



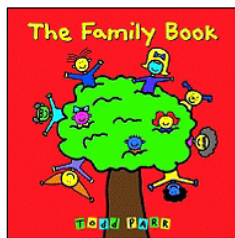
## EXCERPTS FROM WELCOMING SCHOOLS BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS – FAMILY DIVERSITY, GENDER AND BULLYING

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- Books provide an important mirror for students to see themselves and their families reflected in the world around them. They also provide a window into the lives of others, expand students' personal experience and prepare them for the diverse world they are growing up in.
- A simple way to make students feel welcome in your classroom and school is to ensure that all kinds of families are portrayed in the books available in the classroom and in the library.
- Prepare yourself to answer students' questions. Children have a natural curiosity about things that they are not familiar with. Check out the *Welcoming Schools* professional development activities, *Responding to Questions About LGBT Topics: An Interactive Skill-Building Exercise* or review some of the book recommendations for adults.
- Discuss the range of family diversity that exists in our schools and communities—adoptive families, families with LGBT parents, single parents, grandparent headed households, multi-racial families...
- When reading a book on a particular topic, be careful not to continually single out an individual student as an example – such as the one student who is adopted, the one who has two moms...
- Avoid books that highlight having a particular type of family, such as one with lesbian or gay parents as an issue or a problem unless that is already an issue in your class and you are looking for a way to discuss the topic.
- Look for books where peers or adults take active roles in stopping and preventing bullying and that help students see the many ways they can be an ally in bullying situations.

### All Kinds of Families: Picture Books

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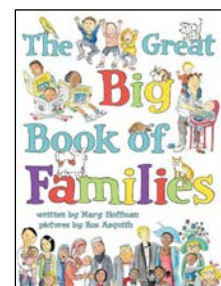


**Dear Child.** John Farrell. (Pre-K – K) Features three families, a two-mom adoptive family, a single father and a mom and dad family expressing their wonder and joy of having a young child.

**Families.** Susan Kuklin. (4 – 5) With interviews and engaging color photos, this shows the diversity of families in America. Includes mixed-race, immigrant, two-dad, two-mom and single-parent families and families for whom religion is a focal point.

**The Family Book.** Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K) All kinds of families are celebrated in a funny, silly and reassuring way. Includes adoptive families, stepfamilies, single-parent families, two-mom and two-dad families and families with a mom and a dad.

**The Great Big Book of Families.** Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 3) Features all kinds of families and their lives together. Each spread showcases one aspect of home life - from houses and holidays, to schools and pets, to feelings and family trees.



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## Books For Students Inclusive of Gay Family Members and Characters

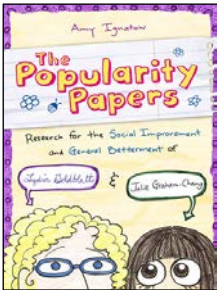
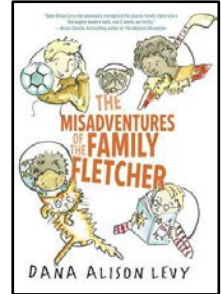
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**And Tango Makes Three.** Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell. (K – 2) Penguins Roy and Silo at New York’s Central Park Zoo, keep putting a rock in their nest and try to hatch it. The zookeeper gives them a real egg that needs care. The penguins take turns sitting on it until it hatches, and Tango is born.

**The Different Dragon.** Jennifer Bryan. (K – 1) Shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his two moms, can lead to magical places with a dragon who is tired of being tough.

**Donovan’s Big Day.** Lesléa Newman. (Pre-K – 2) Captures the excitement of a young boy as he and his extended family prepare for the boy’s two moms’ wedding. A picture book about love, family, and marriage.

**The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher.** Dana Alison Levy (3 – 5) From camping trips to scary tales told in the dark, from new schools to old friends, from imaginary cheetahs to very real skunks, the Fletchers’ school year is anything but boring with four brothers, two dads, and one new neighbor who just might ruin everything.



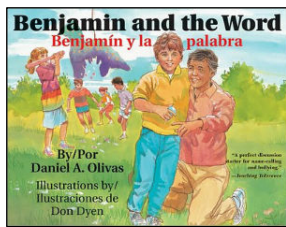
**The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang.** Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Two fifth-grade best friends are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the “cool” girls. Notebook format with a lot of illustrations. Julie has two dads. First in a series of seven books.

**A Tale of Two Daddies.** Vanita Oelschlager. (Pre-K – 1) A young girl answers a friend's straightforward questions about having two fathers. The story ends with simply, “Who is your dad when you're sad and need some love?” Both, of course.

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## Books to Engage Students on Bullying and Diversity

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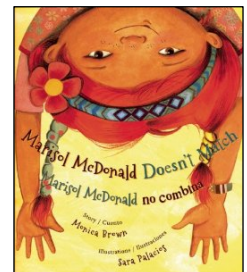
**Benjamin and the Word / Benjamin y La Palabra.** Daniel Olivas. (K – 2) Benjamin beat his friend James while playing handball, and James retaliated by calling Benjamin "the word." Bilingual.

**Each Kindness.** Jacqueline Woodson. (1 – 3) Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually she stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship.

**The Invisible Boy.** Trudy Ludwig. (K – 3) Nobody ever seems to notice Brian or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class

**Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald No Combina.** Monica Brown. (K – 2) Marisol, a multiracial girl, loves to be creative, eating peanut butter and jelly burritos, for example. But at times she is misunderstood and teased by peers. Bilingual.

**Muskrat Will Be Swimming.** Cheryl Savageau. (2 – 4) A Native American girl’s feelings are hurt when classmates make fun of the children who live at the lake, but then her grampa tells her a Seneca folktale that reminds her how much she appreciates her home and her place in the world.



