



# GLBTQ Young Adult Reads

\*including titles from the ALA Rainbow Project Booklist

The following books are located in the YA (Teen) section unless noted\*, alphabetical by author's last name.

## Middle/Early Young Adult

### FICTION

Burch, Christian. *The Manny Files*. Gr. 5-8. Shy Keats Dalinger learns from his unconventional male “nanny” to be more self-confident and out-going while the “manny” becomes more and more a part of the family.

Hartinger, Brent. *The Order of the Poison Oak*. Gr. 7-10. Tired of being the school freak, gay 16-year-old Russel tries to escape as a summer camp counselor in a rural summer camp only to be attracted to the same counselor as his bisexual friend Min.

Howe, James. *Totally Joe*. Gr. 6-8. In 13-year-old Joe's alphabiography assignment—the story of his life from A to Z—he bares his soul about his parents, teachers, friends, and enemies--and his coming out.

Larochelle, David. *Absolutely, Positively Not*. Gr. 7-10. Fifteen-year-old Steven conscientiously collects photos of girls in bikinis and dates his female classmates in this humorous attempt to fit into his Minnesota high school, only to find out some surprising things about the people around him—and himself.

Limb, Sue. *Girl Nearly 16, Absolute Torture*. Gr. 7-10. Forced to leave her boyfriend and visit with her father for two weeks, 15-year-old Jess finally learns the reason her father left her mother.

Peters, Julie Anne. *Between Mom and Jo*. Gr. 7-10. Fourteen-year-old Nick has a great life with his two moms until they split up and he's caught in the middle with no support.

Selvadurai, Shyam. *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*. Gr. 7-10. Fourteen-year-old Amrith finds his life in Sri Lanka turned upside down when his Canadian cousin visits and Amrith falls in love with him.

### NON-FICTION

Marcus, Eric. *What If Someone I know Is Gay: Answers to Questions about What It Means to be Gay and Lesbian\**. Gr. 7-12. This radically updated resource covers basics and not-so-basics in a question-and-answer format.

\*YA 306.766 MARCUS

## Older Young Adult

### FICTION

Babcock, Joe. *The Boys and the Bees*. \* Gr. 11-12. A gay 12 year old boy begins his first year of junior high with the vow that this will be the year that he kisses a boy. *The Boys and the Bees* is set in Minneapolis and involves a confused but sweet adolescent kid coming to grips with growing up gay and feeling completely lost about it.

\*ADULT FICTION BABCOCK, JOE

Berman, Steve. *Vintage: A Ghost Story\**. Gr. 10-12. Rejected by his parents because he's gay and sent to live with his aunt, a teen is haunted by a handsome boy—in more ways than one—and only black magic will help.

\*ADULT FICTION BERMAN



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Cameron, Peter. ***Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You***. Gr. 10-12. Holden Caulfield, meet James Sveck, a white, middle-class New Yorker who disdains his peers and most of the adults in his life, except for the gay man who manages his mother's art gallery.

Davis, Will. ***My Side of the Story***\*. Gr. 10-12. Only 16, cheeky Jarold a.k.a. Jazz, hits the gay bars to escape the misery of his life.

**\*ADULT FICTION DAVIS**

Doyle, Mayra Lazara. ***Down to the Bone***. Gr. 10-12. Laura, a seventeen-year-old Cuban American girl, is thrown out of her house when her mother discovers she is a lesbian, but after trying to change her heart and hide from the truth, Laura finally comes to terms with who she is and learns to love and respect herself.

Goobie, Beth. ***Hello, Groin***. Gr. 9-12. Wanting to be normal, 16-year-old Dylan Kowolski tries to hide her lesbianism and develop sexual feelings for her boyfriend at the same time she has a passionate crush on her best female friend.

Humphreys, Helen. ***Wild Dogs***\*. Gr. 10-12. Alice, in love with a wildlife biologist, gathers at the forest's edge with her and four other people to save their dogs that have become feral.

**\*ADULT FICTION HUMPHREY, HELEN**

Hyde, Catherine Ryde. ***Becoming Chloe***. Gr. 9-12. Attempting to protect Wanda (aka Chloe), another homeless teenager, 17-year-old Jordan finds the brutality and beauty in life on their road trip across the country.

Levithan, David. ***Wide Awake***. Gr. 9-12: In a future American when gay Jewish Abraham Stein is elected president, lovers Jimmy and Duncan join the throngs of people traveling to Topeka to protest the governor's threat to change votes.

Moore, Perry. ***Hero***. 2007. Gr. 10-12. Thom Creed, the son of superheroes, has to hide the fact that he's gay if he's going to fit into the League—but he finds a lot more problems than that facing him.

Myracle, Lauren. ***Kissing Kate***. Gr. 10-12. Sixteen-year-old Lissa's relationship with her best friend changes after they kiss at a party and Lissa does not know what to do, until she gets help from an unexpected new friend.

