

4th Annual LGBTQ+ Read-In Week Recommended Booklist

June 21st - June 25th, 2021



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Recommended Books

Auntie Uncle: Drag Queen Hero by Ellie Royce, Hannah Chambers (Illustrator)

Grades: PreK – 2nd

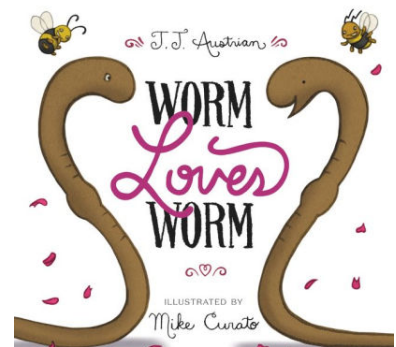
Description: The young narrator thinks it's awesome that his Uncle and his Auntie are the same person. Uncle Leo is an accountant, and is great at helping with math homework. Auntie Lotta is a fabulous performer. One day Lotta's family comes to watch her perform at the local Pride parade. Suddenly, a dog breaks free of its leash and nearly causes a float-crash, but Lotta springs into action just in time to save the dog and the parade. With the help of their nephew they put together a fierce look that is both Leo and Lotta, the perfect ensemble for an Auntie Uncle. A sweet, uplifting story about fearlessly letting your true self shine.



Worm Loves Worm by J.J. Austin, Mike Curato (Illustrator)

Grades: PreK – 2nd

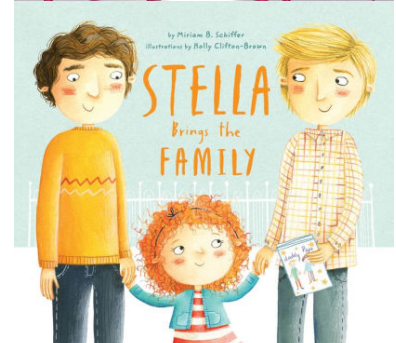
Description: You are cordially invited to celebrate the wedding of a worm...and a worm. When a worm meets a special worm and they fall in love, you know what happens next: They get married! But their friends want to know—who will wear the dress? And who will wear the tux? The answer is: It doesn't matter. Because worm loves worm.



Stella Brings the Family by Miriam B. Schiffer, Holly Clifton-Brown (Illustrator)

Grades: Kindergarten – 2nd

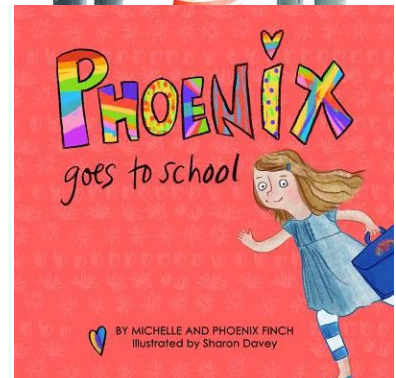
Description: Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? It's not that she doesn't have someone who helps her with her homework, or tucks her in at night. Stella has her Papa and Daddy who take care of her, and a whole gaggle of other loved ones who make her feel special and supported every day. She just doesn't have a *mom* to invite to the party. Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family.



Phoenix Goes to School by Michelle Finch, Phoenix Finch

Grades: PreK - 2nd

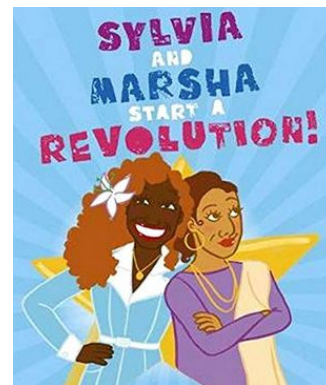
Description: *My Mommy tells me I'm perfect and to be brave. "You know who you are," she says, "Just be yourself and always listen to your heart."* With those words of encouragement from her Mom, Phoenix is preparing for her first day of school. She is excited but scared of being bullied because of her gender identity and expression. Yet when she arrives at school she finds help and support from teachers and friends, *and* finds she is brave enough to talk to other kids about her gender!



