

**The Reading Agency's February Booklist for Children and Young People  
LGBT+ History Month**



Discover The Reading Agency's February booklist for children and young people celebrating the voices and stories of the LGBT+ community. With titles for a broad range of ages focusing on families, romance, grief, identity and self-love, transporting readers from an elite private academy to a post-apocalyptic America, this list has something for everyone to read and enjoy.

Tell us what you think of the books on this list, or any others you have read, by tagging us on social media: @readingagency

**Grandad's Camper by Harry Woodgate (Andersen Press)**  
ISBN: 9781783449927

A long time ago, Grandad and Gramps spent many happy days travelling the world together in a camper van. But now Gramps isn't around anymore, Grandad doesn't feel much like having adventures. As she listens to his wonderful stories, Grandad's granddaughter has an idea to cheer him up.

**The Best Mum by Penny Harrison, illustrated by Sharon Davey (New Frontier)**  
ISBN: 9781913639624

A little girl compares her mum to the other mums she knows: why isn't her mum as good at making dress up costumes as Katie's mums? Why isn't she as good at rollerskating as Scout's mum? And when Mum starts singing opera on the bus, it's SO EMBARRASSING! Yet, despite Mum's dubious cooking skills and tenuous grip on timekeeping, she's still by far the best mum in the world and gives the best cuddles.

***Julian at the Wedding* by Jessica Love (Walker Books)**

**ISBN: 9781406398465**

Julian and his nana are attending a wedding. Better yet, Julian is in the wedding along with his cousin Marisol. With a new dog friend in tow, the pair takes off to roam the venue. After all, it wouldn't be a wedding without fun, laughter and a little magical mischief. With ingenuity and heart, author-illustrator Jessica Love tells a charming story of friendship, acceptance and celebration.

***The Pirate Mums* by Jodie Lancet-Grant, illustrated by Lydia Corry (Oxford University Press)**

**ISBN: 9780192777799**

Billy's family is not what you'd call ordinary. His mums won't listen to NORMAL music. They love to sing sea shanties and dance jigs in the lounge. Their clothes are highly unusual, they have a rude parrot for a pet, and their taste in house design is, well... FISHY. Billy wishes his family could be more like everyone else's. Until a swashbuckling adventure changes everything!

***Peanut Goes for the Gold* by Jonathan Van Ness, illustrated by Gillian Reid (HarperCollins Children's Books)**

**ISBN: 9780062941008**

*Peanut Goes for the Gold* is a charming, funny, and heartfelt picture book that follows the adventures of Peanut, a gender nonbinary guinea pig who does everything with their own personal flare. This upbeat and hilarious picture book, inspired by Jonathan's own childhood guinea pig, encourages children to not just be themselves-but to boldly and unapologetically love being themselves.

***An ABC of Equality* by Chana Ginelle Ewing, illustrated by Paulina Morgan (Frances Lincoln Publishers)**

**ISBN: 9781786037411**

All people have the right to be treated fairly, no matter who they are, what they look like or where they come from. From A to Z, simple explanations accompanied by engaging artwork teach children about the world we live in and how to navigate our way through it.

***Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow* by Benjamin Dean, illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat (Simon & Schuster)**

**ISBN: 9781471199738**

Things aren't going great for Archie Albright. His parents are acting weird and he all he wants is for everything to go back to normal, to three months before when they were happy and still lived together. When Archie sees a colourful, crumpled flyer fall out of Dad's pocket, he thinks he may have found the answer. Only problem? The answer might just lie at the end of the rainbow, an adventure away. Together with his best friends, Bell and Seb, Archie sets off on a heartwarming and unforgettable journey to try and fix his family, even if he has to break a few rules to do it...

***Gut Feelings* by C. G. Moore (UCLan)**

**ISBN: 9781912979431**

'At school, I learned that words, More than weapons, Could destroy bodies, Could break hearts More than fists or fury.' This is the story of Chris, what happened to him at age eleven and how that would

change the rest of his life. A life-affirming and powerful coming of age verse novel that shines a light on chronic illness, who we are and how we live.

