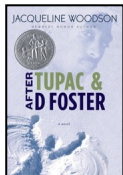




Welcoming Schools

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

Diverse LGBTQ Inclusive Middle Grade Books Family and Who You Love



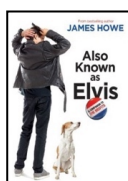
After Tupac & D Foster. Jacqueline Woodson. (5 – 9) The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. Through her, the girls see another side of life. They share a passion for the rap music of Tupac Shakur. They also deal with discrimination directed at the gay brother of one of the girls.



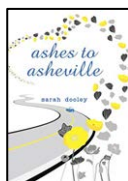
Alan Cole Doesn't Dance. Eric Bell. (5 – 7) Ever since Alan revealed he's gay, Ron has been bullying him with relentless fury. Buoyed by the support of his friends Zack and Madison, Alan thinks he can withstand the bullying. Things come to a head when Alan's father asks that he take June to a school dance. Never mind that Alan has two left feet, does not like girls, and might be developing feelings for a new boy at school.



All Three Stooges. Erica S. Perl. (5 – 7) Spoiler alert: This book is not about the Three Stooges. It's about Noah who has two moms and Dash, two seventh graders who are best friends and comedy junkies until Dash shuts Noah out. Can Noah repair their friendship? Steeped in Jewish tradition, it is equal parts funny and deeply affecting.



Also Known as Elvis. James Howe. (4 – 7) Skeeze's got the leather jacket of a tough guy, but a heart of gold. While stuck at home for the summer taking care of his sisters and working five days a week to help out his mom, he navigates first crushes, bullying and tough choices about family and friends. Book 4 in *The Misfits* series.



Ashes to Asheville. Sarah Dooley. (5 – 7) After Mama Lacy's death, Fella was forced to move in with her grandmother while her sister Zoey stayed with Mama Shannon. One night, Zany shows up determined to fulfill Mama Lacy's dying wish: to have her ashes spread at the last place they were all happy as a family. So, the sisters take off on a wild road trip.



Backstagers and the Ghost Light. Andy Mientus. (5 – 9) The stage crew—or Backstagers, as they like to call themselves—are ready for whatever the theater world can throw their way: inevitable prop malfunctions and all the paranormal activity that goes on behind the scenes. The book, based on a comic, is full of young queer teens with a variety of different identities, all totally normalized. Also see: **The Backstagers and the Theater of the Ancients** and **The Backstagers and the Final Blackout**.



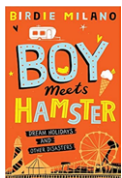
Beetle & the Hollowbones. Aliza Layne. (3 – 7) Some people get to be magical sorceresses, while *other* people have their spirits trapped in the mall for all ghastly eternity. Beetle has less than a week to rescue her best friend, nonbinary Blob Ghost, and hopefully ride a broom without crashing. While rescuing Blob Ghost, Beetle reconnects with an old friend, Kat as their relationship builds over time.



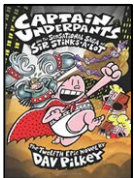
The Best at It. Maulik Pancholy. (3 – 7) The start of middle school is making Rahul, a gay Indian American boy, feel increasingly anxious, so his grandfather gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it. Rahul is ready to crush this challenge—discovering that the only thing you need to be the best at is at being yourself.



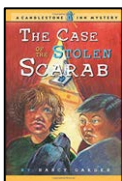
The Best Man. Richard Peck. (4 – 6) Follows a boy from elementary school to middle school navigating school, bullying and family dynamics including his uncles' growing involvement with the man who is the student teacher in the boy's school. His uncle and the student teacher get married by the end.



Boy Meets Hamster. Birdie Milano (5-9) Meet Dylan as his family goes to an RV park (not his idea of vacation). But Starcross Sands might not be so bad, if Dylan can win the heart of Jayden-Lee, the gorgeous boy in the caravan next-door. There's only one thing standing in true love's way: the park's massive hamster mascot. Also see [Boy Meets Ghoul](#).



Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-A-Lot. Dan Pilkey. (2 – 4) When George and Harold try to avert disaster, they travel into the future to seek the help of their adult selves. Harold is pictured with his husband and their kids. Available in Spanish.



The Case of the Stolen Scarab. Nancy Garden. (3 – 5) When Nikki and Travis's two moms buy an old inn in Vermont, they don't expect their first visitor to be the local sheriff with news of a robbery, nor do they expect their second visitor to be a bedraggled hiker with amnesia! Soon Nikki and Travis find themselves trying to solve a mystery.



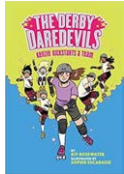
Cattywampus. Ash Van Otterloo. (5 – 7) The magical story of a hex that goes haywire, and the power of friendship to set things right! If Delpha and Katy want to reverse the spell in time to save everyone in the Hollow from rampaging zombies, they'll need to mend fences and work together. One character has just found out she's intersex and the other has two moms.