***Sylvia and Marsha Start A Revolution* by Joy Ellison, Teshika Silver (Illustrator)**

Grades: Kindergarten – 3rd

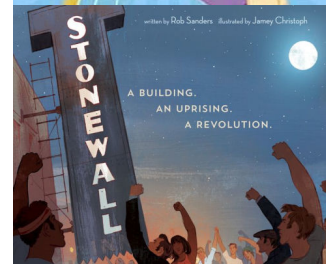
Description: "Someday girls like us will be able to wear whatever we want. People will call us by the names we choose." Sylvia and Marsha are kind and brave and not afraid to speak their truth, even when it makes other people angry. This illustrated book introduces children to the story of Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, the two transgender women of colour who helped kickstart the Stonewall Riots and dedicated their lives to fighting for LGBTQ+ equality. It introduces children to issues surrounding gender identity and diversity, accompanied by a reading guide and teaching materials to further the conversation.



***Stonewall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution* by Rob Sanders, Jamey Christoph (Illustrator)**

Grades: Kindergarten – 3rd

Description: In the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969, the Stonewall Inn was raided by police in New York City. Though the inn had been raided before, that night would be different. It would be the night when empowered members of the LGBTQ+ community—in and around the Stonewall Inn—began to protest and demand their equal rights as citizens of the United States.



***Leaders Like Us: Bayard Rustin* by J.P Miller, Markia Jenai (Illustrator)**

Grades: 1st – 5th

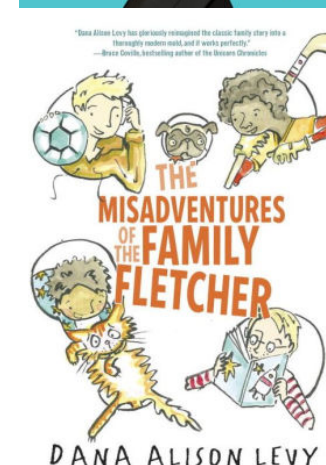
Description: LEADERS LIKE US: In this illustrated biography, elementary-aged readers will learn about the early life and greatest accomplishments of an important African American leader in civil rights, Bayard Rustin. Bayard knew how to help people work together for equality without violence, and played a role in one of the most important Civil Rights events in American history. In this high-interest reader, you'll discover fascinating facts about this important historical figure.



***The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* by Dana Alison Levy**

Grades: 3rd – 5th

Description: The Fletchers are no different from any modern American family — four brothers, various pets (some possibly imaginary), soccer, plays, and pesky neighbors. The fact that the fathers are gay and a few of the brothers are adopted? That's just background, showing readers without telling them that there as many definitions of family as there are families. The start of the school year is not going as the Fletcher brothers hoped. Each boy finds his plans for success veering off in unexpected and sometimes disastrous directions. And at home, their miserable new neighbor complains about everything. As the year continues, the boys learn the hard and often hilarious lesson that sometimes what you least expect is what you come to care about the most.



Beetle & The Hollowbones by Aliza Layne

Grades: 3rd – 6th

Description: In the eerie town of 'Allows, *some* people get to be magical sorceresses, while *other* people have their spirits trapped in the mall for all ghastly eternity. Then there's twelve-year-old goblin-witch Beetle, who's caught in between. She'd rather skip being homeschooled completely and spend time with her best friend, Blob Glost. And now Beetle's old best friend, Kat, is back in town for a sorcery apprenticeship with her Aunt Hollowbone. Kat is everything Beetle wants to be: beautiful, cool, great at magic, and kind of famous online. Beetle's quickly being left in the dust. But Kat's mentor has set her own vile scheme in motion.

The Best at It by Maulik Pancholy

Grades: 3rd – 6th

Description: Rahul Kapoor is heading into 7th grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: *Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.* While he's not quite sure what that special thing is, Rahul is convinced that once he finds it, bullies will stop torturing him at school. And he won't be worried about staring too long at his classmate Justin Emery. With his best friend by his side, Rahul is ready to crush this challenge.... But what if he discovers he isn't *the best* at anything?

