



A Curated List of SOGI-Inclusive Books for Intermediate / Middle Grades

Fiction Books: (SO) sexual orientation (GI) gender identity theme

- **Moonflower** – Kacen Callender 2018 (SOGI)
Caroline is a child born during a large-scale tropical storm—a hurricane child. She feels entirely unlucky. Her friends have abandoned her (or maybe she just never had any?) and her mother left when she was young. But when she finds a new friend and comes across a mysterious lady in black, everything begins to change, including her conceptualization of gender and identity.
- **Star-Crossed** – Barbara Dee 2018 (SO)
Mattie is a reader, a socialite, and a fan of the theatre. At only thirteen, Mattie is also just figuring herself out. When she finds herself cast as Romeo, opposite her new crush, she's not totally sure what will happen, but in any case, she's excited to find out!
- **The Best at It** – Maulik Pancholy 2019 (SO)
Rahul, a 7th grade Indian-American boy growing up in a small town, deals with anxiety, bullies, racial prejudice, and being different by following his grandfather's advice – find something to be the best at. As Rahul figures out who he is, his best friend Chelsea and his family are there to cheer him on, and he hopes that just maybe his crush Justin will start to notice him.
- **The Fabulous Zed Watson** – Kevin Sylvester and Basil Sylvester 2021 (SOGI)
Zed Watson loves their big rambunctious family, monsters, and most importantly, their name (which they chose for themselves!) After Zed discovers a mystery regarding an unpublished novel by their favourite author, they embark on a road trip with a small group to follow the clues and unravel the mystery. This book is, dare I say, fabulous!

Non-Fiction Books for Middle Grades and Beyond

- **Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle** – Robin Stevenson 2020
This book explores "Pride" beyond the parade. Like where it started or how many different ways it's celebrated around the globe? **Pride** is Canadian author, Robin Stevenson's contribution to an often-neglected discussion, especially among young people, but her book makes the subject accessible and relevant.
- **Queer Ducks (and Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality** – Eliot Schrefer (Illus. Jules Zuckerberg) 2022



Filled with comics, humorous prose, accessible scientific studies, and interviews with researchers, *Queer Ducks* is a fabulously well-researched upper-middle-grade text that will provide tween/teen (and even adult) readers with a wealth of fascinating information about the animal world and the complexities of same-sex sexual behavior in nature.

Graphic Novels

- **Messy Roots** – Laura Gao 2022
Author Laura Gao shares her first generation immigrant experience, detailing her childhood spent with her grandparents and cousins in Wuhan, China, and her school-years in Texas with her parents and younger brother. Grades 9-12
- **Other Boys** – Damian Alexander 2021
This charming novel is poignant and empathetic while also providing the excitement of a fantasy epic. The fast-paced plot keeps readers engaged with assumed identities, righting injustice, magic and self-discovery while weaving in a beautifully handled transgender narrative. Grades 5-8
- **Surviving the City (Vol. 1 & 2)** – Tasha Spillett (Illus. Natasha Donovan & Donovan Yaciuk) 2019/2020
This graphic novel series follows Miikwan (Anishinaabe) and Dez (Inninee) as they navigate the challenges of growing up in an urban landscape, but when Dez goes missing, Miikwan is devastated. Grades 7-8
- **Welcome to St. Hell** – Lewis Hancox 2022
In a graphic memoir written to his past self, Lewis Hancox tells his story of growing up as a teenage girl and his journey to discovering his true self. Grades 9-12.

Other Recommended Online Book Lists

[ALA Rainbow List](#) • [Two-Spirit & Indigiqueer Books](#) • [Welcoming Schools](#) • [YA Pride](#) • [IDream 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, President-Elect of the Association for Library Services to Children and a specialist in LGBTQ literature for children and youth. He has an MA in Children’s Literature from UBC and a PhD in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies from SFU. For more information, you can visit his [website](#).