

**Soldier Girls and Dancing Boys:  
Gender Exploration in Resources for  
Children, Teens, and Caring Adults**

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(With thanks to Jamie Naidoo for the suggestion of some titles)

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Titles may be listed for more than one audience, or under more than one topic.

## **AGE CODES**

**I:** Infant – K

**C:** Children, ages 6 - 11

**M:** Middle School, ages 12 - 14

**T:** Teen, 15 – 18

**A/T:** Meant for adult, has teen interest

**T/A:** Meant for a teen audience, has adult interest

Titles may be listed for more than one audience, or under more than one topic.

## INTRODUCTION

One way for young people to develop self-esteem is to find representations of self in books. Munro Leaf's well-loved story, ***The Story of Ferdinand***, published in 1936 may very well be the first children's book which really shows a character transgressing gender norms, and it sets the pattern for most of the other gender transgressive books to follow: a "child" doesn't conform to gender stereotypes, a parent worries, and, in the case of picture books, the "problem" is resolved with love and acceptance of difference in one way or another.

Charlotte Zolotow's 1972 book, ***William's Doll***, about a young boy who wants a baby doll to rock and care for and take to the park to the dismay of his father and brother; and ***Oliver Button is a Sissy*** by Tomie de Paola, published in 1979, followed.

Ferdinand showed his "masculinity," "puffing and snorting, butting and pawing" when he was stung by a bee; William's problem is resolved by his grandmother, in a presumably heterosexual way when she explains to the boy's father that he needs a doll in order to learn how to be a father; and Oliver is allowed to take tap dancing lessons when his father reluctantly decides it is a "form of exercise."

It's not until 2002 with the publication of Harvey Fierstein's ***The Sissy Duckling*** that a children's picture book truly celebrates a child who delights in everything not intended for his gender. Elmer the duckling loves the color, pink, loves to get dressed up, to cook, to create art; sports and other boyish things interest him not at all. For these faults he faces the derision of his schoolmates and out and out rejection by his father, but he has a mother who sticks up for him no matter what.

A final rejection from his father causes him to run away from home, but he makes the most of it and creates a cozy retreat of his own.

When he later comes across his injured father and saves his life, Papa declares, "If Elmer is a sissy, then I wish I were a sissy too!" in a resounding moment of triumph for sissies everywhere.

Each of these titles, not only mirrors a child's experience of gender-variance, but also that of a worried parent, who in some way or another is able to become more accepting.

Not counting the graphic novel series, ***Ranma ½*** by Rumiko Takahashi in which the protagonist is turned into a girl every time he comes into contact with cold water, there were two short stories published for teens in the mid-to-late 1990s that specifically dealt with transgender characters: Francesca Lia Block's "*Dragons in Manhattan*," in her 1996 collection ***Girl Goddess #9: Nine Stories***, (HarperCollins) and "*The Secret of Life According to Aunt Gladys*," by Bruce Coville, in ***Dirty Laundry: Stories About Family Secrets***, edited by Lisa Rowe Fraustino, (New York: Viking, 1998). Block's story is wholly positive, while Coville's features an accepting nephew and his un-accepting parents.

2002 brought the publication of ***What Happened to Lani Garver*** by Carol Plum-Ucci. Lani is a character who prefers not to be defined by gender, leading to a violent ending. Julie Anne Peters novel, ***Luna*** (Little, Brown, 2004), presents the first unapologetically transgender character in a book for young adults. Liam decides to move on from secretly dressing in his sister's clothing, to coming out as transsexual. However, she decides that her only option for being herself necessitates leaving home.

In ***Parrotfish*** by Ellen Wittlinger (Simon & Schuster, 2007), we finally have a purely positive book featuring an FTM teenager.

The first well-written and illustrated picture book featuring a transgender child, ***10,000 Dresses*** by Marcus Ewert was published in 2008 by Seven Stories Press.

**SPOILER ALERTS FOLLOW!**

## GENERAL INTEREST TITLES

Keen, Lisa. ***Out Law: What LGBT Youth Should Know About their Legal Rights.***

New York: Beacon Press, 2007. T

While laws will have changed in some places since the publication of this book, it is a handy reference for teens.

Savage, Dan and Terry Miller, editors. ***It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life Worth Living.*** Penguin, 2011. T

This collection of testimonials from politicians, celebrities, and other adults, lets young people know there is a future worth living for.

Recommended.

## CROSS-DRESSING/TRANVESTISM IN A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS INCLUDING AS A LONG-TERM DISGUISE

Brothers, Meaghan. ***Debbie Harry Sings in French.*** Holt: 2008. T

After Johnny's father dies, his mother takes to her bed and he has to figure out how to pay bills, and keep them afloat. He starts drinking to deal with the stress, and when, four years later, his mother decides she's ready to function again, he's resentful of her interference in the life he's managed to put together for himself.

Johnny overdoses and spends some time in rehab, after which his mother sends him to live with an uncle. Despite not wanting to go, it ultimately turns

out to be a good move for him. He finds a girlfriend and realizes, in a very funny set of circumstances, that he's a transvestite. He also finds the strength to resist his mother's insistence that he come home with her.

Recommended.

Chambers, Aiden. ***Postcards from No Man's Land***. NY: Dutton, 2002. **T**

A minor character in this novel, Ton, seemingly female, confuses the protagonist when they first meet. It turns out that Ton is a gay male, but enjoys a public presentation just on the female edge of androgyny.

Despite the fact that Ton is a minor character, this book is recommended generally for its literary quality.

Cheney, Cora. ***The Incredible Deborah***. New York: Scribner, 1967. **C/M**

Deborah Sampson was a real person who disguised herself as a man and fought in the Revolutionary war.

Recommended.

There are a number of other titles, both fiction and nonfiction, about Sampson (Samson) for various ages. See *Revolutionary* by Alex Myers (Simon & Schuster, 2014) for older teens, which most explicitly addresses Samson's gender dysphoria and sense of being male; *Soldier's Secret: the Story of Deborah Sampson* by Sheila Solomon Klass, (Henry Holt, 2009) for teen readers; and *Deborah Sampson Goes to War* by Bryna Stevens, (Carolrhoda, 1984) for beginning readers.



Durrant, Lynda. ***My Last Skirt: The Story of Jennie Rodgers, Union Soldier***.  
Clarion, 2006. **M/T**

This novel is based on a true story of a young woman who started cross-dressing as a boy in order to earn a living. She continued to live as a male, named Albert Cashier, worked in a variety of jobs, and later joined and fought in the Union army during the Civil War.

Hodgers continued to live as a man after the war, and wasn't discovered until an illness caught up with him late in life. Based on the testimony of his army comrades who confirmed his identity, Rodgers continued to receive an army pension, becoming the first known "woman" to do so.

Highly recommended.

Garden, Nancy. ***Dove and Sword***. NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1995. **T**

This is a retelling of the Joan of Arc story from the point of view of a fictional friend, Gabrielle, who also dresses as a man, and follows Joan into battle as a medic.

Recommended.

Geeslin, Campbell. ***Elena's Serenade***. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2004. **I/C**

Elena disguises herself as a boy and learns to be a glassblower like her father, finally earning his respect with her artistry.

Beautiful artwork and a great story.

Recommended.

Gonzalez, Rigoberto. ***Mariposa Gown***. Tincture (Lethe Press), 2012. **T**

In this sequel to *The Mariposa Club*, Maui, Trini, and Liberace do their best to stick together and support each other through the trials and tribulations of high school, and life, as they deal with boyfriends, class issues, the prom, and gender presentation concerns.

Recommended.

Goodman, Alison. ***Eon: Dragoneye Reborn***. Viking, 2008. **M/T**

Sixteen-year-old Eona, disguised as a boy, hopes to become a dragonmaster, a wielder of powerful magic. Of low birth, and with a physical disability, it is a surprise to all when Eon brings back the Mirror Dragon, missing for over four hundred years. Eon is soon swept up into dangerous court intrigue.

Fortunately Miss Dela, a transvestite courtesan, takes her under her wing, bringing her up to speed. A fast-paced read that will be enjoyed by fans of high fantasy.

See also the sequel: *Eona*. (Viking, 2011)

Highly recommended.

Greenberg, Melanie Hope. ***Mermaids on Parade***. New York: Putnam, 2008. **I/C**

A Coney Island family participates in the annual Mermaid Parade to welcome the summer beach season. Looking very carefully, it is possible to identify a number of drag queens in the parade by their beards.

Includes directions for making a mermaid tail.

Best Children's Books of the Year, 2009 Bank Street College of Education.

Low recommend as there is no discussion of the gender-nonconforming behavior, and the illustrations are very minutely detailed, making it hard to identify the men in drag.

Hughes, Susan. ***No Girls Allowed: Tales of Daring Women Dressed as Men for Love, Freedom, and Adventure.*** Kids Can Press, 2008. **C/M**

As noted in the title, this graphic-novel format collection of biographies mostly features women who chose to dress as men for the sake of expediency, although there are a couple of women included who did live most of their lives as men.

Recommended.

Jennings, Paul. ***The Gizmo.*** Ringwood, VIC: Penguin, 1994. **C**

Peer-pressured into stealing something from the flea market, Stephen takes a "gizmo" that has an *on* button, but no *off* button. Pressing the *on* button causes him to switch items of clothing with passersby, and when he comes across a wedding party, he finds himself dressed in the bridal gown. The indignity of an ill-fitting bra, and slipping pantyhose are soon replaced with a pink bikini.

Stephen expresses feelings of shame at finding himself in women's clothing, and bystanders are likewise horrified.

Not recommended.

Jiang, Wei. ***The Legend of Mulan: A Heroine of Ancient China***. Monterey, CA: Victory Press, 1992. **C**

In this traditional Chinese folktale, Mulan disguises herself as a boy and becomes a warrior, leading her forces to victory.

Other versions of this story are available. See particularly: *Fa Mulan: The Story of a Woman Warrior* by Robert San Souci (Hyperion Books for Children, 1998).

Both versions are recommended.

Jones, Carrie. ***Sarah Emma Edmonds Was a Great Pretender: The True Story of a Civil War Spy***. Carolrhoda, 2011. **C**

Sarah began dressing as a boy early in life, and as a young adult, wanting to get away from her abusive father, and an arranged marriage, left home disguised as a man, and sold bibles door-to-door to make a living. She joined the Union Army and served as a soldier, nurse, and spy.

Edmonds married later in life.

Recommended.

Kay, Verla. ***Rough, Tough Charley***. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2007. **I/C**

California stagecoach driver Charley Parkhurst was a regular guy who always had a thing for horses. He also had a big secret that he kept all his life.

Based on a true story.

Highly recommended.

Klass, Sheila Solomon. ***Soldier's Secret: the Story of Deborah Sampson***. New York: Henry Holt, 2009. **C/M**

This novel is based on the life of Deborah Sampson, a woman who disguised herself as a man and fought in the Revolutionary War.

There are a number of other titles, both fiction and nonfiction, about Sampson (Samson) for various ages. See *Revolutionary* by Alex Myers (Simon & Schuster, 2014) for older teens, which most explicitly addresses Samson's gender dysphoria and sense of being male; *The Incredible Deborah* by Cora Cheney (Scribner, 1967) for children and middle school readers; and *Deborah Sampson Goes to War* by Bryna Stevens, (Carolrhoda, 1984) for beginning readers.

Recommended.

Levithan, David. ***Boy Meets Boy***. New York: Knopf, 2003. **M/T**

In this very positive and humorous gay love story, the homecoming queen, Infinite Darlene, is also the star football player.

Recommended.

Matthews, Andrew. ***The Flip Side***. London: Mammoth, 2001; New York: Delacorte, 2003. **T**

When Robert dons a dress in English class to play the part of Rosalind in *As You Like It*, he discovers that he enjoys dressing as a woman, something he goes on to explore with a female friend. Other classmates get in on the cross-dressing, with a costume party. Meanwhile, Robert nervously questions his sexual identity.

Overloaded with issues that aren't fully explored, and characters that aren't fully developed, and a friend who attempts suicide because he is gay, this title is not recommended.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. ***The Death-Defying Pepper Roux***. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009; New York: Harper, 2010. **C**

With a curse that he will die at age fourteen hanging over him, Pepper Roux runs away to sea, where he first encounters Duchesse, the ship's steward, who sometimes passes himself off as a woman--something that is not commented on.

Pepper has one wild adventure after another following the sinking of the ship he is on. Duchesse disappears from the story after the beginning, and only reappears toward the end.

A fun read, but relatively insignificant for the purposes of this bibliography.

McCully, Emily Arnold. ***The Pirate Queen***. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1995. **I/C**

Based on true events, this is the story of Grace O'Malley, an Irish woman who followed her pirate father to sea as a girl, and ultimately became notorious as the *Pirate Queen*.

There are other books for young people about O'Malley, including Kathryn Lasky's *Grace the Pirate* (Hyperion, 1997), which was written for a slightly older audience, and Matt Faulkner's *The Pirate Meets the Queen* (Philomel, 2005), written for the same age group that McCully addresses.

Jane Yolen's nonfiction book, *Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World*, (Charlesbridge, 2008) includes a chapter on Grace, or Grania O'Malley, as well as Mary Read and Anne Bonney, who appear as characters in *Jade* by Sally Watson (listed below).

All of the above titles are recommended.

Meyer, L.A. ***Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, Ship's Boy***. San Diego: Harcourt, c2002. **Crossdressing – C/M/T**

Orphaned Jacky Faber, who has been living in the streets of London scrounging for food, and stealing and fighting as need be, disguises herself as a boy and signs on with the British army in search of pirates, and has a series of wild adventures.

The series continues with several more books. The earlier titles are suitable for children; Jacky matures through the series, alternately living as male or female, as best suits her needs at any given moment. She is portrayed as heterosexual,

and unusually, for female characters in young adult literature, is not shy about expressing her sexual desires.

Highly recommended.

Moloney, James. ***Touch Me***. St. Lucia, Queensland: University of Queensland Press, 2000. **T**

Xavier McLachlan has fallen hard for Nuala McGee, a cross-dressing, heterosexual girl. His mates think Nuala is a lesbian, and that Xavier, by proximity must therefore be gay as well.

Nuala's reasons for cross-dressing have to do with her desire to take control of her sexuality – something which led to humiliation in a previous relationship.

Not yet seen.

Moss, Marissa. ***Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero***. New York: Abrams, 2011. **C/M**

Sarah Edmonds began dressing as a boy during childhood, and later joined the Union army. Edmonds married later in her life.

Recommended.

Moss, Marissa. ***A Soldier's Secret: The Incredible True Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero***. Amulet Books, 2012. **T**

Moss retells the story of Sarah Edmonds, this time for older readers.

Recommended.



Myers, Alex. ***Revolutionary***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014. **Cross-Dressing/Gender Dysphoria – A/T**

Myers tells the true story of Deborah Samson (Sampson), the Massachusetts woman who enlisted in the Continental army, disguised as a man named Robert Shurtliff. In this engaging novel, Myers represents Samson's motivations as being as much, or more, about her desire for freedom from the restricted life of a woman in Colonial society, as a desire to fight the British.

Samson slowly, but surely, fully embodies a male identity, easily passing as Shurtliff, and earning good reports from his superior officers. He puzzles about who he really is, feeling no desire to return to life as a woman, although not rejecting his body, which he feels is finally put to proper use.

Following the war, Shurtliff ultimately reassumes a female identity, marries, and has children.

Myers does an excellent job of imagining Samson/Shurtliff's thoughts, feelings, and motivations, while remaining true to the known facts of Samson's life.

There are a number of other titles, both fiction and nonfiction, about Samson which are aimed at younger readers. See *Soldier's Secret: the Story of Deborah Sampson* by Sheila Solomon Klass, (Henry Holt, 2009) for teen readers; *Deborah Sampson Goes to War* by Bryna Stevens, (Carolrhoda, 1984) for beginning readers; and *The Incredible Deborah* by Cora Cheney (Scribner, 1967) for older children and middle school readers.

Highly recommended, particularly for older teens.

Pierce, Tamora. ***Alanna: The First Adventure***. New York: Athenuem, 1983. **C/M**

In the first of the “Song of the Lioness” series, young Alanna disguises herself as a boy and sets off to become a knight.

See other titles by this author for children through teens.

Recommended.

Pohl, Peter. ***Johnny, My Friend***. Stroud: Turton & Chambers, 1991. **C/M**

Eleven-year-old Chris describes his new friendship with Johnny, who enters his life suddenly, and is gone just as quickly. When Johnny’s body is found, it is revealed that he is really a cross-dressing girl who is possibly transgender. The implication is that the murder has something to do with his gender transgressions.

While not yet seen, this sounds like a disturbing book, particularly for this age group.

Originally published in German as: *Jan, mein freund*. Ravensburg: Otto Maier, 1985.

Potter, Ellen. ***Slob***. Philomel, 2009. **C/M**

Owen is the fattest and smartest kid at his school. He’s busy working on a secret invention at home, while trying to survive the humiliation of gym class, and figure out who is stealing his daily allotment of three Oreos from his lunch bag.

Meanwhile, Owen's younger sister has joined a club at school, GWAB (Girls Who Are Boys), and wants to be called Jeremy. While outsiders don't take GWAB seriously, it definitely is a serious undertaking for most of its members, almost all of whom really do want to be boys for one reason or another. They take boy's names, dress in boy's clothes, get boy's haircuts, and invade the boy's gym class to demand equal opportunity – just in time to save Owen from his teacher's vindictive plans.

Recommended.

