

# Book Resources

## Fiction and Non-Fiction Titles for K-12

(Also includes Parent and Professional Resources)

*This list of books is intended as a starting point for students, parents and educators who wish to learn more about LGBT issues and persons. Look for these books and newer ones at libraries and bookstores (some have special sections on queer studies). Any bookstore should be able to locate these books for you, if they are still in print, if you can give them the title, author and ISBN number. Here are a few good bookstores.*

**Little Sister's Bookstore** - 1238 Davie Street, Vancouver, BC V6E 1N4  
Tel: 604-669-1753 or 1-800-567-1662 [www.littlesistersbookstore.com](http://www.littlesistersbookstore.com)

**Women In Print** - 3566 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6R 1N8  
Tel: 604-732-4128 [www.womeninprint.ca](http://www.womeninprint.ca)

**Kidsbooks** - 3083 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6K 2G9  
Tel: 604-738-5335 or 1-800-893-5335 [www.kidsbooks.ca](http://www.kidsbooks.ca)

*New books are being published every year, many of them very inviting, up-to-date and authentic. And every year, some books go "out-of-print". However these books may still be in circulation at some libraries. Many of these books are in the Vancouver and Burnaby Public Libraries, and can be accessed throughout BC via interlibrary loans.*

*We have organized these titles in sections, based on the age groups that they are most suitable for. However, readers should look at several groupings when looking for appropriate titles, because there are many which are suitable for several age groups. For example, the excellent book by Eric Marcus, **Is It a Choice?** is listed in the section **Non-Fiction - Secondary and Adult**, but could be understood and appreciated by upper elementary students, and would also be invaluable for teachers and parents.*

### Primary – Fiction and Non-fiction

Abramchik, L.; **Is Your Family Like Mine?** 2002; ISBN 0-96744-689-9; A beautiful story about families, told by an African-American girl with two moms. Nicely illustrated.

Combs, B.; **ABC – A Family Alphabet Book;** 2000; ISBN 0-967-4468-1-3; Have fun with the kids, moms, dads and pets in this delightful book that celebrates all kinds of families, as it teaches young children the alphabet. (Kindergarten)

De Haan, L. & S. Nijland; **King & King;** 2002; ISBN 1-58246-061-2 The mother of the lovelorn prince Bertie decreed that he must marry SOON. So began the search to find the prince's perfect match; lo and behold....his name was Lee. Join the merriest wedding of the year. A contemporary tale about finding true love and living happily ever after. ☐☐

De Haan, L. & S. Nijland; **King & King & Family;** 2004; ISBN: 1-58246-113-9; Join King Lee and King Bertie on their noisy jungle journey. The royal newlyweds are greeted by wild animal families, but they suspect that something more significant awaits them in the trees. They soon discover the wonderful adventure of starting a family of their own.

dePaola, T.; ***Oliver Button Is A Sissy***; 1979; ISBN : 0-15-257852-8; His classmates' taunts don't stop Oliver from doing what he likes best. DePaola identifies this story as being his own. It's a subtle, moving book about a child who is seen as being different.

Elwin, R. & M. Paulse; ***Asha's Mums***; 1990; ISBN 0-88961-143-2; Asha is initially told her fieldtrip form is filled out incorrectly because she has two moms. Her teacher says she cannot go to the Science Centre unless it is filled out properly. The children in her classroom debate the issue and come to her defense. Asha's two moms talk to the school and resolve the problem. Good representations of people of colour. (Grades 2-4)

Fierstein, H.; ***The Sissy Duckling***; 2002; ISBN: 0-689-83566-3; Elmer tries to do typical boy duck activities but he just doesn't fit in. His dad calls him a sissy, and his mum calls him "special" but seems unhappy too. Elmer runs away to set up house alone and to avoid the other ducks, but an unexpected event results in a particularly ingenious act of bravery and loyalty for his father. Everyone changes a bit, and he remains very "special".

Hausherr, R.; ***Celebrating Families***; 1997; ISBN 0-967-44689-9; With sensitively written text and lively photographs, 14 brief descriptions of single parent, two parent, same-gender, adopted, foster, extended and homeless families are depicted.

Jenness, A.; ***Families - A Celebration of Diversity, Commitment, and Love***; 1990; ISBN 0-395-66952-9; This book depicts a variety of families via black and white photographs. Children and teenagers talk about their single-parent, adoptive, foster, extended, bi-racial, same-gender, traditional and step-parent families in their own words. These young people describe their hobbies, family life and activities. (Read Aloud K-4)

Newman, L.; ***Heather Has Two Mommies***; 1989; ISBN 1-55583-180-X; Heather lives with her two mothers, her cat and her dog. We learn how her mothers met, fell in love and decided to have a baby via artificial insemination. Heather, 4, begins pre-school and initially feels uncomfortable because she doesn't have a daddy. She soon realizes that other children have same-gender parents, step-parents and single parents. She learns the most important thing about a family: - all the people in it love one another.