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**The New Girl ... and Me.** Jacqui Robbins. (K – 2) Mia is intrigued by the new girl, Shakeeta, but shyness holds her back. When a bully bars them both from playing soccer, the pair strike up a conversation and become friends.

**One.** Kathryn Otoshi. (Pre-K – 1) Red picks on Blue. The other colors don't know what to do until One shows them how to stand up, stand together, and count. Also see, **Zero**, that combines learning about numbers with valuing one's self.



**The Sissy Duckling.** Harvey Fierstein. (1 – 2) While other boys like to play baseball, Elmer wants to put on the halftime show. But when his father is wounded by a hunter, Elmer proves that the biggest sissy can also be a hero.

**The Sneetches and Other Stories.** Dr. Seuss. (Pre-K – 3) The Sneetches are bamboozled by Sylvester McMonkey McBean, who teaches them that pointless prejudice can be costly.

**Thank You, Mr. Falker / Gracias, Sr. Falker.** Patricia Polacco. (1 – 3) Fifth-grader Trisha can't read, and a bully who ridicules her magnifies her shame, until a new teacher helps Trisha understand and overcome her problem. English and Spanish editions.

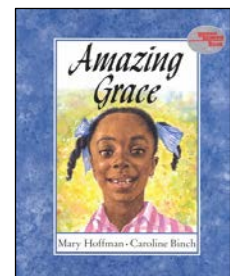
**The Liberation of Gabriel King.** K. L. Going. (4 – 5) In Georgia in 1976, Gabriel, a white boy, and Frita, an African American girl, overcome their fears of bullying and prejudice together as they enter 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Wonder / La Lección de August.** R.J. Palacio. (5 – 7) Auggie was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school until 5th grade. Told from multiple perspectives that highlight different struggles with empathy and acceptance. English and Spanish editions.

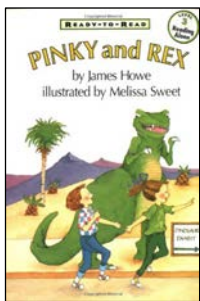
## Looking at Gender Through Books

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**Amazing Grace.** Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 1) Although classmates say that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she's black and a girl, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to.



**Looking Like Me.** Walter Dean Myers. (K – 2) An African American boy celebrates all of who he is, including a dancer, an artist and a writer. Colorful collage illustrations and catchy rhymes.



**It's OK to be Different.** Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K) Delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in a child-friendly format with bold, bright colors and silly scenes.

**Pinky and Rex.** James Howe. (1 – 2) The adventures of two best friends: a boy who loves the color pink and a girl who loves dinosaurs.

**Riding Freedom.** Pam Muñoz Ryan. (4 – 6) A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, drove stagecoaches and continued to pass as a man her whole life.

**Wings.** Christopher Myers. (1 – 2) Take flight with Ikarus Jackson, the boy whose wings set him apart. He remains true to his dreams despite taunts. A girl realizes he must be lonely and begins to stop the hurtful words coming his way.

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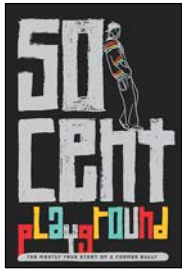
## Books for Students Inclusive of LGBT Topics and Bullying

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**Confessions of a Former Bully.** Trudy Ludwig. (2 – 5) Told from the unusual point of view of someone who bullied rather than the target. Highlights bullying with words. Provides kids with real life tools they can use to identify and stop relational aggression. Mentions taunting for being perceived as gay.

**The Misfits.** James Howe. (6 – 9) Four best friends try to survive seventh grade in the face of all-too-frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence and sexual orientation/gender expression. The characters are not cast as victims, but as self-empowered agents of change. The first book in *The Misfits* series.

**Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress.** Christine Baldacchino. (Pre-K – 2) Morris loves wearing the tangerine dress in his classroom's dress-up center, but the other children don't understand. One day when Morris feels all alone and sick from their taunts and stays home. With help from his mom and his imagination, he returns to school and begins to connect with others.



**Playground: A Mostly True Story of a Former Bully.** Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Laura Moser. (6 – 9) A realistic look at bullying from the perspective of an urban young teen boy in middle school. Looks at the boys feelings as both a target of bullying and as perpetrator of bullying. Also touches on divorce and gay parenting. Some explicit language.

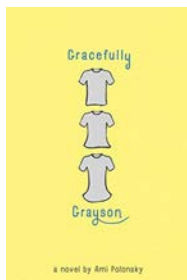
**The Popularity Papers: Book Two: The Long-Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang.** Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Julie and Lydia are ready for junior high. But then, Lydia's mom gets a job in London. They learn to keep in touch and stand on their own, assisted as always by their trusty notebook. Each girl in her own way deals with bullying behavior.

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## Looking at Gender Identity with Books for Students

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**The Adventures of Tulip, Birthday Wish Fairy.** S. Bear Bergman. (Pre-K – 3) Follow Tulip as he helps out with the birthday wishes of all the nine-year-olds in North America. Tulip receives a wish from a child known as David who wishes to live as Daniela. He doesn't understand how to help, so he seeks the wise counsel of the Wish Fairy Captain.



**Gracefully Grayson.** Ami Polonsky. (5 – 7) Grayson has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside. Will new strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher's wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit?

**I am Jazz.** Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. (K – 5) From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. Based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings.



**Jacob's New Dress.** Sarah and Ian Hoffman. (Pre-K – 2) Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Some kids at school say he can't wear "girl" clothes, but Jacob wants to wear a dress. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants?

**My Princess Boy.** Cheryl Kilodavis. (Pre-K – 1) Dyson loves pink, sparkly things. Sometimes he wears dresses. Sometimes he wears jeans. He likes to wear his princess tiara, even when climbing trees. He's a Princess Boy.

