OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

Educational Resources Lab

GLBTQI Books for Children and Teens

Compiled by Barbara Begin Campbell, 2015

Picture Books

Baldacchino, Christine. **MORRIS MICKLEWHITE AND THE TANGERINE DRESS**. Groundwood, 2014. A young boy faces adversity from classmates when he wears an orange dress at school. The author gently explores develops the themes of individuality, being oneself, and not judging someone by looks alone.

Brannen, Sarah S. **UNCLE BOBBY'S WEDDING.** G.P Putnam's Sons, 2008. Chloë is jealous and sad when her favorite uncle announces that he will be getting married, but as she gets to know Jamie better and becomes involved in planning the wedding, she discovers that she will always be special to Uncle Bobby--and to Uncle Jamie, too.

Ewert, Marcus. **10,000 DRESSES Ill. Rex Ray**. Seven Stories Press, 2008. Bailey longs to wear the beautiful dresses of her dreams but is ridiculed by her unsympathetic family which rejects her true perception of herself.

Herthel, Jessica and Jazz Jennings. **I AM JAZZ.** Ill. Sheila McNichols. Dial, 2014. This autobiographical picture book describes trans-youth activist Jazz Jennings' experience as a transgender child who traces her early awareness that she is a girl in spite of male anatomy and the acceptance she finds through a wise doctor who explains her natural transgender status.

Lindenbaum, Pija. **MINI MIA AND HER DARLING UNCLE.** R & S Books, 2007. Mia loves her uncle and becomes jealous when she learns she will have to share him with his new living partner. International author, Sweden.

Polacco, Patricia. **IN OUR MOTHER'S HOUSE.** Philomel, 2009. Three young children experience the joys and challenges of being raised by two mothers.

Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. **AND TANGO MAKES THREE.** Ill. Henry Cole. Simon and Schuster, 2005. At New York City's Central Park Zoo, two male penguins fall in love and start a family by taking turns sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches.

Vigna, Judith. **MY TWO UNCLES.** Whitman, 1995. Elly loves her two uncles, but grandfather has trouble accepting the fact that his son is gay, so when Uncle Phil is not invited to Grandpa's anniversary party, Uncle Ned refuses to go without him.

Chapter Books/Novels

Agell, Charlotte. **THE ACCIDENTAL ADVENTURES OF INDIA MCALLISTER**. Henry Holt, 2010. India, an unusual nine-and-a-half-year-old living in small-town Maine, has a series of adventures which bring her closer to her artist-mother, strengthen her friendship with a neighbor boy, and help her to accept the man for whom her father moved away.

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.

Federle, Tim. **BETTER NATE THAN EVER**. Simon and Schuster, 2013. An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."

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.

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.

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.

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.

Rotner, Shelley and Sheila M. Kelly**. Families.** Holiday House, 2015. Big or small. Similar or different looking. There are all kinds of families. Join a celebration of diverse families having fun, being together, and helping one another.

Setterington, 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.