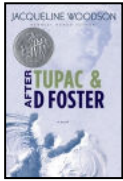




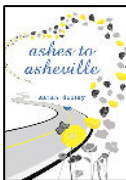
Diverse LGBTQ Inclusive Middle Grade Books Family and Who You Love



After Tupac & D Foster. Jacqueline Woodson. (5 – 9) The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. Through her, the girls see another side of life. They share a passion for the rap music of Tupac Shakur. They also deal with discrimination directed at the gay brother of one of the girls.



Also Known as Elvis. James Howe. (4 – 7) Skeezie's got the leather jacket of a tough guy, but a heart of gold. While stuck at home for the summer taking care of his sisters and working five days a week to help out his mom, he navigates first crushes, bullying and tough choices about family and friends. Book 4 in *The Misfits* series.



Ashes to Asheville. Sarah Dooley. (5 – 7) After Mama Lacy's death, Fella was forced to move in with her grandmother while her sister Zoey stayed with Mama Shannon. One night, Zany shows up determined to fulfill Mama Lacy's dying wish: to have her ashes spread at the last place they were all happy as a family. So, the sisters take off on a wild road trip.



The Best at It. Maulik Pancholy. (3 – 7) The start of middle school is making Rahul, a gay Indian American boy, feel increasingly anxious, so his grandfather gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it. Rahul is ready to crush this challenge—discovering that the only thing you need to be the best at is at being yourself.



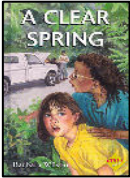
The Best Man. Richard Peck. (4 – 6) Follows a boy from elementary school to middle school navigating school, bullying and family dynamics including his uncles' growing involvement with the man who is the student teacher in the boy's school. His uncle and the student teacher get married by the end.



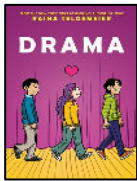
Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-A-Lot. Dan Pilkey. (2 – 4) When George and Harold try to avert disaster, they travel into the future to seek the help of their adult selves. Harold is pictured with his husband and their kids. Available in Spanish.



The Case of the Stolen Scarab. Nancy Garden. (3 – 5) When Nikki and Travis’s two moms buy an old inn in Vermont, they don’t expect their first visitor to be the local sheriff with news of a robbery, nor do they expect their second visitor to be a bedraggled hiker with amnesia! Soon Nikki and Travis find themselves trying to solve a mystery.



Clear Spring. Barbara Wilson. (4 – 6) A twelve-year-old girl becomes involved in an ecological mystery while visiting her aunt and her aunt’s partner. Diverse characters.



Drama. Raina Telgemeier. (5 – 8) Graphic novel through drama – a play – and drama between characters explores middle school feelings with girlfriends and girlfriends, and boyfriends and boyfriends. Diverse characters.



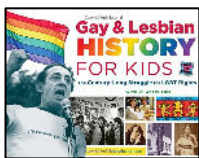
Drum Roll, Please. Lisa Jenn Bigelow. (3 – 7) This summer brings big changes for Melly: her parents split up just before she goes to Camp Rockaway, her best friend ditches her, and she finds herself falling for a girl at camp. To top it off, Melly's not sure she has what it takes to be a real rock 'n' roll drummer.



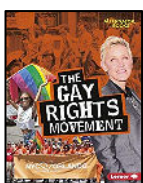
Flying Lessons & Other Stories. (4 – 8) Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, this bold anthology—written by the best children’s authors—celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.



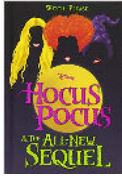
Forward: My Story Abby Wambach. Abby Wambach. (3 – 7) Abby has always pushed the limits of what is possible. The iconic soccer player captured the nation’s heart when she led her team to it’s the World Cup Championship. Looks at how we can live our best lives and become our truest selves.



Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights. Jerome Pohlen. (5 – 9) This book puts the historic struggle for LGBTQ equality into perspective Given today's news, it would be easy to get the impression that the campaign for LGBTQ equality is a recent development. This resource helps put recent events into context.



The Gay Rights Movement. Eric Braun. (3 – 6) The Stonewall Riots brought light to a movement that would later establish gay pride parades, help in the fight against AIDS and work towards marriage equality. What challenges has the movement faced? Learn about the key people and events.



