

GLBTQ – A Resource List

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Introduction

You might be asking yourself, what does LGBTQ stand for? It stands for **L**esbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual, **T**ransgender and **Q**ueer or **Q**uestioning. LGBTQ can be a kind of contentious term, but we thought this was the most inclusive and convenient way to describe the different types of materials that we have included in this pamphlet.

You might also wonder why we have put together this pamphlet. Books and other young adult resources with LGBTQ content can, unfortunately, be harder to find than other types of materials for teens. These types of books can be subject to challenges by parents or school staff who, due to their personal beliefs, don't think that young adults should be exposed to books about LGBTQ people. As a result, some librarians might be reluctant to purchase these books for their school library. This pamphlet shows that there are a wide variety of good quality LGBTQ materials out there, and having access to LGBTQ materials through a school library is good for many different students, no matter what their sexual identity.

Hopefully you'll find something within these pages that you would like to add to your library collection, or read yourself. Do keep in mind that this list only gives a sample of the many, many excellent books and resources out there. The best way to approach this list is to think of it as a starting point to a whole new world of LGBTQ literature.

Books - Fiction

All in the Family

Title:

Secrets of Truth and Beauty

Authors

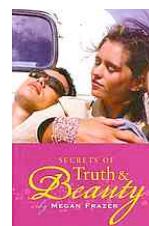
Megan Frazer

Publisher:

New York: Hyperion Books, c2009

Description:

Dara never knew much about her older sister Rachel, that is until her autobiographical multimedia project on being overweight shames her parents so much they take her out of school. Now Dara is living with Rachel on a goat farm, full of gay and lesbian people, including her sister. If everyone on the farm can accept themselves and the ostracism they faced at home, can't she?



Title:

Girl, Hero

Author:

Carrie Jones

Publisher:

Woodbury, Minn.: Flux, c2008

Description:

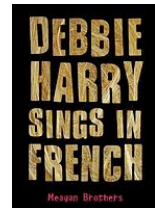
Lili doesn't keep a diary, she writes letters to John Wayne instead. Even if he's dead, at least he knew how to act like a hero. Lili seems to be getting on alright, but everyone in her life has issues. Her mom's new boyfriend is good-for-nothing, her older sister may be being abused by her husband, and her dad, well he may be cross-dressing. Carrie wants to have a relationship with her Dad and start being her own hero. Will she?



Title: **My Invented Life**
Authors Lauren Bjorkman
Publisher: New York: Henry Holt, 2009
Description: Drama! It's not just the club that sisters Roz and Eva compete in, drama fills their lives. Roz wants Eva's boyfriend, and Roz thinks that Eva might be a lesbian. So Roz decides to push things by coming out as a lesbian herself, even though she's more or less straight! The lives of these high school drama students abound with gender bending, especially in their play, *As You Like It*, but will their own story have a happy ending?



Title: **Debbie Harry Sings in French**
Author: Meagan Brothers
Publisher: New York: Henry Holt, 2008
Description: Johnny's got problems, his dad committed suicide, his mother can't seem to do anything, and while he tries to keep it all together, Johnny drinks so much he ends up in a hospital. When he goes to live with his uncle, he finds a new girlfriend, Maria. But something is bugging Johnny. He loves the singer Debbie Harry so much he wants to sing and dress like her! Maria is supportive, but is this right for him? Does it mean he's gay?



Keep Your Friends Close

Title: **Will Grayson, Will Grayson**
Authors John Green & David Levithan
Publisher: New York: Dutton, c2010
Description: One Will Grayson has a fabulously gay friend, Tiny Cooper, who isn't so tiny and who has a new boyfriend and new drama every other week. Another Will Grayson is fed up with life at his stupid school; the only thing he lives for is a boy that he talks to on the Internet. Amazingly, Will Grayson meets Will Grayson and they both become starring players in Tiny Cooper's dramatic life.