Pittar, G.; ***Milly, Molly and Different Dads***; 2002; ISBN 1-877297-29-1; When Sophie appears troubled about her dad, her teacher gets the pupils to talk about their dads. Every student contributes something different about their dads and their families. Wonderful pictures help to illustrate the diversity in families. Part of the *Milly, Molly* series designed to promote the acceptance of diversity and sound moral values. □

Skutch, R.; ***Who's In a Family***; 1995; ISBN 1-8883672-66-X; This delightful story compares human and animal families, with excellent representations of a diverse range of families: traditional, only child, single-parent, same-gender, extended, childless, stepparent and inter-racial families. It concludes with: "Who's in a family? The people who love you the most." Good depictions of racially diverse families.

Valentine, J.; ***One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads***; 1994; ISBN 1-55583-848-0; A wonderfully written whimsical book reminiscent of Dr. Seuss. It plays with rhyme in trying to decide what might have made two dads turn blue. It playfully questions the differences between blue dads and other dads' roles and duties.

Valentine, J.; ***The Duke Who Outlawed Jellybeans, and Other Stories***; 1991; ISBN 1-55583-847-2; In these five action-filled, inventive tales, many young heroines and heroes, and lesbian and gay parents are given prominent roles. In some stories, young girls assume a very feminist stance, and save the day in each situation

Vigna, J.; ***My Two Uncles***; 1995; ISBN 0-8075-5507-X; Elly is upset when her grandfather refuses to invite Uncle Ned's "friend" Phil to his anniversary party. Her dad explains that some people don't think it's OK to be gay, "but I don't think it's wrong." Elly learns how it feels when her two uncles are excluded from a family celebration.

Willhoite, M.; ***Daddy's Roommate***; 1990; ISBN 1-55583-178-8; We learn about all the things a boy does with his dad and Frank on the weekends, like going to the zoo, ball games or doing yard work. The boy asks his mom what the word "gay" means. She explains, "Being gay is just one more kind of love and love is the best kind of happiness."

Willhoite, M.; ***Daddy's Wedding***; 1996; ISBN 1-55583-350-0; A great discussion starter, this book follows logically from "Daddy's Roommate". Dad and Frank have a commitment ceremony, celebrating with their supportive friends and family.

### **Intermediate - Fiction and Non-fiction**

Brett, C.; ***S.P Likes A.D.***; 1989; ISBN 0-88961-142-4; Stephanie is fascinated by dinosaur bones, and a girl named Anne. Struggling with how to build a large dinosaur sculpture and deal with her feelings towards Anne, she gets help from Kate Burton, a palaeontologist. Kate becomes a positive role model and a friend, who listens and encourages Stephanie to be true to herself. It teaches us about coming out, friendship, families, peer pressure, and those feelings of a first crush. (Grades 6-10)

Crutcher, C.; ***Ironman***; 1995; ISBN 0-688-13503-X; This dramatic novel presents a boy learning to deal with his feelings toward his controlling father in an anger-management class. A subplot concerns his discovery that his coach is gay, and how he deals with this news. The language is a bit strong, but realistic. (Grades 6-10)

Garden, N.; ***Holly's Secret***; 2000; ISBN 0374332738; After moving from a big city to the country, Holly tries to change her name and to hide the fact that she has two lesbian mothers. She finds that her plan is a lot more difficult in practice than in theory and that it hurts the people who matter the most to her. Garden portrays the mothers' pain and disappointment well, but the characters and conflicts are not very subtle.

Greenberg, K.; ***Zack's Story***; 1996; ISBN 0-8225-2581-X; This is a true story of 11-year-old Zack who lives with his two mothers and shares a very loving relationship with his father as well. The story explores how Zack deals assertively with homophobic name calling at school. Photos of Zack and his frank telling about life in a lesbian family help debunk myths and stereotypes for students meeting a same-sex family for the first time.

