

Books about Gender and Diversity: Conversation starters!

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN up to Grade 3

A Family is a Family is a Family – Sara O'Leary (2016) Picture book
Whimsical; covers blended, foster, mixed-race, two-mom, grandma-guided families, etc.

And Tango Makes Three – Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell, Henry Cole Illust. (2005).
This is a classic—a fictionalized true story of two male penguins in Central Park Zoo who became partners and raised a penguin chick.

Annie's Plaid Shirt – Stacey B. Davids and Rachael Balsaitis (2015) (Ages 4-10)
Delightful picture book about Annie's need to express her identity by wearing her favourite plaid shirt and her mother's concern about what people will think if Annie does not wear a dress to her uncle's wedding.

Families – K. McCluskey, J. Unapik Mike, illust. L. Lischenko (2017) (Ages 3 – 8)
Talittuq (Inuk) is in grade two when he notices families vary and are shaped by love.

One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dad - Johnny Valentine (1994) Picture book
This wonderful old classic introduces diversity and is really fun to read aloud.

Red: A Crayon's Story – Michael Hall (2015) Picture book ages 4-7
A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis in this picture book. Funny, insightful, and colorful, *Red: A Crayon's Story* is about being true to your inner self and following your own path despite obstacles that may come your way.

Sex Is A Funny Word – Cory Silverberg (2016) (Ages 8-10)
Sensitive and funny, this comic book addresses the varied issues of puberty (e.g., self-image, gender identity, hormones) in ways that reflect preteens of all sexual orientations. It's also a resource for parents who need language to discuss these issues with children.

Stella Brings the Family – Miriam Schiffer (2015) Picture book
Stella problem-solves with her two Dads before attending a school Mother's Day event.

The Pink Balloon – C. Sweeny, B. Simons & illust. B. Corr-Scott (2021) (Ages 5-10)
An inclusive children's story, this is about listening with your heart.

47,000 Beads – Koja & Angel Adeyoha, illust. Holly McGillis (2017) (Ages 5-10)
Peyton (Lakota) loves to dance but no longer feels right wearing a dress. Her community help her to find the right regalia and her non-binary friend supports her Two-Spirit path.

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH (Grades 4-9)

Drum Roll, Please – Lisa Jenn Bigelow (2019) (Ages 9-14)
Usually shy, Melly joins the school band and finds that she has hidden confidence when she's playing the drums. When she goes to a music summer camp, Melly's life changes completely: her parents separate, and Melly develops feelings for a girl named Adeline.

See also annotated lists of LGBTQ Books:

<http://uregina.libguides.com/content.php?pid=686392> (available 2021 at UofR Educ 228)

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FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH (Grades 4-9) (cont'd)

Gracefully Grayson – Ami Polonsky (2014) Transgender novel (Ages 11-14yr+)
Grayson feels like a girl, despite being male-assigned, and decides to audition for a female role in a school play. She has a new friend, but also has to contend with bullies and disapproving adults. Beautifully written novel touches on friendships, teachers' roles.

Melissa – Alex Gino (2015) Transgender novel (ages 9-13yr+)
Everyone thinks George/Melissa is a boy, but she knows better. When her middle-grade teacher says she can't try out for a girl's part in the school play "because you're a boy," Melissa and her friend come up with a plan so she can finally be herself. Warm, funny.

The Eagle's Path – Michelle Corneau, illust. Audrey Keating (2017) (Ages 9-12)
Ten year-old Anna is puzzled when her friend declares she prefers girls to boys. Her mother reminds Anna of her eagle necklace, her Mohawk teachings of courage, honesty and wisdom, and introduces the term two-spirit.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS (age 15+)

All out: the no-longer secret stories of queer teens throughout the ages (2018)
Take a journey through time and genres, and discover a past where queer figures live, love and shape the world around them. Seventeen of the best young adult authors across the queer spectrum create a collection of beautifully written, diverse historical fiction for teens. Collected short stories edited by S Mitchell.

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out – Susan Kuklin (2015)
Candid images enhance the narrative of respectful interviews with six transgender or gender-neutral young adults about their emotional and physical journey toward self-understanding and disclosure. Whether joyful or heartbreaking, each story is different.)

LGBT Families – LEEANNE CURRIE-MCGHEE (2019)
Explores how families are changing and current status of laws in the United States. Really interesting discussion of perspectives of parents and peers.

FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLES (and all who support you)

Being Transgender – Robert Rodi & Laura Ross (2017) STF Stewart Resources Centre
An introductory text about the meaning of gender, crossdressers, drag, intersex and transitioning. Answers questions about hormone therapy, confusion vs certainty, and the risks of repressing gender identity.

Deepening the Discussion: Gender and Sexual Diversity – Saskatchewan Ministry of Education (2015). <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=75989&cl=1>
This guide is an easy to read resource, written for teachers. Excellent table of contents.

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FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, AUNTS AND UNCLES (*and all who support you*) cont'd

The Gender Creative Child – Diane Ehrensaft (2016)

This book "... explores why gender can be fluid, rather than binary. The book advocates for the gender affirmative model and encourages listening to each child to learn their particular needs, and support their quest for a true gender self."

Canadian Celebrations: Pride Festivals – Heather C. Hudak (2019)

Full of a "free to be" attitude and fun facts, this little picture book emphasizes respect, diversity, equity, and pride in being who we are.

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