

5th Annual LGBTQ+ Read-In Week Recommended Booklist

June 21st - June 24th, 2022



OAKLAND
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Recommended Books

Plenty of Hugs by Fran Manushkin, Kate Alizadeh (Illustrator)

Grades: PreK – 1st

Description: Two mommies spend a sunny day with their toddler in this cozy, rhyming picture book that is a loving celebration of family. This cheerful book follows a family from morning to night in lively rhyme that rolls off the tongue. *There's a buzz for each bug, and a breeze for each tree, and plenty of hugs for you and me.* This is sure to become a preschool favorite, for bedtime and any time.

My Rainbow by DeShanna and Trinity Neal, Art Twink (Illustrator)

Grades: PreK – 3rd

Description: A dedicated mom puts love into action as she creates the perfect rainbow-colored wig for her transgender daughter, based on the real-life experience of mother-daughter advocate duo Trinity and DeShanna Neal. Warm morning sunlight and love fill the Neal home. And on one quiet day, playtime leads to an important realization: Trinity wants long hair like her dolls. She needs it to express who she truly is. So her family decides to take a trip to the beauty supply store, but none of the wigs is the perfect fit. Determined, Mom leaves with bundles of hair in hand, ready to craft a wig as colorful and vibrant as her daughter is.

It Feels Good to Be Yourself by Theresa Thorn, Noah Grigni (Illustrator)

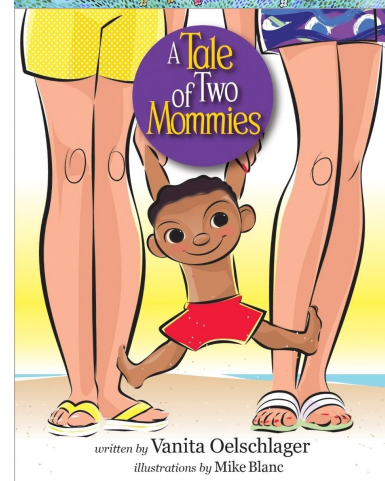
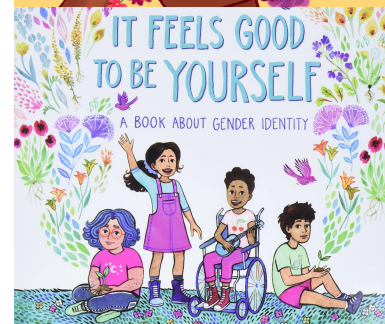
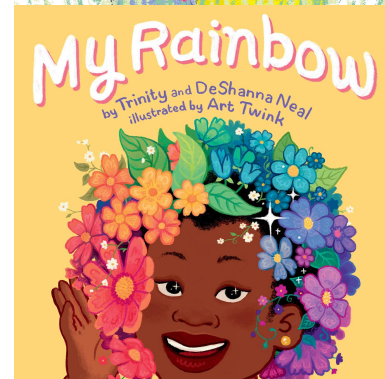
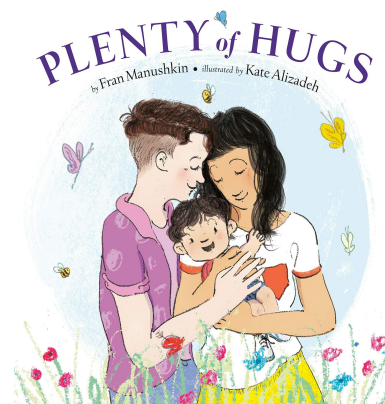
Grades: PreK – 3rd

Description: This sweet, straightforward exploration of gender identity will give children a fuller understanding of themselves and others. Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither, or somewhere in between. With child-friendly language and vibrant art, *It Feels Good to Be Yourself* provides young readers and parents alike with the vocabulary to discuss this important topic with sensitivity.