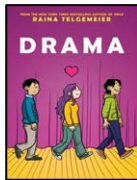
Clear Spring. Barbara Wilson. (4 – 6) A twelve-year-old girl becomes involved in an ecological mystery while visiting her aunt and her aunt's partner. Diverse characters.



The Deep & Dark Blue. Niki Smith. (4 – 7) After a political coup usurps their noble house, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce with the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women who spin the threads of reality to their will. As they hatch a plan to avenge their family, Hawke wants to return to his old life, while Grayce realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.



The Derby Daredevils: Kenzie Kickstarts a Team. Kit Rosewater and Sophie Escabasse. (3 – 7) Kenzie and Shelly have dreamed of becoming roller derby superstars. To join a league, they have just one week to convince three other girls that roller derby is the coolest thing on wheels. things get really awkward when Shelly recruits Kenzie's neighbor (and secret crush!) for the team. Also see **Shelly Struggles to Shine**.



Drama. Raina Telgemeier. (5 – 8) Graphic novel through drama – a play – and drama between characters explores middle school feelings with boyfriends and girlfriends, and boyfriends and boyfriends. Diverse characters.



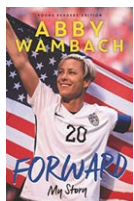
Drum Roll, Please. Lisa Jenn Bigelow. (3 – 7) This summer brings big changes for Melly: her parents split up just before she goes to Camp Rockaway, her best friend ditches her, and she finds herself falling for a girl at camp. To top it off, Melly's not sure she has what it takes to be a real rock 'n' roll drummer.



Faith Takes Flight. Julie Murphy. (6 – 9) Faith Herbert is a pretty regular teen except for the small matter of recently discovering she can fly.... When a TV show relocates to her town, she can't believe it when the heroine takes a romantic interest in her. But her fandom-fueled daydreams aren't enough to distract Faith from the fact that first animals, then people, have begun to vanish from the town.



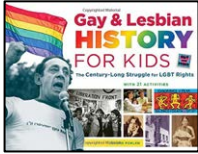
Flying Lessons & Other Stories. (4 – 8) Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold anthology—written by the best children's authors—celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.



Forward: My Story Abby Wambach. Abby Wambach. (3 – 7) Abby has always pushed the limits of what is possible. The iconic soccer player captured the nation's heart when she led her team to it's the World Cup Championship. Looks at how we can live our best lives and become our truest selves.



A Game of Fox & Squirrels. Jenn Reese. (5 – 9) After an incident shatters their family, Sam and her older sister Caitlin are sent to live in Oregon with their Aunt Vicky and her wife, Hannah. When Aunt Vicky gives Sam a mysterious card game called "A Game of Fox & Squirrels." But the line between magic and reality grows thin when Sam is swept up in a dangerous quest,



Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights. Jerome Pohlen. (5 – 9) This book puts the historic struggle for LGBTQ equality into perspective. Given today's news, it would be easy to get the impression that the campaign for LGBTQ equality is a recent development. This resource helps put recent events into context.



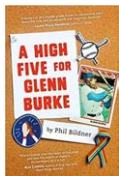
The Gay Rights Movement. Eric Braun. (3 – 6) The Stonewall Riots brought light to a movement that would later establish gay pride parades, help in the fight against AIDS and work towards marriage equality. What challenges has the movement faced? Learn about the key people and events.



Goldie Vance: The Hotel Whodunit. Lilliam Rivera. (4 – 7) Move over, Nancy Drew--there's a new sleuth in town! Inspired by the beloved comic series, Goldie Vance is ready to sleuth her way through never-before-seen mysteries. Goldie, a biracial and LGBTQ 16-year-old who lives and works at the Crossed Palms Resort Hotel with a whole slew of characters. Also see **Goldie Vance: The Hocus-Pocus Hoax**.



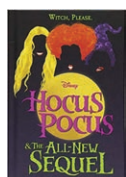
Hazel's Theory of Evolution. Lisa Jenn Bigelow. (5 – 7) As Hazel enters eighth grade she wonders: Will she be teased again about her two moms and their goat farm? Her friends, Carina who is a transgender girl and Yosh who has a disability, help her navigate all the changes. Winner of the Lambda Literary Award.



A High Five for Glenn Burke. Phil Bildner. (5 – 7) This book weaves the real history of Los Angeles Dodger and Oakland Athletic Glenn Burke--the first professional baseball player to come out as gay--into the story of a middle-school kid learning to be true to himself, even when not everyone feels you belong on the field.



High-Five to the Hero: 15 favorite fairy tales retold with boy power. Vita Murrow. (Pre-K – 3) What if heroes were celebrated for the power of their hearts instead of their swords? Meet King Arthur, who rules by listening to others, and Prince Charming, who really wishes people wouldn't typecast him. The fairytales look at self-image, confidence, LGBTQ, friendship, advocacy, and disability.