Title: **A Love Story Starring My Dead Best Friend**
Author: Emily Horner
Publisher: New York: Dial Books, c2010
Description: Lost and confused, Cass is struggling to figure out her life after the loss of her best friend, Julia. She's promised to help Julia's boyfriend to stage Julia's secret play, *Totally Sweet Ninja Death Squad*, but cast members poke and prod at Cass' close relationship with Julia, and imply that Cass may have felt something more than friendship for Julia. Cass will bike across the country with Julia's ashes, see the play to completion, and figure things out.



Title: **Kiss**
Authors **Jacqueline Wilson**
Publisher: New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2010, c2007
Description: Carl, Sylvie's neighbor, has become distant lately, spending more and more time with his new friend Paul. Sylvie always thought that she would date and eventually marry Carl. Carl has other plans, but if Carl reveals his heart to Paul, will it all end happily? Will Sylvie still be his friend?

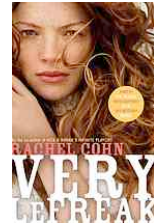


School Sucks

Title: **Skim (a graphic novel)**
Author: Mariko & Jillian Tamaki
Publisher: Toronto: Groundwood Books, c2008
Description: Skim's guidance counselors think she's depressed because she dresses goth and practices Wicca. Skim isn't interested in singing "Oh Happy Day," or participating in the Girl's celebrate life club. The only thing that's interesting about school is her English teacher, Ms. Archer. And maybe Katie, a girl whose boyfriend killed himself because he was (maybe) gay.



Title: **Very LeFreak**
Authors: Rachel Cohn
Publisher: New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010
Description: Very loves her life at Columbia University and why not? She has boy/girlfriends galore, throws the best parties, and even though she's only a Freshman, is already super famous for her on-campus social-networking website. Very is always updating her site, downloading new tunes, and chatting with her Internet crush. That is, until her friend and teachers get concerned that Very doesn't even notice her life is falling apart around her and send her to a recovery program for Internet addicts.



Title: **Getting It**
Author: Alex Sanchez
Publisher: New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2006
Description: Ever seen *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*? Then you'll get the plot of *Getting It*. Carlos wants to hook up with Roxy, but he just doesn't get girls and decides to ask his gay classmate, Sal, to help. But in exchange, Sal wants Carlos to help him form a Gay-Straight Alliance at his school. Carlos agrees but wonders what his friends and family will think about him for it. Homophobia is everywhere in his mostly Hispanic Texas school. Will a Gay-Straight Alliance work?



Title: **Freak Show**
Authors: James St. James
Publisher: New York: Dutton Children's Books, c2007
Description: Billy Bloom isn't afraid to let his freak flag fly, but that doesn't mean it's going to go over well at straight-laced Eisenhower Academy. Billy is going to have to deal with a lot of taunts while wearing sequins and feathers on his path to becoming homecoming queen.



Growing Up and Getting On

Title: **Down to the Bone**
Author: Mayra L Dole
Publisher: New York: HarperTeen, c2008
Description: Laura gets outed in a very embarrassing way when teacher in her all-girl Catholic school reads out loud a note from her girlfriend! When her mother finds out, she gets kicked out of her home. Then her girlfriend marries a man to escape her family's wrath. Now Laura is single and living with her friends, trying to find her place in the world and figure out what makes Laura, Laura.



Title: **I am J**
Authors Chris Beam
Publisher: New York: Little, Brown, 2011
Description: J wants to grow up to be a man. The problem is that J was born Jennifer, and his parents just don't seem to get that Jennifer may be a girl on the outside, but he's a boy on the inside.



And You Thought Your Love Life Was Difficult

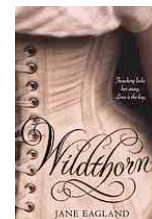
Title: **The Vast Fields of Ordinary**
Author: Nick Burd
Publisher: New York: Dial Books, c2009.
Description: If you've ever had a bad boyfriend, then you can relate to Dade. Dade's boyfriend Pablo treats him like crap. It's like he thinks Dade is gay, but somehow he himself is not. Dade's neighbor Jenny thinks Dade's a worthwhile human being and is determined to make Dade think so too. Maybe Dade has a chance with new guy Alex?



