



A Curated List of SOGI-Inclusive Books for Secondary Grades

Fiction Books for Secondary Students

- **Black Flamingo** – Dean Atta 2020
Michael is stuck. He never feels Greek or Black enough, or even the right kind of gay, especially when he discovers drag culture. Told in free verse by a renowned poet, this novel explores what it means to find a space to fit in.
- **Dress Codes for Small Towns** – Courtney C. Stevens 2017
Billie McCaffrey is trying to fit the mold of everyone in her community. She is considered “one of the guys” but she doesn’t like having any labels placed on her gender or sexuality. But when her family—particularly her father—gets involved, everyone starts to get complicated and confusing. Religion, sexuality, and gender expectations combine to create a fantastically multi-layered narrative.
- **Felix Ever After** – Kacen Callender 2020
Award-winning author Kacen Callender brings a revelatory YA novel about transgender teen, Felix, grappling with identity and self-discovery while falling in love for the first time. Complicated feelings begin a journey of questioning and self-discovery that helps redefine his most important relationship: how he feels about himself. This is an honest and layered story about identity, falling in love, and recognizing the love you deserve.
- **The Summer of Bitter and Sweet** – Jen Ferguson 2022
Lou, a Métis teen in Canada, is working for the summer at her family’s ice cream shop with her best friend who is only focused on her future travel plans, her ex who always made her feel uncomfortable, and King who she hasn’t seen since she caused a rift in their friendship. Lou has a lot on her shoulders dealing with threatening letters from her biological father, repairing her friendship with King, and confronting her past. When things get too much, can Lou learn to open up and ask for help?
- **When the Angels Left the Old Country** – Sacha Lamb 2022
Uriel the angel and Little Ash the demon decide to leave their tiny shtetl in search of the baker’s daughter who hasn’t been heard from since she left. The two meet up with Rose, a young woman determined to travel to the US despite the girl she’s in love with staying behind to marry someone else. Together, they make their way through the immigration experience, helping others along the way.

Non-Fiction Books for Young Adults

- **The ABCs of LGBT+** – Ashley Mardell 2016
Far more than a simple guide to coming out or defining sexual/gender identities, this book is a critical examination of stereotypes that also explores the slipperiness of categories. Mardell’s humor and wit also makes the book accessible for teens.



- **This Book is Gay** – Juno Dawson

Juno Dawson, is a former teacher and also an author of young adult fiction. Dawson's book is an uncensored exploration of growing up within the LGBTQ spectrum, including personal testimonials, how-to guides, and topics ranging from sex and politics, to stereotypes, to coming out and dealing with family and peers.

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

- **Surviving the City (Vol. 1 & 2)** – Tasha Spillett (Illus. Natasha Donovan & Donovan Yaciuk) 2019/2020

This graphic novel series follows Miikwan (Anishinaabe) and Dez (Inniew) 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](#) • [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, 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](#).