

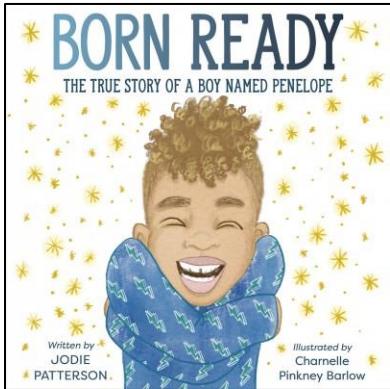
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CHILDREN'S BOOKSLIST

Rainbow Reads

Books for Grades K – 3

These titles feature a rainbow of culturally diverse LGBTQIA+ characters! Reading and sharing these books can help kids understand their feelings and express themselves, and reminds them that, however they choose to identify, they deserve respect.



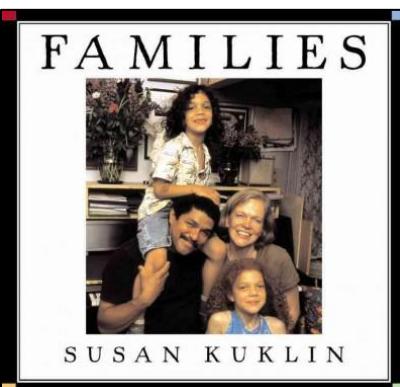
Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope

**by Jodie Patterson;
illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow**

Picture Book (2021)
P* Patterson

Just before his fifth birthday, Penelope lets his mother know he is a boy and, with her support and his ninja powers, faces the rest of his family and his classmates.

Suggested for ages 4-8



Families

by Susan Kuklin

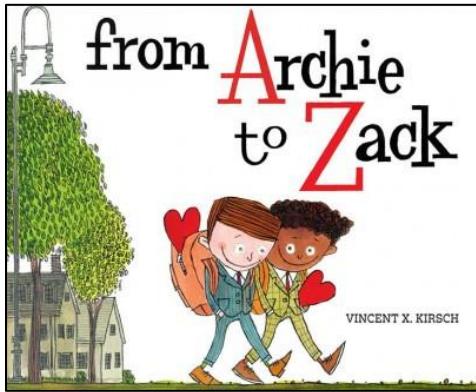
Nonfiction Picture Book (2006)
J306.85 Kuklin

Combining interviews and engaging color photos, acclaimed photo-essayist Susan Kuklin celebrates the diversity of families in America. In frank, funny, and touching interviews, children from 15 different families

talk about how they identify themselves as a family.

Suggested for ages 5-12





From Archie to Zack

by Vincent X. Kirsch

Picture Book (2020)

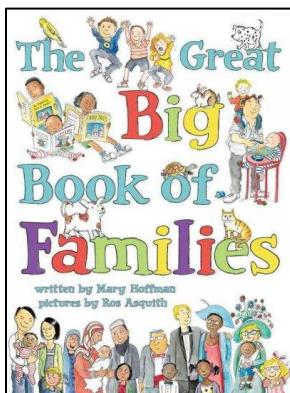
P Kirsch

Archie and Zack are inseparable, both in elementary school and outside it, but Archie is having trouble telling Zack about his love. Over the course of a few months, Archie tries to write a letter to tell him how

he feels: "From A to Z." None of his drafts sound quite right, so he hides them all away. One by one, Archie's friends (Zelda, Zinnia, and Zuzella) find the letters... but they know exactly whom they're meant for.

Also available as a Freading Ebook & Hoopla Ebook.

Suggested for ages 7-10



The Great Big Book of Families

by Mary Hoffman; illustrated by Ros Asquith

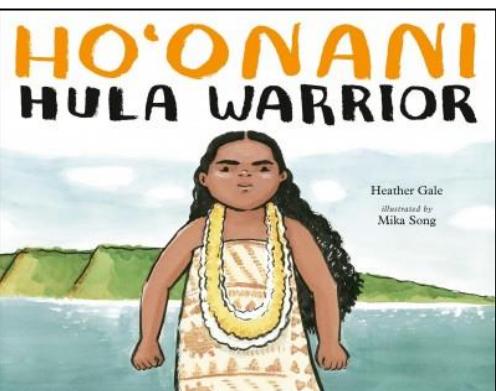
Picture Book (2011)

P Hoffman

Families come in many shapes and sizes – and here we celebrate them all! Featuring homes and holidays, schools and pets, feelings and family trees, this book explores every aspect of family life with warmth, wit, and sensitivity, challenging

preconceptions and inviting discussion.

