

Recommended Resources Featuring Gender Diversity

PICTURE BOOKS

10,000 Dresses (2008) Ewert, Marcus. Bailey dreams of wearing beautiful dresses, but her family disapproves of her understanding of her true self.

Ballerino Nate (2006) Bradley, Kimberly. Nate decides he wants to dance after attending a recital. Although his parents disagree, his brother's words telling him that boys can't be ballerinas, worry Nate. While he loves his ballet class, he wonders why he is the only boy. His troubles disappear when he attends a professional performance and meets one of the male dancers.

Boy Who Cried Fabulous, The (2007) Newman, Leslea. A rhyming tale endorsing exuberance, this book offers a refreshing, optimistic message about appreciating the little things in life.

Different Dragon, The (2006) Bryan, Jennifer. Boy with two moms befriends dragon who is also different and convinces him that there are lots of ways to be a dragon besides being fierce.

Duke Who Outlawed Jellybeans, and Other Stories (2004) Valentine, Johnny. In these five action-filled, inventive tales, many young heroines and heroes, and lesbian and gay parents are given prominent roles. In some stories, young girls assume a very feminist stance and save the day in each situation.

A Fire Engine for Ruthie (2004) Newman, Leslea. Ruthie loves to visit Nana, but they don't always like to play with the same things. Nana loves dolls and dress-up, while Ruthie likes fire engines, motorcycles and trains. Nana's neighbour Brian gets to play with them, so why not Ruthie?

It's Okay to Be Different (2001) Parr, Todd. This book describes all kinds of differences and allows the question to be asked, "What's different about you?"

Oliver Button Is a Sissy (1999) dePaola, Tomie. His classmates' taunts don't stop Oliver from doing what he likes best. DePaola identifies this story as being his own. It's a subtle, moving book about a child who is seen as being different.

Only Boy in Ballet Class, The (2007) Gruska, Denise. Bending the gender rules in a fun way, this heartwarming story of one boy's passion for pirouetting will be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Tucker loves ballet, but not everyone understands. He's taunted by the boys in the football field, tortured by dorky twin sisters and teased by his Uncle Frank. Then an unexpected invitation to join the football game gives him the chance to prove just what ballet dancing can do.

Pink! (2009) Rickards, Lynne, III. Margaret Chamberlain. Tired of rejection, Patrick the pink penguin tries unsuccessfully to live with the flamingos before he returns home to acceptance.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully (1996) Howe, James. Pinky is called a sissy for liking and wearing pink, and also for having a girl for a best friend. He eventually decides that he is fine just the way he is and lets the bully know this.

Rough, Tough Charley (2007) Kay, Verla. Stunning illustrations and poetic verse document the exciting true story of Charley Parkhurst, an orphan living in California in the mid-1800s who became a famous stagecoach driver, joined the Odd Fellow's Club, voted in Presidential elections and was revealed, after death, to be a woman. * (Great for lessons on gender and sexism).

Sissy Duckling, The (2002) Fierstein, Harvey. Elmer tries to typical boy duck activities but just doesn't fit in. His dad calls him a sissy, and his mum calls him "special." Elmer runs away to avoid the other ducks, but an ingenious act of bravery and loyalty for his father changes everyone a bit, and he remains very special.

William's Doll (1972) Zolotow, Charlotte. William wants a doll but is told that makes him a creep and a sissy. His Dad buys him a basketball and a train set, but he still wants the doll. Finally his grandma buys him a doll which he can feed, care for and love.

INTERMEDIATE AND ABOVE

The Boy in the Dress (2009) Walliams, David. Dennis finds his family, friends, and townspeople initially resistant to his desire to wear dresses, but they become his biggest fans on and off the soccer field. Gr 4+

Harvey Milk Story, The (2001) Krakow, Kari (picture book) - Explores the life of the first openly gay politician, a courageous American who stood for freedom and justice for all people and was committed to changing the world. Gr 5 +

Luna (2006) Peters, Julie Ann (novel) - Regan is fiercely protective of her brother Liam and his secret desire to be Luna. She fears the family's reaction, and she fears that her brother may someday give in to despair. While Regan wonders if she will ever be able to have a life separate from the needs of her sibling, Liam seriously begins to consider a permanent change. Gr 6 +

The Manny Files (2006). Burch, Christian. 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. Gr 5+

Misfits, The (2001) Howe, James (novel) – Being different, name-calling, empowerment. Excluded students band together to challenge cliques and bullying. Gr 6 +

Newsgirl (2009) Ketchum, Liza. When ambitious and strong-willed Amelia moves to San Francisco in 1851 with her two mothers, she must masquerade as a boy to realize her dream of first hawking newspapers and then working as a reporter. Gr 5+

No Castles Here (2007) Bauer, A.C.E. A book of fairy tales, participation in a school chorus, and a gay Big Brother combine to give 11-year-old Augie the confidence he needs to become an activist. Gr 5+

Parrotfish (2007) Wittlinger, Ellen (novel) - This fast read follows Grady through the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas as he comes out as transgendered, faces issues of acceptance and rejection at school and at home. Grady turns out to be a very normal boy who, like every teen, must deal with vexing issues of self-identity. To his credit, he does this with courage and grace. The book is an excellent resource for building awareness about, and serving the increasing number of, transgendered teens. Gr 6 +

SECONDARY

Almost Perfect (2009) Katcher, Brian. Beautiful newcomer Sage is perfect for Logan until he discovers that she is transgendered.

