



# Rainbow Books for Middle Schoolers

The following books are located in the **Juvenile Fiction** section, alphabetically by author's last name unless noted.\*

Agell, Charlotte. ***The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister.***

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.

Atkinson, Elizabeth. ***From Alice to Zen and Everyone In Between***

Upon moving from Boston to the suburbs, eleven-year-old tomboy Alice meets Zen, a very strange neighbor who is determined to help her become popular when they both begin middle school, although he himself is a loner.

Bauer, A. C. E. ***No Castles Here***

Growing up in Camden, New Jersey, isn't easy, especially if you're a skinny, un-cool, white boy with few friends to keep you happy, or safe. Augie does his best to become invisible and skate by unnoticed - until the day that he sneaks into Philadelphia and steals a book of fairytales from a very interesting book shop. Soon after, Augie gains a gay Big Brother, which just can't happen in his neighborhood, and he joins the school chorus. All of a sudden, Augie's not invisible anymore, and the school bullies are out to get him.

Burch, Christian. ***The Manny Files***

\*located in YA fiction

Manny /ma-ne/n. A male nanny or babysitter, known to be handsome, fabulous, and a lover of eighties music. "Be interesting." That's what the manny tells Keats Dalinger the first time he packs Keats's school lunch, but for Keats that's not always the easiest thing to do. Even though he's the only boy at home, it always feels like no one ever remembers him; school isn't much better. But now the manny is the Dalinger's new babysitter, and things are starting to look up.

Durbin, Peggy. ***And Featuring Bailey Wellcom As the Biscuit***

Twelve-year-old Bailey Wellcom thinks that life will be Snore City when she and her mother move from Phoenix, Arizona to the little village of Lucien, New Mexico. But then she meets her best friend Stevie Z and her mother meets a cattlemoan named Melody Callahan.

Freeman, Martha. ***The Trouble with Babies***

Holly, her mother, and stepfather have just moved from an apartment to a house in San Francisco. Her two new friends are Xavier, who lives with his two fathers, and Annie, who is Jewish and Chinese. Xavier has a crush on Annie and hopes to win her over by putting her "yucky" baby sister in his de-yuckification machine.

Gennari, Jennifer. ***My Mixed-Up Berry Blue Summer***

Twelve-year-old June Farrell spends the summer at her Vermont home getting used to the woman her mother is planning to marry and practicing her pie-baking skills, as she hopes to win the blue ribbon at the fair.

Howe, James. ***Misfits*** \*located in YA fiction  
Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

Howe, James. ***Totally Joe*** \*located in YA fiction  
As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography - life from A to Z - and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.



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Ignatow, Amy. ***The Popularity Papers***

Two best friends embark on a project to study the behavior and taste of the popular girls at their elementary school so that by the time they get to middle school they too will be in the right crowd. Lydia lives with her single mom and pseudo-goth older sister; Julie lives with her two dads

Konisberg, E.L. ***The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World***

Amedeo Kaplan dreams of discovering something and he would like to discover a true friend to share this with. Improbably, he finds the friend in aloof, edgy William Wilcox, and together they find a story that links a sketch, a young boy's life, an old man's reminiscence, and a painful secret dating back to the outrages of Nazi Germany and the victimization of homosexuals during the Holocaust.

Lantz, Frances. ***The Day Joanie Frankenhauser Became a Boy***

When Joanie's family moves to a new town, a typo on the school records makes her "John" instead of "Joan," and she jumps at the chance to reinvent herself.

Myracle, Lauren. ***Luv Ya Bunches***

Four friends - each named after a flower - navigate the ups and downs of fifth grade. Told through text messages, blog posts, screenplay, and straight narrative.

Potter, Ellen. ***Slob***

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed. Readers will also enjoy the portrayal of his younger sister Caitlin, who insists that her name is Jeremy now that she's joined GWAB (Girls Who Are Boys).

Sanchez, Alex. ***So Hard to Say***

Thirteen-year-old Xio, a Mexican American girl, and Frederick, who has just moved to California from Wisconsin, quickly become close friends, but when Xio starts thinking of Frederick as her boyfriend, he must confront his feelings of confusion and face the fear that he might be gay.

Walliams, David. ***The Boy in the Dress***

\*located in YA fiction

Everybody needs friends - especially a boy in a dress! Dennis' life is boring and lonely. His mother left two years ago, his truck driver father is depressed, his brother is a bully and, worst of all, no hugging is one of their household rules. But one thing Dennis does have is soccer; he's the leading scorer on his team. Oh, and did we mention his secret passion for fashion?

Wilson, Barbara. ***A Clear Spring***

From the heat of Chicago, Willa C. Lopez is heading to green, lush Seattle to spend the summer with her aunt Ceci, her aunt's partner Janie and multicultural, extended family. What follows is a take of new friendships, new discoveries and more adventure than she bargained for.

Withrow, Sarah. ***Box Girl***

A surprising yet perfectly believable friendship evolves between Gwen and the not-very-cool new girl at school, and Gwen comes to trust Clara enough to divulge her family's deep secret: that her mom left because Gwen's dad fell in love with another man. Clara's casual acceptance of Gwen's dad and his boyfriend Leon help Gwen finally acknowledge her mother's abandonment of her and, conversely, her father and Leon's steadfast love for her.

**Nonfiction** - \*located in Young Adult Non-fiction

**YA 306.766 MARCUS**

What If Someone I Know Is Gay? Answers to Questions About What it Means to be Gay and Lesbian - Eric Marcus

**YA 306.766 SEBA**

Coming Out: Telling Family and Friends - Jaime A. Seba

**YA 306.766 SEBA**

Smashing the Stereotypes: What Does it Mean to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender? - Jaime A. Seba

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