Title: **Love Drugged**
Authors James Kilse
Publisher: Woodbury, Minn.: Flux, c2010
Description: Jamie wants to be a normal guy, but normal guys are attracted to smart, beautiful, rich girls like Celia, not other guys. Fortunately(?) for Jamie, Celia wants to dates him, and her father just happens to be working on a new drug to cure homosexuality. Jamie begins sneaking these new untested pills in effort to cure himself. But all drugs have side effects. Are they worth it?



Title: **Wildthorn**
Author: Jane Eagland
Publisher: Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2010, c2009
Description: What's your name? Are you sure? Can you prove it? Louisa has been placed in Wildthorn Insane Asylum, and told that her real name is Lucy Childs. Louisa wanted to grow-up to be a doctor, the way her father was training her to be, but now that he's dead she's somehow wound up here. A kind, young chambermaid with whom Louisa develops a friendship (or more?) might help her escape. But where does a girl escape to in Victorian England?



Title: **Almost Perfect**
Authors Brian Katcher
Publisher: New York: Delacorte Press, 2010
Description: Logan falls for the new girl in his small-town high school, Sage. As their friendship grows, Sage decides to confide that she was born a he. Logan doesn't believe he's gay but he continues to be attracted to Sage and can't make up his mind.



Other Great Reads

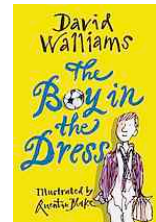
Title: **Ash**
Author: Malinda Lo
Publisher: New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2009
Description: This story will sound familiar. A girl orphaned and living with her stepfamily goes to a ball with the help of fairies and attracts the handsome prince. This time though, Ash meets someone she likes better than Prince Charming at the castle, a strong and beautiful huntress. Ash and her huntress, Kaisa, develop a relationship over time. Will this fairy tale end happily?



Title: **Newsgirl**
Authors Liza Ketchum
Publisher: New York: Viking, 2009
Description: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Amelia's always been adventurous, so when she finds out she can't sell newspapers in her new hometown of San Francisco with the same respect the boys do, she decides to cut her hair and dress like a boy. On one of her outings, she and a friend step into the basket of a hot air balloon, which accidentally sets off into the air!



Title: **The Boy in the Dress**
Author: David Walliams & Quentin Blake
Publisher: New York: Razorbill, 2009, c2008
Description: Dennis likes soccer and dresses. Even though his dad and his older brother probably wouldn't approve, he buys *Vogue* to look at all the fashionable pictures. With the convincing of his older and cute classmate Lisa, he'll also put on a dress and head out on the town. If he's comfortable wearing a dress and wig, will everyone else be?



Books – Non-Fiction

Survival Guides and Information Books

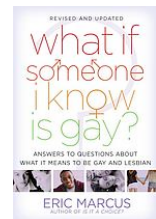
Title: **GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens**
Authors Kelly Huegel
Publisher: Minneapolis: MN Free Spirit Publishing, 2003
Description: A must have for every library or school collection. This book covers all topics important to LGBTQ, from coming out, homophobia, sexuality, religion and school issues. It is honest and informative without being patronizing and is relevant to all teens interested in the subject whether or not they are questioning or are looking for a guide to help them manage their identity.



Title: **Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens**
Author: Mark Bieschke & Kathy Belge
Publisher: Orange Avenue Publishing, 2011
Description: A comprehensive guide that covers what it means to be LGBTQ with practical advice written in a humorous way. With tips, anecdotes and comic strips, this book tackles the difficult topics with an ease and humanity that speaks to its reader on a personal level.



