

## **Juvenile LGTBQ+ Fiction**

### **Nonbinary &/or Gender Non-conforming Main Characters**

#### ***Alice Austen Lived Here* Gino, Alex (Gr 4-7)**

When Staten Island holds a contest for a new statue of a local historical figure, seventh grader Sam Marino and their best friend TJ, both nonbinary, design a statue of lesbian photographer Alice Austen, a turn-of-the-century Staten Island resident.

#### ***Ciel (Book 1)* Labelle, Sophie (Gr 4-7)**

Ciel, a gender non-conforming transgender kid with a popular YouTube channel, navigates high school, friendship, and a long-distance relationship.

#### ***Rabbit Chase* LaPensee, Elizabeth (Gr 4-7) (graphic novel)**

Aimée, a non-binary Anishinaabe middle-schooler, is on a class trip to offer gifts to Paayehnsag, the water spirits known to protect the land. While stories are told about the water spirits, Aimée zones out, distracting themselves from the bullying they've experienced since expressing their non-binary identity. When Aimée accidentally wanders off, they are transported to an alternate dimension populated by traditional Anishinaabe figures in a story inspired by *Alice in Wonderland*.

#### ***Tiger Honor* Lee, Yoon Ha (Gr 4-8)**

Nonbinary tiger spirit named Sebin dreams of joining the Space Forces. But when Sebin's acceptance letter finally arrives, so, too, does the news that their uncle Hwan has been declared a traitor in his pursuit of the legendary Dragon Pearl. Sebin quickly realizes that this obvious misunderstanding will greatly hinder their chance to achieve their dream, and, determined to clear the family name, climbs aboard the Haetae battle cruiser. But will all go as planned?

## **Nonbinary &/or Gender Non-conforming Main Characters cont.**

### ***Both Can Be True Machias, Jules (Gr 4-7)***

Thirteen year old Ash is trying to choose a single gender after starting at a new Ohio school. It's what their transphobic father wants, but they hope a choice will also mean less bullying. Meanwhile, animal lover Daniel wishes he could live up to his family's pressure to be less emotionally sensitive. When the two join forces to keep an elderly Pomeranian named Chewbarka from being euthanized, a tentative romance develops, and both begin coming to terms with who they are. (Genderfluid main character)

### ***The One Who Loves You Most Medina (Gr 4-6)***

Twelve-year-old Gabriela is trying to find their place in the world. In their body, which feels less and less right with each passing day. As an adoptee, in their all-white family. And at school, where they search for friends. A new year will bring a school project, trans and queer friends, and a YouTube channel that help Gabriela find purpose in their journey.

### ***Middletown Moon, Sara (Gr 6+)***

Thirteen-year-old Eli likes baggy clothes, baseball caps, and one girl in particular. Her older sister Anna is more traditionally feminine; she loves boys and staying out late. They are sisters, and they are also the only family each can count on. When their mom lands herself in enforced rehab, Anna masquerades as "Aunt Lisa" to keep them out of foster care. But how long can they keep this secret?

### ***The Witch Boy Ostertag, Molly (Gr 4-7) (graphic novel)***

In thirteen-year-old Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted ... and he's fascinated by witchery. When a mysterious danger threatens the other boys, Aster knows he can help -- as a witch. It will take the encouragement of a new friend, the non-magical and non-conforming Charlie, to convince Aster to try practicing his skills. And it will require even more courage to save his family ... and be truly himself.

## **Nonbinary &/or Gender Non-conforming Main Characters cont.**

### ***Spin with Me* by Polonsky, Ami (Gr 5-7)**

Told in two voices, seventh-graders Essie, in North Carolina for just one semester, and Ollie, a non-binary, “gender weird” classmate, develop a gentle romance while Essie ponders her label.

### ***Ana on the Edge* by Sass, A.J. (Gr 4-7)**

Twelve-year-old figure skater Ana strives to win her competitions while learning about gender identity--her own and that of a new friend--and how to be true to herself.

### ***Ellen Outside the Lines* Sass, A.J. (Gr 4-6)**

Ellen, an autistic thirteen-year-old, navigates a new city, shifting friendships, a growing crush, and her queer and Jewish identities while on a class trip to Barcelona, Spain.