Harris R. & M. Emberley; ***It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex & Sexual Health***; 2004; ISBN 076-362-4330; An honest, trustworthy and updated book about sexuality. Information on gay / lesbian issues is presented clearly and non-judgementally. Same-sex couples are throughout the book. Puberty, bodies, families, sex, decision making and staying healthy are the main topics. (Grades 5-10)

Howe, J.; ***The Misfits***; 2003; ISBN 0-689-83956-1; Four best friends are trying to survive the seventh grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based upon their weight, height, intelligence and sexual orientation / gender expression. (Grades 6-8)

Lackey, M.; "***The Last Herald Mage***"; A Fantasy / SciFiction trilogy (Grades 7-12)  
***Magic's Pawn***; 1989; ISBN 0-88677-352-0; ***Magic's Promise***; 1990; ISBN 0-88677-401-2; ***Magic's Price***; 1990; ISBN 0-886-774-268. Young Vanyel doesn't fit in with his sturdy, peasant-folk family and is therefore set to the capital to stay with his Aunt Savil, who is a "Herald of Valdemar". Along the way he must come to face his growing "magic" powers, his sexual orientation and the enemies of his country. Book 2: Herald Vanyel has been worn out using his powers against the enemies of his country and so goes home to his family to rest. However, he and his Companion must untangle another mystery involving newly Chosen Tashir. Book 3: the peaceful kingdom of Valdemar is besieged on all fronts and Vanyel is the last Herald Mage left to protect it. Vanyel and the Bard Stefen travel to confront a dark mage and prevent him from unleashing a final deadly blow against the kingdom.

Marcus, E.; ***What If Someone I Know Is Gay?***; 2000; ISBN 0-8431-7611-3; This candid and frank resource answers real questions from teenagers on all aspects of homosexuality. The author pushes aside the myths and negative stereotypes about LGBT people and helps students to understand what being gay is really all about. An exceptionally well written book that uses student friendly language. (Grade 5-9).

Woodson, J.; ***From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun***; 1995; ISBN 0-590-45881-7; In this moving and thought provoking story, a teenager is coming to terms with the changing relationship between his mama and himself. Melanin Sun is forced to deal with his own internal fears and prejudices of sexism, racism and homophobia, if he wants to have a meaningful relationship with his mama, who is coming out to him. (Grades 6 - 10)

Woodson, J.; ***The House You Pass on the Way***; 1997; ISBN 0-14-250191-3. A tender, richly layered coming-of-age story about a daughter of an interracial family in an all-black rural town. It explores the anxious wonderings of two young teenage cousins in their search for self identity. (Grades 6 to 10).

## **Secondary – Fiction** (see Intermediate Fiction too)

Anshaw, C.; ***Lucky In The Corner***; 2003; ISBN 0-618-34070-X; A lesbian mother (newly out of the closet) and her uncomprehending, difficult teenage daughter are the protagonists in this novel about family life and growing up.

Bauer, M. (ed); ***Am I Blue? Coming Out of the Silence***; 1994; ISBN 0-06-440587-7; 16 short stories address different issues for gay and lesbian youth: coming out, friends, hopes, parents and grandparents, relationships, even a "fairy godfather". Each story, accompanied by a short biography of the author, makes compelling reading.

Benduhn, T.; ***Gravel Queen***; 2003; ISBN 0-689-84994-X; Life gets complicated when Aurin and Neila start getting very close. As well as handling her own feelings, Aurin has to maintain her existing friendships, despite her excitement about the uncertain future. This novel shows the celebratory, fun parts of teen life, and offers a positive outcome.

De Oliveira, E.; ***Lucky***; 2004; ISBN 0-439-54655-9; Sam is attracted to both boys and girls. He meets Toby, who has the same likes and attractions. What will happen to their friendship and relationship? Love comes in many shapes and sizes, sometimes all at once. The author shows there's more to life than labels, and more to love than a simple definition.

Garden, N.; ***Annie on My Mind***; 1982; ISBN 0-374-40414-3; Aware that their feelings for each other are not safe to express in the open, Liza and Annie find themselves in a unique situation of cat minding for two of Liza's teachers, where they can be alone. What starts out as a private joyful time, forces both girls to deal with public humiliation, betrayal, lying, coming out to family and friends, and homophobia. Garden sensitively portrays the girls' personalities and the development of their loving relationship.

Garden, N.; ***Good Moon Rising***; 1996; ISBN 0-374-32746-7; While working on a school play, Jan and Kerry find their feelings for each other evolving beyond friendship, and are soon faced with the revenge tactics of a jealous actor, who threatens to expose them. The girls have to make an important decision. A loving story about helpful role models.

Garden, N.; ***The Year They Burned the Books***; 1999; ISBN 0-374-38667-6; When Jamie writes an editorial for her high school paper in favour of condom distribution and an open discussion of homosexuality, she becomes embroiled in a community wide controversy. Many similarities to the Surrey School Board's book-banning in B.C.

