

GLBTQI Books for Teens
Compiled by Barbara Begin Campbell, 2015

- Danforth, Emily M. **THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST**. Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins, 2012. In the early 1990s, when gay teenager Cameron Post rebels against her conservative Montana ranch town and her family decides she needs to change her ways, she is sent to a gay conversion therapy center.
- Harmon, Michael B. **THE LAST EXIT TO NORMAL**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. Yanked out of his city life and plunked down into a small Montana town with his father and his father's boyfriend, seventeen-year-old Ben, angry and resentful about the changed circumstances of his life, begins to notice that something is not quite right with the little boy next door and determines to do something about it.
- Hartinger, Brent. **GEOGRAPHY CLUB**. HarperCollins, 2003. A group of gay and lesbian teenagers finds mutual support when they form the "Geography Club" at their high school.
- Koja, Kathe. **TALK**. Frances Foster Books, 2005. Hoping to escape from himself for a while, Kit, a high school junior, auditions for a controversial school play and discovers his talent for acting, struggles with coming out, and both he and his costar face crises in their view of themselves and in their close relationships. Told from two points of view.
- Konigsburg, Bill. **OPENLY STRAIGHT**. Arthur A. Levine Books, c2013. Tired of being known as "the gay kid", Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school--but trying to deny his identity has both complications and unexpected consequences.
- LaRochelle, David. **ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NOT**. Arthur A. Levin, 2005 Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup--displaying heterosexual.
- Lecesne, James. **ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS**. HarperTeen, 2008. In the beach town of Neptune, New Jersey, 15 y.o. Phoebe's life is changed irrevocably when her gay cousin moves into her house and soon goes missing.
- Lieberman, Leanne. **GRAVITY**. Orca, 2008. An Orthodox Jewish teenager comes to terms with her sexuality and her faith.
- Merey, Ilike. **A + E 4EVER : A GRAPHIC NOVEL**. Lethe Press, 2011. Asher Machnik is a teenage boy cursed with a beautiful androgynous face. Guys punch him, girls slag him and by high school he's developed an intense fear of being touched. Art remains his only escape from an otherwise emotionally empty life. Eulalie Mason is the lonely, tough-talking dyke from school who befriends Ash. The only one to see and accept all of his sides as a loner, a fellow artist and a best friend, she's starting to wonder if Ash is ever going to see all of her ... a + e 4EVER is a graphic novel set in that ambiguous crossroads where love and friendship, boy and girl, straight and gay meet.
- Moskowitz, Hannah. **MARCO IMPOSSIBLE**. Roaring Brook, 2013. Two best friends and junior high students attempt to break into the high school prom so that one of them can confess his love for the adorable bass player of the prom band.
- Newman, Lesléa. **OCTOBER MOURNING: A SONG FOR MATTHEW SHEPARD**. Candlewick, 2012. A poetic work which relates, from various points of view, events from the night of October 6, 1998, when twenty-one-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was lured out of a Wyoming bar, savagely beaten, tied to a fence, and left to die.
- Peters, Julie Anne. **LUNA**. Paw Prints. Megan Tingley Books. 2008 [2004]. Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

- Sanchez, Alex. **THE GOD BOX**. Simon and Schuster, 2007. When openly gay Manuel transfers to Paul's high school, Paul, a born-again Christian, begins to question his own sexuality.
- Telgemeier, Raina. **DRAMA**. Color by Gurihiru. Scholastic/Graphix, 2012. In this graphic novel, 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.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. **FROM THE NOTEBOOKS OF MELANIN SUN**. Blue Sky, 1995. Fourteen-year-old Melanin Sun's comfortable, quiet life is shattered when his mother reveals she has fallen in love with a woman.
- Wright, Bill. **PUTTING MAKEUP ON THE FAT BOY**. Simon and Schuster, 2011. Sixteen-year-old Carlos Duarte is on the verge of realizing his dream of becoming a famous make-up artist, but first he must face his jealous boss at a Macy's cosmetics counter, his sister's abusive boyfriend, and his crush on a punk-rocker classmate.

Collected Essays/Interviews

Kuklin, Susan. **BEYOND MAGENTA: TRANSGENDER TEENS SPEAK OUT**. Candlewick, 2014. A work of LGBT literature takes a look at the life, love, and struggles of 6 transgender teens, who share their voices, photographs and experiences.

Moon, Sarah, Ed. with James Lescene. **THE LETTER Q: QUEER WRITERS' NOTES TO THEIR YOUNGER SELVES**. Arthur A. Levine, 2012. Collects letters from 64 famous contributors, including Brian Selznick, David Levithan, Michael Cunningham, Jacqueline Woodson, and Amy Bloom to offer hope and support in the face of prejudice.

Information

Alsenas, Linas. **GAY AMERICA: STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY**. Abrams. 2008. Milestones of gay and lesbian life in the United States are brought together in the first-ever nonfiction book on the topic published specifically for teens. Illustrated with period photographs, first-person accounts offer insight as each chapter identifies an important era. From the Gay '20s to the Kinsey study, from the McCarthy witch hunts to the Beat generation, from Stonewall to disco, and from AIDS to gay marriage and families, this overview gives a look at how queer men and women have lived, worked, played--and fought to overcome prejudice and discrimination for the past 125 years.

Settingington, Ken. **BRANDED BY THE PINK TRIANGLE**. Second Story Press, 2013. Before the rise of the Nazi party, Germany, especially Berlin, was one of the most tolerant places for homosexuals in the world. But that all changed when the Nazis came to power. The pink triangle sewn onto prison uniforms became the symbol of the persecution of homosexuals, a persecution that would continue for many years after the war. A mix of historical research, first-person accounts and individual stories brings this time to life for young readers.

Biography/Memoir

Andrews, Arin with Joshua Lyon. **SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED: THE NOT-SO-SECRET LIFE OF A TRANSGENDER TEEN**. Simon and Schuster, 2014. "Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning teen memoir" (Arin shares her experience meeting and dating Katie Hill, author of *RETHINKING NORMAL*)

Hill, Katie Rain. **RETHINKING NORMAL: A MEMOIR IN TRANSITION**. Simon and Schuster, 2014.
"In this Young Adult memoir, a transgender girl shares her personal journey of growing up as a boy and then undergoing gender reassignment during her teens. Katie reflects on her pain-filled childhood and the events leading up to the life-changing decision to undergo gender reassignment as a teenager. She reveals the unique challenges she faced while unlearning how to be a boy and shares what it was like to navigate the dating world and experience heartbreak for the first time in a body that matched her gender identity.

Reference

Cart, Michael and Christine A. Jenkins. **The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content, 1969-2004**. Scarecrow, 2006. A decade-by-decade discussion of the most important novels having homosexual, bisexual, or transgender themes. Includes a "timeline of events relevant to GLBTQ young," and bibliographies by year.

For more titles:

<http://www.ala.org/glbtrt/award> - The first and most enduring award for GLBT books is the Stonewall Book Awards, sponsored by the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table. Since Isabel Miller's *Patience and Sarah* received the first award in 1971, many other books have been honored for exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender experience.

