

Top Recommended Books for a Welcoming School

- → Top Picture Books for a Welcoming Elementary School
- → Top Diverse Middle Grade Books for a Welcoming School
- → Understanding Racism: Pre-K 8 Books That Explore and Challenge Race
- → Top LGBTQ Inclusive Elementary and Middle Grade Books
- → Best Diverse Children's Books with Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Expansive Characters
- → Great Books on LGBTQ History for Kids

Welcoming Schools Top Picture Books for a Welcoming Elementary School



And Tango Makes Three. Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. (Pre-K - 2) Penguins Roy and Silo at New York's Central Park Zoo keep putting a rock in their nest to 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.



Bling Blaine: Throw Glitter, Not Shade. Rob Sanders. (Pre-K – 1) Blaine's a boy who loves to shine . . . well actually, he loves to sparkle. But when his bling rubs some people the wrong way, and the bullying begins, Blaine—along with the entire school—starts to lose his shine. Can Blaine's friends help bring back his glimmer?



The Day You Begin / El día en que descubres quién eres. Jacqueline Woodson. (K – 3) Follow the experience of students who feel like they stand out and are teased by their classmates. Woodson reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. English and Spanish editions.



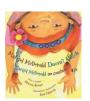
The Family Book. Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K) All kinds of families are celebrated in a funny, silly and reassuring way. Includes adoptive families, stepfamilies, single-parent families, two-mom and two-dad families and families with a mom and a dad.

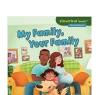


The Great Big Book of Families. Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 3) Features all kinds of families and their lives together. Each two-page spread showcases one aspect of home life—from houses and holidays, to schools and pets, to feelings and family trees.

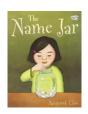


Looking Like Me. Walter Dean Myers. (K - 2) An African American boy celebrates all of who he is, including a dancer, an artist and a writer. Colorful collage illustrations and catchy rhymes.















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.

My Family, Your Family. Kathryn Cole. (Pre-K – K) Makayla is visiting friends in her neighborhood. Some families have lots of children, but others have none. Some friends live with grandparents or have two dads or have parents who are divorced. This diverse cast allows readers to compare and contrast families in multiple ways.

My Rainbow. Trinity and DeShanna Neal. (Pre-K – 2) A dedicated mom puts love into action as she creates the perfect rainbow-colored wig for her transgender daughter, based on the real-life experience of mother-daughter advocate duo Trinity and DeShanna Neal.

The Name Jar. Yangsook Choi. (K - 2) The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious for her American classmates to like her.

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**.

Red: A Crayon's Story. Michael Hall. (Pre-K – 1) A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis. Almost everyone tries to "help" him be red until a friend offers a new perspective. He's blue! About finding the courage to be true to your inner self. Can be read on multiple levels.

When Aidan Became a Big Brother. Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita. (Pre-K-2) When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl, but as he grew older, he realized he was a trans boy. When he finds out he is going to be a big brother, he learns the most important thing about being an older sibling: how to love with his whole self.

Wings. Christopher Myers. (1 - 5) Take flight with Ikarus Jackson, the boy with wings who remains true to his dreams despite taunts. One girl realizes he must be lonely and resolves to stop the hurtful words.

Top Diverse Middle Grade Books for a Welcoming School



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



For Black Girls Like Me. Mariama J. Lockington. (4 – 7) Makeda is eleven years old, adopted, and black. She wonders: What would it feel like to grow up with a family that looks like me? In this coming-of-age story, the author draws on some of the emotional truths from her own experiences growing up with an adoptive white family.



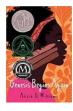
Free Lunch. Rex Ogle. (5 – 9) Based on his own experience as a poor kid in a wealthy school district, Rex vividly tells of his first semester of sixth grade as he tries to hide that he doesn't have much money while classmates and a teacher take one look at him and decide he's trouble. Life at home is punctuated by outbursts of violence. 2020 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award.



Friend Me. Sheila M. Averbuch. (3-7) Roisin hasn't made a single friend since moving to Massachusetts. In fact, she is falling apart under constant abuse from Zara, who torments her in person and on social media. Finally, Roisin bonds with Haley online. But, what happens when an online friend becomes a real-life nightmare?



Front Desk. Kelly Yang. (4 –6) Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk. Her parents hide immigrants. She wants to be a writer. But how can she when English is not her first language? Winner Asian / Pacific American Award for Children's Literature.



Genesis Begins Again. Alicia D. Williams. (4 - 8) There are ninety-six things Genesis hates about herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. This deeply sensitive and powerful debut novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.



