

LGBTQ YOUNG ADULT SELECTIONS

It is important for LGBTQ youth to see themselves reflected in the books they read. Here is a list of books that reflect many different lives, experiences, and identities, while expanding understanding of diversity and acceptance.

1

All Out: The No-Longer-Secret Stories of Queer Teens throughout the Ages; Saundra Mitchell

Take a journey through time and genres and discover a past where queer figures live, love and shape the world around them. Seventeen of the best young adult authors across the queer spectrum have come together to create a collection of beautifully written diverse historical fiction for teens..

2

Anger is a Gift; Mark Oshiro

Rooted in the working-class neighborhoods of Oakland, California, this is a tale of youth of color, diverse in sexuality and gender, organizing to challenge state-sanctioned violence. A story of resilience and loss, love and family, testifying to the vulnerability and strength of a community living within a system of oppression.

3

Ash; Malinda Lo

In the wake of her father's death, Ash is left at the mercy of her cruel stepmother. Consumed with grief, her only joy comes by the light of the dying hearth fire, re-reading the fairy tales her mother once told her. In her dreams, someday the fairies will steal her away, as they are said to do. Ash is a reworking of the Cinderella fairy tale that re-imagines the title character as a lesbian teenager.

4

Carry On; Rainbow Rowell

Simon Snow and his roommate, Baz, are longtime nemeses. But, in their final year at Watford School of Magicks, a dangerous mystery draws them together—while a villain threatens to destroy magic forever. Follow two longtime foes as they find they are far more than friends.

5

Gabi, A Girl in Pieces; Isabel Quintero

Gabi Hernandez chronicles her last year in high school in her diary: college applications, Cindy's pregnancy, Sebastian's coming out, the cute boys, her father's meth habit, and the food she craves. And best of all, the poetry that helps forge her identity.

6

Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit; Jayne Robin Brown

Joanna Gordon has been out and proud for years, but when her popular radio evangelist father remarries and decides to move all three of them from Atlanta to the more conservative Rome, Georgia, he asks Jo to do the impossible: to lie low for the rest of her senior year. Jo reluctantly agrees, but when she meets the perfect girl for her, Jo must decide whether to break a promise that could change everything for her and her family, or lose out on love.

7

Girl Mans Up; M.E. Girard

All Pen wants is to be the kind of girl she's always been. So why does everyone have a problem with it? They think the way she looks and acts means she's trying to be a boy—that she should quit trying to be something she's not. Old-world parents, disintegrating friendships, and strong feelings for other girls drive Pen to see the truth—that in order to be who she truly wants to be, she'll have to man up.

8

If I was your Girl; Meredith Russo

Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school. Like anyone else, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is keeping a secret, and she's determined not to get too close to anyone. But when she meets Grant, Amanda can't help but start to let him into her life. She wants to share everything about herself, including her past. Amanda's terrified that once she tells him the truth, he won't be able to see past it. At her old school, she used to be Andrew. Will the truth cost Amanda her new life, and her new love?



9

If You Could Be Mine; Sara Farizan

Safar, 17, is a typical middle-class Iranian, except for the fact that she's secretly in love with her lifelong best girlfriend and neighbor, Nasrin, in a country where being gay isn't just difficult, it's deadly. When Nasrin's parents arrange for her to be married, Safar considers becoming one of a growing population of transgender Iranians, who as long as they are heterosexual after their gender reassignment are more accepted than gays. Unlike her new transgender friends, Safar doesn't feel like she's a man trapped in a woman's body. But if she stays a woman, she'll never be able to openly be with her true love.

10

I'll Give You the Sun; Jandy Nelson

The novel is about twins, Jude and her brother Noah. Although the twins were incredibly close at thirteen, three years later they are hardly speaking to each other. The early years are narrated by Noah as he struggles with an enormous secret that affects his past, present, and future. The later years are narrated by Jude and everything changes when she meets an arrogant and broken, yet beautiful boy. Jude also encounters a tormented, mysterious artist—an even more unpredictable force that changes her life, and Noah's, forever

11

Little & Lion; Brandy Colbert

When Suzette comes home to Los Angeles from her boarding school in New England, she's isn't sure if she'll ever want to go back. L.A. is where her friends and family are. Her stepbrother, Lionel, who has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, needs her emotional support. As she settles into her old life, Suzette finds herself falling for someone new...the same girl her brother is in love with. When Lionel's disorder spirals out of control, Suzette is forced to confront her past mistakes and find a way to help her brother before he hurts himself--or worse.

12

Luna; Julie Anne Peters

Regan's brother Liam can't stand the person he is during the day. Like the moon from whom Liam has chosen his female name, his true self, Luna, only reveals herself at night. In the secrecy of his basement bedroom Liam transforms himself into the beautiful girl he longs to be, with help from his sister's clothes and makeup. Now, everything is about to change: Luna is preparing to emerge from her cocoon. But are Liam's family and friends ready to welcome Luna into their lives?

13

None of the Above; I.W. Gregorio

When Kristin Lattimer is voted homecoming queen, it seems like another piece of her ideal life has fallen into place. She's a champion hurdler with a full scholarship to college and she's madly in love with her boyfriend. In fact, she's decided that she's ready to take things to the next level with him. But Kristin's first time isn't the perfect moment she's planned—something is very wrong. A visit to the doctor reveals the truth: Kristin is intersex, which means that though she outwardly looks like a girl, she has male chromosomes, not to mention boy "parts." Dealing with her body is difficult enough, but when her diagnosis is leaked to the whole school, Kristin's world completely unravels. With everything she thought she knew thrown into question, can she come to terms with her new self?

14

One in Every Crowd; Ivan E. Coyote

a collection of the author and gender nonconformist's autobiographical essays on life as an LGBTQ youth, its trials and tribulations, and its effects on adulthood. Often reaching back to talk to their younger selves, Coyote offers the reader insight into the lives of young adults confronting their sexuality, and reassurance for young LGBTQ youth grappling with being their true selves in a world that resists, and sometime attacks, their identity.