A Tale of Two Mommies by Vanita Oelschlager, Marc Blanc (Illustrator)

Grades: PreK - 2nd

Description: *A Tale of Two Mommies* is a beach conversation among three children. One boy asks another boy about having two mommies. A young girl listening in asks some questions too. This book lets us look inside one non-traditional family, a same sex couple and their son. As the children talk, it's clear this boy lives in a nurturing environment where the biggest issues are the everyday challenges of growing up.



My Footprints by Bao Phi, Basia Tran (Illustrator)

Grades: 1st - 4th

Description: Every child feels different in some way, but Thuy feels "double different." She is Vietnamese American and she has two moms. Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully's taunts. Then a bird catches her attention and sets Thuy on an imaginary exploration. What if she could fly away like a bird? What if she could sprint like a deer, or roar like a bear? Mimicking the footprints of each creature in the snow, she makes her way home to the arms of her moms.

They, She, He, Me: Free to Be! by Maya Gonzalez, Matthew S.G.

Grades: 1st - 5th

Description: Pronouns serve as a familiar starting point for kids and grown-ups to expand ideas about gender and celebrate personal expression with fun imagery that provides a place to meet and play. With virtually no reflection for different gender presentations in children's books available, together they created a book to do just that. *They She He Me, Free to Be* shows many gender presentations under each pronoun and invites even more. A go-to place to help keep the conversations alive, break down assumptions of who is "she" or "he" and expand beyond the binary to include "they" and more.

Sam! by Dani Gabriel, Robert Liu-Trujillo (Illustrator)

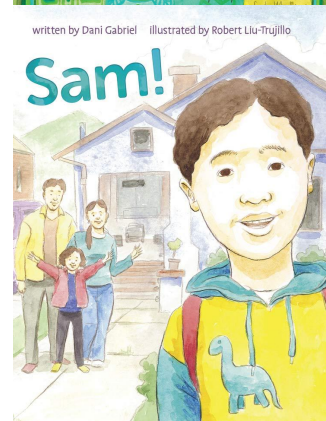
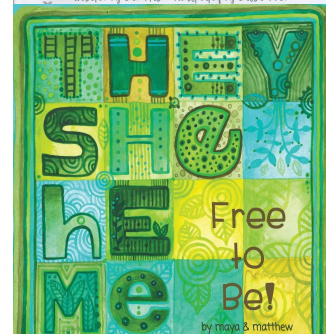
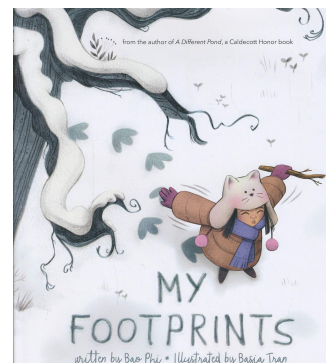
Grades: 2nd - 5th

Description: *Sam!* is based on a true story. Sam loves riding his bike and learning about the American Revolution. He is full of laughter and joy. There's just one problem: Sam's family knows him as a girl named Isabel. Sam feels a sense of relief when he finally confides in his annoying but caring sister Maggie, and then his parents, even though it takes them a while to feel comfortable with it. But with lots of love and support, Sam and his family learn and grow through Sam's journey to embrace his true self.

The List of Things That Will Not Change by Rebecca Stead

Grades: 3rd - 7th

Description: After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other. When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled. Bea loves Jesse, and when he and Dad get married, she'll finally (finally!) have what she's always wanted--a sister. As the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy.



Alan Cole Doesn't Dance by Eric Bell

Grades: 4th – 7th

Description: Alan Cole has a problem: Ron McCaughlin. Ever since Alan revealed he's gay, Ron has been bullying Alan with relentless fury. Alan can't tell his parents why he's really coming home with bruises—because they still don't know the truth about him. Yet buoyed by the support of his classmates and with his friends Zack and Madison by his side, Alan thinks he can withstand the bullying and—just maybe—break through to Ron. This resounding tale about friendship, family, and the many meanings of bravery will leave readers rooting for Alan and his gang of proud misfits once more.