Hocus Pocus and the All-New Sequel. A.W. Jantha. (5 – 8) A fresh retelling of the original film, followed by the all-new sequel that continues the story with the next generation of Salem teens. Max and Allison's daughter, Poppy, her best friend, Travis, and classmate Isabella, on whom she has a major crush, find themselves face-to-face with the Sanderson sisters in all their sinister glory.



The House of Hades. Rick Riordan. (4 – 6) In the fourth installment of the Heroes of Olympus series, Demigod Nico comes out and admits he is in love with Percy. The topic continues into The Blood of Olympus as he develops a crush on a counselor at Camp Half-Blood. Available in Spanish.



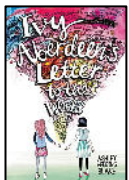
Hurricane Child. Kheryn Callender. (4 – 8) Feeling lonely and bullied daily with cruel remarks about her dark skin tone, Caroline finally befriends a new student, Kalinda. As Caroline develops a crush on Kalinda, they work together to find Caroline's mother.



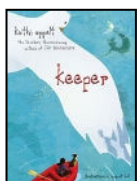
Hurricane Season. Nicole Melleby. (4 – 7) Fig, a sixth grader, is sure it's up to her alone to solve her father's problems and protect her family's privacy. But with the help of her best friend, a cute girl at the library, and a surprisingly kind new neighbor, Fig learns she isn't as alone as she once thought . . . and begins to compose her own definition of family.



It Wasn't Me. Dana Alison Levy. (5 – 7) When Theo's self-portraits are vandalized with gay slurs in the student gallery, Ms. Lewiston calls Theo and the bystanders of the incident—as Theo narrates “the Over-achiever, the Jock, the Nerd, the Weirdo, and the Screw-up”—to a five-day “Justice Circle” during school vacation.



Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World. Ashley Herring Blake. (5 – 7) In the wake of a destructive tornado, one girl develops feelings for another in this stunning, tender novel about emerging identity.



Keeper. Kathi Appelt. (4 – 7) To Keeper, this moon is her chance to fix all that has gone wrong. When the riptide pulls at her boat, panic sets in. The fairy tales that lured her out there go tumbling. Includes a tender romance between two boys years earlier.



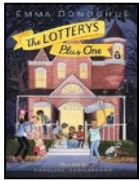
The Legend of Korra: Turf Wars Trilogy. Michael Dante DiMartino. (3 – 7) Relishing their newfound feelings for each other, Korra and Asami leave the Spirit World . . . but find nothing in Republic City but political hijinks and human vs. spirit conflict! Graphic novel.



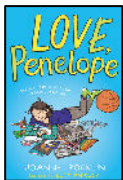
The Legend of Korra: Ruins of the Empire. Michael Dante DiMartino. (3 – 7) Korra must decide who to trust as the fate of the Earth Kingdom hangs in the balance! Kuvira’s imperial ambitions threaten to undermine the nation’s democratic hopes. But when Korra, Asami, Mako, and Bolin don’t all see eye-to-eye as to the solution, drastic measures will be taken to halt a new war!



Lizard Radio. Pat Schmatz. (5 – 12) In a futuristic society, Kivali is a Bender - not quite boy or girl. Sent to CropCamp, a commune meant to steer teens toward a lifetime of good citizenship and “proper” gender roles, Kivali, called Lizard, wrestles with friendship, love, and the price of being true to oneself.



The Lottery Plus One. Emma Donogh. (4 – 7) The Lotterys are: four parents with children both adopted and biological, and a menagerie of pets, all living and learning together in a sprawling house. Their lives are upturned when one of their grandfathers comes to live with them.



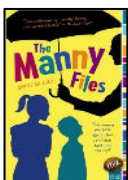
Love, Penelope. Joanne Rocklin. (4 – 6) As Penny and her two moms wait the arrival of a new baby, Penny writes letters to her sister during the year when both marriage equality and her favorite basketball team win and Penny becomes more aware of the issues in the world around her.