Title: **What if Someone I know Is Gay?: Answers to Questions about Gay and Lesbian People**
Authors Eric Marcus
Publisher: New York: Simon Pulse, c2007
Description: If question and answer is your style, then this is the book for you. With answers to 300 of the frequently asked questions about LGBTQ, this book covers a wide range of issues from sexuality all the way to discrimination. Perfect for teenagers who want to understand their LGBTQ friends better



Title: **Let's Get This Straight: The Ultimate Handbook for Youth with LGBTQ Parents**
Author: Tina Fakhrid-Deen
Publisher: Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2010
Description: This book is for young people who have LGBTQ parents covering family structures and affirms the normalcy of such family units. It sheds light on problems and barriers and includes tips on how to overcome them be it within the family or in school.



Title: **Out Law: What LGBT Youth Should Know about Their Legal Rights**
Authors: Lisa Keen
Publisher: Boston, MA: Beacon Press, c2007
Description: This book contains information on the legal rights of LGBTQ youths with examples on how these rights can be asserted. Systematic and comprehensive, this book is easy to read and includes a brief history gay legislation and an essential addition to any LGBTQ non-fiction collection.

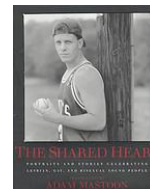


Stories, Portraits & Essays

Title: **Hear Me Out: True Stories of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia**
Authors: Frances Rooney
Publisher: Toronto: Second Story Press, c2004
Description: A book containing LGBTQ stories set in Canada, *Hear Me Out* chronicles the personal experiences of twenty-two young LGBTQ people who found self-acceptance and hope.



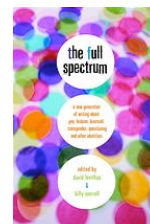
Title: **The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People**
Author: Adam Mastoon
Publisher: New York: William Morrow: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, c1997
Description: *The Shared Heart* tells its story in narratives anchored by photographs. A vivid portrait is painted of the individuals in the photos who share the struggles they had with coming out and the how it affected the people around them. Courageous and candid, this book is life-affirming and inspiring and comes straight from the heart.



Title: **Telling Tales Out of School**
Authors: Kevin Jennings
Publisher: Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 1998
Description: If you like stories set in school, then this is the book for you. This collection of stories centers around the school experience, whether it is choosing to come out while in school or reflections on how it was being in school and struggling with one's identity.

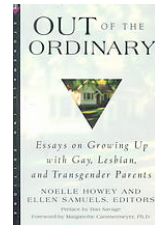


Title: **The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Other Identities**
Author: David Levithan & Billy Merrell
Publisher: New York: Knopf, 2006
Description: A collection of poetry and essays by writers no older than 23, *The Full Spectrum* showcases a wide range of experiences, from the emotionally painful to those of unconditional love and support. Beautifully and movingly written, the stories in the book are bound to

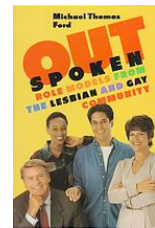


leave their readers with hope arising from the courage of the writers who came forward with their stories.

- Title:** **Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents**
- Authors:** Noelle Howey & Ellen Jean Samuels
- Publisher:** New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000
- Description:** This is collection of short stories by adults who have grown up with LGBTQ parents and is an especially good book for young people whose traditional families have been broken because one parent has come out. Not all the stories reflect adults who are happy with what has happened but the stories in the book are kept real and honest and ultimately explore the love between parent and child and how it affects the journey to acceptance.

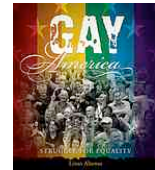


- Title:** **Outspoken: Role Models from the Lesbian and Gay Community**
- Author:** Michael Thomas Ford
- Publisher:** New York: Morrow Junior Books, c1998
- Description:** An inspiring book highlighting the success stories of the LGBTQ community, this book is an essential read for LGBTQ youth who feel that they are disadvantaged in life because of their sexual orientation. Containing interviews with successful individuals like an Olympic silver medalist, this book encourages youths in marginalized positions to rise above their circumstances and to be confident about who they are.