Grima, T. (ed); ***Not the Only One***; 1994; ISBN 1-55583-275-X; 21 stories capture many of the fears, joys, confusion and energy of teens coming face-to-face with lesbian / gay issues, in their own coming out, or in learning that a friend or family member is LGBT. These stories will help anyone reflecting on their own anxiety, isolation, excitement, pride, or hope for the future.

Hartinger, B.; ***Geography Club***; 2003; ISBN 0-06-001221-8; This is a fast paced, funny tale about teens who don't learn anything about Geography but discover plenty about the treacherous social terrain of high school. The book's themes are friendship, first love, social conformity, peer pressure and alienation by homophobic peers. Find out how their Geography club eventually becomes a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club at their school.

Hines, S.; ***Out of the Shadows***; 1998; ISBN 0-380-81192-8; Rowanna (Ro) thinks her family is freakishly unique, and Jodie is afraid of her own feelings. They spend a long time not speaking about what really matters to them. They end up getting closer to each other, going through an array of feelings, - love, hate, guilt, and forgiveness. Ro's stepmother Deb is a voice of calm and sensibility, keeping Ro from spiralling downward.

Huser, G.; ***Stitches***; 2003; ISBN 0-88899-578-4; It won the Gov. Gen.'s award for literature. In this fine novel of self-discovery and empowerment, Huser allows his characters, along with the reader, to uncover difficult truths. Two resilient outcasts struggle to survive being different in a small town. With his subtle yet confident strokes and an off-beat sense of humour, Huser makes it impossible not to care.

Kerr, M. E.; ***Deliver Us from Evie***; 1994; ISBN 0-06-447128-4; A story that challenges stereotypes, not only about love, but also about farmers, families and religion. The families and a small, conservative farming community deal with coming to terms with the lesbian relationship between two young women in their community. (Grades 7-12) Also by Kerr, ***Night Kites***; 1986; ISBN 0-06-447035-0; This story centres on Erick, aged 17, who learns about prejudice and family bonds when his older brother, gay and living with AIDS, moves back home. The novel also portrays Erick's own discoveries of love and relationships.

Ketchum, L.; ***Blue Coyote***; 1997; ISBN 0-689-80790-2; With themes of friendship, abandonment, coming out, and searching for self identity, this book will resonate with many teens. Alex searches for his best friend who suddenly “disappears” in a veil of secrecy from their hometown. It’s a suspenseful, emotional story of two teenage boys coming to terms with their sexuality and learning about the true value of friendship.

Peters, J.; ***Luna***; 2004; ISBN 0-316-73369-5; Liam can’t stand his daytime appearance and identity, but transforms in the evenings into Luna, a female identity. Luna’s sister Regan describes Luna’s progress as s/he prepares to be more open with the world. Regan’s alternate use of “he” and “she” helps us think about the power of pronouns and our assumptions about gender. An excellent novel about a transgender teen’s struggle for identity and acceptance.

Plum-Ucci, C.; ***What Happened to Lani Garver?***; 2002; ISBN 0-15-205088-4; Lani is a new kid at school, and others are asking questions, mainly “Is Lani a boy or a girl?” Claire befriends Lani, but soon has to deal with shattered friendships and her own personal demons. The events that follow are tragic, and somewhat ambiguous, but the book does a wonderful job of introducing the concept of androgyny. The last few pages offer info about the author.

Reynolds, M.; ***Love Rules***; 2001; ISBN 0-885356-76-5; This story, told in the first person, tells of a young woman's struggle with her sexual identity and how this affects her, her friends and her family. It contains some gritty language. It is written with humour, realism and a real understanding of how young people develop their identities.

Sanchez, A.; ***Rainbow Boys***; 2001; ISBN 0-689-84100-0 and ***Rainbow High***; 2003; ISBN 0-689-85477-3; Both books are easy to read, thought-provoking, and informative. They feature 3 very different young gay men, as they deal with sex, love, virginity, body image, homophobia, bashings, activism, parental / peer reactions, and internet predators. The second book follows their progress to the end of high school, and their decisions about future plans.

Scoppettone, S.; ***Happy Endings Are All Alike***; 1978, 1991, and 2004; ISBN 1-55583-177-X; A love story of two young women graduating from a small town high school. Many stereotypic ideas about lesbian relationships are presented, and then sensitively dispelled. The story also deals with the issues of family members' reactions and also sexual assault / rape.