### ***The Fabulous Zed Watson!* Sylvester, Basil (Gr 4-6 )**

When Zed Watson discovered the mystery surrounding an unpublished novel called *The Monster’s Castle*, they are completely hooked. When a breakthrough discovery leads Zed to the route that they are sure will take them to the treasured text, they know it’s time for a road trip. And with the help of their shy neighbor and his geologist sister, Zed and company are soon off on a wild adventure following cryptic clues!

### ***The Best Liars in Riverview* Thompson, Lin (Gr 4-6)**

Aubrey feels most comfortable in the woods their best friend Joel, who’s biracial and “the same kind of weird” as Aubrey. When Joel disappears one night, having experienced regular bullying at school, Aubrey has an idea about what happened to him but doesn’t tell anyone. Instead, Aubrey secretly sets out on into the woods to find Joel.

*Also significant nonbinary &/or gender nonconforming representation in:*

***Zenobia July Bunker, Lin (Gr 5-8)***

Zenobia July, an excellent coder and hacker, investigates a mystery while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and presenting her true gender for the first time with the help of the middle school's band of "orphan misfits."

***Twelfth Key, Janet (Gr 4-7) -preordered***

Twelve-year-old Maren is sure theater camp isn't for her. Theater camp is for loud, confident, artsy people: people like her older sister, Hadley, and her cinema-obsessed, nonbinary bunkmate, Theo. But when a prank goes wrong, Maren gets drawn into the hunt for a diamond ring that, legend has it, is linked to the camp's namesake...

***City of Thieves (Battle Dragons series book 1) London, Alex (Gr 4-8)***

When Abel accidentally bonds with a stolen dragon named Karak, he becomes a pawn of one of the dragon-riding criminal clans that dominate the technologically advanced city of Drakopolis, expected to train and fly on their behalf. Entangled in a multi-faction struggle between the various clans and Drakopolis' secret police, Abel enlists his best friend, nonbinary veterinarian-in-training Roa, as well as Karak himself, to help save them all.

***Different Kinds of Fruit Lukoff, Kyle (Gr 5-8)***

Annabelle is in her last year at her middle school, and all she wants is a break from her routine. Happily, change soon arrives in the form of Bailey, a nonbinary new student on whom Annabelle develops her first crush. When Annabelle's father reacts poorly upon learning Bailey's gender, Annabelle learns that her dad is a "stealth" trans man who no longer publicly participates in a local LGBTQ community. Inspired by both her father and by Bailey, Annabelle and her classmates fight for real, progressive change via protests and a Coming Out Day panel.

*Also significant nonbinary &/or gender nonconforming representation in:*

***Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea* Blake, Ashley Herring (Gr 4-8)**

Hazel lost her mum two years ago, and it feels like she's been losing parts of herself ever since. Now Hazel, her sister, and her other mother bounce from town to town trying to outrun their grief. This summer they've settled into Rose Harbor, ME, famous for its mythical mermaid. Hazel is introduced to the tale of the Rose Maid by her new neighbor Lemon, and Lemon and her friends draft Hazel into their "MerSquad," slowly breaking down her walls. One friend, Jules, is nonbinary, and their fledgling romantic connection with Hazel is a sweet promise of hope that never seemed possible before...

**Transgender Male Main Characters**

***Obie is Man Enough* by Bailar, Schuyler (Gr 6-8)**

Seventh-grader Obie Chang just wants to swim competitively and get through middle school. This becomes difficult when his coach kicks him off the team for being trans, and when Coach Bolton's son Clyde (Obie's former teammate/childhood best friend) verbally and physically assaults him for trying to use the boys' bathroom. So Obie tries to build the life he wants after the attack: he joins a new swim team, all with their eyes on the upcoming Junior Olympics...

***The Ship We Built* Bean, Lexie (Gr 6+)**

A fifth grader whose best friends walked away, whose mother is detached, and whose father does unspeakable things, copes with the help of friend Sofie and anonymous letters tied to balloons and then released.

***The Pants Project* Clarke, Cat (Gr 3-6)**

Eleven-year-old Liv fights to change the middle school dress code requiring girls to wear a skirt and, along the way, finds the courage to tell his moms he is meant to be a boy.

## **Transgender Male Main Characters cont.**

### ***The Other Boy* by Hennessey, M.G. (Gr 5-7)**

Shane has been living with his mom in L.A., where he has good friends and a crush, is a star on the baseball team, and spends his free time working on his sci-fi graphic novel. But now Shane—who was assigned female at birth—must deal with his dad refusing to accept Shane’s gender identity. When a classmate outs Shane to the entire school, he has a lot more to worry about than baseball regionals...