History

- Title:** **Gay America: Struggle for Equality**
- Authors:** Linas Alsenas
- Publisher:** New York: Amulet Books, 2008
- Description:** The companion book for LGBTQ youth who are interested in learning more about the history of gays and lesbians in America. From pre-twentieth-century America all the way to present, important events are highlighted with each story told in first person, making it readable while slightly fictionalised.



- Title:** **Hear Us Out: Lesbian and Gay Stories of Struggle, Progress and Hope, 1950- Present**
- Author:** Nancy Garden
- Publisher:** New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007
- Description:** A mix of both fiction and non-fiction, *Hear Us Out* gracefully weaves a historical narrative in two parts, using essays to highlight key events and the political and social impact surrounding it, and short stories to reflect the experience of those who went through those events.



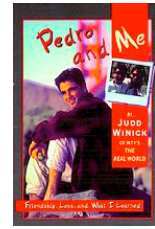
Memoirs

- Title:** **Talking in the Dark**
- Authors:** Billy Merrell
- Publisher:** New York: PUSH/Scholastic Inc., c2003
- Description:** A memoir written in poetry, Merrell, shares 22 years of his life, his parents' and his own failed relationship and the discovery of his homosexuality in a form that captures the essence of his feelings.



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LIBR526 – Literature and Other Materials for Young Adults

Title: **Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss and What I Learned**
Author: Judd Winick
Publisher: New York: Henry Holt, 2000
Description: Written and drawn by Judd Winick, this graphic novel tells the story of Pedro Zamora, who was diagnosed HIV-positive at the age of 17. Inspired to help others, he became an AIDS educator, sharing with young people about the disease and helping them with their self-esteem. Before he succumbed to AIDS in 1994, he starred in the cast of *The Real World: San Francisco*.



Title: **Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic**
Author: Alison Bechdel
Publisher: Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007, c2006
Description: Written and drawn by Alison Bechdel *Fun Home* is Alison's memoir of growing up with a family that's dysfunctional in more ways than one. Alison's father is a high school English teacher and funeral director who loves his beautiful furniture more than his children. More importantly, Alison's father is a closeted gay man who sleeps with young boys. Alison recounts the huge impact her father had on her life, his personal tragedies overshadowing her coming of age and coming out.



Websites

This list was last accessed on 7 June 2011.

Networking

Title: **The GYC**
URL: <http://www.thegyc.com/>
Description: The Gay Youth Corner is a top international gay youth website. It is a fantastic resource dedicated to providing gay youth with up-to-date information and a sense of community. It exists as a healthy medium in which to discuss any issues confronting LGBTQ youth. Importantly, it has tools in place for members to report and prevent potential online predators. With their members' safety in mind, the GYC works closely with law enforcement agencies.

Title: **Youth Resource**
URL: <http://www.amplifyyourvoice.org/youthresource>
Description: Youth Resource is hosted by *Advocates for Youth*. It was created to be a space in which LGBTQ youth can access information untainted by unfair prejudice. Updated monthly, the site provides "information on activism, culture, sexual health, and other issues that are important to [LGBTQ youth]." The site has an online peer education program that points questioners to appropriate resources without dispensing medical advice.

LGBTQ News

Title: **The Advocate**
URL: <http://www.advocate.com/>
Description: The Advocate is a US-based news organization focused on the news that affects those who identify as LGBTQ. It covers sports, politics, entertainment, travel, and more. The stories are free to access online.

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Title: **Queerty**
URL: <http://www.queerty.com/>
Description: Queerty is a blog containing news pertaining to LGBTQ issues. Its tag line reads, "Free of an agenda, except that gay one." Visitors to Queerty can expect to find stories on everything from politics to celebrities to gay history to pop culture. Subject matter varies between the serious and fun.