Love, Penelope by Joanne Rocklin, Lucy Knisley (Illustrator)

Grades: 5th – 8th

Description: Penny is excited to welcome her new sibling, so throughout her mom's pregnancy she writes letters to it (not it, YOU!). She introduces herself (Penelope, but she prefers "Penny") and their moms (Sammy and Becky). She brags about their home city, Oakland, California (the weather, the Bay, and the Golden State Warriors) and shares the trials and tribulations of being a fifth-grader (which, luckily, YOU won't have to worry about for a long time). Honest, relatable, and full of heart, *Love, Penelope* explores heritage, forgiveness, love, and identity through the eyes (and pen) of one memorable 10-year-old in a special year when marriage equality and an NBA championship made California a place of celebration.

Lumberjanes: Unicorn Power by Mariko Tamaki, Gus Allen (Illustrator)

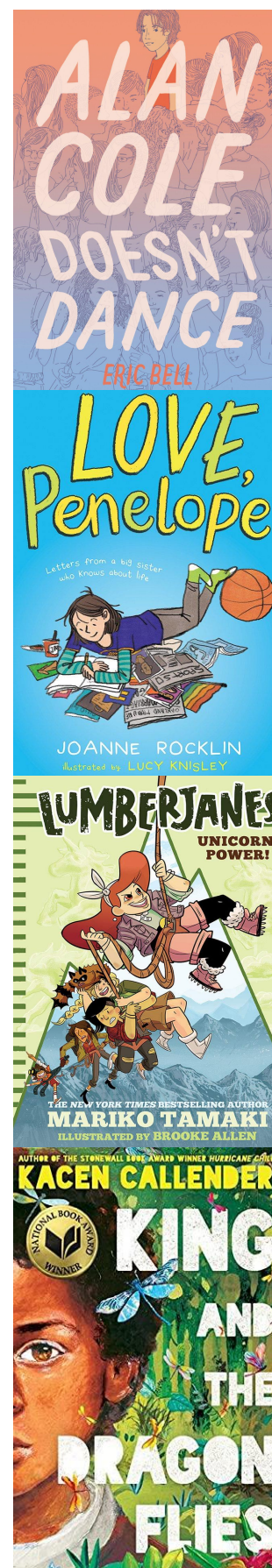
Grades: 5th – 8th

Description: Welcome to Miss Qiunzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady Types. The five scouts of Roanoke cabin—Jo, April, Molly, Mal, and Ripley—love their summers at camp. They get to hang out with their best friends, earn Lumberjane scout badges, annoy their no-nonsense counselor Jen . . . and go on supernatural adventures.

King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender

Grades: 6th – 9th

Description: Twelve-year-old Kingston James is sure his brother Khalid has turned into a dragonfly. When Khalid unexpectedly passed away, he shed what was his first skin for another to live down by the bayou in their small Louisiana town. Khalid still visits in dreams, and King must keep these secrets to himself as he watches grief transform his family. It would be easier if King could talk with his best friend, Sandy Sanders. But when Sandy goes missing, sparking a town-wide search, and King finds his former best friend hiding in a tent in his backyard, he agrees to help Sandy escape from his abusive father, and the two begin an adventure as they build their own private paradise down by the bayou and among the dragonflies.



Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

Grades: 9th – 12th

Description: There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question--How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Saenz