Scoppettone, S.; ***Trying Hard to Hear You***; 1974; ISBN 1-55583-196-6; Members of a small theatre group learn that two of the boys are gay. There are strong feelings (fear, disappointment...) as a result of prejudice and racism in some members, but there is a gradual awareness / acceptance by most peers after a period of discussion and learning.

Taylor, W.; ***The Blue Lawn***; 1994; ISBN 1-55583-493-0. David and Theo are mates on a rugby team in small-town New Zealand, slowly coming to understand their mutual attraction and hostility to each other. Their different lives, families and personalities are obstacles to their friendship, but a wise relative helps them both to mature, if not necessarily in the same direction. One person's memories of the Holocaust provide a counterpoint to the relatively easy life of these two boys. The author (with several other books to his credit) skilfully portrays the two boys as multi-dimensional, full of internal contradictions and angst, and non-stereotypical. The ending is realistic and hopeful.

Wieler, D.; ***Bad Boy***; 1989; ISBN 0-88899-083-9; [Gov. Gen. Literary Award] AJ thinks that all he wants in his life is to make the Triple A hockey team, with his best friend Tully. But when he learns that Tully is gay, AJ's world spirals out of control. He can't keep his fear and aggression from coming out onto the ice. He has to learn about friendship and to rebuild his trust in Tully. Governor General's Literary Award.

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Yamanaka, L.; ***Name Me Nobody***; 1999; ISBN 0-7868-1466-7. Emi-Lou, is 13 and overweight. She lives in small-town Hawaii, far from her mother, trying desperately to grow up and to fit in with the popular girls. The only people who make her feel like somebody are her plain-speaking grandmother and her best friend, Von, who is following a different path. Fearing that she will again be a "nobody" without Von, Emi-Lou tries too hard to hang on to her friend. Many young readers will empathize with her conflicts.

## Secondary and Adult - Non-Fiction

Bass, K. and Kaufman K.; ***Free Your Mind***; 1996; ISBN 0-06-095104-4; A practical guide for LGB youth and allies, with comprehensive chapters on Family, Friends, Self-Discovery, School, Spirituality, and Community. There are stories from LGB youth, info on famous LGBTs, and great suggestions on coming out, relationships, health, school climate / hostility, resources, groups, religious conflict, supporting LGB friends/family, etc. This book really enables youth to understand and to celebrate their lives.

Borhek, M. V.; ***Coming Out to Parents***; 1993; ISBN 0-8298-0957-0; Outstanding and enlightening, this book is a practical guide with concrete strategies to help queer youth and their parents understand the "coming out" experience. Provides suggestions on how and when to come out, what reactions to expect and how to deal with the ensuing awkwardness.

Cowan, T.; ***Gay Men & Women Who Enriched the World***; 1996; ISBN 1-55583-391-8; This great book tells little-known facts about the lives of many famous LGB people from history, including Sappho, Plato, Michelangelo, Tchaikovsky, Virginia Woolf and Gertrude Stein. It provides good insights into these LGB lives, and gives queer youth a sense of their history.

Gray, M.L.; ***In Your Face: Stories From the Lives Of Queer Youth***; 1999; ISBN 1-56023-8879; A great collection of personal accounts of the lives of LGBT youth.

Heron, A. (ed); ***Two Teenagers in Twenty***; 1994; ISBN 1-55583-282-2; Over 40 lesbian and gay American teenagers write about their lives, feelings, experiences, coming out, -- and some advice. These articles portray the diversity within the range of young LGB people.

Huegel, K.; ***GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens***; 2003; ISBN 1-57542-126-7. Strategies and advice for teens about coming out, responding to homophobia, dating, staying healthy and safe, exercising your rights, life at school, community building, dealing with religion and culture and planning for the future. It includes first person comments from GLBTQ teens who are happy, well adjusted, and loved and supported for who they are. **Highly recommended**

Jennings, K.; ***Becoming Visible***; 1994; ISBN 1-55583-254-7; An good reader in gay and lesbian history, with sections on ancient Greece, Rome, China, early Native Americans, Europe and the USA in recent times, and current struggles / trends. Chapters include study questions. Jennings is the founder of GLSEN in the USA. (Secondary, Adult)

Marcus, E.; ***Is It a Choice?***; 1999; ISBN 0-06-251623-X; This book should be in every school library. The author clearly answers 300 of the most frequently asked questions about lesbians / gays in language that is accessible to almost all adolescents. It touches on religion, sex, family, discrimination, self-discovery, mass media, dating, aging, AIDS, work, coming out, relationships, and more. (Grades 6-12) **Highly recommended**

Rashid, N. & J. Hoy; ***Girl 2 Girl***; 2000; ISBN 1-873-74145-6; This enjoyable little British manual for young lesbian and bisexual women is full of poetry, stories, and short essays. Topics include dreams & dilemmas, friends & family, being out in the world, and love / lust / loss.