Hocus Pocus and the All-New Sequel. A.W. Jantha. (5 – 8) A fresh retelling of the original film, followed by the all-new sequel that continues the story with the next generation of Salem teens. Max and Allison's daughter, Poppy, her best friend, Travis, and classmate Isabella, on whom she has a major crush, find themselves face-to-face with the Sanderson sisters in all their sinister glory.



A Home for Goddesses and Dogs. Leslie Connor. (5 – 6) Lydia whose mom just died struggles for a sense of belonging in her new family. Aunt Brat and her jovial wife, Eileen, and their ancient live-in landlord, Elloroy, are welcoming—and a little quirky. gays after the girl's arrival, the women adopt a big yellow dog, the world's best bad dog. Junior Library Guild Selection .



Hoops: Elle of the Ball. Elena Delle Donne. (3 – 5) Elle Deluca who is gay is a seventh grader is tall—not just sort of tall—*six feet* tall. Her basketball team wants her to become their starting center while in gym class she has to learn ballroom dancing with a boy much shorter than her. Elle must figure out a way to remain herself when others want her to be someone else. The author is the 2015 WNBA MVP and an 2016 Olympic gold medalist.



The House of Hades. Rick Riordan. (4 – 6) In the fourth installment of the Heroes of Olympus series, Demigod Nico comes out and admits he is in love with Percy. The topic continues into The Blood of Olympus as he develops a crush on a counselor at Camp Half-Blood. Available in Spanish.



Hurricane Child. Kheryn Callender. (4 – 8) Feeling lonely and bullied daily with cruel remarks about her dark skin tone, Caroline finally befriends a new student, Kalinda. As Caroline develops a crush on Kalinda, they work together to find Caroline's mother.



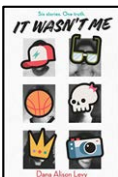
Hurricane Season. Nicole Melleby. (4 – 7) Fig, a sixth grader, is sure it's up to her alone to solve her father's problems and protect her family's privacy. But with the help of her best friend, a cute girl at the library, and a surprisingly kind new neighbor, Fig learns she isn't as alone as she once thought . . . and begins to compose her own definition of family.



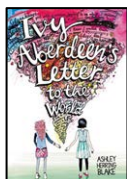
In the Role of Brie Hutchens... Nicole Melleby. (5 – 8) Introducing Brie Hutchens: soap opera super fan, aspiring actor, and so-so student at her small Catholic school. Brie has big plans for eighth grade. Brie navigates truth and lies, expectations and identity, and how to—finally—make her mother really see her as she is. Explores Brie's confusion about her sexuality, while delving into the way the family's Catholicism affects events.



Into the Tall, Tall Grass. Lorie R. Ryan. (5 - 6) Yolanda Rodríguez-O'Connell has a secret. All the members of her family have a magical gift—all, that is, except for Yolanda. When her grandmother, Wela, falls into an unexplained sleep, Yolanda seeks to help her. The book is full of magical realism with family secrets, girls in STEM, and LGBTQ+ representation.



It Wasn't Me. Dana Alison Levy. (5 – 7) When Theo's self-portraits are vandalized with gay slurs in the student gallery, Ms. Lewiston calls Theo and the bystanders of the incident—as Theo narrates “the Over-achiever, the Jock, the Nerd, the Weirdo, and the Screw-up”—to a five-day “Justice Circle” during school vacation.



Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World. Ashley Herring Blake. (5 – 7) In the wake of a destructive tornado, one girl develops feelings for another in this stunning, tender novel about emerging identity.



Jack & Louisa Act 1. Andrew Keenan-Bolger and Kate Weatherhead. (3 – 7)

Twelve-year-old Jack was a Broadway star, but when his voice changes, he and his parents leave the spotlight. While Jack left Broadway behind, his new neighbor, Louisa, refuses to let him off the hook. First in a series about theater, and boys and girls crushing on boys. Written by Broadway stars and Internet sensations. Also see [Act 2](#) and [Act 3](#).



Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds (The Jane Doe Chronicles) Jeremy Lachlan (4 – 7) After a large earthquake strikes, the Manor awakens, dragging Jane's father into its labyrinth. Accompanied by a pyromaniac named Violet and a trickster named Hickory, Jane must rescue her father and defeat an immortal villain who is trying to harness the mythical power of the Manor. There is a brief discussion of Jane's romantic interest in Violet. Also see [Jane Doe and the Key of All Souls](#).



Keeper. Kathi Appelt. (4 – 7) To Keeper, this moon is her chance to fix all that has gone wrong. When the riptide pulls at her boat, panic sets in. The fairy tales that lured her out there go tumbling. Includes a tender romance between two boys years earlier.



The Legend of Korra: Turf Wars Trilogy. Michael Dante DiMartino. (3 – 7) Relishing their newfound feelings for each other, Korra and Asami leave the Spirit World . . . but find nothing in Republic City but political hijinks and human vs. spirit conflict! Graphic novel.



