CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT INCLUDE LGBT CHARACTERS AND THEMES


In this book, Lauren’s family gathers to make a quilt panel in memory of her uncle, Ron, who died of AIDS. The afterword to the book introduces the NAMES Project, an AIDS awareness organization, and includes photographs of many AIDS Memorial Quilt panels.


In this book, Coby is searching for love. Her mother just passed away, her father is often on the road, and her girlfriend recently broke up with her for a boy. After she rescues a stray dog, Colby starts to piece her life together.


In this book, Chloe, a young guinea pig, fears that she will lose her favorite uncle when he marries. Throughout the story, she learns that she is not losing her favorite uncle, she is gaining an Uncle Jamie.


In this book, children can practice and learn their ABC’s while also becoming exposed to many, diverse families that are parented by gay and lesbian individuals.


In this book, children can practice and learn to count from 1 to 20 while also becoming exposed to many, diverse families that are parented by gay and lesbian individuals.


Gabe, a music geek, has recently come out to his family as transgender but he is still known as Liz at school. Gabe uses his growing late-night, community radio show to allow his male identity to shine as he encourages listeners to explore their own B Side, or less obvious identity.


In this book, Cam’s aunt discovers her niece is a lesbian and sends her to God’s Promise, a church camp that claims to “cure” young people of their homosexuality. Cam’s voice is humorous, intelligent, and believable as she narrates her experiences in
Eastern Montana.


In this book, a queen is ready to retire and she wants her son to take her place, but first he must get married. The queen’s son does get married, but the royal wedding is not necessarily what the queen pictured.

dePaola, T. Oliver Button is a Sissy. Harcourt, 1979.

This book highlights the challenges Oliver Button faces because he would rather dance than participate in other sports.


In this short children’s book, Asha explains to her class that she really does have two mothers.


In this book, Elmer is discriminated against by his father and by his schoolmates because he is not like the other male ducklings. This is until Elmer proves that a “sissy” can be a hero.


In this book, a kindergartener feel proud to display a picture that she drew of herself and her two moms at Open School Night because of the encouragement that she receives from her teacher and her parents.


In this book, Antonio is teased at school because of the unconventional appearance of his Mam’s partner. In the end, he learns that he has nothing to be ashamed of.


In this book, a young boy learns that all colors are beautiful, especially when they are together, after his mothers get a rainbow flag.


This Website is dedicated to showcasing gay-friendly children’s books and believes that tolerant toddlers become tolerant teenagers

This Website is that of young adult and children’s author, Julie Anne Peters. The Website is complete with resources for the LGBTQI population.


In this book, Dee struggles to understand her growing attraction to women. With nowhere else to turn, Dee confides in the people she imagines are in the planes flying above her head. They are the only people that will not judge her. This connection, real or imagined, will impact Dee for the better.


In this book, Mia is not pleased that her adored uncle has someone else in his life. One day, when Uncle Tommy is sick, Mia discovers that Fergus might not be so bad afterall.


In this science fiction piece, Reese Holloway has been experiencing strange things ever since her car accident. After a top-secret, medical treatment, Reese returns to San Francisco to search for answers. While at home, she meets Amber Grey and her life turns completely upside down.


This book is a compilation of illustrations that show babies in all kinds of loving families, including same-sex parented families.


This book is a reimagination of Homer’s *The Iliad*. *The Song of Achilles* is both a love story and an adventure that creatively expands on the stories of well known Greek and Trojan heroes.


This books is the compilation of work from sixty-four of today’s award-winning queer writers. The authors wrote and illustrated letters to their younger selves in an attempt to give advice to those that may be in the shoes of their former selves.

In this book, a young girl has the opportunity to hear about how her two mothers adopted her from the country of Guatemala.


This book is about a three-year-old who discovers that there are all different types of loving families.


In this book, Patty reassures a preschooler named Frankie that she will always be his mother, even though she and his other mother have split up.


In this book, Zoe’s Uncle Leonard is dying of AIDS. Uncle Leonard and his partner comfort Zoe in this picture book targeting older kids (5-9).


This book is a story of four couples, including a lesbian couple, that travel to China to adopt baby girls.


In this book, a toddler goes through a daily routine with the child’s daddies, illustrating the love they all have for each other.


In this book, a toddler goes through a daily routine with the child’s mommies, illustrating the love they all have for each other.


This book, although not specific to the queer community, illustrates many ways in which people can be different.

In this book about remembering the people you love, Uncle Michael is dying of AIDS and goes to live with his young nephew and his family.


This Website is a joint project of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table and the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. The Rainbow Book List provides an annual annotated bibliography of quality books with content that is significant and relevant to the queer community, for children through the age of eighteen.


In this book, a Latino teen shares a secret with his best friend. As a result, the main character’s idea of what it means to be a man is challenged. This book brings attention to society’s expectations surrounding gender and the impacts this can have on a person’s ability to “come out”.


This book is based on true events that took place at New York City’s Central Park Zoo when two male penguins became parents to a hatchling named Tango.


Dante and Aristotle are seemingly opposite in every way. Despite their differences, the two boys are best friends. This novel explores the bonds of friendship and love.


In this book, Rosie comes home to find her mom dancing alone in the living room on a school day. Rosie soon learns that her mom and mum are getting married. At the ceremony, her family and friends come together to celebrate love.


In this book, a young boy befriends the single, male artist next door. Together, they share a love for gardening.


In this book, Callie, a theater geek, plunges into her middle school’s production of
“Moon Over Mississippi” with great excitement for the theater. Twins Justin and Jesse join the cast and Callie develops a crush on one and a friendship with the other, who happens to be gay.


In this short story, race and sexual orientation are explored as two children compare their parents. Ultimately, the children discover their families are really not that different.


This book about tolerance is one of five fairy tales by Valentine. In this tale, the duke makes a law that mandates families to be made up of a mother, a father, and their children. The main characters believe this to be a silly law and aim to prove this to the duke.


In this book, Elly is sad that her Grampy cannot accept her uncle’s lover. Elly’s father further explains to her what it means to be gay.


In this book, Nick enjoys spending time with his father and his father’s new partner. Nick serves as best man at their wedding in the sequel, *Daddy’s Wedding*.


In this book, William wants a doll, but his father refuses. Finally, William’s grandmother is able to convince her son that having a doll will help William to learn how to be a good father one day.