Russell, P; ***The Gay 100***; 2002; ISBN 07582-01001; Short biographies of 100 of the most influential gays / lesbians, past and present. Apart from the usual names are many figures from history (Socrates, Hadrian, St. Augustine, Hafiz, Petronius, Edward II, David and Jonathan, Queen Christina, etc). Most of the people are American, but at least 30 are European.

Singer, B. L.; ***Growing Up Gay/Growing Up Lesbian***; 1994; ISBN 1-56584-103-4; Well-known and respected lesbian / gay authors tell their stories in this anthology, including excerpts from their books on topics of self-discovery, friendships, relationships, family, and facing the world.

Sonnie, A.; ***Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology***; 2000; ISBN 1-55583-558-9; A literary anthology by and for queer and questioning youth and the writings and artwork of over 50 people ages 14-26.

Sutton, R.; ***Hearing Us Out: Voices from the Gay and Lesbian Community***, 1994; ISBN 0-316-82313-9; Diverse gay and lesbian people are profiled, describing some of their most compelling painful stories. Their 19 stories are funny and sad, light-hearted and wise, and finally heartening and validating. The book is intended for "gay" teens who need role-models, and for friends, family members, and educators who will be inspired to compassion and a better understanding of queer people, and our culture / community.

## **Parent & Professional Resources**

Aarons, L.; ***Prayers for Bobby: A Mother's Coming to Terms with the Suicide of Her Gay Son***; 1995; ISBN 0-062-57123-8; A classic, emotional book that serves as a wake-up call for many people with fixed anti-gay attitudes. The subject of the book is very open about how her homophobia contributed to her beloved son's untimely death.

Access to Media Education Society; ***Outlet: anti-homophobia resource package***; 2002 (part of Peer Perspectives series). AMES is a non-profit society, helping marginalized youth to tell their own stories and to develop media skills for advocacy / education. Included is a VHS videotape with 5 short video pieces done by youth at AMES programs. (Order from 250-539-5904 or [www.gulfislands.com/ames](http://www.gulfislands.com/ames))

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Bernstein, R. A.; ***Straight Parents, Gay Children: Keeping Families Together***; 2003; ISBN 1-56025-452-1; This is an update of the very popular 1995 book, written by a parent who discovered that his life was enriched by his lesbian daughter's revelation of her identity. Bernstein tells about his, and other parents', experiences with PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). The book comfort many parents, who often struggle alone over their children's disclosures, and it will be a call to action for them too, to love and accept their children, and to speak out on their behalf.

Blumenfeld, W. (ed); ***Homophobia, How We All Pay the Price***; 1992; ISBN 0-8070-7919-7; This collection of short essays addresses homophobia and other oppressions, families, and societal manifestations of homophobia. It would be useful as general background about homophobia, for all educators. The appendix offers ideas for conducting anti-heterosexism workshops, although Blumenfeld, a noted educator in the area, has since published some more up-to-date material on sexual identity issues

Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO); ***Seeing the Rainbow***; 2002; ISBN 0-88989-338-1 This excellent collection of essays, stories, strategies and resources (130 pages) comes from educators across Canada interested in addressing LGBT and Two-spirited issues in education. Order from CTF's website [www.ctf-fce.ca](http://www.ctf-fce.ca) - go to "Resources".

Clark, D.; ***Loving Someone Gay (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)***; 1997; ISBN 0-89087-837-4; This updated book is a valuable resource for family members, friends and professionals.

Derman-Sparks, L.; ***Anti-Bias Curriculum-Tools for Empowering Young Children***; 1989; ISBN 0-935989-20-X; Some young children develop biases against people who are different. By observing the spoken and unspoken messages about being different in our schools / communities, they learn that privilege and power are connected to these differences. This book shows adults how to empower young children (pre-school to early primary) to stand up for what's right. This excellent resource provides background information, sets goals and guidelines, outlines effective activities, and provides a thorough literature review of children's books, curriculum materials and adult books.

Dew, R. F.; ***The Family Heart***; 1994; ISBN 0-345-39408-9; This eloquent, powerful book tells the struggles of a family coming to terms with their son's gayness, and their subsequent "coming out" within their own community as parents of a gay child.