### ***Too Bright to See* Lukoff, Kyle (Gr 4-7)**

Eleven-year-old Bug’s best friend Moira has decided the two of them need to use the next few months to prepare for middle school. For Moira, this means figuring out the right clothes, makeup, and which boys are cute. But none of this appeals to Bug - besides, a ghost is haunting Bug's eerie old house...As Bug begins to untangle the mystery of who this ghost is and what they’re trying to say, a different truth comes to light—Bug is transgender.

## **Transgender Female Main Characters**

### ***Zenobia July Bunker*, Lin (Gr 5-8)**

Zenobia July, an excellent coder and hacker, investigates a mystery while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and presenting her true gender for the first time with the help of the middle school’s band of “orphan misfits.”

### ***Lily and Dunkin* by Gephart, Donna (Gr 5-8)**

Lily, born Timothy, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you’re in the eighth grade. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin, is bipolar and has just moved from New Jersey. This would be hard enough, but he is also hiding from a painful secret. One summer morning, Lily meets Dunkin, and their lives forever change.

## **Transgender Female Main Characters cont.**

### ***Melissa's Story* (formerly titled *George*) Gino, Alex (Gr 3-6)**

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's a girl. When her teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*, George really wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part ... because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, George comes up with a plan so she can be Charlotte – and so everyone knows who she is, once and for all.

### ***Gracefully Grayson* Polonsky, Ami (Gr 6+)**

Gingkon Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: he is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free. Will strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher's wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit?

### ***The Deep and Dark Blue* Smith, Niki (Gr 4-8) (graphic novel)**

After a terrible political coup, Hawke and Grayson flee to stay alive and assume new identities, Hanna and Grayce. Desperation and chance lead them to the Communion of Blue, an order of magical women. As the twins learn more about the Communion, and themselves, they begin to hatch a plan to retake their royal home. While Hawke wants to return to his old life, Grayce realizes she wants to stay in the one place that will allow her to finally live as a girl.

*Also significant transgender representation in:*

***Snapdragon* Leyh, Kat (Gr 4-8) (graphic novel)**

Snap meets Jacks, rumored to be a witch. But Jacks is just a cross-wearing, internet-savvy old lady who sells roadkill skeletons online--after doing a little ritual to put their spirits to rest. They make a deal: Jacks will teach Snap how to take care of the baby opossums that Snap rescued, and Snap will help Jacks with her work. But as Snap starts to get to know Jacks, she realizes that Jacks may in fact have real magic--and a connection with Snap's family's past.

***The Moon Within* Salazar, Aida (Gr 4-8)**

Eleven-year-old Celi is mortified by the looming fact that her first period is coming. Her mother, however, is eager to throw her a “moon ceremony” upon its arrival to reclaim and honor their ancestral traditions. Meanwhile, Celi’s best friend Magda is asking Celi to use he/his pronouns and call him Marco as he embraces his transition into a xochihuah, “people who danced between/or to other energies/than what they were assigned at birth”...

**Intersex Main Characters**

***Cattywampus* Van Otterloo, Ash (Gr 4-8)**

Magic is strictly forbidden in her house, but Delpha has found the family book of spells, and plans to use it; Katybird comes from a rival family of witches, but her magic has been slow to emerge, and she thinks a spell book is just what she needs to help things along. When a quarrel between the two unleashes a graveyard full of angry zombies the two girls must work together to save Howler’s Hollow.



## **Queer Cis Female Characters**

### ***Almost Flying Arlow, Jake Maia (Gr 4-8)***

Dalia's summer plans change when she is forced to spend time with her soon-to-be step-sister Alexa, and they embark on an amusement park road trip. But what starts out as a week of funnel cakes and Lazy River rides goes off the rails when Dalia discovers that Alexa's girlfriend is joining the trip. And keeping Alexa's secret makes Dalia realize one of her own: She might have more-than-friend feelings for her new friend Rani.