Grades: 9th - 12th

Description: Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

Cinderella Is Dead by Kalynn Bayron

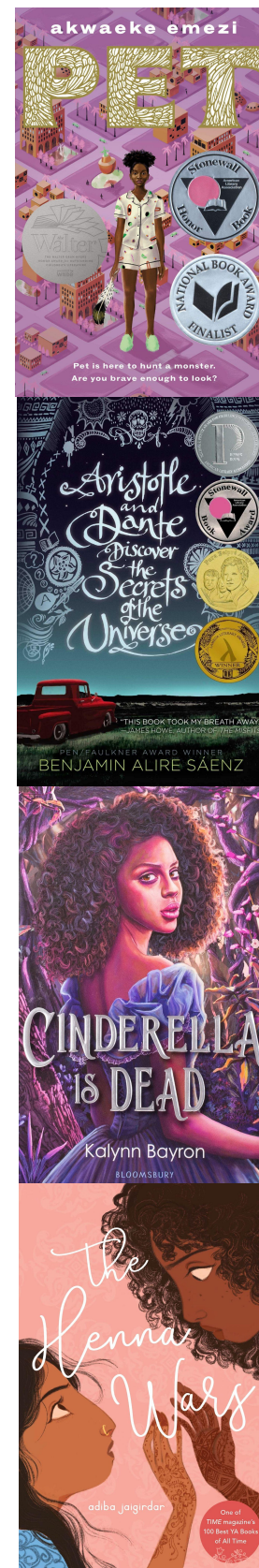
Grades: 9th - 12th

Description: It's 200 years after Cinderella found her prince, but the fairy tale is over. Teen girls are now required to appear at the Annual Ball, where the men of the kingdom select wives based on a girl's display of finery. If a suitable match is not found, the girls not chosen are never heard from again. Sixteen-year-old Sophia would much rather marry Erin, her childhood best friend. At the ball, Sophia makes the desperate decision to flee, and finds herself hiding in Cinderella's mausoleum. There, she meets Constance, the last known descendant of Cinderella and her stepsisters. Together they vow to bring down the king once and for all. In the process, they learn that there's more to Cinderella's story than they ever knew.

The Henna Wars by Abida Jaidar

Grades: 9th - 12th

Description: Nishat doesn't want to lose her family, but she also doesn't want to hide who she is, and it only gets harder once a childhood friend walks back into her life. Flávia is beautiful and charismatic, and Nishat falls for her instantly. But when a school competition invites students to create their own businesses, both Flávia and Nishat decide to showcase their talent as henna artists. In a fight to prove who is the best, their lives become more tangled—but Nishat can't quite get rid of her crush, especially since Flávia seems to like her back.



ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Organized by 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>Auntie Uncle: Drag Queen Hero</i> | Ellie Royce & Hannah Chambers | TK - 2 |
| <i>Worm Loves Worm</i> | J.J. Austin & Mike Curato | TK - 2 |
| <i>Stella Brings the Family</i> | Miriam B. Schiffer & Holly Clifton-Brown | TK - 2 |
| <i>Phoenix Goes to School</i> | Michelle Finch & Phoenix Finch | 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 |

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|---|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <i>The Boy & the Bindi</i> | Vivek Shraya | K - 2 |
| <i>The Great Big Book of Families</i> | Mary Hoffman & 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 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>Sylvia and Marsha Start A Revolution</i> | Joy Ellison & Teshika Silver | K - 3 |
| <i>Stonewall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution</i> | Rob Sanders & Jamey Christoph | K - 3 |
| <i>Leaders Like Us: Bayard Rustin</i> | J.P Miller & Markia Jenai | 1 - 5 |
| <i>The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher</i> | Dana Alison Levy | 3 - 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>Beetle & The Hollowbones</i> | Aliza Layne | 3 - 6 |
| <i>The Best at It</i> | Maulik Pancholy | 3 - 6 |
| <i>Zenobia July</i> | Lisa Bunker | 5 - 8 |
| <i>To Night Owl From Dogfish</i> | Holly Goldberg Sloan & Meg Wolitzer | 5 - 8 |
| <i>Middle School's a Drag, You Better Work It!</i> | Greg Howard | 6 - 8 |

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|--|--|--------|
| <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 |
| <i>Picture Us in the Night</i> | Kelly Loy Gilbert | 9 - 12 |
| <i>Felix Ever After</i> | Kacen Callender | 9 - 12 |
| <i>Cemetery Boys</i> | Aiden Thomas | 8 - 12 |