Fairchild, B. & N. Hayward; ***Now That You Know-A Parent's Guide to Understanding Their Gay and Lesbian Children***; 1998; ISBN 0-15-600605-7; Written by two mothers of LGB children, the book discusses the nature of homosexuality, and counsels parents about responding positively to LGB children. Personal stories of children / families are interwoven throughout it. An annotated bibliography on parent resources is included.

Fone, B.; ***Homophobia; a history***; 2000; ISBN 0-312-42030-7; This heavy book (420 pages plus notes) looks at the history of the many forms of homophobia. It looks at ancient Greek attitudes and Biblical comments, a millennium of (European) sodomy from 500 - 1400 BC, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the English / American obsessions with sexual differences in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the very political homophobia of the 20th century. The author looks variously at the legal, religious, social moral and political aspects in the evolution of homophobia as "the last acceptable prejudice".

Gay and Lesbian Educators of British Columbia; ***Challenging Homophobia in Schools***; 2000, revised in 2004. Sections of this comprehensive manual (240 pages) include Rationale for addressing homophobia, Background on a variety of LGBT issues, Strategies for educators, many Lesson Plans (elem. and sec.) and Resources (books, videos, community groups). The second edition includes more info on transgender issues, and on legal changes for LGBTs in Canada and BC. (Available from GALE-BC [www.galebc.org](http://www.galebc.org) ).

GLSEN - CT (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network of Connecticut) and Planned Parenthood of Connecticut; ***Tackling Gay\* Issues in Schools***; 1998. This excellent manual tackles a panoply of issues around “gay” (short for LGBT here) students, and is similar to GALE-BC’s “Challenging Homophobia in Schools” manual in some ways. It includes substantial readings on background issues, curriculum and staff development activities, teaching suggestions (mostly secondary), resources, and extracurricular activities and resources. (Order from Amazon Books [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

Harbeck, K.; ***Gay and Lesbian Educators***; 1997; ISBN 1-889393-48-7; An organized study of the lives and challenges of gay/lesbian educators in the USA. It’s detailed and well-referenced, with specific references to particular legal restrictions, state laws, court decisions, and social movements to restrict or expand queer teachers’ rights.

Herd, G. & B. Koff; ***Something To Tell You: The Road That Families Travel When A Child Is Gay***; 2000; ISBN 0-231-10439-1.

Jennings, K.; ***One Teacher in Ten***; (will be reprinted in 2005; ISBN 1-55583-869-3); LGBT educators from across the USA in rural and urban communities tell their poignant stories of coming out in their schools, classrooms and communities. Essential for all teachers, straight and LGBT, who want to understand the power and hurt of the classroom closet. Jennings is one of the leading advocates for queer-positive schools.

Johnson, O.; ***The Sexual Spectrum***; 2004; ISBN 1-55192-681-4; In this witty and engaging book about human sexual diversity, Johnson (a Vancouver neuro-psychologist and clinician) writes calmly about the complexities and variations in sexuality, orientation and gender identity. She details many current findings about neuro-biology, behaviour, and many social / legal questions affecting LGBTs. Extensive bibliography is included. **Highly recommended.**

Kissen, R. M.; ***The Last Closet: The Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers***; 1996; ISBN 0-435-07005-3; Kissen, an Education Professor, describes over 100 lesbian / gay educators who struggle with dignity against homophobia. We see the diverse realities of these dedicated professionals. Caught between their desire for authenticity and their need for safety; they often pay an immense personal price as they fight to make life better for the next generation. She presents common problem areas, survival strategies for lesbian / gay educators, and advice for heterosexual parents and educators.

Nichols, J.; ***The Gay Agenda - Talking Back to the Fundamentalists***; 1996; ISBN 1-57392-103-3; Spiritual and humanistic, this book provides powerful insights into the historical and current methods of persecution of queer people by some churches. It provides a sometimes scathing critique of fundamentalist dogmas and shows how the feminist movement, gender roles, abortion, traditional family values, sex education, contraception and homosexuality are all interrelated in the eyes of the fundamentalists. This is essential for anyone interested in understanding and challenging the myths and negative stereotypes perpetuated by the extreme right.

Owens, R. E.; ***Queer Kids-The Challenges and Promise for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth***; 1998; ISBN 1-56023-929-8; A professional resource designed to help teachers and counsellors address the needs of LGB Youth. It outlines the challenges faced by these youth as well as how schools help to perpetuate the problems of homophobia and heterosexism. A wide variety of useful strategies are explored in the chapter titled: Addressing the Needs of Queer Kids.