### ***Drum Roll, Please Bigelow, Lisa Jenn (Gr 5-8)***

Summer brings a lot of big changes for Melly: her parents split up, her best friend ditches her, and Melly finds herself unexpectedly falling for another girl at camp. To top it all off, Melly's not sure she has what it takes to be a real rock 'n' roll drummer. Will she be able to make music from all the noise in her heart? (Bisexual main character)

### ***Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea Blake, Ashley Herring (Gr 4-8)***

Hazel lost her mum two years ago, and it feels like she's been losing parts of herself ever since. Now Hazel, her sister, and her other mother bounce from town to town trying to outrun their grief. This summer they've settled into Rose Harbor, ME, famous for its mythical mermaid. Hazel is introduced to the tale of the Rose Maid by her new neighbor Lemon, and Lemon and her friends draft Hazel into their "MerSquad," slowly breaking down her walls. One friend, Jules, is nonbinary, and their fledgling romantic connection with Hazel is a sweet promise of hope that never seemed possible before...

### ***Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World Blake, Ashley Herring (Gr 4-6)***

Ivy Aberdeen is not in a good place. She's lost her house to a massive tornado, her mother seems to barely notice she exists (because of the new twins), and her sister is being really mean. In the aftermath of the storm, she tries to cope with these problems and begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

## **Queer Cis Female Characters cont.**

### ***The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James* Blake, Ashley Herring (Gr 3-6)**

Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James must navigate heart surgery, reconnections with a lost mother, the betrayal of a former best friend, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl.

### ***Drew Leclair Gets a Clue* Bury, Katryn (Gr 5+)**

Drew Leclair is a seventh grade misfit whose mom has just run off with her school counselor. Drew is doing her best to lay low about it, until it is plastered all over an anonymous Instagram account for her school. Drew, along with her two best friends, sets out to expose the anonymous poster.

### ***Hurricane Child* Callender, Kacen (Gr 4-6)**

Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, which is considered bad luck, twelve-year-old Caroline falls in love with another girl--and together they set out in a hurricane to find Caroline's missing mother.

### ***The Real Riley* Mayes Elliott, Rachel (Gr 4-8) (graphic novel)**

Fifth grade is just not Riley's vibe. Her best friend moved away. All she wants to do is draw, and her grades show it. Things start to look up when a classmate, Cate, offers to help Riley with a letter assignment, and a new kid, Aaron, actually seems to get her weird sense of humor. But when mean girl Whitney spreads a rumor about her, things begin to click into place for Riley regarding her sexuality.

### ***The Deepest Breath* Grehan, Meg (Gr 5+)**

Struggling with missing her estranged father and her feelings for a female classmate, an eleven-year-old Irish girl named Stevie tries to confide in her mother, the person she trusts most in the world. Novel in verse.

## **Queer Cis Female Characters cont.**

### ***Jo: An Adaptation of Little Women (Sort Of) Gros, Kathleen (Gr 5-8) (graphic novel)***

With the start of eighth grade, Jo March decides it's time to get serious about her writing and joins the school newspaper. But becoming a hard-hitting journalist is a lot harder than Jo imagined. Plus, Jo and her sisters are getting used to a new normal at home, with their dad deployed overseas and their mom, a nurse, working overtime. What does it take to figure out who you are?

### ***One True Way Hitchcock, Shannon (Gr 4-7)***

A story of two girls who discover their friendship is something more. But how, among their backward town, will Sam and Allie face what they know is true about themselves? Welcome to Daniel Boone Middle School in the 1970s, where teachers and coaches must hide who they are, and girls who like girls are forced to question their own choices. Historical fiction.

### ***Redwood and Ponytail Holt, K.A. (Gr 5-8)***

This is a story of two girls, opposites in many ways, who are drawn to each other; Kate appears to be a stereotypical cheerleader, Tam is tall, athletic and frequently mistaken for a boy, but their deepening friendship inevitably changes and reveals them in ways they did not anticipate. Novel in verse.

### ***Where the Heart is Knowles, Jo (Gr 4-7)***

Thirteen year old Rachel's summer is filled with uncertainties. Her relationship with her longtime best friend, Micah, is being tested by new crushes and jealousies, and her family is having serious financial problems and may lose their home. On top of that, Rachel is struggling to figure out what she wants from life and love.

## **Queer Cis Female Characters cont.**

### ***Beetle and the Hollowbones* Layne, Aliza (Gr 4-8) (graphic novel)**

Twelve-year-old goblin and witch-in-training Beetle enlists her former best friend, Kat Hollowbones, to help stop Kat's sorceress aunt from demolishing the mall where Beetle's friend Blob Ghost is trapped.