Rosen, Selina. ***Sword Masters***. Dragon Moon Press, 2008. **T**

Disguised as a male and living as a warrior in order to avenge her parents' deaths, Tarius still has to face living in a society where women do not go to war—or fall in love with their sword master's daughter.

Recommended.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Riding Freedom***. New York: Scholastic Press, 1998. **C/M**

A novel based on the life of Charley Parkhurst who started living as a male at a young age, and moved to California where he worked for the Pony Express, ran a stagecoach stop, and voted, all as a man.

Disponible también en Español como: *Un caballo llamado Libertad*.

Highly recommended.

St. James, James. ***Freak Show***. New York: Dutton, 2007. **T**

In this largely humorous novel, which tackles some serious issues including bullying, drag-queen Billy Bloom wants to fit in at his new school without giving up his essential “gender obscurest” over-the-top, sequined self. He decides he wants to be the homecoming queen, and faces the bigoted reactions of classmates.

Despite challenges small and large, Billy comes through as a survivor, and finds romance with another boy.

Recommended.

Solomon, Sharon. ***Cathy Williams, Buffalo Soldier***. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Company, 2010. C

Cathy Williams, born a slave in Missouri in 1844, was first sold, with her mother at the age of four. As a young woman during the Civil War, Union troops took Williams forcefully to work for the army. She worked as a washerwoman with a combat unit for three years, and then became their cook as well. Later assigned to the household of General Philip Sheridan, she missed both her family, and the combat unit she had worked with.

At the end of the war, Williams was reunited with a cousin, who told her he and a friend were going to join the so-called “Buffalo” troops, an African American combat unit headed west to fight in the Indian wars.

Williams disguised herself as a man, and joined up as well. Following four years of service, she had earned enough money to set herself up in business, and returned to living as a woman in New Mexico and then in Colorado.

Attractively illustrated, and inspiring.

Recommended.

Stevens, Bryna. ***Deborah Sampson Goes to War***. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 1984. **C**

This beginning reader biography tells the story of Deborah Sampson, a young woman who disguised herself as a man, and enlisted in the army during the Revolutionary War. She served for three years, managing to keep her secret, even after a serious injury. When she became seriously ill, her secret was finally found out by a doctor.

Other books on Sampson include:

There are a number of other titles, both fiction and nonfiction, about Sampson (Samson) for various ages. See *Revolutionary* by Alex Myers (Simon & Schuster, 2014) for older teens, which most explicitly addresses Samson's gender dysphoria and sense of being male; and *Soldier's Secret: the Story of Deborah Sampson* by Sheila Solomon Klass, (Henry Holt, 2009) for teen readers.

Recommended.

Stiller, Laurie. ***Princess Max***. Random House, Australia, 2001. **I/C**

Toddler Max loves to dress up as a Princess in one of his mother's dresses, but when his adored older cousin teases him, his fun is spoiled – until his mother comes to the rescue.

Not yet seen.

Volponi, Paul. ***Crossing Lines***. Viking, 2011. **T**

New student Alan wears lipstick and joins the Fashion Club. When the football team decides to humiliate him, jock Adonis has to decide whether or not to go along with a dangerous plan.

Not yet seen.

Walliams, David. ***The Boy in the Dress***. HarperCollins, 2008; Razorbill, 2009; Bath: Galaxy (Large Print), 2009. **C/M**

Twelve-year-old Dennis's interests range from soccer to fashion design, and when he is befriended by a like-minded girl at school, he begins cross-dressing, to the dismay of his father, brother, and his school principal. However, his prowess on the soccer field wins over his critics, and he ultimately discovers that he is not the only person to enjoy cross-dressing.

Charmingly illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Recommended.

Also available in the following languages:

German: *Kicker im Kleid ein Roman*. Berlin: Aufbau, 2010;

Japanese: *Doresu o Kita Danshi*. Fukuinkan-shoten, 2012;

Sinhalese: *Gavum anda Denis*. Kolamba: Samayavardhana Pothala, 2010.

Worsley, Kate. ***She Rises***. New York: Bloomsbury, 2013. **A/T**

This novel with a surprising twist will appeal to older teens who enjoy historical fiction.

Yoshimoto, Banana. ***Kitchen***. New York: Washington Square Press, 1993. **A/T**

A Tokyo college student moves in with a friend and his cross-dressing mother after being orphaned.

Recommended.

#### **BOOKS DEALING WITH GENDER ANXIETY OR CONFUSION:**

Anders, Charlie. ***Choir Boy***. Brooklyn, NY: Soft Skull Press, 2005. **A/T**

Faced with a changing voice, twelve-year-old Berry who wants nothing more than to remain a choir boy forever, takes matters into his own hands as he desperately tries to prevent puberty.

In humorous and heart-rending fashion Berry goes from nerdy teen to gender-confused kid. Anders brings new life to the term teenage angst.

Recommended.

Clark, Kristin. ***Freakboy***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. **T**

Brendan is described as a transgender (MTF) teen, but descriptions of the book make it sound more like he may be gender-queer.

Not yet seen.

Howe, James. ***Pinky and Rex and the Bully***. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996. **C**

Pinky is a boy whose favorite color is pink. Rex, his best friend, is a girl. When the neighborhood bully gets on Pinky's case about these things, Pinky begins to doubt himself. With the support of a neighbor, he decides to be true to himself and stand up to the bully.

Recommended.

Lantz, Frances. "*Standing on the Roof Naked*," in ***On the Fringe***, edited by Donald R. Gallo. New York: Dial, 2001. **T**

Jeannie is an androgynous teen who wanted to be a boy for most of her childhood. Now in high school, she doesn't know who or what she is, or wants to be: girl or boy, gay or straight?

Recommended.

Pejril, Ron. ***The Story of Fluff the Bunny***. King Of Prussia, Pa.: Creative Design Services, 1989. **I/C**

Fluff explores the nature of gender through his feelings of being both pink like girls, and blue, like boys. After some painful struggles, he comes to accept himself as purple.

\$6.99 from <http://www.cafepress.com/fluffbunny.11620753>.



Not yet seen.

Rickards, Lynne. ***Pink!*** Illustrated by Margaret Chamberlain. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2009. **I/C**

Patrick the penguin is horrified to wake up pink one morning. Boys can't be pink! He will be teased at school! This is the end of the world!

Patrick's parents reassure him that it's okay to be different, and his father pulls out a book of birds of the world to show him photographs of flamingos, half of whom are definitely boys.

But after a few days of misery, Patrick packs his knapsack, and tells his parents he's going to Africa where he will fit in better with the flamingo flocks. To his dismay, while the flamingos are friendly, he doesn't fit it there either. He can't fish like they do, and he can't fly like they do. And the water is awfully warm for a penguin.

When he returns home, he is welcomed by friends, classmates, and family alike, and gives a presentation in class about everything he learned about flamingos.

Maybe being a pink penguin isn't the end of the world after all.

This is a great book to use with children about feeling comfortable about their differences, and potentially to explore gender issues with.

Disponible también en Español como: *¡Pink! El pingüino que se volvió rosa*. Trapella Books, 2010.

Rothblatt, Phyllis, MFT. ***All I Want is to be Me***. Create Space, 2011. **I/C**

Attractive watercolor illustrations accompany the brief rhyming text in this short book that assures children that it's okay to be all of who they are: boy or girl, somewhere in between, or even unsure.

Recommended.

Sachar, Louis. ***Marvin Redpost, Is He a Girl?*** New York: Random House, 1993. **C**

Can a boy really turn into a girl if he accidentally kisses his elbow? Is he dreaming; or is he really a girl? What does it mean that he's interested in sparkly, girly things? Nine-year-old Marvin has a lot of worries.

In a disappointing ending that reinforces sex-role stereotyping, he manages to kiss his elbow again, and returns to his macho self, although he does befriend a girl in his class.

Not recommended.

Takako, Shimura. ***Wandering Son, Vol. 1-*** . Fantagraphics, 2011-. **C/M**

In this graphic novel, a group of fifth grade classmates explore cross-dressing in a play they will perform for the graduating sixth grade class. For two students, the interest in cross-dressing goes further than theater.

For some reason, a number of people in male student Nitori's life suggest that he would make a cute girl, and encourage him to wear dresses and a girl's hairstyle, which he secretly tries out. All of this makes him feel insecure and anxious, as well as a bit curious about himself.

When his female friend, Takatsuki gets a boys-style haircut, she convinces Nitori to take the train with her to a distant stop, change into girl's clothing in the women's restroom, and see what it's like to be a girl for the afternoon.

Takatsuki, who is more clearly transgender, gets her period for the first time on this adventure, and has to send Nitori, dressed as a girl, to buy sanitary napkins. Nitori finds that he passes perfectly as a girl. Takatsuki is later shown distraughtly bemoaning this biological proof that she has a female body, while Nitori's gender explorations are seen as much more ambiguous.

The story was somewhat difficult to follow, with characters sometimes not well distinguished from one another through the artwork, a problem the author admits to in a note. Devotees of graphic novels may find this less of a barrier.

Series continues.

U'ren, Andrea. ***Pugdog***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001. **I/C**

Mike is a little confused about the gender of his dog, believing it to be male because it likes to play rough and get dirty. When the vet corrects him, he starts dressing her up, much to her dismay. Then the two meet a fancy looking poodle who turns out to be male, leading Mike to finally open his mind about his gender stereotypes.

Children will delight in the absurdities of this story.

## GENDER EXPLORATION:

***Becoming: Young Ideas on Gender, Identity, and Sexuality.*** Edited by Diane Anderson-Minshall and Gina de Vries; foreword by Zoe Trope. Xlibris Corp., c2004.

**A/T**

This anthology includes a number of pieces by transgender and gender-queer authors.

Recommended.

Blacker, Terence. ***Boy2Girl.*** New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005. **C**

On a dare from his cousin, and to hide from his father who has just gotten out of prison, Sam agrees to attend the first week at his new school dressed as a girl. He comes to find that there are things he likes about being Samantha. In the end, he gives up the ruse, but interesting questions about gender and gender identity have been raised for all.

Recommended.

Bornstein, Kate and S. Bear Bergman. ***Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation.*** Seal Press, 2010. **A/T**

In a series of essays, Bergman and Bornstein explore the radical possibilities of gender expression in today's world.

Recommended for older teens.

Bornstein, Kate. ***My New Gender Workbook: A Step-by-Step Guide to Achieving World Peace Through Gender Anarchy and Sex Positivity***. New York: Routledge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2013. **A/T**

Bornstein examines current theories surrounding gender and sexual identity in an approachable manner, helping readers locate themselves on the gender spectrum and encouraging them to live authentic lives.

Recommended for older teens.

Bunnell, Jacinta. ***Sometimes the Spoon Runs Away with Another Spoon***. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2010. **I/C**

This coloring book offers gender-nonconforming retellings of fairy tales and nursery rhymes, and includes a list of questions about gender.

***Flying Cups and Saucers: Gender Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy***. Edited by Debbie Notkin and the Secret Feminist Cabal. Edgewood, 1998; lulu.com, 2008. **A/T**

The stories collected here were winners or honor recipients of the James Tiptree Junior Award, which is given for fantasy and science fiction that “expands or explores our understanding of gender.”

Recommended.

Gonzalez, May Christina. ***Gender Now Coloring Book: A Learning Adventure for Children and Adults***. San Francisco, CA: Reflection Press, 2010. **I/C/A**

Along with lots of pictures to color are numerous facts about famous transgender people in history, transgender animals, vocabulary, and activities aimed at preschool through elementary children to explore their concepts of gender.

Includes a good list of resources.

Some adults may be disturbed by the occasional in-context nudity.

**James Tiptree Award Anthology I.** San Francisco: Tachyon Publications, c2005.

**A/T**

The James Tiptree Award is “an annual literary prize for science fiction or fantasy that expands or explores our understanding of gender.”

The series continues with publications in 2006, and 2007, both from Tachyon Publications.

Recommended.

Kuklin, Susan. ***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out.*** Candlewick, 2013. **M/T**

Kuklin presents the stories of six transgender or gender queer youth through interviews and photographs.

Not yet seen.

Lowrey, Sassafras. ***Roving Pack.*** PoMo Freakshow Press, 2012. **T**

Set in the context of the punk scene in Portland, Oregon in the early 2000s, this is the story of Click, a transgender kid, and the non-binary, gender-fluid and

queer community in which ze lives. Life centers around the local queer resource center resource center where lines are drawn between the GSA kids who have middle-class homes to go to, and the punk, gender-queer kids who may be on the streets, or squatting someplace temporarily.

Lowrey faithfully describes the punk and leather/kink communities, the drug use, the public sex, the throw-away kids, all through Click's eyes – and it's not always a pretty picture, but it's very real for a lot of young adults.

Some explicit sex, and graphic references to sexual and lifestyle practices in the kink community.

Highly recommended.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. ***What Happened to Lani Garver***. San Diego: Harcourt, 2002. T

In yet another title overfull of issues, we are introduced to new student Lani Garver whose gender is ambiguous, a status Lani seems to prefer.

Despite the attitude of her friends, Claire befriends Lani, who helps her address the many problems she is facing: leukemia, her parents' divorce, her mother's alcoholism, and her own feelings of anger.

Claire defends Lani as other students increase their harassment. However, things continue to escalate, culminating in a shocking ending.

Despite the tragic ending, this is a useful title for discussing society's need to force people to function within a gender binary.

Rothblatt, Phyllis, MFT. ***All I Want is to be Me***. Create Space, 2011. I/C

Attractive watercolor illustrations accompany the brief rhyming text in this short book that assures children that it's okay to be all of who they are: boy or girl, somewhere in between, or even unsure.

Recommended.

### **GENDER NONCONFORMITY: SOLDIER GIRLS, DANCING BOYS, AND MORE**

Abrahams, George, PhD., and Sheila Ahlbrand. ***Boy v. Girl? How Gender Shapes Who We Are, What We Want, and How We Get Along.*** Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing, 2002. **T**

This book encourages young people to question gender role stereotypes through a variety of questions and exercises.

Unfortunately, the information given on transgender people incorrectly lumps their experiences under the label of "sexual orientation." Not recommended for this reason.

Bass, Karen. ***Drummer Girl.*** Saskatchewan, Canada: Coteau Books, 2011. **T**

Sid is the kind of girl who takes shop, plays the drums, and is most comfortable in a t-shirt and cargo pants. A couple of people make assumptions about her sexuality based on this, and when she tries out for the school's best rock band, she runs into some conflicting prejudices from the guys in the band.



Clem absolutely doesn't want a girl in the band even though she's obviously the best choice, because he thinks it will create dissension and competition between the guys. If she was a lesbian, he tells her, that concern would be a moot point. Rocklin thinks she's fine, but she needs to clean up her act and start looking like a girl.

All Sid wants to do is drum, but is she willing to put up with this? When the guys start sexually harassing her and posting suggestive photos of her online, it's clear that things are out of control.

Meanwhile, her best friend, Taylor, who has been trying to come out to her, has a serious motorcycle accident.

An engaging novel that deals with a number of real issues that teens face.

Recommended.

Bell, Alison. ***Zibby Payne and the Wonderful, Terrible Tomboy Experiment.***

Montreal: Lobster Press, 2008. **C/M**

Zibby is horrified when she arrives at the first day of sixth grade and discovers that all the girls have turned "girly" over the summer. She decides to become a dedicated tomboy in response.

More books follow in the series, as Zibby struggles with her identity and with the changing social scene at school.

Not yet seen.

***Beyond Binary: Genderqueer and Sexually Fluid Speculative Fiction.*** Edited by Brit Mandela. Lethe Press, 2012. **A/T**

Bildner, Phil. ***Playing the Field.*** Simon & Schuster, 2006. **T**

More than anything, seventeen-year-old Darcy wants to play baseball on the boys' team. She knows she's a better player than any of the boys, and she knows she's the only chance they have to make it to the state championships.

Her high school principal, under pressure from Darcy's mom, who he happens to be dating, is convinced by his shortstop son Brandon (Darcy's secret crush) to let her play on the condition that she pretend she's a lesbian, though it's unclear what the pretense is about, unless it's a ploy to keep her off the team.

Brandon's father decides that both Darcy and Brandon must join the Gay-Straight Alliance, a move highly resented by Darcy's former best friend Josh who feels she was less than sensitive when he came out. Josh threatens to out her at school and to her mother.

Not highly recommended.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. ***Ballerino Nate.*** New York: Dial Books, 2006. **I/C**

Following a ballet performance at school, young Nate decides he wants to be a ballerina. Even his brother's taunting that ballet is only for girls doesn't deter him – until Ben tells him ballerinas have to wear pink skirts and shoes.

Fortunately both of their parents step in and make it clear that boys can be ballet dancers, too.

Best Children's Books of the Year, 2007 Bank Street College of Education.

Recommended.

Bunnell, Jacinta and Irit Reinheimer. ***Girls Will be Boys Will be Girls Will be...: A Coloring Book***. Berkeley, CA: Soft Skull Press 2010. **I/C**

This coloring book contains artwork by twenty contributors, presenting a variety of gender-nonconforming children.

Burch, Christian. ***The Manny Files***. Atheneum, 2006. **M**

When his parents hire a male nanny - or manny, Keats, a gender-nonconforming (possibly gay) kid, and two of his three sisters are delighted, but the older Lulu is embarrassed by the flamboyant Matthew, who ultimately wins everyone over, including Uncle Max, with whom he begins a relationship.

In the sequel: *Hit the Road, Manny: A Manny Files Novel*. (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007, 2008) the family set off on a road trip together.

These two books are meant for a juvenile audience, but the level of camp seems to indicate more of an adult audience. For the discerning middle school reader.