Pharr, S., *In the Time of the Right, Reflections on Liberation*; 1996; ISBN 0-9620222-8-4; In this clear analysis of the growing power of the political right, Pharr shows how we can begin building a community where everyone is valued and where equality, justice and freedom are realities. (Secondary, Adult, Professional)

Thomson, B. J., *Words Can Hurt You, Beginning A Program of Anti-Bias Education*; 1996; ISBN 0-201-45502-1; This resource has 49 lesson plans that deal with difference, stereotypes, and prejudice. It's based on the premise that if we really understood what a pluralistic society was, everyone would enjoy equal access to opportunities, with no one favoured or limited by their gender, ethnicity or skin colour. The first part explains how to set up a bias-free classroom, involving the whole school, parents and community.

Toronto School Board and Elementary Teachers of Toronto; *Rainbows and Triangles: A Curriculum Document for Challenging Homophobia & Heterosexism in the K-6 Classroom*; 2003; This is a compilation of lesson plans, definitions, FAQs, resources and community contacts. Age-appropriate teaching strategies are given, to present concepts of diverse family structures, human rights, discrimination, homophobia, and challenging all discrimination. (To order, call Toronto School Board 416-397-2595)

### **Transgender Issues** (for adults and **mature** students)

Ayres, T. (ed.); *String of Pearls; Stories About Cross-Dressing*; 1996; ISBN 1-86373-914-9; This very mixed collection brings together established and new writers, to write about cross-dressing and to push against the rigid boundaries around our desires. The stories are both provocative and subtle, touching on sexual ambiguities, disguise as a vehicle for unveiling hidden truths, the ritual of uniforms, etc.

Boenke, M. (ed.); *Trans Forming Families: Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones*; 1999; ISBN 0-615-12307-4.

Bornstein, K.; *Gender Outlaw*; 1995; ISBN 0-679-75701-5; A funny, insightful journey across the frontiers of gender and identity. This is an account of the author's transformation from heterosexual male to a lesbian woman, but it also investigates our notions of male and female, the myths attached to them, and the penalties that befall those who transgress the usual definitions and anyone who blindly conforms to them.

Bornstein, K.; *My Gender Workbook*; 1998; ISBN 0-415-91673-9; This is Bornstein's playful guide to exploring "gender". The topics include living without gender, thwarting the "gender police", and examining one's own beliefs, values and feelings about gender identity.

Cameron, L.; *Body Alchemy-Transsexual Portraits*; 1996; ISBN 1-57344-062-0; An interesting book of photo essays of FTM transsexuals. Some personal stories are included, as well as some before-and-after photos, and brief descriptions of various aspects of gender reassignment.

Feinberg, L.; *Transgender Warriors*; 1996; ISBN 0-8070-7941-3; An excellent history of transgender people through history, including pre-industrial societies. In searching for his/her own community and history, Feinberg found a vast body of evidence of people who have long been defying / challenging cultural boundaries of gender. Many historical images illustrate this excursion into the history of so many hero/ines and visionaries, both rebellious and visionary.

Feinberg, L.; ***Trans Liberation***; 1998; ISBN 0-8070-7950-2; Feinberg argues passionately for the acceptance of all "Trans" people (cross-dressers, transsexuals, inter-sex people, Two Spirits, drag queens, etc.), and makes analogies with the struggles of LGBs to break down the doors of shame and silence. Interwoven into the essays are portraits of 10 trans persons.

Feinberg, L.; ***Stone Butch Blues***; 1993; ISBN 1-55583-853-7; A novel about the journey of a transgender person coming out as a "butch" lesbian, in the late 1960's, and later transitioning from female to male and searching for community.

Mallon, G.; ***Social Services with Transgendered Youth***; 1999; ISBN 1-56023-136-X.

The Women/Trans Dialogue Planning Committee and Trans Alliance Society; ***The Trans Biography Project: Stories from the Lives of Eleven Trans People in BC***; 2001.

### **Bisexuality** (mostly for adult readership)

Beemyn, B, & E. Steinman (eds.); ***Bisexual Men in Culture and Society***; 2001; ISBN 1-56023-250-1.

Chater, N. et al; ***Plural Desires: Writing Bisexual Women's Realities***; 1998; ISBN 0920813194.

Hutchins, L. & L. Kaahumanu; ***Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out***; 1991; ISBN: 155583174-5.

Klein, F.; ***The Bisexual Option, 2nd Edition***; 1993; ISBN 1-56023-033-9.

Tucker, N. (Ed.); ***Bisexual Politics: Theories, Queries & Visions***; 1995; ISBN 1-56023-869-0.

Weinberg, M., C. Williams, & D. Pryor; ***Dual Attraction: Understanding Bisexuality***; 1994; ISBN 019508482-9.