### ***In the Key of Us* Lockington, Mariama (Gr 5-8)**

Andi is grappling with grief following the death of her mother. Zora is exhausted by trying to please her success-oriented parents. Both feel very much alone. Until a summer music camp brings them together. The only two Black girls at camp in a sea of white children, Andi and Zora slowly begin to connect and reveal their deepest fears and dreams.

### ***Fight + Flight* Machias, Jules (Gr 5+)**

Avery loves drumming and riding her dirt bike, but the chronic pain from her Ehlers-Danlos syndrome limits her mobility. Sarah is an artist who draws to manage her panic attacks. When Maple Creek Middle School's principal fabricates an active shooter situation, leaving students shaken, Avery swears vengeance against the administration. As infatuation blooms between the girls and Avery's plan becomes perilous, Sarah resolves to overcome her own anxieties and help her traumatized classmates. (Pansexual main character)

### ***Pepper's Rules for Secret Sleuthing* McDonald, Briana (Gr 4-6)**

Pepper is all about her detective work, except for one little distraction: her crush on a girl. But when a case throws all hope for that romance out the window, Pepper decides it's time for a break...until her great-aunt dies under mysterious circumstances.

## **Queer Cis Female Characters cont.**

### ***Princess Princess Ever After* O'Neill, Kay (Gr 3+) (graphic novel)**

When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain. They'll need to join forces in order to defeat their greatest foe yet: a jealous sorceress.

### ***Candidly* Cline Ormsbee, Kathryn (Gr 5+)**

Middle schooler Cline aspires to become a country music singer. Her mother isn't the biggest supporter of her musical dreams, so Cline has to go behind her back to attend singer-songwriter classes. In the program, Cline has a negative interaction with another workshop member, Sylvie, who is later assigned as her partner. Through Sylvie, Cline learns that first impressions aren't always what they seem and sometimes people build walls to protect themselves. And her feelings for Sylvie shift...

### ***P.S. I Miss You* Petro-Roy, Jen (Gr 4-7)**

While navigating her first crush on a girl and her complicated relationship with her religious parents, Evie must unravel the mystery surrounding her sister.

### ***Derby Daredevils* (series) Rosewater, Kit (Gr 4-8)**

Fifth-grade best friends Kenzie "Kenzilla" and Shelly "Bombshell" dream of becoming roller derby superstars one day, but when a junior league forms and they must recruit teammates, will their friendship survive?

## **Queer Cis Female Characters cont.**

### ***Meow or Never Taylor, Jazz (Gr 4-7)***

Avery can sing, but she likes to stay backstage at her new school. That's where she finds a cat she names the Phantom, visiting and singing to him. One day, her crush overhears her and ropes Avery into auditioning for the school's musical. Can Phantom help her through her stage fright? And what will happen if anyone finds out about her secret pet?

### ***The House You Pass on the Way Woodson, Jacqueline (Gr 6-9)***

When fourteen-year-old Staggerlee, the daughter of a racially mixed marriage, spends a summer with her cousin Trout, she begins to question her sexuality to Trout and catches a glimpse of her possible future self.

## **Asexual Main Characters**

### ***Rick Gino, Alex (Gr 3-7)***

Now that he's starting middle school, Rick worries that he's never had a crush. Though he hopes that the Rainbow Spectrum, "an after-school club for LGBTQIAP+ rights," might provide answers, he hides his interest from his best friend Jeff, a homophobic bully. As Rick begins to find words that describe his orientation--asexual, aromantic--he bonds with his fellow club members and is forced to consider his friendship with Jeff...

### ***A-Okay Greene, Jarad (Gr 5+)***

In this semifictional memoir, eighth-grader Jay faces many of the challenges that come with being a middle-schooler. Throughout the school year, Jay struggles with bullies, self-confidence, self-esteem, skin problems, and understanding his sexuality.

### ***Every Bird a Prince Reese, Jenn (Gr 4-6)***

After she saves the life of a bird prince and becomes their champion, seventh grader Eren Evers must defend a forest kingdom, save her mom, and keep the friendships she holds dear--if she is brave enough to embrace her inner truths.