Peters, Julie Anne. ***Far from Xanadu***. Gr. 9-12. Mike Szabo--ace softball player, weightlifter, a.k.a. Mary Elizabeth--has enough trouble surviving in her small town before a new girl, Xanadu, turns Mike's life upside down.

Peters, Julie Anne. ***grl2grl: short fictions***. Gr. 9-12. The young women in this collection of ten short stories are at different levels of self-discovery, searching for satisfying relationships.

Ryan, Sara. ***Empress of the World***. Gr. 9-12. While attending a summer institute, 15-year-old Nic meets another girl named Battle, falls in love with her, and finds the relationship to be difficult and confusing.

Sanchez, Alex. ***Getting It***. Gr. 9-12. Hoping to impress a sexy female classmate, 15-year-old Carlos secretly hires gay student Sal to give him an image makeover in exchange for Carlos's helping to form a Gay-Straight Alliance at their Texas high school.

St. James, James. ***Freak Show***. Gr. 9-12. Outrageously over-the-top teen drag queen Billy Bloom, a new student at the very conservative Dwight D. Eisenhower Academy, finds that life is not easy for him among the rich white students with their brutal homophobia.

Steinhofel, Andreas. ***The Center of the World***. Gr. 11-12. Seventeen-year-old Phil navigates his complicated family dynamics and his first sexual relationship in a lyrical novel first published in Germany.

Vickers, Lu. ***Breathing Underwater***.\* Gr. 10-12.

In 1970s Florida, it's literally sink or swim for 12-year-old Lily who struggles for self-acceptance while dealing with her mother's mental illness.

**\*ADULT FICTION VICKERS, LU**



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Wittlinger, Ellen. **Parrotfish**. Gr. 9-12. When Angela, who has never felt comfortable as a girl, finally comes out as transgendered and begins life as a boy, she isn't prepared for everyone's reactions.

## NONFICTION

Beam, Chris. **Transparent: Love, Family, and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers\***. Gr. 10-12. Four transgendered girls share their world with a volunteer in a Los Angeles school for gay and transgender students.

**\*ADULT NON-FICTION 306.79808 BEAM**

Bechdel, Alison. **Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic\***. Gr. 11-12. Bechdel reveals her childhood experiences with a closeted gay father and her coming out as a lesbian in this powerful graphic-style memoir.

**\*ADULT GRAPHIC 921 BECHDEL, ALISON**

Carlip, Hillary. **Queen of the Oddballs and Other True Stories From a Life Unaccording to Plan\***. Gr. 10-12. This hilarious offbeat memoir chronicles the escapades of an unconventional girl surrounded by artists and rock stars in the 1960s and 1970s.

**\* ADULT NON-FICTION 921 CARLIP, HILLARY**

Cart, Michael and Christine A. Jenkins. **The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content, 1969-2004.\*** Gr. 9-12. This overview of young adult glbtq fiction 1970 to 2004 includes lists of books for teens.

**\*YA REF 813.00992 CART**

**The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing. Ed. David Levithan and Billy Merrill\***. Gr. 8-11. This collection of essays and poetry from a wide diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered teens shows the complexity of today's LGBTQ youths.

**\*YA 306.76608 FULL**

Garden, Nancy. **Hear Us Out!: Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress, and Hope, 1950 to the Present\***. Gr. 8-11. Fact and fiction show the struggles for lgbt teens in America during the past five decades.

**\*YA 306.766 GARDEN**

**Hear Me Out: True Stories of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia\***. Gr. 9-12. Twenty teens from a variety of social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds give personal accounts of gay, lesbian, queer, transgender, transsexual, and questioning young-adult experiences.

**\*YA 306.766 HEAR**

Huegel, Kelly. **GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning): the Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens\***. Gr. 9-12. Describes the challenges faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered teens, offers practical advice, real-life experiences, and accessible resources and support groups.

**\*YA 306.766 HUEGEL**

Keen, Lisa. **Out Law: What LGBT Youth Should Know about Their Legal Rights\***. Gr. 9-12. LGBT young adults can make a difference.

**\*ADULT NON-FICTION 342.73087 KEEN**

Rouse, Wade. **America's Boy: A Memoir\***. Gr. 10-12. Growing up in southwestern Missouri in the 1970s and hopelessly out of step with the redneck masculinity surrounding him, Wade tries to hide the fact that he is gay by overeating.

**\*ADULT NON-FICTION 921 ROUSE, WADE**

**When I Knew.\*** Ed. Robert Trachtenberg. Il. Tom Bachtell. Gr. 9-12. More than 80 contributors briefly describe their self-discovery "eureka moment" regarding their sexual orientation in a fun book with a magazine style.

**\*ADULT NON-FICTION 306.766 WHEN**



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