Chambers, Aiden. ***Postcards from No Man's Land***. NY: Dutton, 2002. **T**

A minor character in this novel, Ton, seemingly female, confuses the protagonist when they first meet. It turns out that Ton is a gay male, but enjoys a public presentation just on the female edge of androgyny.

Despite the fact that Ton is a minor character, this book is recommended overall.

Cole, Babette. ***Princess Smartypants***. London: Puffin, 1986. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1986. **I/C**

Princess Smartypants prefers to stay a "Ms." And easily dispatches all but one of her annoying suitors. Ridding herself of the final one presents a bit more of a challenge.

Recommended.

Coyote, Ivan E. ***One in Every Crowd: Stories***. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012. **A/T**

Featuring queer teens and adults, this collection of stories is Coyote's most accessible to a younger audience, although not all will be of interest to teen readers.

Recommended for older teens.

Cristaldi, Kathryn. ***Baseball Ballerina***. NY: Scholastic; Random House, 1992. **C**

Cristaldi presents a twist on the dancing boy story, with a young tomboy who doesn't want her baseball teammates to find out her mother is making her take ballet lessons. This time around, the amazing athletic save is made during the ballet recital.

While this title is disappointing in that it features a mother who thinks baseball is for boys, and pink is for girls, the young heroine stands up for herself and doesn't give up playing baseball.

Recommended.

De Paola, Tomie. ***26 Fairmount Ave.*** G.P. Putnam, 1999. **C**

This first in an autobiographical early reader series introduces DePaola, who recounts some of his childhood exploits, including dressing up as Snow White for Halloween, using his mother's lipstick to dress up as his favorite actress, Mae West, and so forth.

Other titles in the series will also be of interest.

Highly recommended.

DePaola, Tomie. ***Oliver Button is a Sissy***. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979. **I/C**

Young Oliver isn't interested in sports and other "boy" things, preferring to dance. Despite teasing him, his father allows him to take dancing lessons "for the exercise," and Oliver impresses everyone at a talent show.

Recommended.

Falconer, Ian. ***Olivia and the Fairy Princesses***. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2012. **I/C**

Olivia, the very popular children's picture book pig, is having an identity crisis. Everyone wants to be a princess, even some of the boys. And they all want to be pink princesses. Why not an Indian princess, or an Egyptian princess, she asks. All of the girls, and some boys, also want to be fairy princess ballerinas. Meanwhile, a two page spread shows Olivia struggling to fit into a black full-body modern-dance style outfit. For Halloween, Olivia is the only non-princess—dressing up as a warthog.

Olivia can't understand why everyone wants to be the same. Lying in bed she tries to imagine various careers for herself, rejecting being a nurse, considering adopting a crowd of orphans, or being a reporter and exposing corporate malfeasance. Finally, it comes to her – she wants to be queen.

This is a fun book that challenges the pink princess desires in which young girls are encouraged to indulge.

Recommended.

Fierstein, Harvey. ***The Sissy Duckling***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2002. **I/C**

Elmer the duckling is not like the other boy ducklings, and he suffers the derision of his schoolmates and his father, but he ultimately proves that a “sissy” can be a real hero when he nurses his father back to health after he is shot by a hunter. Papa’s declaration, “If Elmer is a sissy, then I wish I were a sissy too!” is a resounding moment of triumph for sissies everywhere.

2014 paperback edition will include a CD of Fierstein reading the story aloud.

Highly recommended.

Funke, Cornelia. ***The Princess Knight***. New York: Chicken House/Scholastic, 2001.

**I/C**

Despite the taunting of her brothers, Princess Violetta becomes a talented knight, and when her father proposes to give her hand in marriage to the knight who wins a tournament, Violetta uses her brains as well as her brawn to outwit him.

Recommended.

Goldberg, Whoopi. ***Perfectly Prima: (Sugar Plum Ballerinas)***. Disney, 2010. **C**

When Jerzy Mae's little brother Mason starts attending her ballet class, it turns out he's much better at it than she is, much to her dismay. As she struggles to learn her part for the Thanksgiving recital, she finally turns to him for help. He patiently shows her the steps over and over again, but it's not until he gets her out on the basketball court where she has no experience as a failure, that he manages to teach her what she needs to know.

When one of their sisters breaks her leg and can't dance in the recital, Mason reluctantly agrees to fill in – but only if his role is clearly defined as masculine.

After the recital, Ms. Debbé invites Mason to join as a regular student, suggesting that they could start a class for boys, but Mason says he'd rather dance with the girls.

A mixed bag, as Mason mostly clings to gender role stereotypes.

Gould, Lois. "X: A Fabulous Child's Story," in ***Prejudice: Stories About Hate, Ignorance, Revelation, and Transformation***, edited by Daphne Muse. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1995. **M/T**

As an experiment, baby X's parents try to raise a child free of gender stereotyping.

Recommended as a great jumping-off-point for a discussion of gender roles and stereotypes.

Green, Michelle Y. ***A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson.***  
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2002. C

An athlete from early on, Johnson overcame sexism and racism to become one of only three women to play professional baseball in the Negro Leagues.

Following her pitching career, for the Indianapolis Clowns, she went on to coach and manage baseball, and then worked as a registered nurse.

Highly recommended.

Gruska, Denise. ***The Only Boy in Ballet Class.*** Gibbs Smith, 2007. I/C

In yet another book which justifies a boy's interest in dance because it leads to success in a so-called more gender-appropriate activity, Tucker is teased and taunted about attending ballet class until his dance skills lead to a stunning move on the football field.

Recommended.

Hoffman, Mary. ***Amazing Grace.*** London : Magi Publications, 1994. I/C

Grace loves to act out the stories she hears, and when her class is going to put on a production of *Peter Pan*, she wants the role of Peter. Her classmates tell her she can't be Peter because she is a girl and because she's black, but with the support of her family who tell her she can do anything she puts her mind to, she gives a stunning audition and wins the role.

Highly recommended.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Knit Your Bit.*** G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2013. I/C



After resisting the idea as being girls' work and not important enough, young Mike takes up knitting needles in a boys-against-girls competition to knit for the soldiers during World War I. The somewhat misshapen single sock he manages to finish finds a home with a veteran who has lost one leg.

The endpapers feature photographs from the time, depicting both boys and girls knitting, as well as the sheep President Wilson kept on the White House lawn for their wool.

Based on a true story. Recommended.

Howe, James. ***Horace and Morris, but Mostly Dolores***. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997. **I/C**

Horace, Morris, and Dolores have always been best friends – until the two boy mice decide they are going to have a boys' only club. Dolores joins a girly girls' club in response, but soon the three agree that they have the most fun with each other.

Recommended.

Huser, Glen. ***Stitches***. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2003. **M**

Sensitive and creative Travis is tormented by bullies and his uncle through his middle school years, but is supported by best friend, Chantelle, his aunt, mother, and a couple of teachers.

The book features a particularly painful to read attack by bullies, but the support Travis has helps him make it through.

Recommended with reservations based on the violence; this title can be useful for a discussion about stereotyping and bullying.

Ihimaera, Witi Tame. ***The Whale Rider***. Auckland: Heinemann, 1987; Orlando: Harcourt, 2003. **C**

Eight-year-old Kahu persists in challenging her grandfather's notion that only a male may inherit the leadership of their Maori clan.

Recommended.

Isaacs, Anne. ***Swamp Angel***. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1994. **I/C**

In this tall tale, Angelica Longrider, aka Swamp Angel is as big a hero as Paul Bunyan, taking on grizzly bears and even tornados.

Highly recommended.

Isadora, Rachel. ***Max***. New York: Macmillan; London: Collier Macmillan, c1976. **I/C**

In perhaps the first dancing boy book, young Max warms up for his weekly baseball game by attending ballet class.

Recommended.

Jimenez, Karleen Pendleton. ***Are You a Boy or a Girl?*** Toronto: Green Dragon Press, 2000. **C**

A young athlete follows her interests, even when others question whether they are suitable for girls, or taunt her about her gender.

Recommended.

Johnson, Phyllis Hacken. ***The Boy Toy***. Durham, NC: Lollipop Power, 1988. **I/C**

Chad loves the doll his grandmother made for him, but when he starts school, a classmate tells him dolls are only for girls. Ultimately he decides to keep playing with his doll.

Not yet seen.

Kemp, Anna. ***Dogs Don't Do Ballet***. London: Simon & Schuster, 2010. **I/C**

In a take-off from the "boys don't do ballet," this is a humorous story about a dog who wants to dance. Biff follows his young owner to her ballet class, but is kicked out by the teacher. Then he sneaks into a Royal Ballet performance, and is there just when the prima ballerina has an accident and someone is needed to fill in.

Best Children's Books of the Year, 2011, Bank Street College of Education.

Recommended.

Kilodavis, Cheryl. ***My Princess Boy***. Aladdin, 2010. **I/C/A**

In this picture story aimed at both children and parents, Kilodavis writes about her gender-nonconforming son, who loves pink and sparkles, enjoys dresses and jeans, and especially his tiara.

Recommended.

Landman, Tanya. ***Mary's Penny***. Candlewick, 2010. **I/C**

Mary's father is struggling to decide which of his sons should inherit the family farm. He finally devises a test for them, but after both brothers fail, Mary insists she wants her turn, and when she succeeds in meeting her father's challenge, he finally has to admit that she's the best "man" for the job.

While she doesn't behave in any way that challenges gender norms, Mary proves to her father that it takes more brains than brawn to run a farm.

Recommended.

Lecesne, James. ***Absolute Brightness***. HarperTeen, 2008. T

Teen sisters Phoebe and Deirdre are not thrilled to have a cousin they've never heard of come to live with them. They refuse to share a room, forcing Leonard to live in a corner of the musty basement. When he arrives, they are even more dismayed. He swishes, he wears outrageous outfits - he is as queer-seeming as can be. Phoebe tries to warn him to change his ways, but he doesn't understand why, replying that he's just being himself.

He makes a big difference in their mother's hair salon: he convinces his aunt it's time for a new hairstyle, make-up, and clothing, and then he moves on to the other, mostly older female clients, offering new, more modern hairstyles, and even convincing some of them to update their wardrobes.

Unfortunately, as Phoebe has predicted, he runs into trouble with other kids, particularly a couple of older bullies, Travis and Curtis.

When he disappears, suspicion falls in a wide arc, which includes both Phoebe and Deirdre's father, and the high school drama coach. The discovery of the

real culprit is revealed in a very suspenseful scene, but the book doesn't end there as so many mysteries do.

Instead, many moral and ethical questions are explored by Phoebe in the aftermath, and she discovers she has matured to find her world full of contradictions and ambiguities.

Recommended.

Lecesne, James. ***Trevor: a Novella***. Triangle Square, 2012. **C/M**

Thirteen-year-old Trevor, who is creative and theatrical in both senses of the word, doesn't know if he is gay or not, and he doesn't think it's anyone's business but his own. Unfortunately other people seem to think it is: his best friend dumps him for acting too gay; his mother does a celebratory dance of relief upon hearing he's been kissing a girl; his classmates begin bullying him when they discover he has a crush on another boy; and the Gay-Straight Alliance kids won't leave him alone either.

All of the pressure turns Trevor from a fun-loving kid into a desperate and suicidal one. Fortunately his suicide attempt fails, and things ultimately turn around for him.

This book led to the creation of the *Trevor Project*, a suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth, which also operates a chat line and an "Ask Trevor" page where young people can submit questions about LGBTQ issues.

Recommended.

Levithan, David. ***Boy Meets Boy***. New York: Knopf, 2003. **M/T**

In this very positive and humorous gay love story, the homecoming queen, Infinite Darlene, is also the star football player.

Recommended.

Mack, Bruce. ***Jesse's Dream Skirt***. Lollipop Power Press, 1979. **I/C**

Jesse sews and wears a skirt to daycare where he is initially teased by the other children. Ultimately, he is acknowledged for his individuality.

Recommended.

McCully, Emily Arnold. ***The Pirate Queen***. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1995. **I/C**

Based on true events, this is the story of Grace O'Malley, an Irish woman who followed her pirate father to sea as a girl, and ultimately became notorious as the *Pirate Queen*.

There are other books for young people about O'Malley, including Kathryn Lasky's *Grace the Pirate* (Hyperion, 1997), which was written for a slightly older audience, and Matt Faulkner's *The Pirate Meets the Queen* (Philomel, 2005), written for the same age group that McCully addresses.

Jane Yolen's nonfiction book, *Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World*, (Charlesbridge, 2008) includes a chapter on Grace, or Grania O'Malley, as well as Mary Read and Anne Bonney, who appear as characters in *Jade* by Sally Watson (listed below).

All of the above titles are recommended.

Magorian, Michelle. ***Jump!*** London: Walker Books, 1992. **I/C**

Steven wants to join his sister's ballet class, and ultimately proves to his mother that "real boys" can dance – as well as play basketball.

Refreshingly, the ballet class includes boys and girls, including children of color.

Not yet seen.

Martin Jr., Bill and John Archambault. ***White Dynamite and Curly Kidd***. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1986. **I/C**

It's rodeo time, and Lucky Kidd is helping dad get ready. Lucky wants to follow in dad's footsteps as a rodeo rider. Throughout this exciting story readers will think Lucky is a boy, until the last page where her dad lifts off her cowboy hat and her ponytail tumbles out.

Recommended.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. ***The Death-Defying Pepper Roux***. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009; New York: Harper, 2010. **C**

With a curse that he will die at age fourteen hanging over him, Pepper Roux runs away to sea, where he first encounters Duchesse, the ship's steward, who sometimes passes himself off as a woman—something that is not commented on.

Pepper has one wild adventure after another following the sinking of the ship he is on. Duchesse disappears from the story after the beginning, and only reappears toward the end.

A fun read, but relatively insignificant for the purposes of this bibliography.

Meyer, L.A. ***Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary "Jacky" Faber, Ship's Boy.*** San Diego: Harcourt, 2002. **M/T**

Orphaned Jacky Faber, who has been living in the streets of London scrounging for food, and stealing and fighting as need be, disguises herself as a boy and signs on with the British army in search of pirates, and has a series of wild adventures.

The early books are suitable for children; Jacky matures through the series (another nine books as of 2013), with Jacky alternately living as male or female, as best suits her needs at any given moment. She is portrayed as heterosexual, and unusually, for female characters in young adult literature, is not shy about expressing her sexual desires.

Recommended.

Milgram, David. ***Time to Get Up, Time to Go.*** New York, Clarion Books, 2006. **I/C**

This sweet picture book shows a toddler including his blue doll throughout the day's activities.

Recommended.



Moss, Marissa. ***Mighty Jackie: The Strikeout Queen***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. **C**

Jackie Mitchell played professional baseball in the 1930s for the Chattanooga Lookouts, an AA team, and later for a team called the House of David. In 1931, at the age of 17, she struck out both Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth in an exhibition game against the New York Yankees.

Highly recommended.

Munsch, Robert. ***The Paper Bag Princess***. Annick Press, 1980. **C**

Brave Princess Elizabeth sets off to the rescue, dressed in a paper bag after a dragon has burned down her castle and kidnapped her husband-to-be, Prince Ronald. Ronald, however, is not thankful, but tells her she smells of ashes and looks terrible dressed in a paper bag. Princess Elizabeth knows what's good for her, and cancels the wedding.

Recommended.

Newman, Leslea. *A Fire Engine for Ruthie*. New York: Clarion Books, 2004. I/C

Nana has dolls and dress-up clothes for Ruthie to play with, but Ruthie would rather have a fire engine, and Nana accommodates her desires.

Recommended.

Pierce, Tamora. ***Beka Cooper: Terrier; Bloodhound; Mastiff***. 3 vol. series, New York: Random House, 2006, 2009, 2011. **T**

Having been rescued from a life in the slums by Lord Gershom, Beka Cooper doesn't forget her roots when choosing her police beat in the Lower City for her training.

This series also features a transvestite character.

See other titles by this author for children through teens.

Recommended.

Plourde, Lynn. ***School Picture Day***. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2002. **I/C**

Josephina Caroleena Wattasheena doesn't care about school picture day. She's dressed comfortably in overalls, red sneakers, and a red hat, and is carrying her red toolbox.

Her talent in taking things apart to see how they work comes in handy when the photographer's camera goes on the blink.

Recommended.

Satyal, Rakesh. ***Blue Boy***. Kensington, 2009. **A/T**

With an interest in ballet, music, and his mother's makeup, twelve-year-old Kiran doesn't fit in with his Indian American community, or his American classmates. He struggles with everyone's expectations, until realizing one morning that he is the incarnation of the Hindu god, Krishnaji.

Scamell, Ragnhild. ***Toby's Doll House***. London: Levinson, 1998. **I/C**

Toby wants a doll house for his birthday, but everyone else has other ideas, giving him either what they think he should have, or things they would like to have themselves. Fortunately, all the boxes that the gifts came in make a perfect doll house.

Not yet seen.

Shraya, Vivek. ***God Loves Hair***. Vivekshraya.com, 2010. **A/T**

This collection of brief vignettes reveal the life and struggles of a young Asian Indian boy as he grows up with a queer sensibility that challenges gender stereotypes.

Recommended.

Skeers, Linda. ***Tutus Aren't My Style***. Dial, 2010. **I/C**

Tomboy Emma can't understand why her uncle sent her a pink tutu, but she's determined to give dancing a try, with hilarious results. When Uncle Leo comes to visit, it turns out the tutu was sent by mistake.

Delightful illustrations show a clumsy, but persistent Emma trying her best to float, flutter, twirl, and leap.

Recommended.

