

# LGBTQ EARLY GRADE SELECTIONS

LGBTQ-positive children's books have something to offer every kind of kid and every kind of family.

Books are a window into the diverse lives and experiences of the world, and can help explain family dynamics outside of their own while teaching love and acceptance. Here is a list of some of our favorites!

1

## **And Tango Makes Three;** Justin Richardson

This illustrated children's book fictionalizes the true story of two male penguins who became partners and raised a penguin chick in the Central Park Zoo.

2

## **Annie's Plaid Shirt;** Stacy B Davids

Annie loves her plaid shirt and wears it everywhere. But one day her mom tells Annie that she must wear a dress to her uncle's wedding. Annie protests, but her mom insists and buys her a fancy new dress anyway. Annie is miserable. She feels weird in dresses. Why can't her mom understand?

3

## **Donovan's Big Day;** Leslea Newman

Donovan's two moms are getting married, and he can't wait for the celebration to begin. After all, as ringbearer, he has a very important job to do. The story captures the joy and excitement of a wedding day from a child's point of view.

4

## **Families, Families, Families!;** Suzanne Lang

No matter your size, shape, or pedigree—if you love each other, you are a family!  
Moms, dads, sisters, brothers — and even Great Aunt Sue — appear in dozens of combinations, demonstrating all kinds of nontraditional families!



5

## **I am Jazz;** Jessica Herthel

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience

6

## **In Our Mothers' House;** Patricia Polacco

Three young children experience the joys and challenges of being raised by two mothers. This book illustrates how love makes a family, even if it's not a traditional one.

7

## **Jacob's New Dress;** Sarah Hoffman

Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Some kids at school say he can't wear "girl" clothes, but Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants? This story speaks to the unique challenges faced by boys who don't identify with traditional gender roles.

8

## **Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress;** Christine Baldacchino

Morris is a boy who loves using his imagination. Most of all, Morris loves wearing the tangerine dress in his classroom's dress-up center. The children in Morris's class don't understand. Dresses, they say, are for girls. This is a story about the courage it can take to be yourself, and it is a celebration of the joy that comes from being exactly who you want to be.

9

**Mommy, Mama, and Me;**  
Leslea Newman

Told in rhyme, this board book is written from the perspective of a toddler with two mothers. The toddler does different things with each mother. The activities will be familiar to most kids: hair combing, rocking, a trip to the park, a snack, hide-and-seek, nap time, bath time, bed time.

10

**A Peacock Among Pigeons;**  
Tyler Curry

Tells the tale of learning how to stand out when you can't fit in. This children's story teaches the importance of celebrating our differences and learning to love the feathers you live in.

11

**My Princess Boy;**  
Cheryl Kilodavis

Dyson loves pink, sparkly things. Sometimes he wears dresses. Sometimes he wears jeans. He likes to wear his princess tiara, even when climbing trees. He's a Princess Boy. Story inspired by the author's son.

12

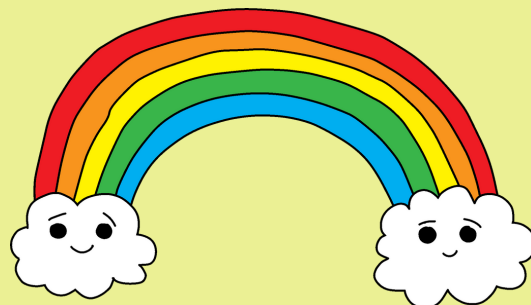
**Red: A Crayon's Story;**  
Michael Hall

A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis in this picture book. This story is about being true to your inner self and following your own path despite obstacles that may come your way.

13

**The Sissy Duckling;**  
Harvey Fierstein

Let's just say that Elmer's not your run-of-the-mill duck. He likes to decorate cookies, enjoys building sand castles instead of forts, and would rather put on puppet shows than play sports. Being different is fine for sweet Elmer -- he's as happy as a duck in water doing everything he loves.



14

**Stella Brings the Family;**  
Miriam Schiffer

Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family.

15

**A Tale of Two Daddies;**  
Vanita Oelschlager

A further sign of health is that we don't become undone by fear and trembling, but we take it as a message that it's time to stop struggling and look directly at what's threatening us, said Pema Chödrön.

16

**This Day in June;**  
Gayle Pitman

Welcomes readers to experience a pride celebration and share in a day when we are all united. Also included is a Reading Guide chock-full of facts about LGBT history and culture, as well as a Note to Parents and Caregivers with information on how to talk to children about sexual orientation and gender identity in age-appropriate ways.

17

**Uncle Bobby's Wedding;**  
Sarah Brannen

Bobby and Jamie are getting married, but Bobby's niece Chloe is worried that she won't be his favorite person anymore. Will Uncle Bobby still think she is special? This story is set in an alternative family as Uncle Bobby marries his boyfriend.

18

**Worm Loves Worm;**  
J. J. Austrian

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.