Suggested for ages 5-8



Ho'onani: Hula Warrior

by Heather Gale; illustrated by Mika Song

Picture Book (2019)

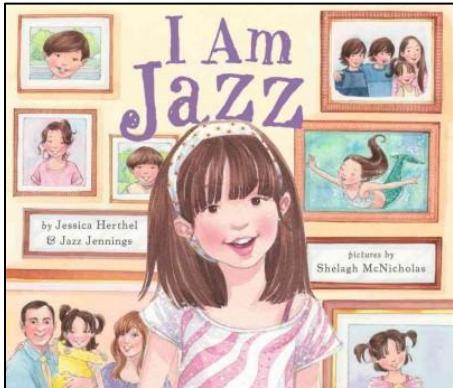
P Gale

Ho'onani feels in-between. She doesn't see herself as *wahine* (girl) OR *kane* (boy). She's happy to be in the middle. But not everyone sees it that way. When Ho'onani finds out that there will be a school

performance of a traditional *kane* hula chant, she wants to be part of it. But can a girl really lead the all-male troupe? Ho'onani has to try . . . Based on a true story, *Ho'onani: Hula Warrior* is a celebration of Hawaiian culture and an empowering story of a girl who learns to lead and learns to accept who she really is--and in doing so, gains the respect of all those around her.

Suggested for ages 5-9





I am Jazz!

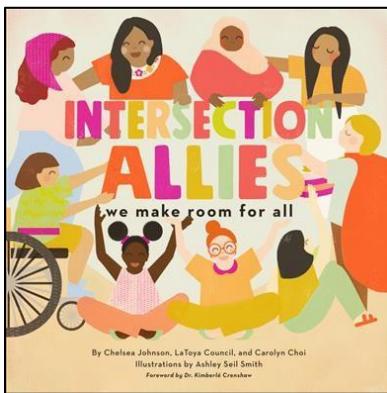
by Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings;
illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas

Nonfiction Picture Book (2014)
J306.76 Herthel

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like

herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way.

Suggested for ages 4-9



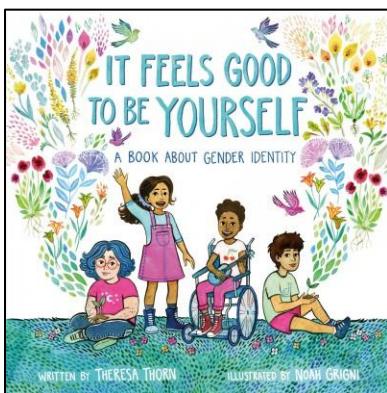
Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All

by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council & Carolyn Choi;
illustrated by Ashley Seil Smith

Picture Book (2019)
P Johnson

Nine interconnected characters proudly describe themselves and their backgrounds, involving topics that range from a physical disability to language brokering, offering an opportunity to take pride in a personal story and connect to collective struggle for justice.

Suggested for ages 4-10



It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity

by Theresa Thorn; illustrated by Noah Grigni

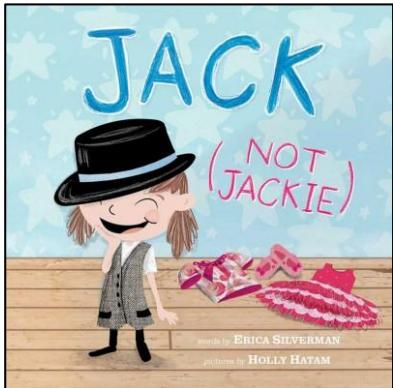
Nonfiction Picture Book (2019)
J305.3 Thorn

Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither, or somewhere in between. This sweet, straightforward exploration of gender identity will

give children a fuller understanding of themselves and others. With child-friendly language and vibrant art, *It Feels Good to Be Yourself* provides young readers and parents alike with the vocabulary to discuss this important topic with sensitivity.

Suggested for ages 4-9





Jack (Not Jackie)

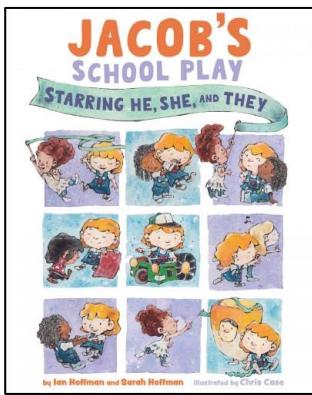
by Erica Silverman; illustrated by Holly Hatam

Picture Book (2018)
P Silverman

Susan thinks her little sister Jackie has the best giggle! She can't wait for Jackie to get older so they can do all sorts of things like play forest fairies and be explorers together. But as time passes, Jackie shows no interest in

those games and prefers to play with mud and be a Superbug! Jackie also doesn't like dresses or having long hair, and would rather be called Jack. Readers will love this special and important story about change and acceptance.