Another Kind of Cowboy. (2007) Juby, Susan. Sixteen, gay, and closeted, Alex has dreamed of riding dressage since childhood, although his father wants him to be a "real" cowboy.

Big Big Sky (2008) Dunnion, Kristyn. When a pod of five young well-trained female warrior assassins starts falling apart, each must show her strength in the outside real world to avoid being captured and unplugged.

Blue Boy (2009) Satyal, Rakesh. Can Kiran Sharma, a sexually confused twelve-year-old Indian American boy who secretly puts on his mother's make-up, plays with dolls, and practices ballet, really be the reincarnation of the gender-bending Hindu god Krishna?

Close to Spiderman (2000) Coyote, Ivan E. Short stories by Ivan who has a clear feminist voice that powerfully details what it means to experience life as a girl when your imagination is hungry enough to identify and crave the different sorts of freedoms that boys have.

Crossover (2008) Rud, Jeff. Sixteen-year-old Kyle gets caught in the middle between his basketball team and drama club when he opts to join both and re-establishes an old friendship with Luke, who is the frequent target of gay-baiting.

Debbie Harry Sings in French (2008) Brothers, Meagan. Johnny is pretty sure he isn't gay, but he's not quite sure what it means that he wants to be Debbie Harry—to dress like her, have hair like hers, and to hang out with drag queens.

Drag King Dreams (2006) Feinberg, Leslie. The story of Max, a butch lesbian bartender at an East Village club where drag kings perform. A veteran of the women's and gay movement of the past 30 years, Max's mid-life crisis hits in the midst of the post-9/11.

Far from Xanadu (2005) Peters, Julie Anne. 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.

Freak Show (2007) St. James, James. 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.

How Beautiful the Ordinary: Twelve Stories of Identity. Ed. Michael Cart. (2009) The tales in this collection present not only the variety of identities in the LGBTQ community—transgendered, lesbian, bisexual, questioning, and gay—but also the variety of experiences of being human—love, regret, betrayal, discovery.

Loose End (2005) Coyote, Ivan E. Some of the most touching and funniest stories deal with the complications of living, as the author does, on the borders of established gender roles. Others simply observe the world, reminding us that the wonderful, the magical, can be found in small things.

Sword Masters (2008) Rosen, Selina. Determined to avenge her father's death, Tarius pretends to be male and non-Katabull to study with the Sword Masters but finds more than she bargained for when she falls in love with the headmaster's daughter, Jena, who thinks that Tarius is a man.

Transitions: A Guide to Transitioning for Transsexuals and Their Families. (2009) Drummond, Mara Christine. These practical, accessible definitions and descriptions of incongruent gender identity as well as the emotional, financial and physical implications of transitioning show the journey that transgendered people take. (Non-Fiction)

Two Truths and a Lie: A Memoir. (2008) Schofield, Scott Turner. The fluidity of gender shines in these three performance scripts by a transgender man from the Deep South who describes growing up in a world of debutante balls and homecoming proms. (Non-Fiction)

VIDEO (GR 6+)

100% Woman (2005) The exciting story of BC mountain biker Michelle Dumaresq, the first transgendered woman to be named to a national sports team. (58min)

Just Call Me Kade (2002) Zolten, Sam. The inspiring true story of Kade Farlow Collins 14, FTM (female to male) transgendered, and living with an incredibly understanding family in Tucson Arizona. (26 min)

No Dumb Questions (2001) Regan, Melissa. Three young girls love their Uncle Bill, but how will they react when he becomes Aunt Barbara. (24 min)

She's a Boy I Knew (2007) Vancouver filmmaker Gwen Haworth documents her male to female gender transition through the voices of her anxious but loving family, best friend and wife. (70 min.)

Straightlaced (2008) This DVD unearths how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are confining teens. Their stories reflect a diversity of experiences, demonstrating how gender role expectations and homophobia are interwoven, and illustrating the different ways that these expectations connect with culture, race and class. (67min)

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Health Canada Q&A Booklet on Gender Identity Issues in Schools

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/qagis-qrise/qagis-qrise-eng.php>

Resources for Parents/Guardians, Family Members, Educators and Allies of Transgender and Gender Variant Children and Youth (Safe Schools Coalition)

http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-gender_nonconforming_trans_youth.html

Trans Forming Families: Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones (1999) Boenke, M. (Ed.) Imperial Beach, CA: Walter Troom Publishing. www.aiyiyi.com/transbook/

The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals (2008) Brill, Stephanie and Pepper, Rachel. The Transgender Child is must read for every parent, family member, doctor, teacher of a gender-variant child.

Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders (6th Ed.) World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). http://www.wpath.org/publications_standards.cfm

Lukas Walther, Gender Diversity Specialist in British Columbia, provides education and supports for Trans youth, their families, care providers and schools, including competent clinical referral options and customized professional development. Past coordinator of BC's Transgender Health Program; WPATH member; 18 yrs experience in this field. Ph/txt: 604-996-8169; lukas.walther@telus.net