***The Bolds* by Julian Clary, illustrated by David Roberts (Andersen Press)**

**ISBN: 9781783443055**

Mr and Mrs Bold are just like you and me: they live in a nice house (in Teddington), they have jobs (like writing Christmas cracker jokes) and they love to have a bit of a giggle. One slight difference: they're hyenas. So far, the Bolds have managed to keep things under wraps. But the nosy man next door smells a rat (or a hyena), and a trip to the local wildlife park, and the brilliantly wacky heist that results, could be the end of Teddington's best-kept secret. Whatever will the neighbours think?

***Proud of Me* by Sarah Hagger-Holt (Usborne)**

**ISBN: 9781474966245**

Becky and Josh are almost-twins, with two mums and the same anonymous donor dad. Josh can't wait until he's eighteen, the legal age when he can finally contact his donor. Becky can't stop thinking about her new friend, Carli. Could her feelings for Carli be a sign of something more? Becky and Josh both want their parents to be proud of them...but right now, they're struggling to even accept themselves.

***Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present!* by Arabelle Sicardi, illustrated by Sarah Tanat-Jones (Wide Eyed Editons)**

**ISBN: 9781786034861**

This beautiful, bold book celebrates the achievements of LGBTQ+ people through history and from around the world. It features dynamic full-colour portraits of a diverse selection of 53 inspirational role models accompanied by short biographies that focus on their incredible successes.

***Stories for Boys Who Dare to be Different* by Ben Brooks, illustrated by Quinton Winter (Quercus)**

**ISBN: 9781787471986**

*Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different* is an extraordinary compilation of 100 stories of famous and not-so-famous men from the past to the present day offering a welcome alternative narrative. All saw, and dealt with the world differently. The must-have book for all those boys who worry about stuff and all those parents who worry about their boys who worry about stuff.

## **Young Adult**

***Bitter* by Akwaeke Emezi (Faber & Faber)**

**ISBN: 9780571371198**

Bitter is thrilled to have been chosen to attend Eucalyptus, a special school where she can focus on her painting surrounded by other creative teens. But outside this haven, the streets are filled with protests against the deep injustices that grip the town of Lucille. Pulled between old friendships, her creative passion, and a new romance, Bitter isn't sure where she belongs - in the art studio or in the streets. And if she does find a way to help the revolution while being true to who she is, she must also ask: at what cost?

***Wranglestone* by Darren Charlton (Little Tiger)**

**ISBN: 9781788951210**

In a post-apocalyptic America, a community survives in a national park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay. But when winter comes, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice. Then somebody Peter puts the camp in danger by naively allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community of Wranglestone. Now he must help rancher Cooper, the boy he's always watched from afar, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past. One that forces the pair to question everything they've ever known.

***Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender (Faber & Faber)**

**ISBN: 9780571368013**

Felix Love has never been in love - and, yes, he's painfully aware of the irony. What's worse is that, even though he is proud of his identity, Felix also secretly fears that he's one marginalisation too many - Black, queer and transgender - to ever get his own happily-ever-after. When an anonymous student begins sending him transphobic messages, Felix comes up with a plan for revenge. What he didn't count on: his catfish scenario landing him in a quasi-love triangle...

***Ace of Spades* by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé (Usbourne)**

**ISBN: 9781474967532**

Welcome to Niveus Private Academy, where money paves the hallways, and the students are never less than perfect. Until now. Because anonymous texter, Aces, is bringing two students' dark secrets to light. Talented musician Devon buries himself in rehearsals, but he can't escape the spotlight when his private photos go public. Head girl Chiamaka isn't afraid to get what she wants, but soon everyone will know the price she has paid for power. Someone is out to get them both. Someone who holds all the aces. And they're planning much more than a high-school game...

***Sex Ed: An Inclusive Teenage Guide to Sex and Relationships* by School of Sexuality Education (Walker Books)**

**ISBN: 9781406399080**

A positive, practical and empowering guide for teenagers, tackling sex and relationships in an inclusive and non-judgemental way - created by the winners of the Pamela Sheridan Award for Innovation and Good Practice in RSE.

***If I Was Your Girl* by Meredith Russo (Usborne)**

**ISBN: 9781474923835**

Amanda Hardy is the new girl at school. Like everyone else, all she wants is to make friends and fit in. But Amanda is holding back. Even from Grant, the guy she's falling in love with. Amanda has a secret. At her old school, she used to be called Andrew. And secrets always have a way of getting out...