

Out on the Shelf: Books for Teens that Explore LGBTQ Issues

FICTION

Am I Blue? Coming Out from the Silence

Marion Dane Bauer, et al (YA BAUER)

What if everyone could determine your sexuality by the shade of blue your skin is? (Grades 7+)

Dangerous Angels

Francesca Lia Block (YA BLOCK)

"He didn't even know what to call it. He wanted to be a girl and he wanted to love girls." (Grades 10+)

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky (YA CHBOSKY)

"I am writing to you because she said you listen and understand and didn't try to sleep with that person even though you could have." (Grades 8+)

Lucky

Eddie de Oliveira (YA DE OLIVEIRA)

"These are the facts. I'm attracted to boys and girls.... I'm just Sam. I was born like this." (Grades 9+)

Down to the Bone

Mayra Lazara Dole (YA DOLE)

Laura is a tortillera: a girl who likes girls. Neither her Mami nor the Mother Superior at her school are going to like this news. (Grades 9+)

Eight Seconds

Jean Ferris (YA FERRIS)

In the rough-and-tumble world of rodeo, control is an illusion. (Grades 9+)

My Heartbeat

Garret Freymann-Weyr (YA FREYMANN)

What happens when you think you like the guy who might be your brother's boyfriend? (Grades 9+)

Annie on My Mind

Nancy Garden (YA GARDEN)

"I'm not proud of it. I make no excuses. I lied to her." (Grades 8+)

Geography Club

Brent Hartinger (YA HARTINGER)

If you need to keep something secret, what cover story could sound more boring and non-suspicious than a geography club? (Grades 10+)

Bermudez Triangle

Maureen Johnson (YA JOHNSON)

The Bermudez Triangle girls are inseparable. But can their friendships survive when two of them fall in love... with each other? (Grades 9+)

Deliver Us From Evie

M.E. Kerr (YA KERR)

"Do your folks know what they're saying about Evie?" (Grades 9+)

My Most Excellent Year

Steve Kluger (YA KLUGER)

All it takes to discover yourself are some good friends, one school play, and the Boston Red Sox. (Grades 7+)

Talk

Kathe Koja (YA KOJA)

Sometimes the character you play on stage reveals who you really are... and who you only pretend to be during the day. (Grades 8+)

Boy Meets Boy

David Levithan (YA LEVITHAN)

Paul meets Noah, who's totally the guy for him. But now Paul's old boyfriend wants Paul back. Complications, complications! (Grades 8+)

Gravity

Leanna Lieberman (YA LIEBERMAN)

Would God force Ellie to choose between her sexuality and her faith? Or could God love a queer Jewish girl? (Grades 9+)

The Flip Side

Andrew Matthews (YA MATTHEWS)

You know how dressing up as someone else can transform you into that person? Rob dresses up as a woman—and discovers that he likes it. What does that mean? (Grades 8-10)

Here

Perry Moore (YA MOORE)

Thom may seem like a mild-mannered basketball star... but he's hiding a secret: he's a superhero. He's also gay. (Grades 9+)

Far From Xanadu

Julie Ann Peters (YA PETERS)

Mike's world is turned upside down when Xanadu moves to town. Xanadu's everything Mike isn't—cool, complicated, sexy, and...straight. (Grades 10+)

Keeping You a Secret

Julie Ann Peters (YA PETERS)

Holland plans to do the usual: meet a guy, fall in love, get married. Then she meets out-and-proud Cece... and falls for her. (Grades 9+)

Luna

Julie Ann Peters (YA PETERS)

"Yeah, I loved her. I couldn't help it. She was my brother." (Grades 8-12)

Thinking Straight

Robin Reardon (YA REARDON)

When Taylor comes out to his parents, they send him to Straight to God: a camp for "troubled" teens. (Grades 10+)

Empress of the World

Sarah Ryan (YA RYAN)

Nicola went away for the summer to explore archaeology and art, only to find that the real discoveries would be in herself. (Grades 9+)

The Rules for Hearts

Sarah Ryan (YA RYAN)

Fresh from her first heartbreak, Battle runs off for the summer to a rambling Victorian house in Portland... and discovers love again. (Grades 10-12)

So Hard to Say

Alex Sanchez (YA SANCHEZ)

Xio wants Frederick to be her first boyfriend, but he can't stop looking at his soccer buddy Victor. Confusion, here we come! (Grades 6-9)

A Really Nice Prom Mess

Brian Sloan (YA SLOAN)

Cam gets coerced into going to the prom with a girl, even though he'd rather go with his boyfriend. It can't hurt anything... right? (Grades 9+)

Freak Show

James St. James (YA ST. JAMES)

Can a fabulous drag queen become a Homecoming Queen in a prep school full of intolerant, wealthy, blonde freaks? (Grades 9+)

Parrotfish

Ellen Wittlinger (YA WITTLINGER)

Angela knows that he is actually Grady, a boy. Does Grady have the courage to proclaim it to the world? (Grades 9+)

NON-FICTION

Gay America: Struggle for Equality

Linas Alsenas (306.766 ALS)

"Profusely illustrated, Gay America reveals how gay men and women have lived, worked, and loved for the past 125 years."

Hear Me Out: True Stories of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia

(306.766 HEA)

GLBTQ young adults speak out and tell their own stories "of growing up 'queer.'"

The Shared Heart: Portrait and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People

Adam Mastoon (305.235 MAS)

"I am not going to change or apologize for who I am."

Growing Up Gay in America

Jason Rich (305.235 RIC)

"Informative and practical advice for teen guys questioning their sexuality and growing up gay."

What If Someone I Know is Gay?

Eric Marcus (306.766 MAR 2007)

There are no stupid questions.

GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer & Questioning Teens

Kelly Heugel (306.766 HUG 2003)

Discovering that you, or someone you love, might be GLBTQ is a revelation. Accepting it is a process. One thing that can help that process is information. You can find it here.