Zenobia July by Lisa Bunker

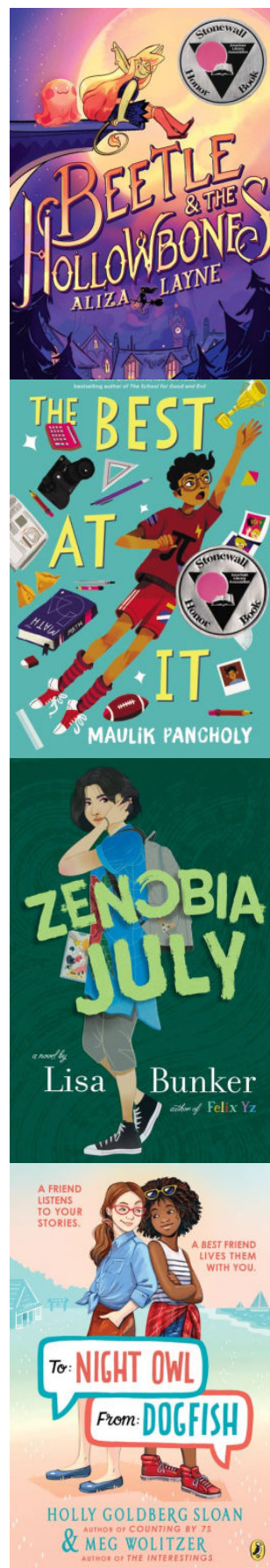
Grades: 5th – 8th

Description: Zenobia July is starting a new life. She used to live in Arizona with her father; now she's in Maine with her aunts. She used to spend most of her time behind a computer screen, improving her impressive coding and hacking skills; now she's coming out of her shell and discovering a community of friends at Monarch Middle School. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the abilities to solve the mystery, all while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and coming to grips with presenting her true gender.

To Night Owl From Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan, Meg Wolitzer

Grades: 5th – 8th

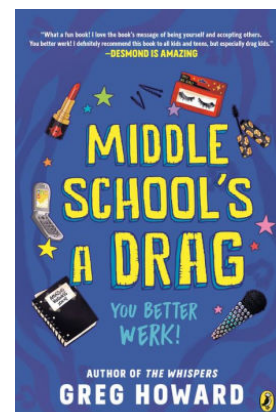
Description: Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals as well as the ocean, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both 12 years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads. When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends—and possibly, one day, even sisters.



Middle School's a Drag, You Better Work It! by Greg Howard

Grades: 6th – 8th

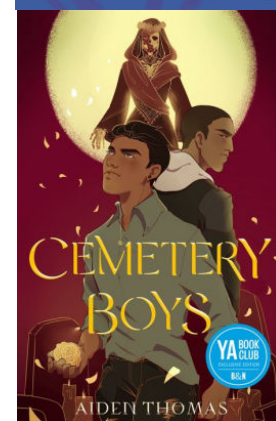
Description: Twelve-year-old Mikey Pruitt is a budding entrepreneur. Inspired by his grandfather Pap Pruitt, who successfully ran all sorts of businesses, Mikey is still looking for his million-dollar idea. Unfortunately, most of his ideas—from a roadside general store to croquet lessons—haven't taken off. But soon, Mikey has a whole roster of kid clients looking to hit it big or at least win the middle school talent show's hundred-dollar prize. As newly out Mikey prepares Julian for the gig of a lifetime, he realizes there's no rulebook for being gay—and if Julian can be openly gay at school, maybe Mikey can, too, and tell his crush how he feels.



Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas (local author!)

Grades: 8th - 12th

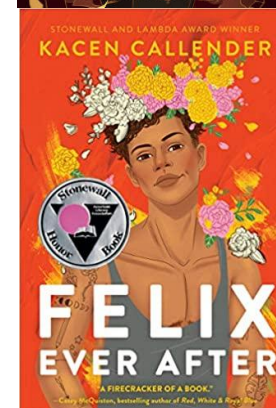
Description: When Yadriel's traditional Latinx family is unwilling to accept his gender, he takes it upon himself to prove that he is a true brujo by secretly performing the sacred rite ritual with his cousin, Maritza. However, what he doesn't count on is summoning the ghost of his classmate who doesn't even know he's dead – or how he died. Part paranormal fantasy, part mystery, part slow-burn romance, *Cemetery Boys* is a must-read for lovers of all genres. Major bonus points for the rich, atmospheric setting and the mouth-watering descriptions of his abuelita's Latin cooking.



Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender

Grades: 9th - 12th

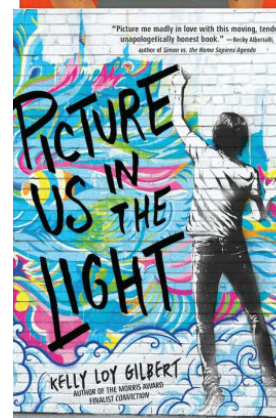
Description: Felix Love wants nothing more than to experience his own love story but fears he may be undeserving. When an anonymous troll starts sending him hateful messages and exposes old photos and his deadname to his art school classmates, Felix sets out for revenge. On his quest to uncover the truth, Felix ultimately learns that love has been within his reach the whole time. *Felix Ever After* is a poignant, personal and deeply heartfelt story of self-discovery.



Picture Us in the Night by Kelly Loy Gilbert

Grades: 9th - 12th

Description: Danny Cheng has always known his parents have secrets. But when he discovers a taped-up box in his father's closet filled with old letters and a file on a powerful Bay Area family, he realizes there's much more to his family's past than he ever imagined. Danny has been an artist for as long as he can remember and it seems his path is set, with a scholarship to RISD and his family's blessing to pursue the career he's always dreamed of. Still, contemplating a future without his best friend, Harry Wong, by his side makes Danny feel a panic he can barely put into words. When Danny digs deeper into his parents' past, he uncovers a secret that disturbs the foundations of his family history and the carefully constructed facade his parents have maintained begins to crumble.



ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Organized in grade and alphabetical order by author last name.

TITLE	AUTHOR	GRADE LEVEL
<i>And Tango Makes Three</i>	Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell	PreK - K
<i>Introducing Teddy</i>	Jessica Walton	PreK - 1
<i>The Adventures of Honey and Leon</i>	Alan Cumming	TK - 2
<i>Call Me Tree</i>	Maya Christina Gonzalez	TK - 2
<i>Julián Is a Mermaid</i>	Jessica Love	TK - 2
<i>I Am Jazz</i>	Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings	TK - 3
<i>Donovan's Big Day</i>	Leslea Newman	TK - 2
<i>Families, Families, Families!</i>	Suzanne Lang	TK - 2
<i>From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea</i>	Kai Cheng Thom	TK - 3
<i>Annie's Plaid Shirt</i>	Stact B. Davids	TK - 3
<i>Love is Love</i>	Michael Genhart	TK - 3
<i>Neither</i>	Airlie Anderson	K - 2
<i>The Boy & the Bindi</i>	Vivek Shraya	K - 2
<i>The Great Big Book of Families</i>	Mary Hoffman and Ros Asquith	K - 3
<i>One of a Kind, Like Me Unico Como Yo</i>	Laurin Mayeno	K - 3
<i>This Day in June</i>	Gayle E. Pitman	K - 3
<i>Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag</i>	Rob Sanders	K - 3

<i>In Our Mothers' House</i>	Patricia Polacco	1 - 4
<i>Keesha's South African Adventure</i>	Cheril Clarke	1 - 4
<i>Antonio's Card</i> <i>La tarjeta de Antonio</i>	Rigoberto González	2 - 3
<i>The Gender Wheel: A Story about Bodies and Gender for Every Body</i>	Maya Gonzalez	2 - 5
<i>George</i>	Alex Gino	3 - 7
<i>You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!</i>	Alex Gino	3 - 7
<i>The Best Man</i>	Richard Peck	4 - 6
<i>Darius the Great Deserves Better</i>	Adib Khorram	7 - 12
<i>Trouble Maker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, The Man Behind the March on Washington</i>	Jacqueline Houtman, Walter Naegle, Michael G. Long	8 - 12