mitchell, a 17 year-old pitcher, struck out Babe Ruth & Lou Gehrig in a Yankees game. What happened to Jackie after this astonishing feat?

*The Harvey Milk Story* (Elementary) Kari Krakow

A picture book biography about the first openly gay elected official in the U.S.

*Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell* (Elementary) Christie Ottaviano

A lively account of the first female physician, the obstacles she faced and the success she had.

*Daredevil: The Daring Life of Betty Skelton* (Elementary) Meghan McCarthy

As a child in the 1930s, Betty Skelton played with toy airplanes and longed to become a pilot. She took her first solo flight at the age of 12 and got her license at 16. With no opportunities to fly for a commercial airline or the U.S. Navy, she became a stunt pilot.

*Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement* (12 and up) Jim Haskins

A biography of Bayard Rustin, a skillful organizer behind the scenes of the American civil rights movement whose ideas strongly influenced Martin Luther King, Jr.

## **Career Development**

*My Name is Not Isabella: Just How Big Can A Little Girl Dream?* (3-8) Jane Yolen

Isabella delights in pretending to be some of the amazing women who changed history: Sally



Ride, Annie Oakly, Marie Curie. A superb "history lesson" taught through imagination & play

*Max the Stubborn Little Wolf* (3-7) Marie Odile Jude

Papa Wolf is horrified when tiny Max declares his intention to become a florist when he grows up and tries everything he can to change his son.

*Elena's Serenade* (4-8) Campbell Geeslin

In this story set in Mexico, a young girl longingly watches her papa blow into a pipe to create bottles, and dreams about doing the same. Papa disapproves, because of her size and gender.

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*Rosie Revere, Engineer* (4-10) Andrea Beaty

Rosie loves building gizmos and gadgets, like a hot dog dispenser and helium pants. When Uncle Fred laughs at her, Rosie moves away from inventing, until great-great aunt Rose who built planes long ago, encourages her to try, try again.

*Iggy Peck, Architect* (4-10) Andrea Beaty

Iggy loves to build and is a passionate, creative boy who is not afraid to express himself, even when others doubt his talents.

*Ruby's Wish* (4-8) Shirin Yim

This story handles the conflict between Chinese tradition and young Ruby's longing to attend university with grace and compassion.

*Grace for President* (6-10) Kelly DiPucchio

During a discussion of an upcoming election Grace learns that no woman has ever been elected president. The teacher seizes on a teaching opportunity and the class holds it's own campaign and election. Great lessons about the democratic process and long-standing bias.

*\*Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World* (8 & up) Rachel Ignotofsky

Whimsically illustrated book detailing the contributions of women to STEM fields from the ancient world to today.

## **Bodies, Babies, Reproduction**

*Who Has What? All About Girl's Bodies and Boys' Bodies* (3-8) Robie Harris

Resource for young children full of questions about their own bodies & everyone else's!

*Zak's Safari: A Story About Donor-Conceived Kids of Two-Mom Families* (3-6) Christy Tyner

Uses simple but scientifically accurate language. Available for free at [www.zaks-safari.com](http://www.zaks-safari.com).

*But How'd I Get In There in the First Place? Talking to Your Young Child About Sex* (3-6) Deborah

Roffman For parents/teachers of three to six year olds, a wise and charming guide to talking about sex, conception, and birth.

*It's Not the Stork!: A Book About Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families and Friends* (3-8) Robie Harris

A book for children who want to know where babies come from and so much more.

*The Pea that was Me: An Egg Donation Story* (3 & up) Kimberly Kluger-Bell

Uses age-appropriate language to reinforce a positive message about the surrogacy process.

*It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families* (7 and up) Robie Harris

A playful, detailed look at bodies and reproduction. Great illustrations that appeal to kids.

*It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health* (10 and up) Robie Harris

## Friendship

*And to Think That We Thought We'd Never Be Friends* (3-7) Mary Ann Hoberman

This Seussian style tale begins with a brother and sister fighting and ends with the whole wide world in an exuberant parade of peace and friendship.

*Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* (3-7) Mem Fox

Wilfred is friends with the elders who live in a retirement home next door. His thoughtful, gentle, creative approach to his relationship with Miss Nancy is lovely.

*Chester's Way* (4-7) Kevin Henkes

A wonderful book about best friends, a new friend, and how being just alike and quite different can go together.

*Horace and Morris but mostly Dolores* (4-8) By James Howe

Three adventurous mice are tested when a "Boys Only" club changes their friendship.

*Andy Shane is Not In Love* (5-9) Jennifer Jacobsen

An early reader that explores the kind of love and competition that exists between friends.

Very helpful in clarifying and affirming friendship love between boys and girls

## Youngish Adult

*Ava and Taco Cat* (9-12) Carol Weston

Ava is 11 and gives her adopted cat a palindromic name! Ava is a witty narrator and Weston integrates incidental gay and lesbian characters seamlessly.

*Box Girl* (10-12) Sarah Withrow

Clara adjusts to the absence of her mother and the presence of her father's new male partner.

*The Case of the Stolen Scarab* (10-12) Nancy Garden

When Nikki and Travis and their moms buy an inn in Vermont, the mystery begins.

*The Trouble with Babies* (10-12) Martha Freeman

Holly moves & makes new friends, one of whom has two dads and one with a new baby.