Sobol, Rose. ***Woman Chief***. New York: Dial Press, 1976; New York: Dell Pub., 1979. **C/M**

Based on a true story, this is a fictional account of Woman Chief of the Crow Indian tribe, who was recognized as a hunter, warrior, and chief, and who had five wives.

Also available in the following languages:

Deutsch/German: *Woman Chief: es gab e. Frau, d. Hauptling war.*

Aarau, Frankfurt am Main, Salzburg: Sauerländer, 1979; Aarau

Frankfurt am Main Salzburg Sauerländer 1980; Ravensburg Maier 1982.

Suomalainen/Finnish: [\*Yksinäinen Tähti : tyttö josta tuli intiaanipäällikkö.\*](#) Porvoo; Hki; Juva: WSOY, 1981.

Recommended.

Stamm, Claus. ***Three Strong Women: A Tall Tale from Japan.*** NY: Viking, 1962; 1990. **I/C**

Forever Mountain, a smug, famous sumo wrestler meets Maru-me, a young woman he decides to court. When her grandmother is able to pin him with no struggle, he realizes he has a lot to learn about strength, and allows Maru-me, her mother, and grandmother to teach him.

The 1962 and the 1990 versions are illustrated by different artists. Both are delightful.

Highly recommended.

Stiller, Laurie. ***Princess Max.*** Random House, Australia, 2001. **I/C**

Toddler Max loves to dress up as a Princess in one of his mother's dresses, but when his adored older cousin teases him, his fun is spoiled – until his mother comes to the rescue.

Not yet seen.

Sullivan, Mary. ***What's this About Pete?*** T. Nelson, 1976. **M**

Pete worries that he might be gay based on his interests such as sewing, and his feelings for his friend Mario. When a man in a car propositions him, he takes this as proof that he is gay. A school counselor reassures him that liking to sew isn't a sign of being gay, and that while he probably isn't gay, there isn't anything wrong with it if it turns out he is. Unfortunately, this supportive view is set in such a poorly written novel that readers aren't likely to get that far into it.

Not recommended.

Volponi, Paul. ***Crossing Lines***. Viking, 2011. **T**

New student Alan wears lipstick and joins the Fashion Club. When the football team decides to humiliate him, jock Adonis has to decide whether or not to go along with a dangerous plan.

Not yet seen.

Walliams, David. ***The Boy in the Dress***. London: HarperCollins, 2008; New York: Razorbill, 2009; Bath: Galaxy (Large Print), 2009. **C/M**

Twelve-year-old Dennis's interests range from soccer to fashion design, and when he is befriended by a like-minded girl at school, he begins cross-dressing, to the dismay of his father, brother, and his school principal. However, his prowess on the soccer field wins over his critics, and he ultimately discovers that he is not the only person to enjoy cross-dressing.

Charmingly illustrated by Quentin Blake.

Recommended.

Also available in the following languages:

Danish: *Drengen med Kjolen*. Rødovre: Sohn, 2013.

French: *Le jour où je me suis déguisé en fille*. Paris: Gallimard jeunesse, 2012.

German: *Kicker im Kleid ein Roman*. Berlin: Aufbau, 2010;

Japanese: *Doresu o Kita Danshi*. Fukuinkanshoten, 2012;

Sinhalese: *Gavum anda Denis*. Kolamba: Samayavardhana Pothala, 2010.

Watson, Sally. **Jade**. Image Cascade, 2002; Henry Holt, 1969. **M/T**

Rebellious Melanie Lennox, or Jade, as she prefers to be called, chafes at the restrictions placed on her as a young woman in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. When the ship she is traveling on is captured by pirates, she is only too pleased to join their crew, especially if it means capturing slave ships and freeing the slaves.

A number of known historical figures appear in this novel, including pirates Anne Bonny (or Bonney) and Mary Read, both of whom disguised themselves as men aboard ship.

All titles by this author feature strong female characters, some of them who dress as boys for periods of time.

Wilson, J. and D. Roberts. ***My Brother Bernadette***. London: Egmont, 2001. **I/C**

To his older sister's dismay, Bernard is taunted at summer school for his interest and abilities in costume design. Sara worries that she will have to spend the summer rescuing him, but Bernard has it all under control.

Recommended.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. ***Dumpy La Rue***. New York: Henry Holt, 2001. **I/C**

Dumpy the pig wants to be a dancer, to the dismay of his parents and other members of the barnyard. Dancing is not for pigs, dancing is not for boys, dancing is not for animals at all. But Dumpy persists, and soon has all the barnyard animals dancing along with him.

Recommended.

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. ***Tomboy Trouble***. New York: Random House, 1998. **C**

The idea that certain clothes, or games, or haircuts are specifically for boys offends young Georgia, who walks her own path. When she is taunted and called a boy at her new school, she stands up for herself, and her right to be

who she is. When asked by a girl in her class if she is a boy, Georgia replies “I’m no kind of boy. I’m just my own kind of girl.”

Georgia is a refreshing protagonist who knows who she is, and what she wants, and is willing to stick up for herself, even if it means being different.

Recommended.

Yolen, Jane and Heidi E.Y. Stemple. ***Not All Princesses Dress in Pink***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010. **I/C**

These princesses all wear sparkly crowns, but they can be found playing ball, driving trucks, using power tools, and fighting knights – and not worrying in the least about getting dirty or being ladylike.

Recommended.

Zolotow, Charlotte. ***William’s Doll***. New York: Harper & Row, 1972. **I/C**

Young William wants a doll, but his father refuses, and his brother and the neighbor boy tease him. Finally his grandmother convinces his father that having a doll will help teach William how to be a good father.

As with many titles where a child pursues gender variant issues, a solution is found that reinforces traditional gender expectations while still letting the child continue with the variant behavior.

Regardless, this title is highly recommended.



## BOOKS FEATURING GENDER-QUEER CHARACTERS (THOSE WHO DON'T IDENTIFY WITHIN THE MAINSTREAM GENDER BINARY)

***Becoming: Young Ideas on Gender, Identity, and Sexuality.*** Edited by Diane Anderson-Minshall and Gina de Vries; foreword by Zoe Trope. Xlibris Corp., c2004.

**A/T**

This anthology includes a number of pieces by transgender and gender-queer authors.

Recommended.

***Beyond Binary: Genderqueer and Sexually Fluid Speculative Fiction.*** Edited by Brit Mandela. Lethe Press, 2012. **A/T**

Broadhead, Talcott. ***Meet Polkadot.*** DangerDot Publishing, 2013. **C**

Polkadot is a child who doesn't identify as either male or female.

Not yet seen.

Clark, Kristin. ***Freakboy.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. **T**

Brendan is described as a transgender (MTF) teen, but descriptions of the book make it sound more like he may be gender-queer.

Not yet seen.

Lowrey, Sassafras. ***Roving Pack.*** PoMo Freakshow Press, 2012. **T**

Set in the context of the punk scene in Portland, Oregon in the early 2000s, this is the story of Click, a transgender kid, and the non-binary, gender-fluid and

queer community in which ze lives. Life centers around the local queer resource center resource center where lines are drawn between the GSA kids who have middle-class homes to go to, and the punk, gender-queer kids who may be on the streets, or squatting someplace temporarily.

Lowrey faithfully describes the punk and leather/kink communities, the drug use, the public sex, the throw-away kids, all through Click's eyes – and it's not always a pretty picture, but it's very real for a lot of young adults.

Some explicit sex, and graphic references to sexual and lifestyle practices in the kink community.

Highly recommended.

Lees, Lisa. ***Fool for Love***. Lulu.com, 2005. **T**

Carys and Jami meet at an arts camp, and quickly fall in love. While people think Carys is a butch lesbian, she defines herself more as gender-queer. Jami, who appears more feminine and sometimes wears dresses, has an intersex condition.

As they grow closer, Carys learns more about what it means to have an intersex condition, and Jami slowly grows to trust Carys enough to begin a physical relationship.

Carys is struggling through her last year of high school, where she faces regular harassment. Her parents, unlike Jami's are unaccepting, and Carys begins to turn toward Jami's mother for support about school and family issues, as well as understanding Jami's condition.

While informative about intersex conditions and queer identities, this is an incredibly tedious book to read. The dialogue, which drives the plot, is awkward, and the book is overly didactic.

Not recommended.

Lees, Lisa. ***A Queer Circle of Friends***. Lulu.com, 2006. **T**

Having graduated from high school, Jami and Carys are now living together. Jami continues to work in photography, and Carys has started a support group for queer and gender-questioning young people.

Meanwhile, she and Jami accept a third person into their relationship: Tam, who is a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual.

The plot moves mostly through very stilted dialogue. One character, Emiko, speaks non-standard English through most of the book, creating the impression of prejudice on the part of the author. It isn't until a good two-thirds or more of the book have passed that Emiko reveals not only that she can speak perfect English, but chooses not to do so, and is, in fact, a linguistics major.

If you think a novel which features polyamory, Satanism, the online selling of child pornography, and every kind of queer relationship imaginable, can be mundane, and even tedious to read, this is it.

Not recommended.

Tea, Michelle. ***Mermaid in Chelsea***. McSweeney's McMullens, 2013. **T**

Sophie Swankowski has a vision in which a mermaid reveals to her that she is to rid the world of evil. From this first magical vision, Sophie goes on to uncover all kinds of magical doings, both good and evil. Among the people she meets is Angel, a gender-queer Puerto Rican teen.

Not yet seen.

## **GENDER SWITCHING**

Akahori, Satoru. ***Kashimashi, Omnibus Collection, 1***. Los Angeles: Seven Seas; Godalming: Melia, 2008. **T**

In this graphic novel series, Hazumu has been hit by an alien space ship and turned into a girl. His parents have always wanted a daughter, and the girl he likes, who has completely ignored him until now, is suddenly showing interest, so Hazumu sets out to learn what it takes to be a girl.

In the second volume of the series: *Kashimashi, Omnibus Collection, 2*. Los Angeles: Seven Seas, 2009, Hazumu is informed by the alien who has caused this upheaval in her life, that she has only thirty days to live.

Not yet seen.

Baum, Frank L. ***The Land of Oz***. early 1900s. **C/M**

Princess of Ozma of Oz is changed into a boy by the witch, Mombi, because her father worries that she will challenge his dictatorship. Raised as a boy named

*Tip* throughout childhood, Glinda later demands that Mombi turn Ozma back into a girl, and sees her installed on her throne.

Not yet seen.

Blake, Nelson. ***Gender Blender***. Delacorte Press, 2007. **C/M**

Former friends Emma and Tom are paired together for a health class assignment to discuss gender differences. When they accidentally crack heads, they each find themselves in the other's body.

Insights into what it's like to be the opposite gender are somewhat superficial, with the focus on the physical.

Perhaps useful for a discussion of gender stereotypes.

Fine, Anne. ***Bill's New Frock***. Methuen, 1988. **I/C**

Bill is baffled to discover he has turned into a girl overnight. When his mother sends him off to school in a frilly dress, he discovers that girls are treated very differently from boys. He is called "Dear," and an older woman insists on holding his hand crossing the street. He's expected to have neater handwriting, and to stay clean and tidy all day. The boys won't share their soccer ball. And when he is given the part of Rapunzel to read aloud at story time, he is dismayed to see what a small part she has, and also can't believe she didn't do anything in all the years of her captivity to try to free herself.

However, the worst thing is really the pink frilly dress. How can he possibly keep it clean? And where is he supposed to put things since it has no pockets?

And how can he run races, or get into a fight without messing it up? He notices that none of the other girls in his class are wearing dresses, and while they aren't playing soccer, they do run races, and paint pictures without having to worry about their clothes.

Being whistled at by Mean Malcolm is the last straw. He "savagely" tells Mean Malcolm he is not a dog, yelling that he is a "*person!*"

When Bill gets home from school, his mother is horrified at the condition of the pink dress, and to his relief, she resolves never to send him to school in a dress again. When he changes back into his regular clothes, Bill looks in the mirror and is pleased to see that he is himself again – a boy who could maybe use a haircut.

While Bill's eyes are opened to sexist stereotypes, Fine has missed a chance to raise these issues with children by portraying an overly negative response to being a girl.

Not recommended.

Cooper, T. and Allison Glock-Cooper. ***Changers, Book One: Drew***. Black Sheep, 2014. **T**

Ethan Miller is looking forward to starting high school; that is, until he wakes up on the first day in the body of a girl. He finds out that he will spend each year of high school as a different person, alternating gender each year, after which he will need to choose a permanent identity.

Fukushima, Haruka. ***Kedomono Damano***. Los Angeles, CA: Tokyopop, ©2004, 2007. **T**

Haruki changes from being a boy during the day time, to a girl at night.

Not yet seen.

Gardner, James Alan. ***Commitment Hour***. New York: Avon Eos, 1998. **A/T**

In this science fiction novel, children in the isolated community of Tober Cove change gender every year. In their late teens, each of them bears a child. Then, at twenty, with the full knowledge of what living as each gender is like, they must make a choice. Refusing to commit to a single gender means banishment from the community.

Fullin and his partner Cappie have reached the age of choice. And they must make their choices independent of each other. While choosing one's preferred gender is expected, only heterosexuality is acceptable in adult relationships, making Fullin's choice more difficult. But the arrival of outsiders interrupts their night of silent contemplation, and nothing will ever be the same again.

An interesting look at gender, and a society's desire to control it.

Recommended.

Harvey, Brenna. "*Jelson*," in ***OMG Queer***. Edited by Kathleen Radclyffe. Bold Strokes Books, 2012. **T**

Jelson is a *SWOP*, a person who can change gender at will, and being particularly attractive has both boys, but particularly girls falling all over

themselves around him/her. Jelson actually prefers to remain in an androgynous middle, but feels forced to be either female or male at any given time in order to put others at ease.

When Jelson tells best friend, Allie, about this it makes her insecure and the two have an argument at the beginning of a high school party that ends up with a lot of people getting drunk and expressing their insecurities and anxiety about sexual orientation and gender.

By the end of the story, the two friends have resolved their problem.

An interesting look at the issues raised.

Lantz, Frances. ***The Day Joanie Frankenhauser Became a Boy***. New York: Dutton, 2005. **C**

When tomboy Joanie starts at a new school, she discovers that she's mistakenly been registered as John. She decides to take advantage of the fact, but finds that there are some things about being a boy that she doesn't like. She realizes she wants to have both "boy" and "girl" traits.

Useful for a discussion of gender stereotypes.

Lee, Youngran. ***Click***. Glendale, CA: Netcomics, 2007. **(MTF) - T**

Joonha, the protagonist in this Korean manhwa series, like other members of his family, is transformed from one gender to the other during their teen years, due to a genetic mutation.



Within the first several pages Joonha, who is still a boy, is shown interrupting what appears to be a rape, only to be told off by the apparent victim. He is then taunted for the size of his penis while in a bathhouse, and gets into a physical fight.

Unfortunately, any sympathy for the character ends there, as he is shown scolding a girl for being too forward and not virtuous enough when she tells him she likes him, and later being cruel to his mother.

Those unfamiliar with the use of the left-facing swastika as a Buddhist symbol are likely to be shocked by Joonha's swastika necklace.

Not recommended.

LeGuin, Ursula. ***The Left Hand of Darkness***. London: MacDonald, 1969, NY: Walker & Co., 1969. **A/T**

This classic science fiction novel is, in part, about a race of aliens who can change gender from day to day.

Recommended.

Levithan, David. ***Every Day***. Knopf, 2012. **T**

A, a conscious entity, has no body, and each day inhabits someone else's body for 24 hours. The trick is to stay unnoticed, to exist below the consciousness of the body A is inhabiting. A might inhabit the body of someone gay, or straight, and once, transgender. The trouble starts when A inhabits the body of Justin, and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. Suddenly A wants a regular

existence, wants to experience what every teen wants: love. And A begins to manipulate the lives of the people whose bodies A inhabits, trying to gain Rhiannon's attention.

McLaughlin, Lauren. **Cycler**. Random House, 2008. **T**

While extremely far-fetched in its premise, this is an interesting look at gender and gender identity, and one of the rare books for teens featuring bisexual characters.

Every month, for four days, Jill's alter-ego Jack comes to the fore, complete with teenage male body and desires. Jill has learned to block out all memories of his takeover of her body, and until this year he has agreed to stay hidden at home. But now he has a crush on her best friend, Ramie, and even window bars and a keypad lock system on the door can't keep him inside. Meanwhile Jill has a crush of her own, on bisexual Tommy. What happens when both Jack and Jill are on the loose on the same night makes for an interesting dénouement.

The subplot of Jill's parents' marital problems is extraneous to the story, but otherwise this is an interesting and, at times, funny book. –ns

See also the sequel: *(Re)Cycler*. Random House, 2009. **T**

Nishimori, Hiroyuki. ***Cheeky Angel*** (*series*). San Francisco: VIZ, 2004-. **T**

At the beginning of this first volume of this manga series, Megumi is still a girl, after a vengeful genie turned him into one six years ago. Now a beautiful high school student, Megumi wonders if she should just accept that she will always be a girl.

She is disgusted by teenage boys, who mostly prove to be pretty despicable in this story - alternately putting girls down and threatening them – or, in Megumi’s case, putting her on a pedestal. Despite her best friend, Miki’s nagging, Megumi can’t seem to stop beating boys up for their treatment of girls – and one of them in particular is quite deserving of this response.

This series is very popular with teens, but within the first few pages, it reveals itself as racist (Megumi’s beauty is praised, especially for her white skin) and violently misogynistic.

Not recommended.

Sachar, Louis. ***Marvin Redpost, Is He a Girl?*** New York: Random House, 1993. **C**

Can a boy really turn into a girl if he accidentally kisses his elbow? Is he dreaming; or is he really a girl? What does it mean that he’s interested in sparkly, girly things? Nine-year-old Marvin has a lot of worries.