Title: **Xtra: Canada's Gay and Lesbian News**
URL: <http://www.xtra.ca/public/National.aspx>
Description: Xtra covers news of interest across the world, but also focuses on specific cities: Toronto, Ottawa, and Vancouver. Members can post specific events for any of the three cities. Some of its news categories include: "Gay Content," "Lesbian Content," and "Trans Content."

Support

Title: **PFLAG Canada**
URL: <http://www.pflagcanada.ca/en/index-e.asp>
Description: PFLAG Canada "is there when it seems like no one else is." It provides education and support for LGBTQ people and their families. There are local chapters all across Canada.

Title: **The It Gets Better Project**
URL: <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>
Description: Started in September 2010 by Dan Savage in response to Tyler Clementi's and others' suicides, It Gets Better has thousands of videos giving hope and inspiration to gay youth. Videos are made by both famous and everyday people with one salient message: "hold on, for life gets better than what you're going through now."

Title: **The Trevor Project**
URL: <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
Description: Started by the creators of The It Gets Better Project, The Trevor Project is a 24/7 Crisis hotline for LGBTQ youth. Primary values include: acceptance, commitment and innovation. According to the website, "The Trevor Project was founded by writer James Lecesne, director/producer Peggy Rajski and producer Randy Stone, creators of the 1994 Academy Award®-winning short film, *Trevor*, a comedy/drama about a gay 13-year-old boy who, when rejected by friends because of his sexuality, makes an attempt to take his life."

YA LGBTQ Literature Blogs

Title: **Gay YA: GLBT Characters & Pairings**
URL: <http://www.gayya.org/>
Description: Gay YA: GLBT Characters and Pairings is a blog devoted to reviewing and discussing LGBTQ literature for young adults. A new blog, it was only started in April 2011. Its mission is to spark deeper discussions of what it means to be a gay teenager: "Through the blog, the forum community, and the input of you all, we're hoping to start a conversation about what gay in YA means, what it means to be a gay teen, and what straight allies can do to help and participate."

Title: **I'm Here. I'm Queer. What the Hell Do I Read?**
URL: <http://www.leewind.org/>
Description: *I'm Here, I'm Queer. Now What the Hell Do I Read* is for "teens (queer or not), for librarians, for teachers, for booksellers, for people with teens in their lives and for anyone interested in YA books with GLBTQ characters and themes." It includes a section of banned books and in 2009 was voted the best GLBTQ Review Blog.

Title: **Queer YA: Fiction for LGBTQ Teens**
URL: <http://daisyporter.org/queerya/>
Description: *Queer YA* is a blog that reviews books of fiction that would be of interest to LGBTQ young adults. There is a long list of links to favourite authors' sites, archived posts dating back to June 2009, and a way to search for books by category.

Reference

Title: **GLBTQ: The World's Largest Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Culture**
URL: <http://www.glbtq.com/>
Description: The GLBTQ encyclopaedia contains a plethora of useful information. It contains everything from definitions to movie and literature spotlights, to renowned artists and authors. Edited by two professors at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Claude J. Summers and Ted-Larry Pebworth, this site is trustworthy and accurate.

Transgender Blogs and Bibliographies

Title: **Rooster Tails: Words and Pictures from a New Zealand Transboy**
URL: <http://roostertails.wordpress.com/>
Description: *Rooster Tails* is a weekly webcomic that explores the life of a transgender man living in New Zealand. He details his adventures in a fun, readable way, complete with puns, nerds, and New Zealand facts.

Title: **TRANScending Identities: A Bibliography of Resources on Transgender and Intersex Topics (.pdf)**
URL: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/popularresources/glbtrt_trans_08.pdf
Description: Put together by the American Library Association, this comprehensive bibliography "lists resources for the transgendered communities, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual transsexuals and transvestites/ crossdressers; drag kings and queens; self-defined "gender queers;" and their allies. It also includes resources for and about intersexed individuals. Because of the blurring of lines between these groups, the bibliography has only been separated into fiction and nonfiction materials, and internet resources" (1)

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For a class under the School of Library, Archival and Information Science, University of British Columbia

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