*My Mixed--Up Berry Blue Summer* (10-12) Jennifer Gennari

12 y/o June is facing a summer of challenges: her mother and partner are contending with gay marriage debate/backlash, June is dealing with relationship conflicts of her own, and in the backdrop is the county fair pie-making contest.

*The Gutsy Girl: Escapades for Your Life of Epic Adventure* (grades 4-7) Caroline Paul

Former scaredy cat and current gutsy girl Caroline Paul emboldens girls to live life to the fullest with a "survival guide" for being gutsy complete with bios of gutsy girls throughout history.

*The Boy in the Dress* (10-12) David Williams

Dennis grapples with family, friends and fashion in a humorous depiction of a typical yet not-typical British boy.

*Skull of Truth* (10-12) Bruce Coville

A wisecracking skull from a magic shop compels people to tell the truth, including Charlie's favorite uncle.

*Holly's Secret* (10-12) Nancy Garden

A 7<sup>th</sup> grader moves to a new town and tries to hide the fact that her parents are lesbians.

*A Clear Spring* (10-12) Barbara Wilson

11 y/o Willa spends the summer with her aunts, Carmen and Ceci where she develops a

passionate interest in nature and gets involved in some "eco-sleuthing"!

*Faerie Wars* (10-14) Herbie Brennan

Henry learns his parents are separating because his mom is in love with another woman. A snappy blend of fantasy, mythology and science.

*Annie on My Mind* (12- and up) Nancy Garden

A poignant coming out/love story of two teenage girls. Originally written in 1982, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary addition includes a full length interview with the author.

*The Misfits* (12 and up) James Howe

A group of taunted middle schoolers run for Student Council on a platform against name-calling.

*Totally Joe* (12-and up) James Howe

A sequel to *The Misfits* that features the coming-of-age, coming out of original Joe Bunch.

*So Hard To Say* (12 and up) Alex Sanchez

The bubbly Latina, Xio, and the new boy in school, Frederick, become friends who try to navigate the confusing social and emotional terrain of 8th grade.

*The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* (12 and up) Dana Alison Levy

With four brothers, a dog, a cat, school projects, soccer matches, and a grumpy neighbor, the Fletchers are your typical American family...with two dads, and siblings who are adopted kids from various ethnic backgrounds.

### Young Adult (sort of)

*Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel* (12 and up) Sara Farizan

Iranian-American Leila negotiates her secret attraction towards girls, leading her to learn that all her classmates are more complicated than they appear.

*Openly Straight* (12 and up) Bill Konigsberg

Out since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Rafe decides to take on a new identity as an "openly straight" when he transfers to an all-boys' boarding school, thereby discovering a new world of normativity. He questions his chosen identity, though, when he falls in love with a classmate.

*Gracefully Grayson* (12 and up) Ami Polonsky

Grayson feels deeply that "he" was born in the wrong gendered body. With the help of a caring teacher and a friend, Grayson works to embrace their true self.

*Erik and Isabelle, Freshman Year at Foresthill High* (12 and up) Kim Wallace

First in a series that portrays LGBT youth during adolescent journey for acceptance.

*From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun* (12 and up) Jacqueline Woodson

How does Melanin react when his mother tells him of her love for another woman? His journal reveals many lessons in sacrifice, prejudice and love.

*Beautiful Music for Ugly Children* (12 and up) Kirstin Cronn-Mills

A quirky, not-so-typical coming of age story about a transgender youth who loves the radio and has a winning narrative voice.

*Out of the Pocket* (12 and up) Bill Konigsberg

A compelling, well-written story about the star quarterback of the high school football team wrestling with his sexual identity. Realistic characters smart portrayal of h.s. sports.

*The Miseducation of Cameron Post* (13 and up) Emily M. Danforth

A powerful and widely acclaimed coming of age story set in rural Montana in the early 1990s. Cameron Post feels a mix of guilt and relief when her parents die in a car accident. Their deaths mean they will never learn the truth she eventually comes to—that she's gay.

**Drama (13 and up) Raina Telgemeier**

Callie loves theatre, and is determined to create a set for *Moon Over Mississippi* worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget in this full-color graphic novel.

***October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* (13 and up) Leslea Newman**

*October Mourning*, a novel in verse, is the author's response to the events of that tragic day when Matthew Shepard was beaten and left to die. Using her poetic imagination, Newman creates fictitious monologues from various points of view.

***The Difference Between You and Me* (13 and up) Madeline George**

Not a run-of-the-mill romance. Jesse is out and Emily is in the closet. This is a story about identity development and the courage to be true to oneself.

***Every Day* (middle/ high school) David Levithan**

Everyday, "A" wakes up in a new body, but still themselves, still in love with the same girl.

**Graphic Novels**

***Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir* (12 and up) Liz Prince**

Growing up the author refuses gender boundaries, yet unwittingly embraces gender stereotypes at the same time. She realizes along the way you can be just as much of a girl in jeans and a T-shirt as you can in a pink tutu.

***Wandering Son* (13 and up) Shimura Takako**

A sensitive rendering from Japan's most prominent creator of LGBT manga. Shuichi is a boy who wants to be a girl, and Yoshino is a girl who wants to be a boy. Shimura portrays Shuichi and Yoshino's very private journey with affection, sensitivity, gentle humor.

***Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* (13 and up) Alison Bechdel**

Each chapter deals with particular themes in Bechdel's childhood, as she comes of age as a woman and a lesbian. FUN HOME contains a strong emphasis on literary reference. Raw.