Luv Ya Bunches: A Flower Power. Lauren Myracle. (4 – 6) A funny, honest depiction of the shifting alliances between girls that shape school days. Four diverse 5th grade girls come together in friendship; one has two moms. Also: **Violet in Bloom: A Flower Power Book.**



The Magic Misfits. Neil Patrick Harris. (3 – 6) After young street magician Carter runs away, he meets Dante Vernon, an illusionist, who runs a magic shop with his husband and their daughter. Carter finds friends and magic saving the town of Mineral Wells from B.B. Bosso’s villainous clutches. Sequels: **The Magic Misfits: The Second Story** and **The Magic Misfits: The Minor Third**



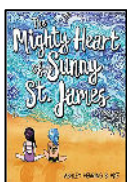
The Manny Files. Christian Burch. (3 – 6) Shy Keats Dalinger learns from his unconventional male nanny or “manny”, to be more self-confident and out-going while the “manny” becomes more and more a part of the family. Followed up with **Hit the Road Manny.**



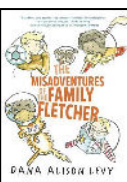
The Marvels. Brian Selznick. (5 – 9) Two stories – one in pictures, one in prose. Begins in 1766, when a young boy survives a shipwreck. It continues a century later when another young boy looking for clues about his family finds refuge with his uncle in a beautiful, mysterious home.



Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy. Rey Terciero. Release. In this re-envisioned version of *Little Women*, follow the four sisters and their struggles in growing up, dealing with racism, discovering themselves, and following their dreams in a blended family living in modern day NYC in this graphic novel.



The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James. Ashley Herring Blake. (4 – 7) Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James navigates heart surgery, reconnecting with her lost mother, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl in this heartfelt novel.



The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher. Dana Alison Levy. (3 – 5) From new schools to old friends, from imaginary cheetahs to very real skunks, the Fletchers' school year is anything but boring – four boys, two dads, and one new neighbor who just might ruin everything.



The Misfits. James Howe. (5 – 9) Four best friends try to survive seventh grade in the face of all-too-frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, sexual orientation, and gender expression. The story of the four friends continues with **Totally Joe**, **Addie on the Inside**, and **Also Known as Elvis**.



The Moon Within. Aida Salazar. (4 – 7) Celi Rivera's life swirls with questions. About her changing body. Her first attraction to a boy. And her best friend's exploration of what it means to be genderfluid. But most of all, her mother's insistence she have a moon ceremony, an ancestral Mexica ritual, when her first period arrives.



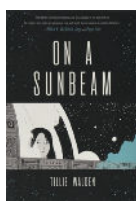
The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World. E. L. Konigsburg. (5 – 7) Two boys find themselves caught up in a story that links a young boy's life, an old man's reminiscence, and a painful secret from Nazi Germany. Includes the victimization of artists and gays during the Holocaust.



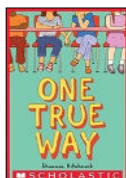
Nate Expectations. Tim Federle. (4 – 6) Nate Foster returns home to Pennsylvania, to face his biggest challenge yet—high school. After leaving New York, he finds the only thing harder than being on Broadway is being a freshman—especially when you've got a secret, you're desperate to sing out about. Final book in a trilogy about Nate.



Not Your Sidekick. C.B. Lee. (5 – 8) Welcome to Andover, where superpowers are common, but internships are complicated. On the upside, Jessica gets to work with her longtime secret crush, Abby. But, with a sudden and dangerous turn, she uncovers a plot larger than heroes and villains altogether. Sequels: **Not Your Villain** and **Not Your Back-up**.



On a Sunbeam. Tillie Walden. (6 – 8) Two timelines. One love. A ragtag crew travels to the deepest reaches of space, rebuilding beautiful, broken structures. Two girls meet in boarding school and fall deeply in love—only to learn the pain of loss. A graphic novel with an epic quest for love.



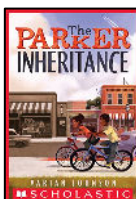
One True Way. Shannon Hitchcock. (4 – 7) Through the lives and influences of two girls, you come to see that love is love is love. Set in the 1970s, when teachers and coaches must hide who they are, and girls who like girls are forced to question their own choices in the face of religious and parental views.



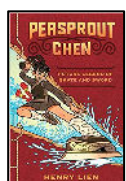
P.S. I Miss You. Jen Petro-Roy. (4 – 7) Evie is heartbroken when her strict Catholic parents send her pregnant sister, Cilla, away. Evie secretly sends her letters about her life, her hurt and also about the new girl in school, June, who becomes her friend, and then maybe more than a friend.