In a disappointing ending that reinforces sex-role stereotyping, he manages to kiss his elbow again, and returns to his macho self, although he does befriend a girl in his class.

Not recommended.

Takahashi, Rumiko. ***Ranma ½***. San Francisco, CA : Viz Communications, 2003- (series continues). Graphic novel series. **T**

Ranma and his father, both martial artists take a training tour in China.

Unfortunately they end up in the “legendary ground of accursed springs.” Each

spring has its own curse, and when Ranma's father falls into one, he is turned into a giant panda. Ranma falls into another spring, and is turned into a girl. Hot water will turn them back, but from now on, every time they come into contact with cold water, they become a panda, and a girl, respectively.

Unfortunately, the trainer in China speaks in stereotypical Pidgin English.

This is a popular series with teens and children.

Wolff, Virginia. **Orlando**. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, [1973, 1928]. **A/T**

Woolf's novel – which served as a love letter to Vita Sackville-West features the gender changing Orlando as Vita.

Older teens who enjoy literary fiction may enjoy this historical romp.

## **BOOKS FEATURING CHARACTERS WHO WERE BORN WITH INTERSEX CONDITIONS:**

Bujold, Lois McMaster. "*Labyrinth*" in ***Borders of Infinity***. Riverdale, NY: Baen, 1989; and also in ***Miles, Mystery, and Mayhem***. Riverdale, NY: Baen, 2001. **A/T**

In this novella in the Vorkosigan series, Bel Thorne, a person who is described as being fully hermaphroditic – the preferred term on Bel's home planet of Beta Colony - serves under Miles in a mission to Jackson's Whole. Bel flirts with Miles, who is attracted, but can't stop thinking of Bel as male.

Bel also appears as a supporting character in *The Warrior's Apprentice* (1986), *Brothers in Arms* (1989), *The Vor Game* (1990), *Mirror Dance* (1994), *Memory* (1996), and *Diplomatic Immunity* (2002).

Recommended.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. ***Middlesex***. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2002. **A/T**

This remarkable family saga spans continents and generations as it tells the story of Cal, who, born with an intersex condition, describes being born twice - once as a baby girl, and again as a teen-aged boy.

Older teens may enjoy this adult novel.

Lam, Laura. ***Pantomime***. Osprey Publishing, 2013. **T**

This fantasy novel features an engaging protagonist with a difficult set of problems to overcome. Iphigenia Laurus, or Gene, as she prefers to be called, is a daughter of the nobility of Ellada, and has reached the age where she is expected to make her debut, and accept the hand of an eligible male of her circle. There are just a couple of problems: the major one being that Gene was born with an intersex condition, and secondarily, that she has no real desire to marry.

When she overhears her parents arguing one night, family secrets are revealed, and she knows she has to run away, immediately. Disguised as a boy, and with a new name, Micah Grey, she ultimately joins R.H. Ragona's Circus of Magic, hoping to train as an aerialist. After a long period of scut work

and hazing, she begins to settle in and become a real member of the circus family.

Somewhat to her dismay, Micah finds herself attracted physically and emotionally to her female aerialist partner, who, thinking she's a boy, shares the feelings. But she's also physically attracted to one of the clowns who is mostly gay-identified.

Everything comes to a head one night when the detective, or shadower, that her parents have hired turns up to take her home. The dramatic ending leaves an opening for a sequel, or sequels.

Highly recommended.

Lees, Lisa. ***Fool for Love***. Lulu.com, 2005. **T**

Carys and Jami meet at an arts camp, and quickly fall in love. While people think Carys is a butch lesbian, she defines herself more as gender-queer. Jami, who appears more feminine and sometimes wears dresses, has an intersex condition.

As they grow closer, Carys learns more about what it means to have an intersex condition, and Jami slowly grows to trust Carys enough to begin a physical relationship.

Carys is struggling through her last year of high school, where she faces regular harassment. Her parents, unlike Jami's are unaccepting, and Carys begins to turn toward Jami's mother for support about school and family issues, as well as understanding Jami's condition.

While informative about intersex conditions and queer identities, this is an incredibly tedious book to read. The dialogue, which drives the plot, is awkward, and the book is overly didactic.

Not recommended.

Lees, Lisa. ***A Queer Circle of Friends***. Lulu.com, 2006. **T**

Having graduated from high school, Jami and Carys are now living together. Jami continues to work in photography, and Carys has started a support group for queer and gender-questioning young people.

Meanwhile, she and Jami accept a third person into their relationship: Tam, who is a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual.

The plot moves mostly through very stilted dialogue. One character, Emiko, speaks non-standard English through most of the book, creating the impression of prejudice on the part of the author. It isn't until a good two-thirds or more of the book have passed that Emiko reveals not only that she can speak perfect English, but chooses not to do so, and is, in fact, a linguistics major.

If you think a novel which features polyamory, Satanism, the online selling of child pornography, and every kind of queer relationship imaginable, can be mundane, and even tedious to read, this is it.

Not recommended.

Leigh, Stephen. ***Dark Water's Embrace***. Avon/Eros, 1998. **A/T**

A group of humans has been stranded on a distant planet, and they are facing extinction as they struggle with problems of infertility and infant mortality.

Anáís, a lesbian born with an intersex condition thinks she may have a solution for her people, even as they seek to exile her permanently for her inability to reproduce.

Recommended for older teens who enjoy science fiction.

Stephens, Melody S. ***The Girl Who Could Fly***. Culver City, CA: Melody S. Stephens, Kearney, NE: Morris Publishing, 2012. **Intersex - C**

This book opens with a paragraph describing the birth of a child named Zoe, giving her weight and length, and stating that she was born with “non-standard sexual anatomy.” The paragraph further notes that, “Although not fully known until puberty, doctors noticed the unusual parts.

Stephens then describes how Zoe is raised by loving parents who say to her, “Did you know that God made you special?”

With no transition, and without referring back to the topics raised in the beginning paragraphs, Stephens jumps ahead eleven years, and focuses on Zoe learning that she can fly, how she sneaks out of the house to do so when no one will notice, and that she wants to help others with her flying, just as she helps a baby bird back into its nest, and rescues a dog from a drainage ditch.

The book abruptly ends with Zoe’s father noticing that she has been out in the early morning and is only pretending to wake for the first time when her mother comes into her room.



This is a disjointed, and amateurish effort.

The sequel, *Zoe, the Girl Who Could Fly* (2013), is just as bad.

Not recommended.

Tarttelin, Abigail. ***Golden Boy***. Atria Books, 2013. **A/T**

Max was born with an intersex condition during the era when doctors almost always pushed parents to elect gender selection surgery at birth. Max's parents didn't do this because they couldn't come to an agreement between themselves.

Since then, Max has grown up a boy, aware of his difference, but not the specific details of it, or their implications for him as he grows up. His parents have tried to ignore the issue, leaving him unprepared when a crisis brings things to the fore. Max is forced to make decisions that he feels incapable of, with his mother adamantly pushing in one direction, and his distant father leaving it up to him.

Ultimately, Max's father comes through for him, and lines of communication are finally opened up. Max's relationship with his mother has been seriously harmed, but by the end of the book they are slowly taking steps to mend their rift and understand each other better.

This is a stunning coming-of-age story that is difficult to put down.

Highly recommended.

Tsuda, Mikiyo. ***The Day of Revolution***. Carson, CA: Digital Manga, 2006. **T**

In this first volume of this series, Kei Yoshikawa, a young boy with troubles at school and home, has a fainting spell. A visit to a doctor reveals that Kei's chromosomes show that he's really female. Kei and his family decide that a fresh start, living as a girl will be good for them.

Series continues.

Not yet seen.

Winter, Kathleen. ***Annabel***. Jonathan Cape, 2011. **A/T**

Wayne is born with an intersex condition in a remote Canadian community in the late 1960s, and raised as a boy at his father's insistence. Wayne's mother and her friend, the attendant midwife at his birth, secretly nurture his female side.

When a medical crisis at puberty brings things to a head, Wayne learns of his intersex condition, which helps him understand why he and his father have always been in conflict about his chosen interests and activities. At the same time, questions about his gender and sexual identity come to the fore, and Wayne's female identity, Annabel, finally begins to emerge.

Annabel experiences the rejection of her father and a later violent attack when she is living on her own. Because of this, the book is highly recommended for adults, but recommended with some caution for teens.

## TRANSGENDER CHARACTERS / TRANSGENDER CONCERNS:

Abrahams, George, PhD., and Sheila Ahlbrand. ***Boy v. Girl? How Gender Shapes Who We Are, What We Want, and How We Get Along.*** Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing, 2002. **T**

This book encourages young people to question gender role stereotypes through a variety of questions and exercises.

Unfortunately, the information given on transgender people incorrectly lumps their experiences under the label of “sexual orientation.”

Not recommended.

Anderson, Hans Christian. ***The Ugly Duckling.*** Adapted and Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1999. **I/C**

The ugly duckling may be different, but his transformation is a beautiful thing.

This story serves as a wonderful metaphor for transgender children. Pinkney’s rich illustrations add to the pleasure of the book.

Highly recommended.

Beam, Cris. ***I am J.*** Little, Brown, 2011. **(FTM) - T**

Seventeen-year-old J feels trapped in his female body, and trapped in his life as his parent’s daughter. Without much of a plan, other than to get on testosterone (T), J runs away, only to discover that getting T is a more involved process than he thought.

With the support of new friends, a new high school, and a safer place to stay, J begins making the journey that will carry him into manhood. Well-written, with good character development, this is an essential title for transgender teens.

Recommended.

***Becoming: Young Ideas on Gender, Identity, and Sexuality.*** Edited by Diane Anderson-Minshall and Gina de Vries; foreword by Zoe Trope. Xlibris Corp., c2004.

**A/T**

This anthology includes a number of pieces by transgender and gender-queer authors.

Recommended.

Belge, Kathy and Marke Bieschke. ***Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens.*** Zest, 2011. **T**

Includes some useful information for transgender teens.

Recommended.

Bergman, S. Bear. ***The Adventures of Tulip, Birthday Wish Fairy.*** Flamingo Rampant, 2012. **Transgender Children (MTF) - I/C**

Tulip, an adorable little fairy with a bow-tie and a top-knot, has a job as a Birthday Wish Fairy. He sorts all the birthday wishes into piles, dealing with the easy ones first.

When Tulip gets a wish from a boy named David who wants to become a girl, he is initially stumped. But after the Wish Fairy Captain explains that some children are born into bodies that don't match who they are inside, Tulip understands how to help, and is eventually promoted to the job of Gender Wish Fairy.

While wordy for the youngest audiences, this is a delightful book for families with transgender children.

Highly recommended.

Bergman, S. Bear. ***Backwards Day***. Flamingo Rampant, 2012. **(FTM) - I/C**

When Andrea doesn't turn into a boy on *Backwards Day*, she's very disappointed. However, she's delighted when she makes the switch the following day – and doesn't change back.

Not yet seen.

Block, Francesca Lia. "*Dragons in Manhattan*," in ***Girl Goddess # 9***. HarperCollins, 1996. **(MTF) - C/M**

Tuck lives with her lesbian mothers in New York, but is curious about her father. Her cross-country journey of discovery brings a very surprising answer.

Recommended.

Block, Francesca Lia. ***Love in the Time of Global Warming***. Henry Holt and Company, 2013. **Lesbian/Gay/Transsexual – T**

A calamitous earthquake followed by fire and floods destroys Los Angeles, and other parts of the west coast. Penelope seems to be the only survivor of her family, and she hides in her family home slowly eating and drinking her way through the emergency supplies they had teased her father about accumulating. After many days, she hears people breaking in, and flees in their van.

Carrying an old copy of Homer's *Odyssey* as a guide book for her travels, she sets out to try to find her family, or any other survivors. She has to fight off giants, who, it turns out, have a strange connection to her father, and she needs to figure out who she can trust among others she meets along her way. Eventually she is joined by three other young people who decide to accompany her, and unexpectedly finds love.

Recommended.

Boenke, Mary. ***Carly, She's Still My Daddy***. Transgender Network of PFLAG, 2004.

**(MTF) - I/C**

This pamphlet explores the transition of Carl to Carly, from a child's point of view, explaining what it means to be transgender, intersex, and also a cross-dresser in an age-appropriate way.

Tommy explains his feelings, and his mother's reactions through the process of Carly's transition, and notes how much happier his daddy seems to be.

Better illustrations would help this title find a place in library collections.

Recommended.

Bono, Chaz, with Billie Fitzpatrick. ***Transition: The Story of How I Became a Man***. Dutton, 2011. **A/T**

Bono's autobiography details his search for identity through childhood and young adult years, including years where he thought he was a lesbian, before finally recognizing himself as transgender.

Recommended for older teens.

Boylan, Jennifer Finney. "*The Missing Person*," in ***How Beautiful the Ordinary***, edited by Michael Cart. Bowen Press / Harper Teen, 2009. **(MTF) - T**

"All that time, trapped in the walls of your own house and no one even knowing you're there?"

To Jimmy, who has just ventured out for the first time dressed as a girl in his sister's clothes, his mother's surprised comment about a missing girl makes painful sense.

Highly recommended.

Bray, Libba. ***Beauty Queens***. New York: Scholastic, 2011. **(MTF) - T**

In this very popular and over-the-top novel, a group of teenage beauty contestants are stranded on an apparently deserted island when their plane crashes. With few resources they manage to survive storms, people-eating snakes, snarky infighting, and pirates.

When they uncover an arms-dealing conspiracy related to the beauty pageant, the young women put their heads together and put a stop to it, saving themselves, and continuing to practice for their pageant in the meantime.

Included in the cast of characters is a transgender beauty contestant.

Recommended.

Bujold, Lois McMaster. ***A Civil Campaign***. Riverdale, NY: Baen, 1999. **(FTM) - A/T**

In one of the many story threads in this volume of the *Vorkosigan Saga*, Lady Donna Vorrutyer travels to Beta Colony to have a sex change operation in order to prevent a loathed cousin from inheriting a title and lands. As a woman, Lady Donna was married three times, and as Count Dono Vorrutyer, marries again and has a child. Count Dono also appears briefly in *Captain Vorpatril's Alliance* (Baen, 2012).

Other titles in the series will be of interest to LGBTQ readers. While this title can be read as a stand-alone, readers will be missing a great deal of background information and character development.

The author's suggestion for the order in which to read the series can be found here: <http://www.dendarii.com/frames/index.html>.

Recommended.

Cameron, Loren. ***Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits***. Pittsburgh, PA: Cleis Press, 1996. **A/T**

Artistic black and white nude photos accompany interviews with several female-to-male transsexuals, providing readers with a good idea of what post-surgery male bodies look like.

Highly recommended for teens considering female-to-male transgender surgery.



Carr, Jennifer. ***Be Who You Are***. Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2010. **(MTF) - I/C**

Nick has felt like a girl for as long as he can remember. When he tells his parents, they let him know that they love him any way he feels. Nick's parents let him grow his hair, buy him dresses, and when things start getting difficult at school, they talk to his teacher, and take him to a therapist who supports children "who felt like they were born in the wrong body."

When Nick decides she wants to be called Hope, her parents support her decision, and when she wants to meet other children like her, they find other families with children like her that she can play with and talk to.

Hope's little brother, Will, has questions and concerns, and he is relieved when she says she is the same person as always and will always love him.

Highly recommended.

Clark, Kristin. ***Freakboy***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013. **T**

Brendan is described as a transgender (MTF) teen, but descriptions of the book make it sound more like he may be gender-queer.

Not yet seen.

Cortez, Jaime. ***Sexile/Sexilio***. [Los Angeles]: Institute for Gay Men's Health, c2004. **(MTF) - A/T**

This bi-lingual graphic novel tells the story of a Cuban exile who first thinks he's gay, then realizes he's really transgender.

Some mature content.

Recommended.

Coville, Bruce. "*The Secret of Life According to Aunt Gladys*," in ***Dirty Laundry: Stories About Family Secrets***, edited by Lisa Rowe Faustino. New York: Viking, 1998. **(MTF) - M/T**

Randy discovers he has an uncle whom the family doesn't talk about. He discovers why when George arrives for an unexpected visit, planning to stay while he transitions to Gladys. Randy's parents struggle to accept Gladys, but Randy is open-minded about his aunt-to-be.

Recommended.

Cronn-Mills, Kirstin. ***Beautiful Music for Ugly Children***. Llewellyn, 2012. **(FTM) - T**

All he needs to do is survive the last weeks until graduation, and Elizabeth can start to live his life the way he has always been meant to – as a guy named Gabe. So far, Gabe's only out life is on the radio, where a mentor neighbor has let him DJ a late night show that starts to gain a cult following among young people, including many of Gabe's classmates.

When his classmates find out who he really is, Gabe is physically attacked. Fortunately the offenders are caught, and his family finally comes through for him.

Recommended.

Davis, Tanita S. ***Happy Families***. Knopf, 2012. **(MTF) - T**

Fifteen-year-old twins Justin and Ysabel alternate chapters as they tell what it's like for them when they unexpectedly discover that their father is transgender and is planning to become a woman. Unfortunately, their father first reveals himself dressed as a woman in a very public setting, making it particularly difficult for Justin to forgive him.

Their mother forces the twins to spend spring break with their father in an attempt to get them communicating again. While with their father, he drags them to see a therapist, and to a social event with other transgender folks and their families, creating even further resentment. Ultimately both Ysabel and Justin come around.