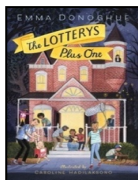
The Legend of Korra: Ruins of the Empire. Michael Dante DiMartino. (3 – 7) Korra must decide who to trust as the fate of the Earth Kingdom hangs in the balance! Kuvira's imperial ambitions threaten to undermine the nation's democratic hopes. But when Korra, Asami, Mako, and Bolin don't all see eye-to-eye as to the solution, drastic measures will be taken to halt a new war!



The List of Things That Will Not Change. Rebecca Stead. (4 – 7) At a time when everything is changing for Bea and her family, the important things will always stay the same like Mom and Dad will always love her. When Bea's father tells her that he and his boyfriend are getting married, Bea learns that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy.



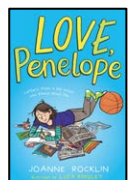
Lizard Radio. Pat Schmatz. (5 – 12) In a futuristic society, Kivali is a Bender - not quite boy or girl. Sent to CropCamp, a commune meant to steer teens toward a lifetime of good citizenship and "proper" gender roles, Kivali, called Lizard, wrestles with friendship, love, and the price of being true to oneself.



The Lottery Plus One. Emma Donogh. (4 – 7) The Lotterys are: four parents with children both adopted and biological, and a menagerie of pets, all living and learning together in a sprawling house. Their lives are upturned when one of their grandfathers comes to live with them.



Love Frankie. Jacqueline Wilson. (5 – 7) Frankie has a lot going on. Not only does she have to deal with being bullied at school by a group of kids led by a girl named Sally, but her mom has a severe case of MS. Then Frankie discovers that Sally isn't so mean after all and the two girls become friends. As they grow closer, Frankie's feelings begin to blur confusingly and she begins to wonder if she actually has romantic feelings for Sally.



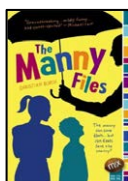
Love, Penelope. Joanne Rocklin. (4 – 6) As Penny and her two moms wait the arrival of a new baby, Penny writes letters to her sister during the year when both marriage equality and her favorite basketball team win and Penny becomes more aware of the issues in the world around her.



Luv Ya Bunches: A Flower Power. Lauren Myracle. (4 – 6) A funny, honest depiction of the shifting alliances between girls that shape school days. Four diverse 5th grade girls come together in friendship; one has two moms. Also: **Violet in Bloom: A Flower Power Book.**



The Magic Misfits. Neil Patrick Harris. (3 – 6) After young street magician Carter runs away, he meets Dante Vernon, an illusionist, who runs a magic shop with his husband and their daughter. Carter finds friends and magic saving the town of Mineral Wells from B.B. Bosso's villainous clutches. Sequels: **The Magic Misfits: The Second Story** and **The Magic Misfits: The Minor Third**



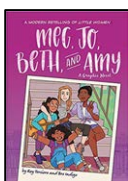
The Manny Files. Christian Burch. (3 – 6) Shy Keats Dalinger learns from his unconventional male nanny or "manny", to be more self-confident and out-going while the "manny" becomes more and more a part of the family. Followed up with **Hit the Road Manny.**



Marco Impossible. Hannah Moskowitz. (5 – 8) Best friends Stephen and Marco attempt a go-for-broke heist to break into the high school prom and get Marco onstage to confess his love for (and hopefully steal the heart of) Benji, the adorable exchange student and bass player of the prom band. Of course, things don't always go according to plan, and every heist comes with its fair share of hijinks.



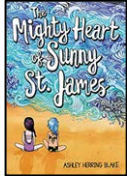
The Marvels. Brian Selznick. (5 – 9) Two stories – one in pictures, one in prose. Begins in 1766, when a young boy survives a shipwreck. It continues a century later when another young boy looking for clues about his family finds refuge with his uncle in a beautiful, mysterious home.



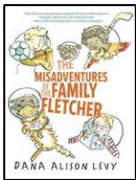
Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Rey Terciero. In this re-envisioned version of Little Women, follow the four sisters and their struggles in growing up, dealing with racism, discovering themselves, and following their dreams in a blended family living in modern day NYC in this graphic novel.



Meow or Never: A Wish Novel. Jazz Taylor (3 – 5) A heartwarming story of secret pets and secret crushes... Avery can sing, but that doesn't mean she can sing in front of people. One day her crush, Nic, overhears Avery singing to her hidden cat and convinces her to audition for the school's musical. Can her cat help Avery through her stage fright?



The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James. Ashley Herring Blake. (4 – 7) Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James navigates heart surgery, reconnecting with her lost mother, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl in this heartfelt novel.



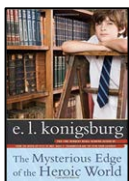
The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher. Dana Alison Levy. (3 – 5) From new schools to old friends, from imaginary cheetahs to very real skunks, the Fletchers' school year is anything but boring – four boys, two dads, and one new neighbor who just might ruin everything.



