

## LGBTQA+ Booklist for Teens

### Fiction

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, Benjamin Alire Saenz

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When the two meet at the swimming pool, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the loners start spending time together, they discover that they share a special friendship—the kind that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through this friendship that Ari and Dante will learn the most important truths about themselves and the kind of people they want to be.

*Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*, Kirstin Cronn-Mills

"This is Beautiful Music for Ugly Children, on community radio 90.3, KZUK. I'm Gabe. Welcome to my show." My birth name is Elizabeth, but I'm a guy. Gabe. My parents think I've gone crazy and the rest of the world is happy to agree with them, but I know I'm right. I've been a boy my whole life. When you think about it, I'm like a record. Elizabeth is my A side, the song everybody knows, and Gabe is my B side—not heard as often, but just as good. It's time to let my B side play.

*Better Nate Than Ever*, by Tim Federle

Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for *seeing* a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for *E.T.: The Musical*, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom.

*Fat Angie*, e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

Angie hits rock bottom the day she tries to commit suicide in the middle of a high school pep rally. Enter KC Romance, a new girl in town who is stunningly different.

*Gone, Gone, Gone*, Hannah Moskowitz

It's a year after 9/11. Sniper shootings throughout the D.C. area have everyone on edge and trying to make sense of these random acts of violence. Meanwhile, Craig and Lio are just trying to make sense of their lives. Lio feels most alive when he's with Craig. He forgets about his broken family, his dead brother, and the messed up world. But being with Craig means being vulnerable...and Lio will have to decide whether love is worth the risk.

*I'll Give You the Sun*, Jandy Nelson

Artistic twins Jude and Noah each have only half the story of why they broke apart. Their art becomes a force of its own as they negotiate love, loss, lies and the possibility of reuniting their lives.

*If I Was Your Girl*, Meredith Russo

When Amanda moves to Lambertville, Kentucky after a string of bullying incidents led her to attempt suicide all she wants is to lead a normal life, make friends, and generally be happy for once. All of this seems possible until she meets Grant, who causes her to let down the walls around her heart. But the problem is that Amanda's past is haunting her. And in her past, she wasn't Amanda, she was Andrew.

*Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*, Ashley Herring Blake

When a tornado rips through town, twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed and her family of five is displaced. Ivy feels invisible and ignored in the aftermath of the storm--and what's worse, her notebook filled with secret drawings of girls holding hands has gone missing. Mysteriously, Ivy's drawings begin to reappear in her locker with notes from someone telling her to open up about her identity.

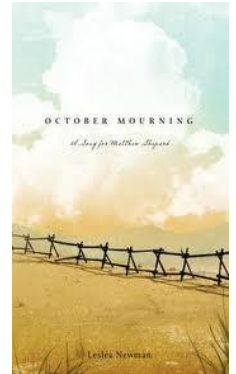
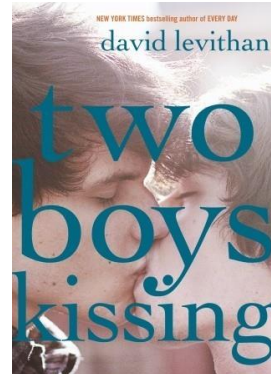
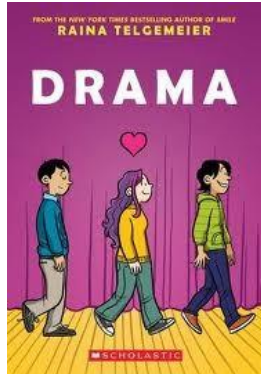
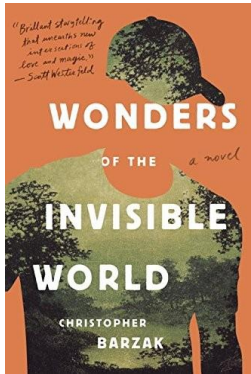
*Picture Us in the Light*, Kelly Loy Gilbert

When Danny Cheng digs deeper into his parents' past, he uncovers a secret that disturbs the foundations of his family history and the carefully constructed facade his parents have maintained begins to crumble. With everything he loves in danger of being stripped away, Danny must face the ghosts of the past in order to build a future that belongs to him.

## **Nonfiction**

*Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*, Susan Kuklin

Six trans and gender-neutral teens are interviewed in this necessary resource for teens and adults alike. While the trans experience varies from teen to teen, the participants Beyond Magenta are candid and unflinchingly honest.



*Branded by the Triangle*, by Ken Setterington

Jews were not the only ones persecuted and executed by the Nazis in World War II. Instead of a Star of David, homosexual men were marked with a pink triangle, which now stands as an international symbol for gay rights.

*Two Boys Kissing*, David Levithan

Based on true events, this is the story of Harry and Craig's record-breaking 32-hour kiss, narrated by a Greek Chorus of older gay men lost to AIDS, and interwoven with the stories of other teen boys dealing with languishing long-term relationships, coming out, and navigating gender identity.

*October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard*, Leslea Newman

(Poetry) On the night of October 6, 1998, a gay twenty-one-year-old college student named Matthew Shepard was kidnapped from a Wyoming bar by two young men, savagely beaten, tied to a remote fence, and left to die. Gay Awareness Week was beginning at the University of Wyoming, and the keynote speaker was Lesléa Newman, discussing her book *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Shaken, the author addressed the large audience that gathered, but she remained haunted by Matthew's murder. *October Mourning*, a novel in verse, is her deeply felt response to the events of that tragic day.

*The Times I Knew I Was Gay*, Eleanor Crewes

(Graphic memoir) Ellie always had questions about who she was and how she fit in. As a girl, she wore black, obsessed over Willow in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and found dating boys much more confusing than many of her friends did. As she grew older, so did her fears and a deep sense of unbelonging. From her first communion to her first girlfriend via a swathe of self-denial, awkward encounters, and everyday courage, Ellie tells her story through gorgeous illustrations--a fresh and funny self-portrait of a young woman becoming herself.

Pink