

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

FICTION

I Am J

Cris Beam (YA BEAM)

I was born as a girl, but he knows he's a boy. He wants to attain the acceptance of his parents and peers, but also the most important type of all—himself. (Grades 9+)

The Vast Fields of Ordinary

Nick Burd (YA BURD)

During an epic summer, Dade breaks off his bad relationship for the enigmatic Alex. But happiness is fleeting, and tragedy lurks just over the horizon... (Grades 9+)

Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You

Peter Cameron (YA CAMERON)

That's the mantra that is endlessly repeated to James, who is working at a Manhattan art gallery and hopelessly attracted to an older man. Somehow, he's not so sure... (Grades 9+)

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+)

Jukebox

Gina Daggett (YA DAGGETT)

Grace and Harper are debutante friends who have everything...but they can't seem to acknowledge their feelings for each other. (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+)

Annie on My Mind

Nancy Garden (YA GARDEN)

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

Will Grayson, Will Grayson

John Green & David Levithan (YA GREEN)

Will's best friend is Tiny, "the world's largest person who is really, really gay." Now Will's got to play matchmaker! (Grades 9+)

Geography Club [Series]

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+)

Totally Joe

James Howe (YA HOWE)

13-year-old Joe has to write an alphabiography—A to Z on himself. He tackles friends, family...and the challenges of being gay. (Grades 6-8)

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+)

Tip: On Having a Gay (Ex) Boyfriend

Carrie Jones (YA JONES)

Belle and her boyfriend are at the top tier of the social ladder in their high school—until he confesses his sexuality. Now they're both the targets of small-minded scorn. (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+)

Out of the Pocket

Bill Konigsberg (YA KONIGSBERG)

Bobby is faced with a dilemma—he's the town's star quarterback, but he's also tired of hiding his sexuality. (Grades 9+)

Absolute Brightness

James Lecesne (YA LECESNE)

"This is the story of a luminous force of nature: a boy who encounters evil and whose magic isn't truly felt until he disappears." (Grades 9+)

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+)

Ash

Malinda Lo (YA LO)

An LGBTQ take on Cinderella—this time, she's looking for a princess! (Grades 8+)

Hero

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+)

Kissing Kate

Lauren Myracle (YA MYRACLE)

Lissa and Kate have been friends for years. Could one simple kiss change everything? (Grades 7-10)

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+)

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+)

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)

The God Box

Alex Sanchez (YA SANCHEZ)

Paul thinks he knows everything there is to know about what the Bible has to say on homosexuality. Manuel is proudly gay...and Christian. (Grades 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+)

What They Always Tell Us

Martin Wilson (YA WILSON)

Alex kicks off his junior year by attempting suicide. It takes a handsome track runner for him to find a new lease on life. (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 us Out!: Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress and Hope, 1950 to the Present

Nancy Garden (306.766 GAR)

Read about the inspiring 60+-year struggle for gay rights through both informative histories and personal narratives.

The Full Spectrum

David Levithan (306.76 FUL)

Real-life stories, photos, and more detailing the lives of LGBT young people. (Grades 8+)

Hear Me Out: True Stories of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia (306.766 HEA)

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

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 2011)

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.