

Grades K-5 LGBTQIA+ Reading List
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Picture Books:

Genhart, Michael. **Rainbow: A First Book of Pride**, 2019. JE

Children from different kinds of families demonstrate the original meanings of the colors in the rainbow flag, and then come together at a Pride parade.

Narvankar, Ameya. **Ritu Weds Chandni**, 2021. JE

Ayesha is excited to attend her cousin Ritu's wedding. She can't wait to dance at the baraat ceremony! But not everyone is happy that Ritu is marrying her girlfriend Chandni. Some have even vowed to stop the celebrations. Will Ayesha be able to save her cousin's big day? Centering Ayesha's love for her cousin as much as it showcases Ritu and Chandni's love for each other, this warmhearted debut from Ameya Narvankar celebrates the power of young voices to stand up against prejudice and bigotry.

Non-Fiction:

Medina, Nico. **What Was Stonewall?**, 2019. JNF 306.766 St881M

In the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969, police arrived at the Stonewall Inn's doors and yelled, "Police! We're taking the place!" But the people in this New York City neighborhood bar, members of the LGBTQ community, were tired of being harassed. They rebelled in the streets, turning one moment into a civil rights movement and launching the fight for equality among LGBTQ people in the United States.

Sanders, Rob. **Stonewall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution**, 2019. JNF 323.3264 St881Sa

Describes the Stonewall Riots in New York City in 1969, which sparked the gay liberation movement in the United States, and details the history of LGBTQ rights since the riots.

Sanders, Rob. **Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Wedding**, 2021. JNF 306.766 Sa194t

Two wedding cake toppers tell the love story of the men they represent, Michael McConnell and Jake Baker, and their difficult journey to become the first married gay couple in the United States.

Graphic Novels and Fiction:

Telgemeier, Raina. **Drama**, 2012. JGN

Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of *Moon over Mississippi* as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

Bean, Lexie. **The Ship We Built**, 2020. JFIC

A fifth-grader whose best friends walked away, whose mother is detached, and whose father does unspeakable things, copes with the help of friend Sofie and anonymous letters tied to balloons and released. Includes a list of resources related to abuse, gender, sexuality, and more.

Bildner, Phil. **A High Five for Glenn Burke**, 2020. JFIC

After researching Glenn Burke, the first major league baseball player to come out as gay, sixth-grader Silas Wade slowly comes out to his best friend Zoey, then his coach, with unexpected consequences.

Bunker, Lisa. **Zenobia July**, 2019. JFIC

Zenobia July is starting a new life. She used to live in Arizona with her father; now she's in Maine with her aunts. She used to spend most of her time behind a computer screen, improving her impressive coding and hacking skills; now she's coming out of her shell and discovering a community of friends at Monarch Middle School. 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 abilities to solve the mystery, all while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and coming to grips with presenting her true gender for the first time.

Callender, Kacen. **King and the Dragonflies**, 2020. JFIC

In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself.

*Federle, Tim. **Nate Expectations**, 2018. JFIC

When *E.T.: The Musical* closes, Nate reluctantly returns home to begin high school and, with his best friend, Libby, makes a project of turning Dickens' *Great Expectations* into a musical.

Gino, Alex. **George**, 2015. JFIC

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 thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

Gino, Alex. **Rick**, 2020. JFIC

Eleven-year-old Rick Ramsey has generally gone along with everybody, just not making waves. Now in middle school, he discovers the Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities can express themselves--and maybe among them he can find new friends and discover his own identity, which may just be to opt out of sex altogether.

Jonsberg, Barry. **A Song Only I Can Hear**, 2020. JFIC

Thirteen-year-old Rob, a painfully shy wallflower, receives a series of mysterious text messages challenging him to leave his comfort zone as he tries to impress new student Destry Camberwick.

Lukoff, Kyle. **Too Bright to See**, 2021. JFIC

In the summer before middle school, eleven-year-old Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghost haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity.

Peck, Richard. **The Best Man**, 2016. JFIC

Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.

Sass, A. J. **Ana on the Edge**, 2020. JFIC

Twelve-year-old figure skater Ana strives to win her competitions while learning about gender identity--Ana's own and that of a new friend--and how to navigate the best path forward.

Stead, Rebecca. **The List of Things That Will Not Change**, 2020. JFIC

Despite her parents' divorce, her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend, ten-year-old Bea is reassured by her parents' unconditional love, excited about getting a stepsister, and haunted by something she did last summer at her father's lake house.

*= part of a series.

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