The Misfits. James Howe. (5 – 9) Four best friends try to survive seventh grade in the face of all-too-frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, sexual orientation, and gender expression. The story of the four friends continues with **Totally Joe, Addie on the Inside**, and **Also Known as Elvis**.



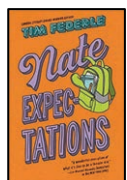
The Moon Within. Aida Salazar. (4 – 7) Celi Rivera's life swirls with questions. About her changing body. Her first attraction to a boy. And her best friend's exploration of what it means to be genderfluid. But most of all, her mother's insistence she have a moon ceremony, an ancestral Mexica ritual, when her first period arrives.



The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World. E. L. Konigsburg. (5 – 7) Two boys find themselves caught up in a story that links a young boy's life, an old man's reminiscence, and a painful secret from Nazi Germany. Includes the victimization of artists and gays during the Holocaust.



My Fate According to the Butterfly. Gail D. Villanueva. (4 – 8) When Sab sees a black butterfly, she knows she's doomed! All she wants is to celebrate her birthday with her family at the country resort owned by her father and his partner, Wendell, outside Manila. But her sister has stopped speaking to their father. Sab and her best friend spy on her sister who is investigating drug dealing and police violence while uncovering secrets in her father's past.



Nate Expectations. Tim Federle. (4 – 6) Nate Foster returns home to Pennsylvania, to face his biggest challenge yet—high school. After leaving New York, he finds the only thing harder than being on Broadway is being a freshman—especially when you've got a secret, you're desperate to sing out about. Final book in a trilogy about Nate.



Nocturnal Symphony: A Bat Detector's Journal. J. A. Watson. (3 – 7) Twelve-year-old Brubeck Farrell has two problems. First, she needs to help the Science Squad of Central Wisconsin raise enough money for quality ultrasound equipment to record bat sounds. Second, she needs to convince her mom to marry her longtime girlfriend, Ginger.



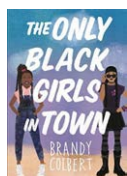
Not Your Sidekick. C.B. Lee. (5 – 8) Welcome to Andover, where superpowers are common, but internships are complicated. On the upside, Jessica gets to work with her longtime secret crush, Abby. But, with a sudden and dangerous turn, she uncovers a plot larger than heroes and villains altogether. Sequels: **Not Your Villain** and **Not Your Back-up**.



On a Sunbeam. Tillie Walden. (6 – 8) Two timelines. One love. A ragtag crew travels to the deepest reaches of space, rebuilding beautiful, broken structures. Two girls meet in boarding school and fall deeply in love—only to learn the pain of loss. A graphic novel with an epic quest for love.



One True Way. Shannon Hitchcock. (4 – 7) Through the lives and influences of two girls, you come to see that love is love is love. Set in the 1970s, when teachers and coaches must hide who they are, and girls who like girls are forced to question their own choices in the face of religious and parental views.



The Only Black Girls in Town. Brandy Colbert. (3 – 7) Beach-loving surfer Alberta, who lives with her two dads, has been the only black girl in town until Edie moves in across the street. Alberta is positive they will be fast friends. But while Alberta loves being a California girl, Edie misses her native Brooklyn and finds it hard to adapt to small-town living. Together they discover a collection of hidden journals revealing shocking secrets of the past



The Other Half of Happy. Rebecca Balcárcel. (5 – 9) One-half Guatemalan, one-half American: One-half crush, one-half buddy: Quijana found a buddy in Jayden, but she can't help the growing feelings she has for him while he has growing feelings for Seth. Quijana must figure out which parts of her identities are most important and how they fit together. 2020 Pura Belpré Honor Book.



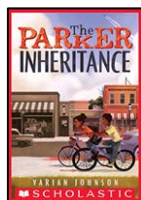
P.S. I Miss You. Jen Petro-Roy. (4 – 7) Evie is heartbroken when her strict Catholic parents send her pregnant sister, Cilla, away. Evie secretly sends her letters about her life, her hurt and also about the new girl in school, June, who becomes her friend, and then maybe more than a friend.



The Pants Project. Cat Clarke. (3 – 6) Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy but he hasn't told anyone yet – not even his two moms. Now, his new school has a terrible dress code; he has to wear skirts! The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself with a mission to change the policy and his life.



The Paris Project. Donna Gephart. (4 – 7) If Cleveland can check off the six items on her très important Paris Project List she will make it out of her small-minded town to a cultured life in Paris. Unfortunately, everything seems to conspire against Cleveland reaching her goal. As Cleveland puts her talents to the test, she must learn how to forgive family for their faults and appreciate friends for exactly who they are.