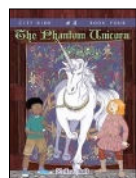
The Pants Project. Cat Clarke. (3 – 6) Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy but he hasn't told anyone yet – not even his two moms. Now, his new school has a terrible dress code; he has to wear skirts! The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself with a mission to change the policy and his life.



The Parker Inheritance. Varian Johnson. (3 – 6) Candice discovers a mysterious old letter describing an injustice from decades ago. With the help of Brandon, a quiet and often bullied boy, she begins to decipher the clues with a story that leads them deep into their South Carolina town's history—a history full of ugly deeds and forgotten heroes. Good historical detail and LGBTQ characters included.



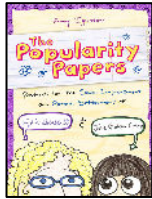
Peasprout Chen, Future Legend of Skate and Sword. Henry Lien. (6 – 8) Peasprout Chen dreams of becoming a legend of wu liu, the deadly and beautiful art of martial arts figure skating. As the first students from the rural country of Shin to attend Pearl Famous Academy of Skate and Sword, Peasprout and her little brother Cricket find themselves in a heated competition for top ranking. Sequel: **Peasprout Chen: Battle of Champions.**



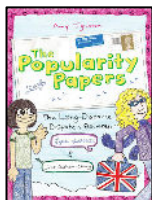
The Phantom Unicorn. Zetta Elliott. (3 – 6) Q, a mixed-race boy—Asian and black, has just moved to New York City with his two moms and baby sister. When a medieval tapestry comes to life in a nearby museum, Q must face his fears and battle a villain who has waited 500 years to destroy the world.



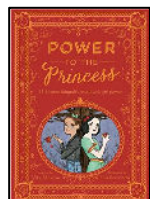
Playground: A Mostly True Story of a Former Bully. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. Laura Moser. (6 – 9) A realistic look at bullying from the perspective of an African American young boy in middle school. Looks at the boy's feelings as both a target and perpetrator of bullying. Also looks at divorce and LGBTQ parenting. Contains some explicit language.



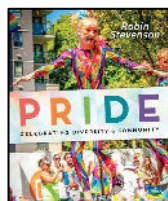
The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Fifth graders, Lydia and Julie, are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the “cool” girls. Julie was adopted by two dads. First in a seven book series. Graphic novel.



The Popularity Papers: Book Two: The Long-Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Julie and Lydia are in different schools, each dealing with what it means to be popular and with bullying. Notebook/graphic format. Second in a seven-book series. Graphic novel.



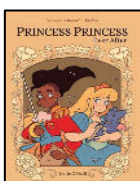
Power to the Princess: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Girl Power. Vita Murrow. (Pre-K – 3) What if princesses didn't always marry Prince Charming and live happily ever after? These princesses are smart, funny, and kind, and can do anything they set their minds to. With diverse characters, the stories include topics of self-image, LGBTQ, friendship, and disability.



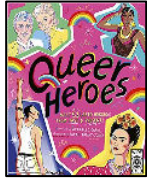
Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community. Robin Stevenson. (4 – 8) Pride events are an opportunity to honor the past, protest injustice, and celebrate a diverse and vibrant community. How did Pride come to be? And what does Pride mean to the people who celebrate it? Includes extensive photos and descriptive text.



The Princess and the Fangirl: A Geekerella Fairy Tale (Once Upon A Con Book 2). Ashley Poston. (5 – 8) Imogen is an ordinary fangirl on an impossible mission: save her favorite character from being killed off from her favorite franchise, Starfield. That's easier said than done when the girls step into each other's shoes and discover new romantic possibilities, as well as the other side of intense fandom.



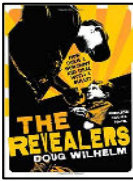
Princess Princess Ever After. Katie O'Neill. (1 – 5) When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain. They join forces to defeat a jealous sorceress while realizing their happy ever after is with each other. Graphic novel.



Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present! Arabelle Sicardi. (4 – 6) Discover the inspiring stories of a diverse selection of LGBTQ artists, writers, innovators, athletes, and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. Full-color portraits accompanied by short biographies.



Ready Player One. Ernest Cline. (7 – 12) In a dystopian world, Wade has devoted his life to the puzzles within a worldwide virtual reality game that promise power and fortune. But he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take the ultimate prize. The book also explores privilege as it turns out that Wade's best friend uses a white male avatar although she is a black lesbian.