Suggested for ages 5-9



Jacob's School Play: Starring He, She, and They

by Ian & Sarah Hoffman; illustrated by Chris Case

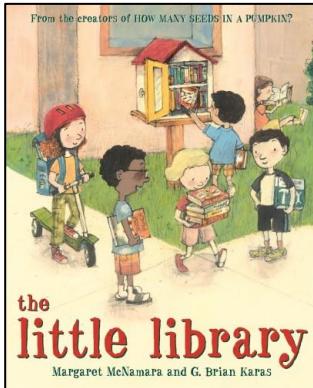
Picture Book (2021)
P Hoffman

Jacob's class learns about the use of pronouns of their own choosing when, while preparing for a school play, they learn that their non-binary and gender-fluid classmate, Ari, prefers

"they." This book introduces young readers to concepts of gender diversity and pronoun use, and encourages an understanding of what gender is and how it needs to be respected, for everyone, as who they are inside.

Suggested for ages 5-8





The Little Library

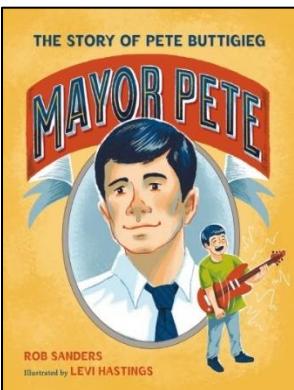
by Margaret McNamara; illustrated by G. Brian Karas

Picture Book (2021)
P McNamara

Everyone in Mr. Tiffin's class couldn't be more excited that the new school library has finally opened. Everyone except Jake. Jake is a slow and careful reader, and he often feels left behind on class Library Day. All that changes when Librarian Beck

notices Jake running his fingers across the grooves of a brand-new bookshelf and offers him an old, worn book: *Woodworking for Young Hands*. Jake checks the book out, studies the pictures and instructions, and renews the book again and again. When the school year comes to an end, Jake has the perfect gift idea for the librarian who changed his life--and he makes it with his own two hands.

Suggested for ages 5-9



Mayor Pete: The Story of Pete Buttigieg

by Rob Sanders; illustrated by Levi Hastings

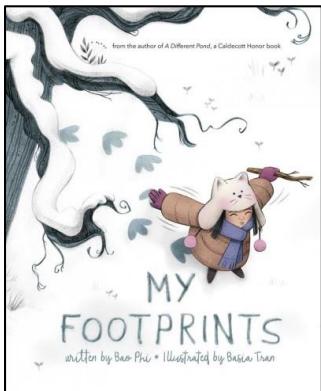
Picture Book Biography (2020)
JB Buttigieg

When Pete Buttigieg announced he was running for president, he became the first openly gay candidate to run for the Democratic party's presidential nomination and the first millennial ever to pursue the office. But before the nation knew him as "Mayor

Pete," he was a boy growing up in a Rust Belt town, a kid who dreamed of being an astronaut, and a high schooler who wondered about a life of public service. Through victories and defeats, and the changes that the seasons bring, the young boy from South Bend grew into a man devoted to helping others.

Suggested for ages 5-9





My Footprints

by Bao Phi; illustrated by Basia Tran

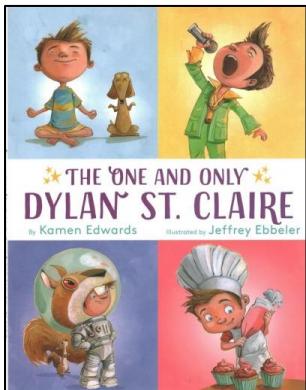
Picture Book (2019)
P Phi

Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, upset after being bullied at school. It hurts when kids laugh at her for having two moms, or tell her to “go back to where you come from.” Noticing a bird’s footprints in the snow, Thuy works through her emotions of anger and sadness by turning her own footprints

into the prints of different animals.

Also available as a VOX book.