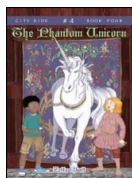
The Parker Inheritance. Varian Johnson. (3 – 6) Candice discovers a mysterious old letter describing an injustice from decades ago. With the help of Brandon, a quiet and often bullied boy, she begins to decipher the clues with a story that leads them deep into their South Carolina town's history—a history full of ugly deeds and forgotten heroes. Good historical detail and LGBTQ characters included.



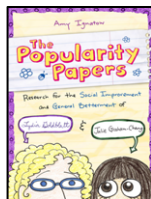
Peasprout Chen, Future Legend of Skate and Sword. Henry Lien. (6 – 8) Peasprout Chen dreams of becoming a legend of wu liu, the deadly and beautiful art of martial arts figure skating. As the first students from the rural country of Shin to attend Pearl Famous Academy of Skate and Sword, Peasprout and her little brother Cricket find themselves in a heated competition for top ranking. Sequel: **Peasprout Chen: Battle of Champions.**



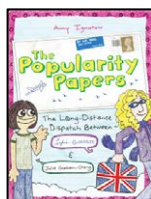
Pepper's Rules for Secret Sleuthing. Briana McDonald. (3 – 5) Follow Pepper, an overzealous amateur sleuth as she investigates the death of Great Aunt Florence who passed away under mysterious circumstances. But, her dad insists there's nothing to investigate. Together with a trans friend, she uncovers family secrets and the mystery of her developing feelings for girls.



The Phantom Unicorn. Zetta Elliott. (3 – 6) Q, a mixed-race boy—Asian and black, has just moved to New York City with his two moms and baby sister. When a medieval tapestry comes to life in a nearby museum, Q must face his fears and battle a villain who has waited 500 years to destroy the world.



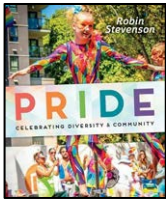
The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Fifth graders, Lydia and Julie, are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the “cool” girls. Julie was adopted by two dads. First in a seven book series. Graphic novel.



The Popularity Papers: Book Two: The Long-Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Julie and Lydia are in different schools, each dealing with what it means to be popular and with bullying. Notebook/graphic format. Second in a seven-book series Graphic novel.



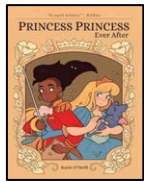
Power to the Princess: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Girl Power. Vita Murrow. (Pre-K – 3) What if princesses didn't always marry Prince Charming and live happily ever after? These princesses are smart, funny, and kind, and can do anything they set their minds to. With diverse characters, the stories include topics of self-image, LGBTQ, friendship, and disability.



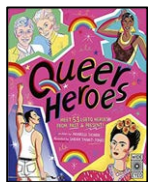
Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community. Robin Stevenson. (4 – 8) Pride events are an opportunity to honor the past, protest injustice, and celebrate a diverse and vibrant community. How did Pride come to be? And what does Pride mean to the people who celebrate it? Includes extensive photos and descriptive text.



The Princess and the Fangirl: A Geekerella Fairy Tale (Once Upon A Con Book 2). Ashley Poston. (5 – 8) Imogen is an ordinary fangirl on an impossible mission: save her favorite character from being killed off from her favorite franchise, Starfield. That's easier said than done when the girls step into each other's shoes and discover new romantic possibilities, as well as the other side of intense fandom.



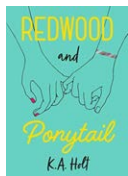
Princess Princess Ever After. Katie O'Neill. (1 – 5) When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain. They join forces to defeat a jealous sorceress while realizing their happy ever after is with each other. Graphic novel.



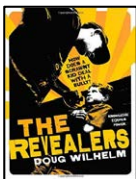
Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present! Arabelle Sicardi. (4 – 6) Discover the inspiring stories of a diverse selection of LGBTQ artists, writers, innovators, athletes, and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. Full-color portraits accompanied by short biographies.



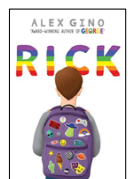
Ready Player One. Ernest Cline. (7 – 12) In a dystopian world, Wade has devoted his life to the puzzles within a worldwide virtual reality game that promise power and fortune. But he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take the ultimate prize. The book also explores privilege as it turns out that Wade's best friend uses a white male avatar although she is a black lesbian.



Redwood and Ponytail. K.A. Holt. (5 – 9) At first, Tam figures Kate is your stereotypical cheerleader; Kate sees Tam as another tall jock. This novel in verse about two girls discovering their feelings for each other is a universal story of finding a way to be comfortable in your own skin. NCTE 2020 Notable Poetry Book.



The Revealers. Doug Wilhelm. (5 – 7) At Parkland Middle School, three bullied seventh graders start an e-mail forum to publicize their experiences. Many other kids come forward with similar troubles. It's clear that the problem at their school is larger than anyone knew. In one email, a student tells his troubles of being called gay.