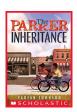
Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Jason Reynolds. (4 - 8) A series of books with four kids from very different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. All are a part of an elite middle school track team that goes to the state championships. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.



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.



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.



The Parker Inheritance. Varian Johnson. (3 – 6) Candice discovers a mysterious old letter about an injustice from decades ago. With the help of Brandon, she begins to decipher the clues to 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.



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.



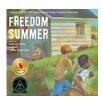
Riding Freedom. Pam Muñoz Ryan. (4 – 6) A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst, who ran away from an orphanage, lived as a boy, moved to California, drove stagecoaches and continued to live as a man. Spanish edition: Un caballo Ilamado Libertad.

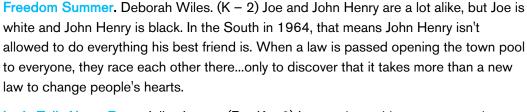


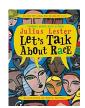
Zenobia July. Lisa Bunker. (5-9) Zenobia July is starting a new life in Maine with her aunts. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with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

Understanding Racism: Pre-K - 8 Books That Explore and Challenge Race

BOOKS ABOUT ANTI-BLACK RACISM







Let's Talk About Race. Julius Lester. (Pre-K – 2) Lester shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. He notes, "I write because our lives are stories. If enough of these stories are told, then perhaps we will begin to see that our lives are the same story. The differences are merely in the details." I am a story. So are you. So is everyone.



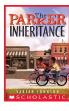
The Other Side. Jacqueline Woodson. (K-2) Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship and get around the grown-up's rules by sitting on top of the fence together. Woodson was the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.



A Good Kind of Trouble. Lisa Moore Ramée. (3 – 7) Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough. Wait, what?

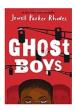


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BOOKS ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

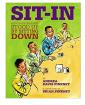


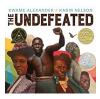














Ghost Boys. Jewell Parker Rhodes. (5-9) Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community. He meets another ghost, Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances and he meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

Juneteenth For Mazie. Floyd Cooper. (Pre-K – 2) Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty and freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history, the day her ancestors were no longer slaves when the Emancipation Proclamation finally made it to Texas (two years after the rest of the country heard it).

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History and Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History. Vashti Harrison. (3 – 6) Among these biographies, readers will find heroes, role models, and everyday women and men who did extraordinary things - whose actions and beliefs contributed to making the world better for generations to come.

March (Trilogy). John Lewis. (4 and up) Winner of the 2016 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. March is a vivid first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil rights, the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation while reflecting on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

Ruth and the Green Book. Calvin Alexander Ramsey. (1 - 4) Ruth was so excited to take a trip in her family's new car! But she soon found out that many hotels and gas stations refused service to black people. Finally, a friendly attendant at a gas station showed Ruth's family *The Green Book*.

Sit In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down. Andrea Davis Pinkney. (1 – 4) Using poetic, powerful prose, Pinkney tells the story of the momentous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing civil rights movement.

The Undefeated. Kwame Alexander. (K - 2) Winner of the 2020 Caldecott Medal. This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.

We March. Shane W. Evans. (Pre-K-2) Combined with simple yet compelling illustrations, the thrill of the day is brought to life for even the youngest reader to experience.

BOOKS LOOKING AT SKIN COLOR



The Skin I'm In. Sharon G Flake. (5 – 7) Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

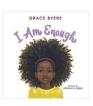


Skin Like Mine. LaTashia M. Perry. (Pre-K – 2) An entertaining yet creative way to address and celebrate diversity among young children. Guaranteed to make you smile and a bit hungry.



Sulwe. Lupita Nyong'o. (Pre-K − 2) Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. Actress Lupita Nyong'o inspires children to see their own unique beauty.

BOOKS ON SELF ESTEEM



I Am Enough. Grace Byers. (Pre-K − 1) With beautiful illustrations and rhyming text *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers offers a lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others and being kind to one another. Featuring an African American girl interacting with friends doing a range of activities from jump rope to martial arts reminding girls they are "here to shine".



I Am Perfectly Designed. Karamo Brown with Jason "Rachel" Brown. (Pre-K – 1) Actor, Karamo Brown and his son write about a boy and his father taking a joyful walk through the city, discovering all the ways in which they are perfectly designed for each other.



Looking Like Me. Walter Dean Myers. (K-2) With rhythmic text and unique photocollage illustrations Walter Dean Myers and his son, Christopher Myers, celebrate every child and everything that a child can be. In 2019, Walter Dean Myers received the Children's Literature Legacy Award.



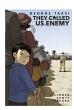
M is for Melanin. Tiffany Rose. (Toddler – K) Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro and F is for Fresh to P is for Pride and W is for Worthy. Teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin they're in. Be bold. Be fearless. BE YOU.