Suggested for ages 5-10



The One and Only Dylan St. Claire

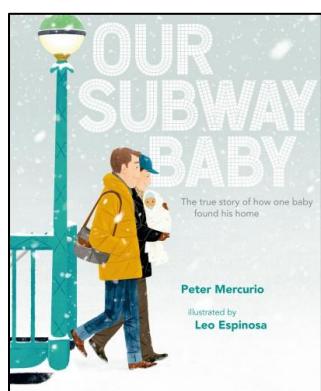
by Kamen Edwards; illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler

Picture Book (2020)
P Edwards

Dylan's getting ready to audition for the school play, a musical about outer space, and he's got his sights set on playing the star . . . figuratively and literally. But when he ends up being cast as a squirrel, the real theatrics begin. Follow this extremely secure

and unique boy through his daily dramas as he tackles each dilemma with pizzazz and skill. Full of laughs and a one-of-a-kind character kids will cheer for, this hilarious story is a celebration of individuality, persistence, overcoming disappointment, and what it takes to be a true star.

Suggested for ages 5-8



Our Subway Baby

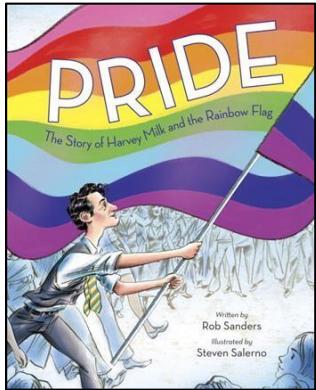
by Peter Mercurio; illustrated by Leo Espinosa

Picture Book (2020)
P Mercurio

“Some babies are born into their families. Some are adopted. This is the story of how one baby found his family in the New York City subway.” So begins the true story of Kevin and how he found his Daddy Danny and Papa Pete.

Suggested for ages 5-9





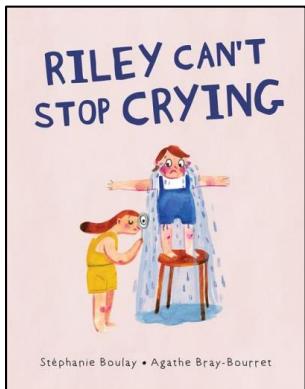
Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

by Rob Sanders; illustrated by Steven Salerno

Picture Book (2018)
JB Milk

In this deeply moving and empowering true story, young readers will trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. Award-winning author Rob Sanders's stirring text, and acclaimed illustrator Steven Salerno's evocative images, combine to tell this remarkable – and undertold – story. A story of love, hope, equality, and pride.

Suggested for ages 6-9



Riley Can't Stop Crying

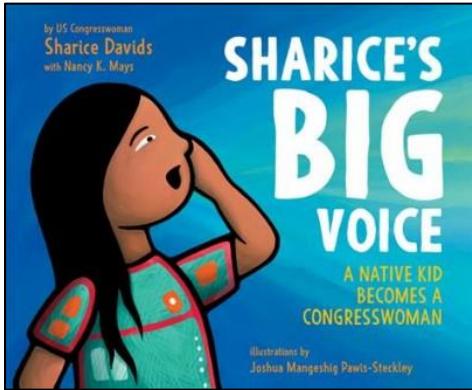
by Stéphanie Boulay; illustrated by Agathe Bray-Bourret;
translated by Charles Simard

Beginning Chapter Book (2021)
J* Boulay

Riley is inconsolable. He can't stop crying and nothing is making him feel better. His sister, Regina, tries her best to help him figure out what's wrong, but four-year-old Riley isn't sure. It's not his tummy, or his head, or the monsters under the bed. Regina and their dad try everything they can to make Riley smile, but nothing works until one day Regina has an idea. Maybe it's *Riley* that is making Riley upset. Can Regina help Riley start to feel better and recognize his self-worth?

Suggested for ages 5-9





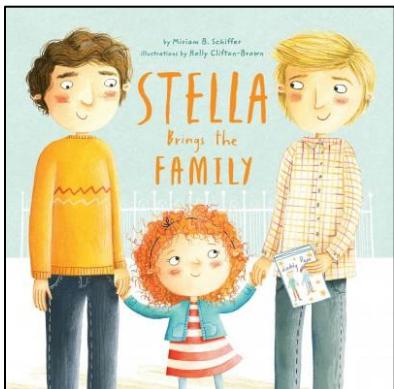
Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman

by Sharice Davids with Nancy K. Mays;
illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley

Picture Book Biography (2021)
JB Davids

When Sharice Davids was young, she never thought she'd be in Congress. And she never thought she'd be one of the first Native American women in Congress. During her campaign, she heard from a lot of doubters. They said she couldn't win because of how she looked, who she loved, and where she came from. But here's the thing: Everyone's path looks different and everyone's path has obstacles. And this is the remarkable story of Sharice Davids' path to Congress; a story that teaches readers to use their big voice and that everyone deserves to be seen—and heard!