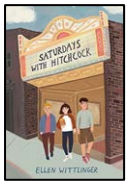
Rick. Alex Gino. (4 – 7) Rick's never questioned much. He's gone along with his best friend, Jeff, even when Jeff has acted like a bully and a jerk. But now Rick's moved up to middle school, and new doors are opening. One of them leads to the school's Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities congregate.



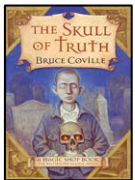
The Rise of Kyoshi. F.C. Yee. (5 – 9) Taking place in the world of the *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, this book delves into the story of Avatar Kyoshi. Kyoshi established the brave and respected Kyoshi Warriors (all women). Maps her journey from a girl of humble origins to the merciless pursuer of justice.



Sapphire the Great and the Meaning of Life. Beverley Brenna. (3 – 5) Narrated by nine-year-old Jeannie and Sapphire, a hamster, in alternating chapters, the book explores themes of family and self-identity as Jeannie's family is changing in ways she doesn't quite understand. It includes a transgender neighbor and a father coming out as gay.



Saturdays with Hitchcock. Ellen Wittlinger. (5 – 8) When 12-year-old Maisie learns that Gary likes her, things get a little complicated—she doesn't like Gary that way, but her best friend, Cyrus, does.



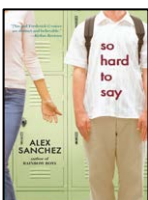
The Skull of Truth: A Magic Shop Book. Bruce Coville. (4 – 6) Charlie is the biggest liar in town. But after he steals The Skull, he finds he can only tell the truth and now no one believes him. A tale of learning the power of truth and dealing with its consequences. Includes issues of cancer and finding out about a gay uncle.



Second Dad Summer. Benjamin Klas. (3 – 6) Jeremiah just wants a normal summer with his dad. But his dad has moved in with his new boyfriend Michael who serves weird organic food and is constantly nagging him. This is not the summer Jeremiah wanted. But Jeremiah soon learns that being a family comes in many surprising forms.



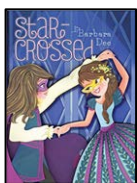
Snapdragon. Kat Leyh. (4 – 6) Snap's town had a witch. At least, that's how the rumor goes. But Snap thinks Jacks is kind of cool. But as Snap starts to get to know her, she realizes that Jacks may in fact have *real* magic and a connection with Snap's family's past. Snap is bold, independent and deals with bullies. She finds friendship with Lulu, a transgender youth who lives in the same trailer park and shares a love of scary movies. School Library Journal Best Books of 2020.



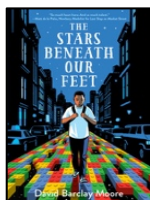
So Hard to Say. Alex Sanchez. (5 – 8) When Frederick arrives, Xio is thrilled. The new boy is shy, cute, and definitely good boyfriend material. Before long, Xio pulls him into her circle of friends. Frederick knows he should be flattered by Xio's attention. So why can't he stop thinking about Victor, the captain of the soccer team, instead?



Stage Dreams. Melanie Gillman. (6 – 12) This book puts readers in the saddle alongside Flor and Grace, a Latinx outlaw and a trans runaway, as they team up to thwart a Confederate plot in the New Mexico Territory.



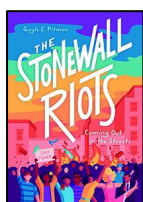
Star Crossed. Barbara Dee. (4 – 6) Mattie is chosen to play Romeo opposite her crush, Gemma, in this Romeo and Juliet inspired novel. Is it possible to have a crush on both boys AND girls? There is a positive, accepting, supportive tone throughout the story.



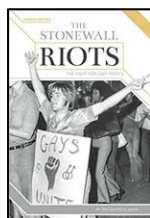
The Stars Beneath Our Feet. David Barclay Moore. (5 – 9) An boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos.



Steven Universe. Rebecca Sugar. (2 – 6) Many books and graphic novels are set in the "Steven Universe", a popular animated series on Cartoon Network. This series Includes women showing affection for each other, many non-binary characters, and an intersex character.



The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets. Gayle Pitman. (5 – 8) Provides an accessible introduction to the Stonewall Riots by looking at the people, places, news clippings and artifacts from the time of Stonewall in short, readable chapters. It also covers events leading up to Stonewall, as well as the aftermath.



The Stonewall Riots: The Fight for LGBT Rights (Hidden Heroes). Tristan Poehlmann. (4 – 9) Discusses the 1969 Stonewall Riots which is now commemorated each year with LGBTQ Pride. Look at what led up to them, what happened at Stonewall, key people, and how the riots launched the modern LGBT rights movement. Well researched. Engaging read.



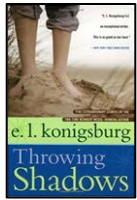
Summer of a Thousand Pies. Margaret Dilloway. (3 – 6) Cady is sent to live with Aunt Shell and her partner, Suzanne after growing up homeless with her dad. Cady starts to feel like she belongs. Then she finds out that Aunt Shell's shop is failing. Saving the business and protecting the first place she's ever really felt safe will take everything she's learned and the help of her new friends.