### **Queer Cis Male Main Characters**

#### ***Alan Cole is Not a Coward* Bell, Eric (Gr 4-6)**

Alan can't stand up to his cruel brother, Nathan. He can't escape the wrath of his demanding father. And -- scariest of all -- he can't let the cute boy across the cafeteria know he has a crush on him. But when Nathan discovers Alan's secret, his older brother announces a high-stakes round of Cole vs. Cole. Each brother must complete seven nearly impossible tasks; whoever finishes the most wins the game. Can Alan win to protect his secret?

#### ***A High Five for Glenn Burke* Bildner, Phil (Gr 4-8)**

After researching Glenn Burke, the first major league baseball player to come out as gay, sixth-grader Silas Wade slowly comes out to his best friend Zoey, then his coach, with unexpected consequences.

#### ***Middle School's a Drag: You Better Werk!* Howard, Greg (Gr 4-6)**

In Charleston, South Carolina, a young business entrepreneur, newly out as gay, starts his own junior talent agency and signs a thirteen-year-old aspiring drag queen named Julian (aka Coco Caliente) as his first client.

#### ***The Whispers* Howard, Greg (Gr 4-7)**

Eleven-year-old Riley's mom has disappeared, and Riley knows that if he leaves tributes for the whispers, magical fairies that grant wishes, his mom will come back to him.

## **Queer Cis Male Main Characters cont.**

### ***The Civil War of Amos Abernathy Leali, Michael (Gr 4-6)***

Amos is sure there must have been LGBTQ+ people in 19<sup>th</sup> century Illinois. His search turns up Albert D. J. Cashier, a Civil War soldier who might have identified as a trans man if he'd lived today. Soon Amos starts confiding in a newfound friend by writing letters in his journal--and hatches a plan to share Albert's story with his divided 21<sup>st</sup> century town. It may be an uphill battle, but it's one that Amos is ready to fight.

### ***Thanks a lot, Universe Lucas, Chad (Gr 5-8)***

Brian's family fractures when his father leaves and his mother attempts suicide. As Brian and his little brother find themselves in foster care, Brian's existing anxiety becomes overwhelming. Meanwhile, Ezra navigates rapidly changing friendships and struggles to share his sexuality with folks important to him. As the boys' bond grows, they truly see and uplift each other.

### ***The Best at It Pancholy, Maulik (Gr 3-7)***

Twelve-year-old Rahul Kapoor, an Indian-American boy growing up in small-town Indiana, struggles to come to terms with his identity, including that he may be gay.

### ***Marco Impossible Moskowitz, Hannah (Gr 5+)***

Best friends Stephen and Marco attempt a go-for-broke heist to break into the high school prom and get Marco onstage to confess his love for (and hopefully steal the heart of) Benji, the adorable exchange student and bass player of the prom band. Of course, things don't always go according to plan...

### ***The Insiders Oshiro, Mark (Gr 4-6)***

Miserable and lonely at his new school, Héctor stumbles upon a magical closet while running away from homophobic bullies, only to find that it's portal to a queer Narnia of sorts, accessible to two other queer kids at different schools facing the same problems.



## **Queer Cis Male Main Characters cont.**

### ***Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms Perry, Jamar (Gr 4-6)***

The Book of Chidani is Cameron's only connection to his parents who disappeared one fateful night, two years ago. Ever since, his grandmother has kept the Book locked away, but it calls to Cameron. When he and his best friends Zion and Aliyah decide to open it again, they are magically transported to Chidani. Instead of a land of beauty and wonder, they find a kingdom in extreme danger, as the Queen's sister seeks to destroy the barrier between worlds...

### ***The Anti-Book Simon, Raphael (Gr 5+)***

Mickey finds a book that promises to erase whatever is written in it, and after filling the page with all the things and people he dislikes, he finds himself in the anti-world where everything familiar is gone.

### ***The Golden Hour Smith, Niki (Gr 4-7) (graphic novel)***

In the wake of witnessing gun violence at school, Manuel struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and panic attacks. When a teacher pairs him with classmates Sebastian and Caysha for a group project, the ensuing friendship takes him by surprise.

### ***Small Town Pride Stamper, Phil (Gr 4-6)***

Jake decides to start a pride festival in his small town. The problem is, Jake knows he'll have to get approval from the town council, and the mayor won't be on his side. And as Jake and his friends try to find a way to bring Pride to Barton Springs, it seems suspicious that the mayor's son, Brett, suddenly wants to spend time with Jake...