Suggested for ages 5-10



Stella Brings the Family

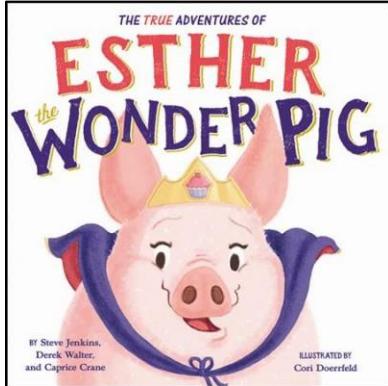
by Miriam Baker Schiffer;
illustrated by Holly Clifton Brown

Picture Book (2015)
P Schiffer

Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? It's not that she doesn't have someone who helps her with her homework, or tucks her in at night. Stella has her Papa and Daddy who take care of her, and a whole gaggle of other loved ones who make her feel special and supported every day. She just doesn't have a *mom* to invite to the party. Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family.

Suggested for ages 5-8





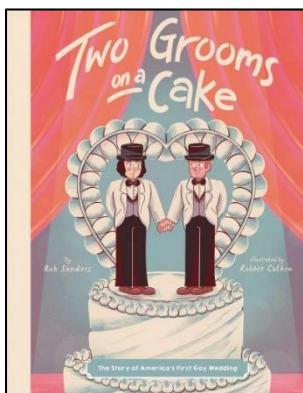
The True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig

by Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter & Caprice Crane;
illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld

Picture Book (2018)
P Jenkins

Esther the Wonder Pig was adopted as a teacup pig, but her dads Steve and Derek quickly find that she's actually a full-size pig who is far too big for their little apartment, so the family expands to a full-size farm with Esther and all her animal friends.

Suggested for ages 5-9



Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Marriage

by Rob Sanders; illustrated by Robbie Cathro

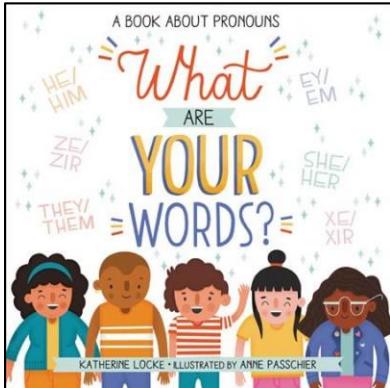
Picture Book (2021)
P* Sanders

Long before marriage equality was the law of the land, two grooms stood on a wedding cake with their feet firmly planted in fluffy white frosting. That cake belonged to Jack Baker and Michael McConnell, who were wed on September 3, 1971, becoming the first same-sex couple in America to be legally married. Their struggle to obtain a marriage license in Minnesota and their subsequent appeals to the Minnesota Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States is an under-told story of LGBT history.

Comprehensive backmatter, including a marriage equality timeline, round out this heartwarming story.

Suggested for ages 5-9





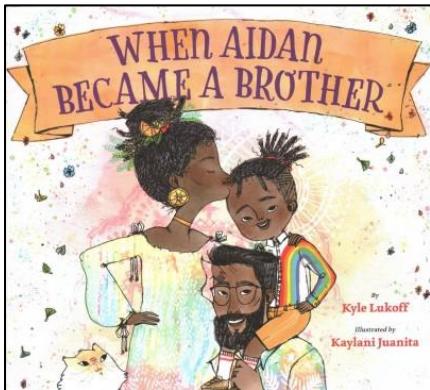
What Are Your Words? : A Book About Pronouns

by Katherine Locke; illustrated by Anne Passchier

Picture Book (2021)
P Locke

Ari knows a lot of words for neighbors, including the pronouns each prefers, and with help from Uncle Lior, who always asks "What are your words," figures out which pronouns – and other words – fit best today.

Suggested for ages 4-9



When Aidan Became a Brother

by Kyle Lukoff; illustrated by Kaylani Juanita

Picture Book (2019)
P Lukoff

When Mom and Dad announce that they're going to have another baby, Aidan, a transgender boy, wants to do everything he can to make things right for his new sibling from the beginning--from choosing the perfect

name to creating a beautiful room to picking out the cutest onesie. But what does "making things right" actually mean? And what happens if he messes up? With a little help, Aidan comes to understand that he already knows the most important thing about being a big brother: how to love with his whole self.

Also available as an OverDrive Ebook.

Suggested for ages 4-8



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