The Tea Dragon Society. Katie O'Neill. (3 – 7) An oversized graphic novel that follows blacksmith-in-training Greta as she meets Minette and joins a group that harvests tea and bonds with dragons.



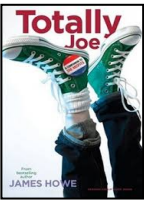
This Would Make a Good Story Someday. Dana Alison Levy. (4 – 6) Sara Johnston-Fischer loves her family. But that doesn't mean she's thrilled when her summer plans are upended for a surprise cross-country train trip with her two moms and her two sisters.



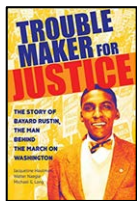
Throwing Shadows. E.L. Konigsburg. (4 – 8) Five extraordinary short stories capture the moment when someone's life changes — when a chance meeting between two people casts a shadow on what things have been like and what they can become. Includes a gay couple, multiracial family and a single-parent family.



To Night Owl From Dogfish. Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer. (5 – 6) Told in letters between two young girls, when their fathers fall in love with one another. When the two men get out of town for a romantic summer vacation, they send the girls to summer camp, hoping to create a bonding experience for them. Do things go as planned? Not exactly.



Totally Joe. James Howe. (5 – 9) Looks at the life of Joe, a character from **The Misfits**, while he navigates middle school questioning gender expectations and traditional roles as he realizes he is gay. He has supportive family and friends while dealing with name-calling and controversy. One of four in **The Misfits** series.



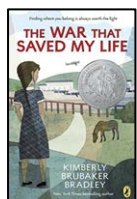
Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington. Jacqueline Houtman. (5 – 12) Bayard Rustin was one of the most influential activists of our time, who was an early advocate for African Americans and for gay rights. He was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., teaching him about the power of nonviolent direct action. A Best Book of 2019 by School Library Journal.



The Unbelievable Oliver and the Sawed-in-Half Dads. Pseudonymous Bosch. (2 – 4) Teenie and Bea's fathers are finally getting married, and Oliver is supposed to entertain at the rehearsal brunch. He has chosen the classic sawed-in-half trick, which will be especially amusing when he calls up the grooms as volunteers. What could go wrong?



The Van Gogh Café. Cynthia Rylant. (3 – 7) Seven vignettes of life at the Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas. The café is run by a father and his 10-year-old daughter. Something magical or special happens in each chapter. In "The Star" an elderly film star comes to the Café to wait for his true love, a young man he met many years ago.



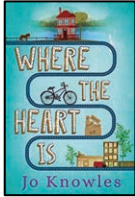
The War that Saved My Life. Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. (4 – 7) Ada has never left her apartment because of her mother's shame of Ada's twisted foot. But when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him. While Susan is still mourning her partner, Becky, she is forced to take them in. Historical fiction that is equal parts adventure and a moving tale of family and identity. Sequel: **The War I Finally Won.**



We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin. Larry Dane Brimmer. (4 – 8) Rustin's story is set against the history of segregation in his time and focuses on his leadership role, largely unacknowledged, in the struggle for civil rights. His gay identity is mentioned in the afterword.



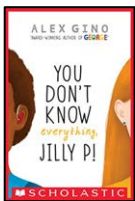
When the Moon Was Ours. Anna-Marie McLemore. (7 – 12) Best friends Miel and Sam are as strange as they are inseparable. Roses grow out of Miel's wrist and Sam is known for the moons he paints and hangs in the trees. Full of fairy tale elements, this story with diverse characters explores gender identity, love, and magic.



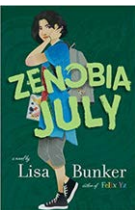
Where the Heart Is. Jo Knowles. (4 – 7) Rachel can count on Micah to help her cope with all her stress. But Micah seems to want their relationship to go beyond friendship, and though Rachel almost wishes for that, too, she can't force herself to feel "that way" about him. In fact, she isn't sure she can feel that way about any boy — or what that means.



The Whispers. Greg Howard. (5 - 6) Riley believes in the magical fairies that will grant you wishes, and he has a lot of wishes. He wishes bullies at school would stop picking on him. He wishes Dylan, his 8th grade crush, liked him. Most of all, Riley wishes for his mom to come back home. Frustrated with the lack of progress in finding her, Riley decides to take matters into his own hands.



You Don't Know Everything. Jilly P! Alex Gino. Jilly thinks she's figured out how life works. But when her sister, Emma, is born deaf, she realizes how much she still has to learn. The world is going to treat Jilly, who is white and hearing, differently from Emma, just as it will treat them both differently from their Black cousins.



Zenobia July. Lisa Bunker. (5 – 9) Zenobia July is starting a new life in Maine with her aunts. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the hacking skills to solve the mystery.