While the events are crammed into a short time period, making the twins' acceptance feel rather sudden, Davis does realistically address the concerns and feelings family members are likely to have in this situation.

Recommended.

DeLine, Elliott. ***I Know Very Well How I Got My Name***. CreateSpace, 2013. (FTM)

- T

Not yet seen.

De Young, Dana. ***The Butterfly and the Flame***. iUniverse, 2011. (MTF) - A/T

Set in a rigidly religious dystopian future, in which those with wealth have almost complete control over the poor, sixteen-year-old Emily is only a few short weeks away from her arranged marriage to the hated Jonathan. Her parents have promised to get her out of the situation, but so far it doesn't look

like that will happen – and it has to, because Emily and her family have a big secret: Emily is transgender.

Although Emily has lived as a girl for most of her life, only her mother fully accepts her. Her father clearly loves her, and both parents are willing to give their lives to save her as they send her away with her resentful brother Aaron for protection.

This is painful reading, and only recommended for older teens who are comfortable with their transgender identity *and* have a strong support system in place.

Donoghue, Emma. “*The Welcome*,” in ***Love and Sex: Ten Stories of Truth***, edited by Michael Cart. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. **(FTM) - T**

Describing an incident that took place in a communal house of young women, many years after the fact, it is revealed that one of the housemates was in the process of transitioning from female to male.

Recommended.

Drummond, Mara Christine. ***Transitions: A Guide to Transitioning for Transsexuals and Their Families***. Lulu.com, 2009. **A/T**

Not yet seen.

Dunnion, Kristyn. ***Mosh Pit***. Calgary, Alberta, Canada: Red Deer Press, 2005. **(MTF) - T**

In this often depressing story of teens living on the edge, protagonist Simone's best friend and long-time crush, Cherry, quits school, and quickly descends into the ever darker world of drug-dealing and sex work, trying to drag Simone with her. Simone struggles with her loyalty, her despair, her better sense, and the advice of good friends, and finally turns away from Cherry when Cherry and her dealer/boyfriend turn to shocking violence.

One of Simone's more supportive friends is Carlotta, a transgender teen helping to raise her siblings and nephew.

Recommended mainly for this positive transgender character.

Edwards, Hazel and Ryan Kennedy. ***f2m: The Boy Within***. Ford Street Publishing, 2010. **(FTM) - T**

Skye/Finn has dropped out of school to pursue a musical career, which is going better than transitioning from female to male. When family secrets are revealed, Finn finds out that he may not be the only transgender member of the family.

Luckily for Finn, while his parents don't want to lose their daughter, Skye, they realize they don't want to lose their teen altogether.

Recommended.

Ewert, Marcus. ***10,000 Dresses***. Seven Stories Press, 2008. **(MTF) - I/C**

Every night young Bailey dreams about dresses, one on each step of an endless staircase, each dress more beautiful than the last. But when she tells her

mother, father and brother about the dresses, and asks for help in making them, they scold her, saying "Dresses aren't for boys."

Bailey explains that she doesn't feel like a boy, but they each insist that she is. Finally Bailey meets a girl who is a little bit older, who is also fascinated with dresses and they begin to create some together.

This is the first book depicting the experience of a young child who is transgender identified. Bailey's experiences and the initial reactions of family members are realistically portrayed.

The illustrations are child-friendly and colorful. The story is simple and appropriate for children as young as three or four, inviting discussion between parent and child. Such books are sorely needed, and this one is a real success.

Highly recommended.

Farizan, Sara. ***If You Could Be Mine***. Algonquin, 2013. **T**

Set in Iran, where homosexuality is not only illegal, but is punishable by death, this is the story of best friends Sahar and Nasrin, who have been in love since the age of six. They carry on their secret relationship over the years, until Nasrin's parents announce they have arranged a marriage for her. Nasrin wants to continue as they have all along, but Sahar doesn't want to share Nasrin with a man. When Sahar finds out that it's not illegal to be a transsexual, she decides that becoming a man is the solution to their problems. Unfortunately, she finds that Nasrin doesn't take her seriously, and continues to plan her wedding.

Highly recommended.

Feinberg, Leslie. ***Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman***. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996. **A/T**

Feinberg takes a look at transgender issues and persons throughout history.

Recommended for older teens.

Gold, Rachel. ***Being Emily***. Bella Books, 2012. **MTF - T/A**

Gold, Rachel. ***Being Emily***. Bella Books, 2012. **Transgender (MTF) - T/A**

All teen-ager Chris wants is to become Emily, the woman she's always known she is. Chris's girlfriend, Claire, the only goth girl in their high school, who has already declared she might be bisexual, is accepting after getting over the initial shock of Chris's coming out to her as transgender.

Recognizing that Chris is depressed, but not knowing why, her parents send her to therapy. Unfortunately when Chris tries to raise the issue of being transgender with the therapist, she is met with very negative responses. A substitute therapist shines a different light on things, but when Chris comes out to her parents, they force her to return to the original therapist.

They also ground her, and take away her computer and mobile phone, effectively isolating her from the little support she has. As Chris's state of mind deteriorates, Claire comes to her support, and finally Chris's father decides that if she will see the therapist they have chosen and she still feels the way she does after six months, he will take her to see an endocrinologist – a promise he follows through on. He further supports Chris in more subtle ways, intervening

with Chris's mother, and providing a way for Chris to get some of the money needed for future surgery.

This is a well-written book which explores the emotional ups and downs of a transgender teen.

Highly recommended for teens and adults.

Gonzalez, May Christina. ***Gender Now Coloring Book: A Learning Adventure for Children and Adults***. San Francisco, CA: Reflection Press, 2010. **I/C/A**

Along with lots of pictures to color are numerous facts about famous transgender people in history, transgender animals, vocabulary, and activities aimed at preschool through elementary children to explore their concepts of gender.

Includes a good list of resources.

Some adults may be disturbed by the occasional in-context nudity.

Hartzell, Andy. ***Fox Bunny Funny***. Marietta, GA: Top Shelf Productions, 2007. **T**

In this touching allegorical graphic novel a young teen-aged fox secretly desires to be a bunny. Three episodes depict his cross-dressing experiments, his self-loathing, and his ultimate physical transformation to bunny-hood.

Highly recommended.

Howey, Noelle. ***Dress Codes of Three Girlhoods: My Mother's, My Father's, and Mine***. New York: St. Martin's, 2002. **MTF - A/T**



When Howey was a teenager, her father announced he was a transsexual. Howey details how her family struggled with her father's transition into womanhood.

Recommended for older teens.

Huegel, Kelly. ***GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens***. Free Spirit, revised edition, 2011. **T**

Easy to read book about what it means to be GLBTQ in the real world: family, school, relationships, sex and sexual health, etc., with quotes from young people about their own experiences. Includes some useful information for transgender teens.

Recommended.

Hunter, Nan. ***The Rights of Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals, and Transgender People: The Authoritative ACLU Guide to a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender Person's Rights***. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004.

While somewhat outdated at this point, this book covers important legal issues that affect the LGBT community. The question and answer format avoids legalese, and makes the book approachable to the average reader.

Recommended.

Hyde, Catherine Ryan. ***Jumpstart the World***. Knopf, 2010. **(FTM) - T**

Sixteen-year-old Elle is going through a difficult time. Her mother has chosen her new boyfriend over her, and moved Elle into an apartment of her own. Elle

befriends Melanie and Frank, the young couple next door, as well as a group of LGBT teens. When Elle finds herself falling for Frank, she is angry to find out that he is transgender, and she withdraws from everyone. However, a tragedy reunites Elle with Melanie and Frank, and she realizes the importance of their friendship, and of accepting people for who they are.

Recommended.

Isle, Sue. ***Nightsiders***. Twelfth Planet Press, 2011. **Transgender - T**

Kaesar, Gigi. ***Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents and Their Families***. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999. **All ages**

This photo-essay depicts a variety of queer families, including one with transgender parents. Knowing that transgender people can become parents will be important to some teens.

Recommended.

Katcher, Brian. ***Almost Perfect***. Delacorte, 2009. **(MTF) - T**

Logan falls hard for new girl, Sage, only to find out that she is transgender. Much drama ensues as Logan tries to understand Sage and deal with his conflicting feelings.

Will prejudice and fear, or love, triumph?

Recommended.

Katcher, Brian. *"Pervert,"* in ***Awake***. Cheyenne Publishing, 2011. **(MTF) – M/T**

Caught by his older sister dressing in their mother's clothing, the self-loathing narrator of this short story, somewhat awkwardly referred to simply as "the boy," is relieved when she laughs it off as something everyone tries at least once.

It's not until she dares him to let her dress him up in her prom gown in exchange for a DVD of hers that he wants, that things come to a head. When she has finished dressing him, applying make-up, and doing his hair, he sees the real girl inside him and becomes distraught that he will never be able to become who he really is.

When his sister encourages him to tell her what's wrong, and he finally spills his secret, he is surprised at her accepting response.

What he doesn't know is that she goes to their parents who also respond sympathetically.

Recommended.

Kingston, Anna. ***Respecting the Contributions of LGBT Americans***. New York: PowerKids Press, 2012. **C**

In simple language, with large print, Kingston devotes several two-page spreads to LGBT issues. She covers basic terminology, discusses various kinds of bullying and hate crimes, covers the Stonewall riots, AIDS, Don't Ask-Don't Tell, and marriage equality. Various individuals are discussed, including James Baldwin, Harvey Milk, Maurice Sendak, Chaz Bono, Matthew Shepard, Ellen DeGeneres

and others. Readers are encouraged to stick up for LGBT people who are being bullied. Simple definitions of transgender and gender transition are given in the glossary.

Kuklin, Susan. ***Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out.*** Candlewick, 2013. **Transgender/Gender Queer**

Kuklin presents the stories of six transgender or gender queer youth through interviews and photographs.

Not yet seen.

Lees, Lisa. ***A Queer Circle of Friends.*** Lulu.com, 2006. **T**

Having graduated from high school, Jami and Carys are now living together. Jami continues to work in photography, and Carys has started a support group for queer and gender-questioning young people.

Meanwhile, she and Jami accept a third person into their relationship: Tam, who is a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual.

The plot moves mostly through very stilted dialogue. One character, Emiko, speaks non-standard English through most of the book, creating the impression of prejudice on the part of the author. It isn't until a good two-thirds or more of the book that Emiko reveals not only that she can speak perfect English, but chooses not to do so, and is, in fact, a linguistics major.

If you think a novel which features polyamory, Satanism, the online selling of child pornography, and every kind of queer relationship imaginable, can be mundane, and even tedious to read, this is it.

Not recommended.

Levithan, David. ***Every Day***. Knopf, 2012. **T**

A, a conscious entity, has no body, and each day inhabits someone else's body for 24 hours. The trick is to stay unnoticed, to exist below the consciousness of the body A is inhabiting. A might inhabit the body of someone gay, or straight, and once, transgender. The trouble starts when A inhabits the body of Justin, and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. Suddenly A wants a regular existence, wants to experience what every teen wants: love. And A begins to manipulate the lives of the people whose bodies A inhabits, trying to gain Rhiannon's attention.

Levithan, David and Billy Merrell. ***The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing About Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Other Identities***. Knopf, 2006. **T**

This anthology includes some pieces by transgender teens, and is over-all a good book.

Recommended.

Levithan, David. ***Two Boys Kissing***. New York: Knopf, 2013. **(FTM) - T**

This title expands Levithan's short story, "A Word from the Nearly Distant Past," (collected in *How Beautiful the Ordinary*, edited by Michael Cart, HarperTeen, 2009) which is included, almost word-for-word here.

Narrated by an often heavy-handed Greek Chorus of men who died of AIDS, the book features the stories of one transgender, and several gay teens, but focuses mostly on Harry and Craig, friends and ex-boyfriends, who have set out to beat the Guinness World Record for kissing.

Among the other characters is transgender teen Avery, who has just met Ryan at a gay prom held for a number of high schools in the area. They hit it off at the dance, and Avery nervously comes out to Ryan, who accepts him, and becomes a love interest.

Ryan and Avery's story is a small part of the novel, but the relationship between an FTM teen and a gay male teen is new to young adult literature.

Levithan's characters are likeable, with some more developed than others, and the story will engage teens, both female and male.

The use of the Greek Chorus as a narrative device works better in the novel than in the short story, but it often comes across as didactic. While LGBTQ adults may wish for today's youth to know about our history, they don't need to be burdened with it.

An afterword discusses the events this story was based on.

Despite its weaknesses, this title is recommended for the subject need.

Lowrey, Sassafras. ***Roving Pack***. PoMo Freakshow Press, 2012. T

Set in the context of the punk scene in Portland, Oregon in the early 2000s, this is the story of Click, a transgender kid, and the non-binary, gender-fluid and

queer community in which ze lives. Life centers around the local queer resource center resource center where lines are drawn between the GSA kids who have middle-class homes to go to, and the punk, gender-queer kids who may be on the streets, or squatting someplace temporarily.

Lowrey faithfully describes the punk and leather/kink communities, the drug use, the public sex, the throw-away kids, all through Click's eyes – and it's not always a pretty picture, but it's very real for a lot of young adults.

Some explicit sex, and graphic references to sexual and lifestyle practices in the kink community.

Highly recommended.

Malpica, Javier. ***Para Nina: un Diario sobre la Identidad Sexual***. Mexico, D.F.: Ediciones El Naranjo, 2009. **(MTF) - T**

This mis-titled book is actually about gender identity, and features Eduardo, who knows he is really a woman. Eduardo's grandmother provides support by encouraging her to keep a diary, and to pursue her dreams of transitioning to the body she knows is right for her.

Not seen.

Marcus, Eric. ***What If? : Answers to Questions About What it Means to be Gay and Lesbian***. New York: Simon Pulse, 2007, 2013. **LGBT – M/T**

In this new edition, Marcus addresses questions about being transsexual, about gay marriage, and religion, along with updating the resources, and including a chapter for parents.

Not yet seen, but previous editions have been excellent.

Marcus, Jana. ***Transfigurations***. 7 Angels Press, 2011. **A/T**

With black and white photographs, Marcus sensitively portrays members of the transgender community as they explore gender/gender identity and gender presentation. Each photograph is accompanied by a brief text by the subject.

Highly recommended.

Martinez, Jace. ***My Mommy Is a Boy***. 2007. **(MTF) - I/C**

This obviously self-published picture book explains a mother's transition from female to male in an age-appropriate way.

The illustrations seriously detract from the presentation, but the book fills a need.

Available from: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/jason-martinez/my-mommy-is-a-boy/paperback/product-2984570.html;jsessionid=90DBB7FCEA0989BC28C2E8C4CAB65E48>

***Mummy Becomes a Man***. 1990s? Only known copy at Labadie Collection, University of Michigan Libraries. **Transgender (FTM) – C**

Not yet seen.

Peters, Julie Anne. "Boi." In ***Grl2grl***. Little Brown and Co., 2007. **(FTM) - M/T**



Vince, a transgender boy, describes his pride in his new appearance as he binds his chest, packs with the penis his older cousin, Kevin was finally convinced to purchase for him, and dresses in his recently dead grandfather's natty clothes. Unfortunately, a new girl at work reads him as female, and as they wait outside after their shifts, she gives Vince away to her brother and his pals who rough him up and sexually abuse him, taking his penis with them. Even Kevin's offer to buy him a new, bigger one, doesn't help Vince's sense of despair.

Despite the violence, this title is recommended for Vince's obvious joy in his male self, as well as Kevin's loving acceptance of his cousin.

Peters, Julie Anne. ***Luna***. Boston: Little, Brown, 2004. (MTF) - T

Fifteen-year-old Regan has supported her brother Liam's desires to become a girl, letting her become Luna every evening by dressing in Regan's clothes and make-up. But Luna wants to come out full time, and Regan is embarrassed and uncomfortable. Ultimately, Luna decides that the only way she can be herself, and not interfere with her sister's life is to leave home.

While Luna is not fully accepted by Regan, and this title is occasionally heavy-handed in its message, it is recommended for its realistic portrayal of teenage siblings facing the transition of one of them.

Pohl, Peter. ***Johnny, My Friend***. Stroud: Turton & Chambers, 1991. C/M

Eleven-year-old Chris describes his new friendship with Johnny, who enters his life suddenly, and is gone just as quickly. When Johnny's body is found, it is revealed that he is really a cross-dressing girl who is possibly transgender. The

implication is that the murder has something to do with his gender transgressions.

While not yet seen, this sounds like a disturbing book, particularly for this age group.

Originally published in German as: *Jan, mein freund*. Ravensburg: Otto Maier, 1985.

Potter, Ellen. ***Slob***. Philomel, 2009. **C/M**

Owen is the fattest and smartest kid at his school. He's busy working on a secret invention at home, while trying to survive the humiliation of gym class, and figure out who is stealing his daily allotment of three Oreos from his lunch bag.

Meanwhile, Owen's younger sister has joined a club at school, GWAB (Girls Who Are Boys), and wants to be called Jeremy. While outsiders don't take GWAB seriously, it definitely is a serious undertaking for most of its members, almost all of whom really do want to be boys for one reason or another. They take boy's names, dress in boy's clothes, get boy's haircuts, and invade the boy's gym class to demand equal opportunity – just in time to save Owen from his teacher's vindictive plans.

Recommended.

***Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology***. Edited by Amy Sonnie. Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 2000. **T**

This collection of fiction and nonfiction presents a broad range of writing and art from queer youth ages 14-26, dealing with gender, sexuality, identity, race, culture, and more.

Recommended.

