



## USING BOOK GROUPS TO LOOK AT GENDER DIVERSITY

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These books could be used in book groups or literature circles to foster discussions about gender topics such as: gender identity, gender expression and gender stereotypes.

**As Brave As You.** Jason Reynolds. Two brothers leave Brooklyn for the first time to spend the summer with their grandparents in Virginia. When they decide to prove how brave they are, everything backfires—literally. A story touching on gender expectations, what does it mean to be brave, hurt, and love.

**Better Nate Than Ever.** Tim Federle. Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York for an open casting call for E.T. The Musical, knowing this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom.

**The Breadwinner.** Deborah Ellis. Parvana and her family live in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Taliban arrests her father for his foreign education. The family is desperate until Parvana thinks of a plan.

**Garvey's Choice.** Nikki Grimes. Since Garvey's father has always wanted him to be athletic, he has felt like a failure even though he's kind, funny and smart. When he joins the chorus, he literally finds his voice. An emotional novel written in short verse about a young black boy choosing to be true to himself.

**George.** Alex 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. George really wants to play Charlotte in Charlotte's Web. Will she be able to?

**Homeless Bird.** Gloria Whelan. Like many girls her age in India, thirteen-year-old Koly is getting married. Full of hope and courage, she leaves home—forever. But in a grim turn of events she finds herself cast out into a current of cruel tradition. Her future seems lost. Yet this young woman, bewildered and brave, sets out to forge her own exceptional future.

**The Liberation of Gabriel King.** K. L. Going. In Georgia during the summer of 1976, Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African American girl who is facing prejudice, decide to overcome their fears together as they enter fifth grade.

**The Pants Project.** Cat Clarke. Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but with his new school's terrible dress code, he can't even wear pants. Only skirts. The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself. But to Liv, this isn't just a mission to change the policy—it's a mission to change his life.

**Rickshaw Girl.** Mitali Perkins. In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naima excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family she thinks she will have to be a boy – or disguise herself as one.

**Riding Freedom.** Pam Muñoz Ryan. A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.

**Wringer,** Jerry Spinelli. As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a “wringer” at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it. A good read-aloud to spark discussion concerning the perils of peer pressure.