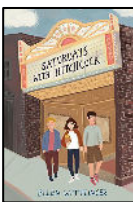
The Revealers. Doug Wilhelm. (5 – 7) At Parkland Middle School, three bullied seventh graders start an e-mail forum to publicize their experiences. Many other kids come forward with similar troubles. It's clear that the problem at their school is larger than anyone knew. In one email, a student tells his troubles of being called gay.



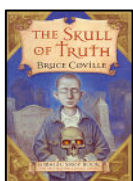
The Rise of Kyoshi. F.C. Yee. (5 – 9) Taking place in the world of the *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, this book delves into the story of Avatar Kyoshi. Kyoshi established the brave and respected Kyoshi Warriors (all women). Maps her journey from a girl of humble origins to the merciless pursuer of justice.



Sapphire the Great and the Meaning of Life. Beverley Brenna. (3 – 5) Narrated by nine-year-old Jeannie and Sapphire, a hamster, in alternating chapters, the book explores themes of family and self-identity as Jeannie's family is changing in ways she doesn't quite understand. It includes a transgender neighbor and a father coming out as gay.



Saturdays with Hitchcock. Ellen Wittlinger. (5 – 8) When 12-year-old Maisie learns that Gary likes her, things get a little complicated—she doesn't like Gary that way, but her best friend, Cyrus, does.



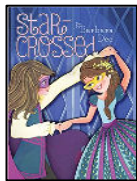
The Skull of Truth: A Magic Shop Book. Bruce Coville. (4 – 6) Charlie is the biggest liar in town. But after he steals The Skull, he finds he can only tell the truth and now no one believes him. A tale of learning the power of truth and dealing with its consequences. Includes issues of cancer and finding out about a gay uncle.



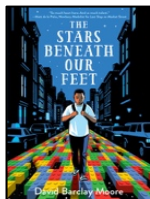
So Hard to Say. Alex Sanchez. (5 – 8) When Frederick arrives, Xio is thrilled. The new boy is shy, cute, and definitely good boyfriend material. Before long, Xio pulls him into her circle of friends. Frederick knows he should be flattered by Xio's attention. So why can't he stop thinking about Victor, the captain of the soccer team, instead?



Stage Dreams. Melanie Gillman. (6 – 12) This book puts readers in the saddle alongside Flor and Grace, a Latinx outlaw and a trans runaway, as they team up to thwart a Confederate plot in the New Mexico Territory.



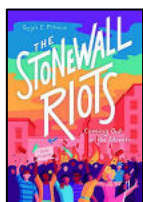
Star Crossed. Barbara Dee. (4 – 6) Mattie is chosen to play Romeo opposite her crush, Gemma, in this Romeo and Juliet inspired novel. Is it possible to have a crush on both boys AND girls? There is a positive, accepting, supportive tone throughout the story.



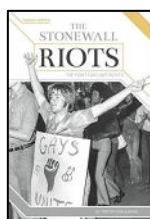
The Stars Beneath Our Feet. David Barclay Moore. (5 – 9) An boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos.



Steven Universe. Rebecca Sugar. (2 – 6) Many books and graphic novels are set in the "Steven Universe", a popular animated series on Cartoon Network. This series includes women showing affection for each other, many non-binary characters, and an intersex character.



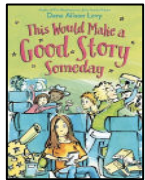
The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets. Gayle Pitman. (5 – 8) Provides an accessible introduction to the Stonewall Riots by looking at the people, places, news clippings and artifacts from the time of Stonewall in short, readable chapters. It also covers events leading up to Stonewall, as well as the aftermath.



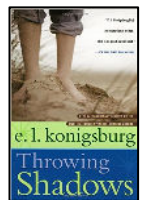
The Stonewall Riots: The Fight for LGBT Rights (Hidden Heroes). Tristan Poehlmann. (4 – 9) Discusses the 1969 Stonewall Riots which is now commemorated each year with LGBTQ Pride. Look at what led up to them, what happened at Stonewall, key people, and how the riots launched the modern LGBT rights movement. Well researched. Engaging read.



The Tea Dragon Society. Katie O'Neill. (3 – 7) An oversized graphic novel that follows blacksmith-in-training Greta as she meets Minette and joins a group that harvests tea and bonds with dragons.