Rosoff, Meg. ***What I Was***. New York: Viking, 2008. (FTM) - A/T

The narrator, a one hundred year old man named only H, recalls his first love, a teen-aged boy named Finn who fends for himself on an island reachable only by boat, or a sand bar at low tide. H visits as often as he can escape his nearby gloomy British boarding school. When Finn becomes ill H seeks help – an action that forever changes the lives of Finn, H, and their respective families, as well as that of a classmate.

Written and published as an adult novel, this is highly recommended for teens.

Sadowski, Michael. ***In a Queer Voice: Journeys of Resilience from Adolescence to Adulthood***. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2013. A/T

Sadowski interviewed six LGBTQ young people during their middle and high school years, and then again, six years later to see how their lives had changed.

Saint-Clair, C.C. ***Morgan in the Mirror***. Bookmakers Ink, 2004; Moorooka, Queensland: Lazy Moon Productions, 2007. (FTM) - T

Not yet seen.

Scholinski, Daphne. ***Last Time I Wore a Dress***. Riverhead Books, 1997. A/T

Diagnosed with gender identity disorder for the combined crimes of acting out in school and being a tomboy, Scholinski describes surviving three years of forced incarceration in mental institutions as a teenager.

Recommended.

Seba, Jaime. ***Feeling Wrong in Your Own Body: Understanding what it Means to be Transgender.*** *The Gallup's Guide to Modern Gay, Lesbian & Transgender Life Series.* Mason Crest Publishers, 2011. Grades 6 - 12 (out of print). **M/T**

Seba provides basic information on the differences between sex, gender, gender expression, and sexuality. Unfortunately the chapter on living as a transgender adult is overly negative. Warning teens about workplace and health care discrimination is certainly part of the picture, as is covering violence toward transgender people, but devoting over five pages to Brandon Teena, out of a seventeen page chapter, provides a very unbalanced picture.

Not recommended.

Stryker, Susan. ***Transgender History.*** Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2008. **A/T**

Recommended for older teens.

Swados, Elizabeth. ***Flamboyant.*** New York: Picador, 1999. **(MTF) - A/T**

Orthodox Jew, Chana Landau, accepts a teaching position at Manhattan's Harvey Milk High School, and discovers that the female student she befriends is really a boy.

Recommended.

Takako, Shimura. ***Wandering Son, Vol. 1-*** . Fantagraphics, 2011-. **C/M**

In this graphic novel, a group of fifth grade classmates explore cross-dressing in a play they will perform for the graduating sixth grade class. For two students, the interest in cross-dressing goes further than theater.

For some reason, a number of people in male student Nitori's life suggest that he would make a cute girl, and encourage him to wear dresses and a girl's hairstyle, which he secretly tries out. All of this makes him feel insecure and anxious, as well as a bit curious about himself.

When his female friend, Takatsuki gets a boys-style haircut, she convinces Nitori to take the train with her to a distant stop, change into girl's clothing in the women's restroom, and see what it's like to be a girl for the afternoon.

Takatsuki, who is more clearly transgender, gets her period for the first time on this adventure, and has to send Nitori, dressed as a girl, to buy sanitary napkins. Nitori finds that he passes perfectly as a girl. Takatsuki is later shown distraughtly bemoaning this biological proof that she has a female body, while Nitori's gender explorations are seen as much more ambiguous.

The story was somewhat difficult to follow, with characters sometimes not well distinguished from one another through the artwork, a problem the author admits to in a note. Devotees of graphic novels may find this less of a barrier.

Series continues.

***Transgender People.*** Edited by Roman Espejo. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press, 2011. **M/T**

Part of Greenhaven's Social Issues series, this book contains arguments pro and con on issues such as whether or not transgender people should be labeled with gender identity disorders, whether the transgender rights movement is necessary or is harmful to society, whether workplace protections are needed, whether transgender children should be accepted, and whether transgender surgery is a medical necessity.

Authors range from familiar names in the transgender activist community to the Traditional Values Coalition.

While the positive articles are good, the negative articles are harmful to the self-esteem of transgender youth.

Not recommended for LGBTQ youth, except to formulate arguments for debate or school assignments.

Trope, Zoe. ***Please Don't Kill the Freshman***. New York: Harper Tempest, 2003. **T**

Zoe relates her experiences as a disaffected, including her girlfriend's transition to becoming her boyfriend, which affects her new-found queer identity.

Readers who can get into Trope's stream-of-consciousness style of writing will identify with some of her experiences.

Trujillo, Carla. ***What Night Brings***. Willimantic, CT: Curbstone Press, 2003. **A/T**

Marci Cruz prays to God, the Virgin Mary, and Baby Jesus each night for a change of gender—because she likes girls and the only way to marry one is to be a boy.

Trujillo doesn't make clear whether Marci is really transgender, or simply is unaware that lesbian relationships exist. In either case, this is a delightful novel and is highly recommended.

Winfield, Cynthia L. ***Gender Identity: The Ultimate Teen Guide***. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2007. **T**

Winfield, a Massachusetts eighth-grade English and Language-Arts teacher, tackles the complex topic of gender identity, looking at sociological, medical, biological, neurological, psychological, and psychiatric theories. In a somewhat rambling fashion, she goes beyond the basics of what is often referred to as *Transgender 101*.

The first chapter of the book is devoted to the tragic case of Bruce Reimer, an infant who suffered such a dramatically botched circumcision that he was surgically turned into a girl by Dr. John Money at Johns Hopkins University medical center, who convinced his parents that if done soon enough, he could be raised as a girl with no future problems.

The next chapter is titled *Trans History through the Ages*, but actually covers a variety of other topics, including individuals with intersex conditions, cross-dressers, eunuchs, castrati, lesbian and gay people, and people from different cultures who adopt what is sometimes called a *third gender*: Native American two-spirit people, hijiras of India, mahu people of Hawaii and the Polynesian Islands.

Other chapters cover terminology, more about intersex conditions, theories about the brain and gender, transgender surgeries, legal considerations, etc.

While the book covers a lot, the sometimes poor organization of the material may make this a daunting read for teens.

Low recommend.

Wittlinger, Ellen. ***Parrotfish***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007. **T**

Wittlinger takes on the subject of transsexual teens in this novel about high school junior Angela /Grady who has decided it's time to make the transition from female to male. Grady's transition is fraught with family drama, and negative reactions from friends, but two new friends, (one a possible love interest) keep him going in this first really positive novel about a transgender teen.

Highly recommended.

Wong, Wallace. ***When Kathy is Keith***. Xlibris, 2011. **Transgender (FTM) - I/C**

Aimed at the same age group as Carr's *Be Who You Are*, this title falls short in comparison in a number of ways.

It starts off on a confusing note, with the first two-page spread showing an unhappy girl looking at a boy in a mirror, while stating that she sees a girl in the mirror.

The story proceeds with Kathy being teased and dismissed by the various people in her life as she tries to tell them she is really a boy.

Finally her parents take her seriously, and seek help and support, and allow Kathy to become Keith while at home.



Meanwhile the protagonist in *Be Who You Are* is supported by her family more immediately and completely; and the story is much easier to follow.

A secondary choice.

Woodson, Jacqueline. "*Trev*," in ***How Beautiful the Ordinary***, edited by Michael Cart. Bowen Press / Harper Teen, 2009. **T/A**

In this painful story, but well-written and touching story, Trev's mother both reassures him that he isn't the reason his father left, and yet whispers her wish to him every night at bedtime, that Trev will wake up "my sugar and spice, and everything nice."

Beautifully written, and honest in the depiction of a mother's complicated feelings about her child's gender.

## **BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN ABOUT BEING DIFFERENT**

Anderson, Hans Christian. ***The Ugly Duckling***. Adapted and Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1999. **I/C**

The ugly duckling may be different, but his transformation is a beautiful thing.

This story serves as a wonderful metaphor for transgender children. Pinkney's rich illustrations add to the pleasure of the book.

Highly recommended.

Bansch, Helga. ***Odd Bird Out***. 21<sup>st</sup> Century / Gecko Press, 2011. **I/C**

Robert is not your typical raven, and when the other ravens fail to appreciate his humor and colorful dress and nature, he leaves home and finds other friends who accept him as he is. But once he is gone, the other ravens find they actually miss him.

Recommended.

Hilton, Perez. ***The Boy with the Pink Hair***. Celebra Children's Books, 2011. **I/C**

Being born with cotton-candy-pink colored hair can make a kid feel pretty different from everyone else, but having supportive parents, and a best friend who likes you just the way you are, pave the way for developing good self-esteem and the ability to shrug off teasing.

Not yet seen.

Howe, James. ***I Wish I Were a Butterfly***. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1987. **I/C**

After being told by a frog that he's ugly, the littlest cricket doesn't want to be a cricket anymore. Wishing he could be transformed into a beautiful butterfly, he decides he's not going to sing anymore, even as the other insects implore him to do so. Finally the wise old spider convinces him that he's unique and beautiful just the way he is, and the cricket finds his song again. Beautifully illustrated by Ed Young.

Recommended.

McAllister, Angela. ***Yuck! That's Not a Monster***. Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2010. **I/C**

Mrs. and Mr. Monster are eagerly awaiting the hatching of their brood of eggs. First to be hatched is an ugly green monster with spikes and fangs, who they name Frightful. Next to hatch is an ugly blue monster with spines and warts, who they name Horrid. When the third egg hatches, everyone is shocked to see a cute, cuddly pink monster.

His siblings want to squash him, and his father wants to throw him in the trash, but Mrs. Monster insists he's their monster just the same, and this last baby is named Little Shock.

Frightful and Horrid grow hairier and scarier, and learned to hiss and snarl like real little monsters, but Little Shock just grows more cuddly. He loves to follow his brother and sister around, although their shenanigans tend to scare him.

One day the three are out in the woods, when a huge red monster scares Horrid and Frightful. When the red monster sees Little Shock, it says, "Oooh! Cotton Candy," and lifts him up. Just as the reader thinks Little Shock might be eaten, he gives the red monster a giant kiss on the cheek, which so horrifies the red monster that Little Shock and his siblings are able to escape.

After this, Little Shock is truly accepted by his family.

While his father's reaction at his hatching is extreme, children will otherwise enjoy this book.

Recommended.

Parr, Todd. ***It's Okay to Be Different.*** Little, Brown, 2001. **I/C**

While not specifically addressing gender issues, the book enumerates many ways in which it's okay to be different.

Recommended.

Rickards, Lynne. ***Pink!*** Illustrated by Margaret Chamberlain. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2009. **I/C**

Patrick the penguin is horrified to wake up pink one morning. Boys can't be pink! He will be teased at school! This is the end of the world!

Patrick's parents reassure him that it's okay to be different, and his father pulls out a book of birds of the world to show him photographs of flamingos, half of whom are definitely boys.

But after a few days of misery, Patrick packs his knapsack, and tells his parents he's going to Africa where he will fit in better with the flamingo flocks. To his dismay, while the flamingos are friendly, he doesn't fit it there either. He can't fish like they do, and he can't fly like they do. And the water is awfully warm for a penguin.

When he returns home, he is welcomed by friends, classmates, and family alike, and gives a presentation in class about everything he learned about flamingos.

Maybe being a pink penguin isn't the end of the world after all.

This is a great book to use with children about feeling comfortable about their differences, and potentially to explore gender issues with.

Also available in Spanish: *¡Pink! El pingüino que se volvió rosa*. Trapella Books, 2010.

Tuttle, Tom. ***Spot***. Seattle, WA: Window Books, 2001. **I/C**

Spot is a little white dog with a big black spot. His whole family, and all the other dogs in town have spots. When Spot's spot seems to be disappearing, he worries that no one will love him anymore.

## **BOOKS FOR ADULTS**

Adell, Judith and Hilary Dole Klein. ***A Guide to Non-sexist Children's Books***. Chicago: Academy Press, 1996.

While outdated, this title is still useful for parents and other adults working with children.

Beam, Chris. ***Transparent: Love, Family, and Living the T with Transgender Teenagers***. Harcourt, 2007.

Through her volunteer work with transgender teens, author Beam finds herself in the role of teacher, foster parent, and advisor, riding a roller-coaster of emotion with the young people she has come to care deeply about.

Largely of interest to adults parenting or working with transgender youth.

Boenke, Mary. ***Trans Forming Families: Real Stories about Transgendered Loved Ones***. Foreword by Ari Ishtar Lve; introduction by Jessica Xavier. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Hardy, VA: Oak Knoll Press, 2003.

Along with family's personal experiences with transgender family members of different ages, including gender-nonconforming children, Boenke includes comments from therapists.

Recommended.

Brill, Stephanie A. and Rachel Pepper. ***The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Families and Professionals***. San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2008.

In this groundbreaking book, Brill and Pepper cover social, educational, medical, and legal concerns of raising a transgender child.

Highly recommended.

Brown, Mildred L. ***True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism—for Family, Friends, Coworkers, and Helping Professionals***. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 1996, 2003.

Recommended.

Cahill, Sean Robert and Sarah Tobias. ***Policy Issues Affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Families***. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2007.

Recommended for researchers and professionals.

Cart, Michael and Christine A. Jenkins. ***The Heart Has Its Reasons: Young Adult Literature with Gay/Lesbian/Queer Content, 1969-2004***. Scarecrow Press, 2006.

This is a great reader's advisory resource for professionals, and teens might find it useful to use in selecting titles on their own.

Highly recommended.

Cohen-Kettenis, Peggy Tine and Friedemann Pfafflin. ***Transgenderism and Intersexuality in Childhood and Adolescence: Making Choices***. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2003.

This scholarly work by gender development and psychopathology scholar Cohen-Kettinis, and psychologist/psychiatrist Pfafflin, who specializes in transgender issues will be of interest to practitioners working with children with intersex conditions, and transgender children.

Parents who want to wade through this relatively short book will also gain insights.

Recommended.

Curtin, Amanda. ***The Sinkings***. University of Western Australia Press, 2008. **A**

Willa, the mother of an adult child born with a rare intersex condition, finds herself unhinged after her daughter leaves home and disappears.

Finally pulling herself together a little bit, she decides to delve into the story of an old murder that she came across years ago in her work as a copy editor. The particularly vicious murder took place in the 1800s in Australia, and from the doctor's reports, it seems as if the physical evidence indicates the victim was a woman, although he was known as a man.

Curious to know if the victim had an intersex condition, Willa tries to piece together the details of his life.

This title addresses some of the emotional and physical traumas that are likely to ensue when infants born with intersex conditions are assigned a gender by doctors, and subjected to early “corrective” surgeries.

Recommended, for adults only.

Dreger, Alice Domurat. ***Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex.***  
Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Dreger looks at a number of case studies as she provides a fascinating historical look at the construction of sex, gender, sex roles, and sexuality in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Highly recommended.

Duron, Lori. ***Raising My Rainbow: Adventures in Raising a Fabulous, Gender Creative Son.*** Broadway, 2013.

Due out September, 2013. Not yet seen.

See author’s very positive blog: *Raising My Rainbow.com*.

Ehrensaft, Diane. ***Gender Born, Gender Made: Raising Healthy Gender-Nonconforming Children.*** Foreword by Edgardo Menvielle. New York: Experiment; distributed by Workman Pub., 2011.



Ehrensaft, a developmental and clinical psychologist, and mother of a gender-nonconforming son who grew up to be gay, writes about supportive ways of parenting gender-nonconforming children and youth.

Recommended.

Fish, Linda Stone and Rebecca G. Harvey. ***Nurturing Queer Youth: Family Therapy Transformed.*** New York: Norton & Company, 2005.

Aimed at the therapeutic professional, this volume will also offer insights to families of GLBTQ youth.

Recommended.

Fisher, Emily S. and Kelly S. Kennedy. ***Responsive School Practices to Support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Students and Families.*** New York: Routledge, 2012.

This book addresses ways to support gender-nonconforming, transgender, and intersex students in the school setting, both in working with teachers and counselors, and through the curriculum.

Recommended.

Green, Jamison. ***Becoming a Visible Man.*** Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2004.

Herman, Joanne. ***Transgender Explained for Those Who are Not.*** AuthorHouse, 2009. **A**

Herman covers the basics of what it means to be transgender, gender nonconforming, as well as intersex. She discusses medical treatments available, discrimination and other legal issues, as well as social issues, and her personal story. Included is a short chapter on transgender children.

Recommended mostly for adults.

Hunter, Nan. ***The Rights of Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals, and Transgender People: The Authoritative ACLU Guide to a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender Person's Rights.*** Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004.

While somewhat outdated at this point, this book covers important legal issues that affect the LGBT community. The question and answer format avoids legalese, and makes the book approachable to the average reader.

Recommended.

***Intersex in the Age of Ethics.*** Edited by Alison Domerat Dreger. Hagerstown, MD: University Pub. Group, 1999.

Professionals, parents, and individuals with intersex conditions weigh in on current treatment modalities and theories.

Recommended.

Krieger, Irwin. ***Helping Your Transgender Teen: A Guide for Parents.*** Genderwise Press, 2011.

Social worker Krieger shares his experiences and insights from his years of working with transgender teens. In easy to understand language, Krieger

provides parents with the terminology used to understand the range of gender nonconformity in childhood and youth, and what it means for a child or teen to be transgender.

He goes on to discuss the mental health concerns for transgender youth, and the processes of socially and medically transitioning.

Includes a list of organizations for parents and teens; books and websites; and a glossary.

Highly recommended.

**Lev, Arlene Ishtar.** *Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working with Gender-nonconforming People and Their Families.* NY: **Haworth Press, 2004.**

Ishstar discusses the historical treatment of gender-nonconforming children and challenges practitioners to move beyond old models which seek to cure children of gender-abnormal traits and behaviors.

Recommended.