### **Queer Cis Male Main Characters cont.**

#### ***Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor Zhao, Xiran Jay (Gr 4-6)***

After his augmented reality gaming headset is possessed by the spirit of the First Emperor of China, twelve-year-old Chinese American Zack Ying is compelled to travel across China to steal an ancient artifact, fight figures from Chinese history and myth, and seal a portal to prevent malicious spirits from destroying the human realm.

### **LGBTQ+ Anthologies**

#### ***This Is Our Rainbow: 16 stories of her, him, them, & us* edited by Katherine Locke & Nicole Melleby (Gr 3-8)**

A boyband fandom becomes a conduit to coming out. A former bully becomes a first-kiss prospect. One nonbinary kid searches for an inclusive athletic community after quitting gymnastics. Another nonbinary kid, who happens to be a pirate, makes a wish that comes true--but not how they thought it would. A tween girl navigates a crush on her friend's mom. A young witch turns herself into a puppy to win over a new neighbor. A trans girl empowers her online bestie to come out.

## **Characters with LGBTQ+ Caregivers/Family Members**

### ***Hazel's Theory of Evolution* Bigelow, Lisa Jenn (Gr 5+)**

Hazel is entering eighth grade with fear – for one thing, her best friend Becca is at another school. When Becca starts to make new friends, Hazel wonders if she will be left behind. Plus her two moms are newly a baby, but they've already had two miscarriages. So she tries to work out her troubles by writing in her notebook, which she names "Brownlee-Wellington's Guide to Misunderstood Creatures."

### ***Molly and the Twin Towers (Girls Survive series)* Fleck, Jessika (Gr 3-6)**

When the Twin Towers fall on September 11, 2001, blocks from her school, twelve-year-old Molly, unable to reach her dads or Gran, must find her seven-year-old sister, Adi, and get her safely home.

### ***Long Distance* Gardner, Whitney (Gr 4-8) (graphic novel)**

After moving to Seattle, Vega's dads send her to the very strange Camp Best Friend, where she uncovers secrets and discovers that one can make new friends without forgetting old ones.

### ***Abby, Tried and True* Gephart, Donna (Gr 4-6)**

Abby strives to navigate seventh grade without her best friend, keep up her older brother's spirits while he undergoes cancer treatment, support her moms, and figure out her surprising new feelings for the boy next door.

### ***Nothing Ever Happens Here* Hagger-Holt, Sarah (Gr 5+)**

Seventh-grader Izzy, a shy girl who surprisingly loves acting and being onstage, wonders if her family will ever be normal again after her father announces that he is transgender.

## **Characters with LGTBO+ Caregivers/Family Members cont.**

### ***Second Dad Summer* Klas, Benjamin (Gr 4-6)**

Jeremiah just wants a normal summer with his dad, but that isn't happening. His dad just moved in with his new boyfriend, Michael. Michael wears shorts too short, serves weird foods, and is constantly nagging Jeremiah. Worst of all, Michael rides a bicycle decorated to look like a unicorn! This is going to be a long summer... (Sequel: *Everything Together*).

### ***The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* Levy, Dana Alison (Gr 4-7)**

The adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year and deal with a grumpy new neighbor.

### ***The Science of Being Angry* Melleby, Nicole (Gr 4-8)**

Eleven-year-old Joey doesn't know anyone who gets mad like she does. Not her moms, not her brothers, and not her best friend (who Joey ghosted after realizing she might have more than just friendship feelings for her). A school project makes Joey wonder about tracking down her sperm donor for potential genetic causes to her anger, but the investigation spawns even more problems...

### ***Birdie and Me* Nuanez, J.M.M. (Gr 3-7)**

Ever since their free-spirited mama died ten months ago, twelve-year-old Jack and her gender creative nine-year-old brother, Birdie, have been living with their fun-loving Uncle Carl. But now their conservative Uncle Patrick insists on being their guardian, which forces all four of them to confront grief, prejudice, and loss, all while exploring what 'home' really means.

## **Characters with LGTBO+ Caregivers/Family Members cont.**

### ***The Best Man Peck, Richard (Gr 4-6)***

Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.

### ***To Night Owl From Dogfish by Sloan, Holly Goldberg (Gr 5-8)***

Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through text messages.

### ***The List of Things That Will Not Change Stead, Rebecca (Gr 5-8)***

Despite her parents' divorce, her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend, ten-year-old Bea is reassured by her parents' unconditional love, excited about getting a stepsister, and haunted by something she did last summer at her father's lake house.