BOOKS ON ANTI ASIAN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LATINX RACISM

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS



The Name Jar. Yangsook Choi. (K - 2) The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her.



They Called Us Enemy. George Takei. (5 – 8) A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon, and America itself, in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



Indian No More. Charlene Willing Mcmanis. (4 – 7) With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism.

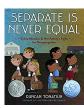


When We Were Alone. David A. Robertson. (K-2) A young girl becomes curious about her grandmother. Why does her grandmother have long braided hair and beautifully colored clothing? Why does she speak another language? Her grandmother tells her about life in a residential school a long time ago, where all of these things were taken away.

LATINX



Efrén Divided. Ernesto Cisneros. (4 – 7) Efrén worries about his parents. Although he's American-born, his parents are undocumented. His worst nightmare comes true one day when Amá doesn't return from work and is deported across the border to Tijuana, México. Now more than ever, Efrén must channel his inner Soperboy to help take care of and try to reunite his family.



Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation.

Duncan Tonatiuh. (K - 4) Almost 10 years before *Brown vs. Board of Education*, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites only" school.

Top LGBTQ Inclusive Elementary and Middle Grade Books



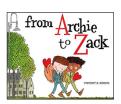
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The Best at It. Maulik Pancholy. (4 – 7) Before 7th grade, Rahul's grandfather says, "Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it." While Rahul is not sure what that one special thing is, he is convinced that once he finds it, kids will stop bullying him and he won't worry the crush he has for his classmate Justin Emery. Stonewall Honour Book.



The Bravest Knight Who Ever Lived. Daniel Errico, (Pre-K – 1) Follow Cedric on his journey from a humble pumpkin farmer to a full-fledged knight. In the end, will he follow his heart, and prove that sometimes the bravest thing you can do is choose for yourself how your fairy tale ends? Also see the TV series on Hulu based on this book.



From Archie to Zack. Vincent X. Kirsch. (Pre-K – K) Archie and Zack spend just about every minute together walking to school, practicing for the marching band and learning to ride bikes. Archie tries to write a letter to Zack to tell him how he feels but none sound quite right. Archie's friends (Zelda, Zinnia, and Zuzella) find the letters... but they know exactly who they're meant for.



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.



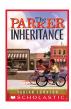
Meow or Never: A Wish Novel. Jazz Taylor (3-5) A heartwarming story of secret pets and secret crushes... Avery can sing, but that doesn't mean she can sing in front of people. One day her crush, Nic, overhears Avery singing to her hidden cat and convinces her to audition for the school's musical. Can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



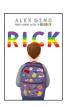
The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher. Dana Alison Levy. (3 - 5) From new schools to old friends, from imaginary cheetahs to very real skunks, the Fletchers' school year is anything but boring—four boys, two dads, and one new neighbor who just might ruin everything.



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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.



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.

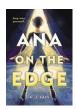


The Unbelievable Oliver and the Sawed-in-Half Dads. Pseudonymous Bosch. (2-4) Teenie and Bea's fathers are finally getting married, and Oliver is supposed to entertain at the rehearsal brunch. He has chosen the classic sawed-in-half trick, which will be especially amusing when he calls up the grooms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



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

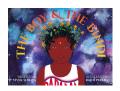
Best Diverse Children's Books with Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Expansive Characters



Ana on the Edge A.J. Sass. (3 – 7) Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is not a frilly dress kind of kid. So, when Ana learns that next season's program will be princess themed, doubt forms fast. Once Ana meets Hayden, a transgender boy new to the rink, thoughts about the princess program and gender identity begin to take center stage.



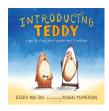
Annie's Plaid Shirt. Stacy B. Davids. (Pre-K – 2) Annie loves her plaid shirt and wears it everywhere, but her mom says she must wear a dress to her uncle's wedding. Annie protests; she feels weird in dresses. But Annie has an idea. Will her mom agree?



The Boy & the Bindi. Vivek Shraya. (Pre-K – 2) A South Asian boy becomes fascinated with his mother's bindi, the red dot commonly worn by Hindu women, and wishes to have one of his own. Rather than chastise her son, she agrees, allowing him to be more fully himself.



I am Jazz. Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. (K - 5) From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew she was a girl, even though others saw her as a boy. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. Based on the real-life experiences of Jazz Jennings.



Introducing Teddy: A gentle story about gender and friendship. Jess Walton. (Pre-K – K) Introduces the youngest readers to gender identity and transition in an accessible and heart-warming story about being true to yourself and being a good friend.