Martin, Hillias and James R Murdock. ***Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Teens: A How-to-Do-It Manual.*** New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2007.

A reference book for library professionals serving LGBTQ teens.

Recommended.

**Meyerowitz, Joanne J.** *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States.* **Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002.**

Looking at transsexuals, famous and not so famous, the doctors performing or withholding the surgeries, and the liberation movements of recent decades, Meyerowitz provides a good historical overview of transsexuals in the United States.

Highly recommended.

**Moser, Charles, Dr.** *Health Care without Shame: A Handbook for the Sexually Diverse and their Caregivers.* **San Francisco: Greenery Press, 1999.**

Recommended.

**Naidoo, Jamie.** *Rainbow Family Collections: Selecting and Using Children's Books with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Content.* **Libraries Unlimited, 2012.**

Naidoo's extensive annotated bibliography is a handy reference book for librarians, parents, and adult allies of LGBTQ youth.

Recommended.

Perrotti, Jeff and Kim Westheimer. [\*When the Drama Club is not Enough: Lessons from the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students.\*](#) **Beacon Press, 2002.**

A good resource for adult allies.

Roughgarden, Joan. ***Evolution's Rainbow, Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People.***

Stanford University professor of biology, Roughgarden, argues that based on the diversity found in species in nature, the belief in a universal binary gender system is misguided. Roughgarden then goes on to look at gender and sexual diversity in humans.

This is a fascinating read.

Simkins, Sandra. ***When Kids Get Arrested: What Every Adult Should Know.*** New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2009.

Includes a chapter on the special concerns related to LGBTQ youth who get arrested.

Not yet seen.

***Sissies and Tomboys: Gender Nonconformity and Homosexual Childhood.*** Edited by Matthew Rottnek. NY: New York University Press, 1999.

This title examines the stigma the *GID* diagnosis code has for children, and considers what childhood might look like without gender constraints.

Recommended.

***Transgender Family Law: A Guide to Effective Advocacy.*** Edited by Jennifer L. Levi and Elizabeth E. Monnin-Browder. Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse, 2012.

Chapters cover issues relating to transgender children and youth, as well as children of transgender parents.

Recommended.

***Transitions of the Heart: Stories of Love, Struggle and Acceptance by Mothers of Transgender and Gender Variant Children.*** Edited by Rachel Pepper; foreword by Kim Pearson. Berkeley, CA: Cleis Press, 2012.

Recommended.

Webber, Carlisle K. ***Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Teen Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests.*** Libraries Unlimited, 2010.

A useful reference book for librarians and teachers.

Recommended.

Wilms, Denise and Ilene Cooper. ***A Guide to Non-sexist Children's Books, Volume II: 1976-1985.*** Chicago: Academy Chicago, 1987.

Many of the titles discussed in this book should be available through libraries.

Recommended.

## **FILMS:**

Berliner, Alain and Chris Vander Stappen. ***Ma Vie en Rose.*** Culver City, CA : Columbia TriStar Home Video, 1998, c1996. **A**

In this heart-wrenching French film, seven-year-old Ludovic is convinced he is a girl, explaining that he mistakenly got XY chromosomes after his other X fell in the garbage. His parents, the neighbors, and his school are not sympathetic to this point of view from their cross-dressing son.

Recommended for adults, for teens and young adults who have resolved their gender issues with their families; but absolutely not for children.

***Boy I Am.*** Produced by Sam Feder and Judith Hollar. NY: Distributed by Women Make Movies, 2007. **A**

The filmmakers interview a number of young female-to-male transsexuals, along with their not always supportive partners, as well as examining the hostility of some feminists toward transgender people.

While interesting for stimulating discussion within the lesbian and transgender community, this film is not recommended for families with transgender or gender-nonconforming children.

***Breaking the Silence: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Foster Youth Tell Their Stories: A Tool for Training Care Providers on Working Effectively with LGBTQ Youth.*** San Francisco: National Center for Lesbian Rights, 2006. **A/T**

This DVD features ten LGBT teens talking about their lives and their experiences in the foster care system. An accompanying CD includes training materials and resources for adults.

Recommended.

Elisco, David. ***Sex, Lies & Gender***. National Geographic Television, 2009.

Profiles three individuals, including a transgender child.

Not yet seen.

***Gender Matters: Expressions and Identities Beyond the Binary***. San Francisco: Frameline, 2008. **T/A**

Includes the following short films:

***Eddie***, in which a young Latina girl who's considered one of the neighborhood guys, has to confront her gender and sexual identities.

***Tomboy***, about Donna Carter, college basketball star, sports writer, and publisher of the first magazine about women athletes.

***"How Could You Raise a Transsexual Child and Not Know it?"*** A father responds to this question, and talks about the changes in his relationship with his transsexual child.

***Just Call Me Kade***. This documentary follows teen Kade through two years of his transition from female to male, with family and friends included in discussing their feelings during the process.

***Bikini***. This is an animated short about a young boy dressed up in his mother's bathing suit.

***Two-Spirit People***. This documentary explores historic and current Native American concepts of gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation.



Highly recommended for teens and adults.

***I'm Just Anneke; The Family Journey : Raising Gender Nonconforming***

***Children***, two films by Jonathan Skurnik. Harriman, NY: New Day Films, 2010. **T/A**

Cheerful twelve-year-old Anneke has started taking Lupron, a hormone to delay puberty while she figures out who she is and what she wants to be. She began to exhibit gender dysphoria at an early age, and was seriously depressed and suicidal by the age of four or five.

Her parents accept her as gender-fluid, and athlete Anneke says she doesn't think she's a lesbian or transgender, but that she's "somewhere in the middle of the soccer field."

In *The Family Journey* parents and siblings discuss the adjustments they've had to make in their thinking to accept their gender-nonconforming and transgender children.

Both films are highly recommended.

***Insights: Queer Youth Defining Our Future*** (*Youth in Motion*). San Francisco: Frameline, 2014.

Louisell, Rebecca. *Genderfreak*. (19 min). **Genderqueer – M/T**

Violinist Rachel, the only straight girl in her group of friends meets guitar-playing Sammy, a genderqueer teen.

Not yet seen.

***Larkin Street Stories. Episode 3, Neither/Nor: Working With Transgender Youth.*** [Electronic resource]. Rockville, MD: Homelessness Resource Center, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2011. **T**

This episode of Larkin Street Stories alternates between Larkin Street staff discussing gender identities, pronouns, and how to approach youth, with a staffer helping a transgender youth prepare for an upcoming job interview.

Recommended for adults.

***Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She.*** Written and directed by Antony Thomas; produced by Antony Thomas and Carleen Ling-an Hsu. HBO Documentary Films, 2006. **A**

This documentary, narrated by Gore Vidal, tackles too many issues, and presents at least one theory as fact.

It starts off with an eerie reenactment of the burial of Gwen Araujo by her murderers, then moves on to a gender-nonconforming child being raised in the Midwest by his Christian family who are dedicated to protecting him as best they can. Interviews with an individual with an intersex condition and his partner, as well as with some transgender individuals follow.

The scientific community weighs in with accurate descriptions of how gender is determined during fetal development, and then a Dutch researcher claims definitively that there are identifiable differences in the structures of the brains of transgender people – not a commonly-held belief.

Not recommended.

***No Dumb Questions: a Documentary Film.*** Ehiphany Productions; produced, directed and edited by Melissa Regan. New Day Films ([www.newday.com](http://www.newday.com)), 2001.

**All ages.**

Uncle Bill is becoming a woman, and his three nieces are helped by their parents to understand and accept the transformation into Aunt Barbara.

***Odd Ones Out.*** A Rainlake film, directed by Dana McClure; co-creators Dana McClure and Kirby Conn; producers Kim Connell, Joel Pomeroy, and Beth Botshon. NY: Cinema Guild, 2009. **T**

This film follows the lives of three transgender teens living marginal lives in New York. Tot and David first came out as gay before coming to an understanding of their transgender identities. Tot lives with her mother, and David is living in transitional housing for LGBT youth after running away from home.

When the film starts out, Naomi lives with her grandmother, and is working the streets to pay for hormones and to save for surgery. She manages to make the transition, and even leave the streets to attend college for a semester, although financial problems get in the way of continuing,

Tot ends up moving to Michigan to live with her disapproving father, and continues on her path toward transitioning.

Unfortunately, David is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which precludes his taking testosterone.

While these portraits are discouraging, they present an accurate picture of what many transgender teens face without the support of family.

Recommended.

***Oliver Button is a Star – A Story for All Families.*** Produced by Dan Hunt. Directed by John Scagliotti. Hunt and Scagliotti Productions, 2001. **All ages.**

This production of Tomie De Paola's book, *Oliver Button is a Sissy*, is accompanied by interviews with first graders and celebrities about sex roles and following one's dreams.

Recommended.

Sciamma, Celine. ***Tomboy.*** Wolfe Video, 2012. **A**

Laure's family is unaware that their tomboy ten-year-old Laure has real desires to be a boy. When the family move, Laure introduces himself to, and is accepted by the neighbor kids as a boy named Mikael. Lisa, one of the neighbor girls, develops a crush on Mikael, who bashfully returns her shy kisses. Younger sister, Jeanne, agrees to keep Mikael's secret, but as the summer comes to a close, and Mikael gets into a fight defending Jeanne, everything comes to a head.

Forced into a dress by his mother, Mikael is dragged around to apologize for the deception.

Recommended for parents with gender-nonconforming and transgender children.

***Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us all Tied Up.*** Groundspark, and the Respect for All Project present a Debra Chasnoff film; directed by Debra Chasnoff; produced by Debra Chasnoff and Sue Chen. Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ: New Day Films, 2009. **T/A**

Teens talk about the pressures of gender role stereotypes and expectations, including expanding gender identities.

Not yet seen.

***Tomboy.*** Produced and directed by Dawn Logsdon. San Francisco: Frameline, 1994. **All ages.**

Logsdon talks to several women who identified as tomboys as children, including a number of them who hoped or believed they might turn into boys, and some of whom claim a masculine female identity as adults.

Recommended.

***Total Patient Care: The Child with an Intersex Condition.*** Cheryl Chase. Seattle: Intersex Society of North America, 2003. **A**

Produced by intersex activist Chase, this film discusses the medical, social and ethical aspects of treating intersex patients in childhood.

Not yet seen.

***Transgeneration.*** Sundance Channel in association with Logo presents a World of Wonder Production. Produced by Thairin Smothers; written by Mathilde Bittner, and Ashley York; directed by Jeremy Simmons. New York: Docurama : Distributed by New Video Group, c2006. **T/A**

This series follows four college students as they explore their transgender identities, with some of them choosing hormone treatment, and one opting for genital surgery.

Included in the film are the reactions of family and friends.

Recommended for teens and adults.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

Advocates for Youth. ***I Think I Might be Transgender, Now What Do I Do?*** T

[http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view  
&id=731&Itemid=177](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=731&Itemid=177)

Advocates for youth provides a variety of other resources for LGBTQ youth, including a site in Spanish.

Incluye también un sitio para jóvenes LGBT en los Estados Unidos y Latino América con información sobre salud sexual y mental:

<http://www.ambientejuven.org/>

Recommended.

Children's National Medical Center. Washington, D.C. A

[www.childrensnational.org/gendervariance](http://www.childrensnational.org/gendervariance)

Children's National Medical Center has programs and resources for gender variant children and their families, including an email discussion list for parents.

Duron, Lori. ***Raising My Rainbow***. **A**

<http://raisingmyrainbow.com/>

A mother of a gender-nonconforming child blogs about their experiences.

Fielding, Sarah and Jessica Pettitt. ***Beginning the Conversation: Lambda 10 Project Fraternity & Sorority Transgender Resource Guide***. Charlotte, NC: Lambda 10 Project, 2008. **T**

[http://iamsocialjustice.com/images/transgreek\\_L10TransGuide.pdf](http://iamsocialjustice.com/images/transgreek_L10TransGuide.pdf)

FTMInternational. **A/T**

<http://www.ftmi.org/>

FTMI serves the female-to-male transgender community. There are resources for families with transgender children on their website.

Gender Odyssey Family. **A/T**

<http://www.genderodysseyfamily.org/>

Gender Odyssey puts on an annual family conference in Seattle for families with transgender and gender-nonconforming children. There are workshop tracks for parents and teens, as well as activities for children.

Gender Spectrum. **A**

[www.genderspectrum.org](http://www.genderspectrum.org)

Gender Spectrum is an organization which provides education, training, and support to families with gender variant children and teens. They have an annual family conference in California.

Genderology. **A/T**

[www.genderology.com](http://www.genderology.com)

Genderology is a directory of transgender resources.

GLSEN. **T/A**

[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

GLSEN the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network has a variety of resources for students.

GSA Network. ***Beyond the Binary: A Toolkit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools.*** **T**

<http://gsanetwork.org/get-involved/change-your-school/campaigns/beyond-binary>

Human Rights Campaign. ***Issue Transgender.*** **A**

<http://www.hrc.org/issues/transgender>.

Human Rights Watch. ***Hatred in the Hallways: Violence and Discrimination Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students in U.S. Schools.*** **A**



[www.hrw.org/reports/2001/uslgbt/](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/uslgbt/).

International Foundation for Gender Education. <http://www.ifge.org/> **A/T**

"IFGE promotes acceptance for transgender people. We advocate for freedom of gender expression and promote the understanding and acceptance of All People: Transgender, Cis-gender, Transsexual, Crossdresser, Agender, Gender Queer, Intersex, Two Spirit, Hijra, Kathoey, Drag King, Drag Queen, Queer, Lesbian, Gay, Straight, Butch, Femme, Faerie, Homosexual, Bisexual, Heterosexual, and of course - You!"

It Gets Better Project. <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/> **M/T**

This online collection of thousands of videos encourages young LGBT people to believe in a positive future, and to fight for change.

Kruse, Jaime. *Sky's the Limit*. **T**

<http://www.matthewsplace.com/author/jaime/>.

College student Jaime talks about his life and the process of transitioning from FTM as a young adult.

L Project. *It Does Get Better*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EUifVn-TC4> **All ages**

This song urges everyone to believe in a positive future. All money from purchases of the song go to organizations that work to prevent bullying of LGBTQ youth.

Lambda Legal. ***Bending the Mold: An Action Kit for Transgender Youth.*** T/A

<http://data.lambdalegal.org/pdf/305.pdf>

Lambda Legal, an organization devoted to obtaining full civil rights for members of the LGBT community has numerous other resources for transgender people.

Marian Wright Edelman Institute (MWEI) of San Francisco State University. ***Family Acceptance Project.*** A/all ages.

<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/home>.

"The Family Acceptance Project™ is the only community research, intervention, education and policy initiative that works to decrease major health and related risks for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth, such as suicide, substance abuse, HIV and homelessness – in the context of their families."

A variety of print and video resources for families are available, including some in Spanish.

National Center for Lesbian Rights. ***Issue and Cases, Transgender Law.*** A

[http://www.nclrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issue\\_transgender](http://www.nclrights.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issue_transgender)

No Name-Calling Week. **All ages.**

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/home.html>

Stemming from the book *The Misfits* by James Howe, in which a group of friends in middle school run a candidate for student council on a "no

name-calling” platform, this event has taken hold in schools around the country.

PFLAG. ***Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All.*** A

<http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=1011>

Safe Schools Coalition. A/T

[http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-gender\\_nonconforming\\_trans\\_youth.html](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/RG-gender_nonconforming_trans_youth.html)

This website gathers together a variety of resources about transgender and gender-nonconforming children and youth, including those who don’t include themselves in the gender binary.

Includes support groups, information on a summer camp for transgender and gender-nonconforming youth, and more.

Some resources are more suited to parents, teachers, and adult allies, while others are for teens.

Highly recommended.

Simpson, A,J, and Joshua Mira Goldberg. ***Let’s Talk Trans: A Resource for Trans and Questioning Youth.*** Vancouver Coastal Health, Transcend Transgender Support & Education Society and Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition, 2006. T

[www.vch.ca/transhealth/resources/library/tcpdocs/consumer/youth.pdf](http://www.vch.ca/transhealth/resources/library/tcpdocs/consumer/youth.pdf)

TNET: PFLAG’s Transgender Network.

<http://community.pflag.org/TNET>

TNET provides families with a variety of resources for understanding their transgender family members.

Información está disponible en Español, también:

<http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=387>

Trans Youth Family Allies. **A**

[www.imatyfa.org](http://www.imatyfa.org)

Transfamily. **A/T/C**

Transfamily hosts several email discussion groups for transgender people, their parents, and families.

<http://www.transfamily.org/e-mail-discussion-groups>

Transgender Law and Policy Institute. **A**

[www.transgenderlaw.org](http://www.transgenderlaw.org)

Transgender Law Center. **A**

<http://transgenderlawcenter.org/>

The Trevor Project. **C/M/T**

[www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)

Toll free crisis and suicide hotline for LGBTQ and questioning young people:  
888.488.7386.

True Colors Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services. **A/T**

<http://ourtruecolors.org/>

True Colors works with social service agencies, schools, and other organizations to meet the needs of gender and sexual minority young people. They also hold an annual conference for youth.

World Professional Association for Transgender Health. ***Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People, Version 7.*** **A**

[http://www.wpath.org/publications\\_standards.cfm](http://www.wpath.org/publications_standards.cfm)

WPATH also lists providers for transgender health care:

[http://wpath.org/find\\_a\\_provider.cfm](http://wpath.org/find_a_provider.cfm)

Youth Resource. **T**

<http://www.youthresource.com.>

Created by and for LGBTQ youth, YouthResource addresses sexual and social concerns by providing information and offering support through peer education, discussion lists, and more.

Highly recommended.