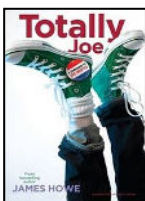
This Would Make a Good Story Someday. Dana Alison Levy. (4 – 6) Sara Johnston-Fischer loves her family. But that doesn't mean she's thrilled when her summer plans are upended for a surprise cross-country train trip with her two moms and her two sisters.



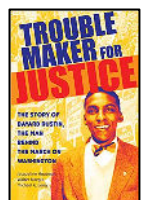
Throwing Shadows. E.L. Konigsburg. (4 – 8) Five extraordinary short stories capture the moment when someone's life changes — when a chance meeting between two people casts a shadow on what things have been like and what they can become. Includes a gay couple, multiracial family and a single-parent family.



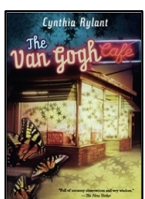
To Night Owl From Dogfish. Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer. (5 – 6) Told in letters between two young girls, when their fathers fall in love with one another. When the two men get out of town for a romantic summer vacation, they send the girls to summer camp, hoping to create a bonding experience for them. Do things go as planned? Not exactly.



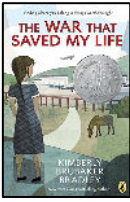
Totally Joe. James Howe. (5 – 9) Looks at the life of Joe, a character from **The Misfits**, while he navigates middle school questioning gender expectations and traditional roles as he realizes he is gay. He has supportive family and friends while dealing with name-calling and controversy. One of four in **The Misfits** series.



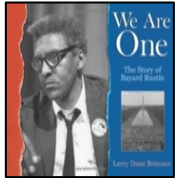
Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington. Jacqueline Houtman. (5 – 12) Bayard Rustin was one of the most influential activists of our time, who was an early advocate for African Americans and for gay rights. He was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., teaching him about the power of nonviolent direct action. A Best Book of 2019 by School Library Journal.



The Van Gogh Café. Cynthia Rylant. (3 – 7) Seven vignettes of life at the Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas. The café is run by a father and his 10-year-old daughter. Something magical or special happens in each chapter. In "The Star" an elderly film star comes to the Café to wait for his true love, a young man he met many years ago.



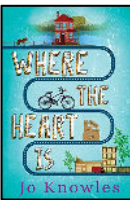
The War that Saved My Life. Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. (4 – 7) Ada has never left her apartment because of her mother's shame of Ada's twisted foot. But when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him. While Susan is still mourning her partner, Becky, she is forced to take them in. Historical fiction that is equal parts adventure and a moving tale of family and identity. Sequel: **The War I Finally Won.**



We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin. Larry Dane Brimmer. (4 – 8) Rustin's story is set against the history of segregation in his time and focuses on his leadership role, largely unacknowledged, in the struggle for civil rights. His gay identity is mentioned in the afterword.



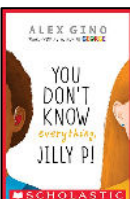
When the Moon Was Ours. Anna-Marie McLemore. (7 – 12) Best friends Miel and Sam are as strange as they are inseparable. Roses grow out of Miel's wrist and Sam is known for the moons he paints and hangs in the trees. Full of fairy tale elements, this story with diverse characters explores gender identity, love, and magic.



Where the Heart Is. Jo Knowles. (4 – 7) Rachel can count on Micah to help her cope with all her stress. But Micah seems to want their relationship to go beyond friendship, and though Rachel almost wishes for that, too, she can't force herself to feel "that way" about him. In fact, she isn't sure she can feel that way about any boy — or what that means.



The Whispers. Greg Howard. (5 - 6) Riley believes in the magical fairies that will grant you wishes, and he has a lot of wishes. He wishes bullies at school would stop picking on him. He wishes Dylan, his 8th grade crush, liked him. Most of all, Riley wishes for his mom to come back home. Frustrated with the lack of progress in finding her, Riley decides to take matters into his own hands.



You Don't Know Everything. Jilly P! Alex Gino. Jilly thinks she's figured out how life works. But when her sister, Emma, is born deaf, she realizes how much she still has to learn. The world is going to treat Jilly, who is white and hearing, differently from Emma, just as it will treat them both differently from their Black cousins.



Zenobia July. Lisa Bunker. (5 – 9) Zenobia July is starting a new life in Maine with her aunts. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the hacking skills to solve the mystery.