It Feels Good to Be Yourself. Theresa Thorn. (Pre-K – 3) Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither or somewhere in between. A straightforward exploration of gender identity, providing young readers and adults with the vocabulary to discuss the topic with sensitivity.



Jacob's New Dress. Sarah and Ian Hoffman. (Pre-K – 2) Jacob loves playing dress-up because he can be anything he wants to be. Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants? Also see Jacob's Room to Choose as Jacob, Sophie and his teacher explore gender expression, stereotypes and a place to pee in peace.



Julián Is a Mermaid. Jessica Love. (Pre-K – 2) While riding the subway with his abuela, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. When Julián gets home, all he can think about is dressing up like them. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes—and even more important, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? A story about the power of being seen and affirmed.



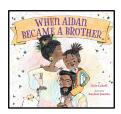
The Pants Project. Cat Clarke. (3 - 6) Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but he hasn't told anyone. Now, his new school has a terrible dress code; he has to wear skirts! The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself—to change the policy and his life.



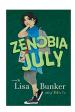
Red: A Crayon's Story. Michael Hall. (Pre-K – 1) A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis. Almost everyone tries to "help" him be red until a friend offers a new perspective. He's blue! About finding the courage to be true to your inner self. Can be read on multiple levels.



They, She, He easy as ABC. Maya and Matthew Smith-Gonzalez. (Pre-K – 1) Inclusive pronouns are featured alongside the alphabet. An introduction to the many different ways people identify and use pronouns. Shows that including everyone is all part of the dance. "No one left out and everyone free."

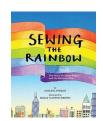


When Aidan Became a Big Brother. Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita. (Pre-K – 2) When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl, but as he grew older, he realized he was a trans boy. When he finds out he is going to be a big brother, he learns the most important thing about being an older sibling: how to love with his whole self.



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.

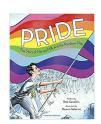
Great Books on LGBTQ History for Kids



Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker, Gayle Pitman, 2018. (K – 2) This book takes readers from Gilbert's childhood in a small town in Kansas where he didn't fit in to the creation of the rainbow flag and his historic artistic career in San Francisco.



When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community, Gayle E. Pitman. (K - 2) Phyllis and Del point out landmarks throughout the city that can be seen out their window. This clever tribute to a notable couple introduces children to untold stories in history.



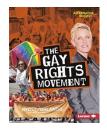
PRIDE: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, Rob Sanders, 2018. (K – 2) Trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. A Junior Library Guild Selection.



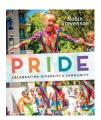
Be Amazing: A History of Pride. Desmond Napoles. (K – 3) Twelve year old drag kid Desmond is Amazing walks you through LGBTQ history with courageous people like Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and RuPaul have paved the way for a safer, more inclusive society for LGBTQ individuals, and it's thanks to them that people just like Desmond can be free to be who they really are.



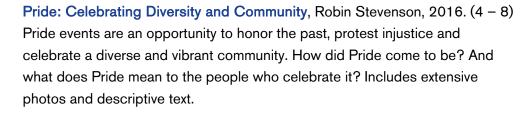
Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution, Rob Sanders, 2019. (1 – 3) From the building's origins as a stable in the 1800s to the Stonewall Inn of the 1960s, the story captures a sense of place, community and the people who stood up for their rights at the Stonewall Riots in 1969.



The Gay Rights Movement, Eric Braun, 2018. (3 – 6) What has changed throughout the history of the gay rights movement? Learn about the key people and events that have paved the way for the modern gay rights movement.

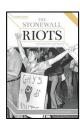








Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present! Arabelle Sicardi. 2019. (4 – 6) Discover the inspiring stories of a diverse selection of LGBTQ artists, writers, innovators, athletes, and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. Full-color portraits accompanied by short biographies.



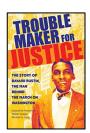
The Stonewall Riots: The Fight for LGBT Rights, Tristan Poehlmann, 2016. (4 - 8) Discusses the 1969 Stonewall Riots, which are now commemorated each year with LGBTQ Pride. Looks at what led up to them, what happened at Stonewall, key people and how the riots launched the modern LGBT rights movement. Well-researched, engaging read.



The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets, Gayle Pitman, 2019. (5 – 8) Learn about the Stonewall Riots by looking at the people, places, news clippings and artifacts from the time in short, readable chapters. It also covers events leading up to Stonewall, as well as the aftermath.



Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, Jerome Pohlen, 2015. (5 - 8) 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.



Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington, Jacqueline Houtman, 2019 (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.



Transgender Role Models and Pioneers, Barbra Penne, 2017. (5 – 8) Profiles a host of accomplished transgender people who have made their names in a wide range of fields, including sports, politics, activism, entertainment and the arts.