



A Curated List of SOGI-Inclusive Books for Elementary Grades

Picture Books to Discuss Family Diversity

- **A Family is a Family is a Family [Une famille... c'est une famille]** – Sara O’Leary (Illus. Qin Leng) 2016
A young girl is worried that she won’t be able to explain the makeup of her family to her classmates. Each child has a different approach to how they define “family” however, some of them including same-gender couples as parents, some with single parents, some with grandparents as parents, etc.
- **A Plan for Pops [Une idée pour Papi]** – Heather Smith (Illus. Brooke Kerrigan) 2019
A positive and empowering book that inspires children to learn how to handle challenges and help others. The bond between child and loving, interracial gay male grandparents is warm, palpable, and uplifting.

Picture Books to Discuss LGBTQ+ Life and History

- **Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution** – Rob Sanders (Illus. Jamey Christoph) 2019
A powerful picture book that tells the story of the Stonewall uprising through child-friendly prose and illustrations that also don’t shy away from the complexity and hardship of this pivotal moment in queer history.
- **’Twas the Night Before Pride** – Joanna McClintick (Illus. Juana Medina) 2022
A boldly illustrated and celebratory exploration of queer families, LGBTQ+ history—including the Stonewall riots, the fight for marriage equality, and the AIDS marches—and the excitement of Pride Parades, told through rhyming text.

Picture Books to Discuss Gender Roles and Stereotypes

- **Amazing Grace** – Mary Hoffman (Illus. Caroline Binch) 1991
When her school decides to perform Peter Pan, Grace longs to play the lead, but her classmates point out that Peter was a boy. Besides, he wasn’t black. With the support of her family, Grace learns that she can be anything she wants to be, and the results are amazing!
- **Henry Holton Takes the Ice** – Sandra Bradley (Illus. Sara Palacios) 2015
Henry’s family is obsessed with Hockey, but Henry is less than effective when he hits the ice... at least while he’s holding a hockey stick. When he lets go and allows himself to move more freely, he realizes that he actually loves skating, but more as an ice dancer than a hockey player.



- **I'm a Girl** – Yasmeen Ismail 2015
Ismail's book celebrates what it means to feel like a girl or a boy, but also confronts stereotypes and complicates easy assumptions about gender roles. When the young girl protagonist meets a boy who likes to wear dresses and play with dolls, the two new friends find a lot more in common than they first thought.
- **Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress** – Christine Baldacchino (Illus. Isabelle Malenfant) 2014
Morris loves to play dress-up, but when he decides to wear his favourite tangerine dress to school one day, the other kids don't know how to react. Dresses are for girls, they say. Dresses are not for boys, or astronauts, or any of the other things Morris dreams of being. After spending a day home from school, he pulls himself together and confronts his peers, showing them that a dress is just a piece of clothing.

Picture Books to Discuss Gender Identity

- **47,000 Beads** – Koja Adeyoha and Angel Adeyoha (Illus. Holly McGillis) 2017
Peyton loves to dance, but she isn't comfortable wearing a dress anymore, so she loses interest in dancing at the pow wow. When she finally tells her Auntie Eyota, Peyton is able to find the help that she needs. This book is a great starting point to discuss Two Spirit identities and gender stereotypes.
- **My Maddy** – Gayle E. Pitman (Illus. Violet Tobacco) 2020
In the middle; in between; almost but not quite: all concepts that are highlighted in this picture book about a parent who is neither male nor female, neither father nor mother. Gender norms and gender expression are thoughtfully explored through various metaphors as the child and Maddy go about their days together.
- **What Are Your Words? A Book About Pronouns** – Katherine Locke (Illus. Anne Passchier) 2021
This fun and accessible introduction to gender-inclusive pronouns follows Ari through their neighborhood as they try to find the words they feel suit them best. As Ari meets their neighbours, they learn what words other people use to describe themselves, and along the way they realize that sometimes it takes a while to figure out what words work best.

Other Recommended Online Book Lists

[ALA Rainbow List](#) • [Two-Spirit & Indigiqueer Books](#) • [Welcoming Schools](#) • [YA Pride](#) • [I Dream Library](#)

This is not a comprehensive list of available resources, but a sample of materials that are acclaimed, timely, and varied in terms of representation—gender, sexuality, race, (dis)ability, religious affiliation, etc. This list of resources was compiled and annotated by Dr. Robert Bittner,



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