

# Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Recommended Fiction and  
Nonfiction Resources  
for K-12 Schools



# Table of Contents

---

Introduction . . . . . **1**

Primary (Grades K-3) . . . . . **2**

Upper Elementary (Grades 4 to 6) . . . . . **6**

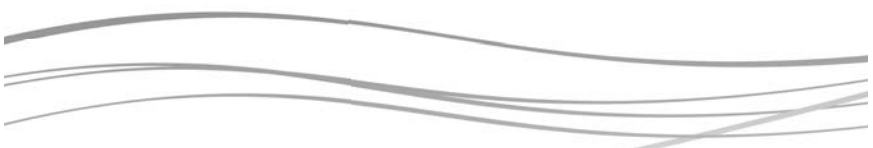
Junior High (Grades 6 to 9) . . . . . **8**

Senior High (Grades 9 to 12) . . . . . **11**

Nonfiction Resources for Students and Teachers . . . . . **19**

Documentary and Nonfiction DVDs . . . . . **24**

Feature Films . . . . . **29**



# Introduction

---

Materials in this resource list support Edmonton Public Schools' commitment to providing safe, welcoming, inclusive, and equitable environments, which are free of discrimination and harassment for all students, staff, and families who identify or are perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, two-spirited, queer, and/or questioning. These resources meet the District's and Alberta Education's criteria of presenting diverse points of view to meet the programming and curricular needs of *all* students by recognizing diversity and promoting respect in the K-12 program of studies. The materials selected for this list have received positive reviews in critical review

journals (such as *School Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *Kirkus*, and *Canadian Review of Materials Magazine*) and/or recognition by awards for youth literature (such as the Governor General Award), and those administered by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, the American Library Association, and others. A concerted effort has been made to include high quality age-appropriate materials for a wide variety of students and learning styles. We have also placed emphasis on newer releases, landmark resources, and as much Canadian content as possible. Many of the following resources can be borrowed for preview purposes from the Edmonton Public Library and/or ordered from the Teachers' Book Depository.

## LEGEND



**Canadian title**

**HI / LO**

**High Interest / Low Vocabulary series**

(aimed at students reading below grade level)



**Stonewall Award**

American Library Association Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award

# Primary (Grades K-3)

---

Bedford, David

***It's a George Thing!*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-1405228053

*K-Grade 1*

George the zebra spends most of his time playing basketball and lifting weights with his two best friends, even though he really isn't fond of either of those boy-type activities. Eventually, he discovers an activity he loves and learns to believe in himself *and* his friends.



Bertouille, Ariane

***Ulysse et Alice*** (2006)

ISBN: 978-2890912373

*K-Grade 3*

A French-language picture book from Quebec that addresses the realities of same-sex parented families with humour and tenderness. Ulysse, a 7-year-old boy living with his two mothers, wants to adopt a pet mouse named Alice.

Brannen, Sarah

***Uncle Bobby's Wedding*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-0399247125

*K-Grade 2*

Chloe's Uncle Bobby is getting married to his male partner. She's worried that this will change their special relationship until she is invited to be a flower girl, and finds that she now has two special uncles.

Bunnell, Jacinta and Nat Kusinitz

***Sometimes the Spoon Runs Away with Another Spoon Coloring Book*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1604863291

*K-Grade 4*

Fun activity book plays with classic fairytales and depicts those who don't fit into neat gender categorizations, like tough girls and sensitive boys.

De Haan, Linda & Stern Nijland

***King and King*** (2002)

ISBN: 978-1582460611

*K-Grade 2*

A queen declares that her son, the prince, must be married by summer's end. Although princesses come from far and wide, the prince finds his match when he first lays his eyes on another prince. They marry and live happily ever after. One of the most frequently banned or challenged books in North America.

De Haan, Linda & Stern Nijland

***King and King and Family*** (2004)

ISBN: 978-1582461137

*K-Grade 3*

In the further adventures of King & King, the newlywed couple takes a honeymoon trip to a jungle and see all kinds of different families. Upon their return home, their wish for a family of their own is fulfilled.

PRIMARY (GRADES K-3)

dePaola, Tomie

***Oliver Button is a Sissy*** (1999; 2001)

ISBN: 978-0156681407

*K-Grade 3*

Oliver pursues his love of dancing, in spite of being bullied by the other boys at school and being called a sissy by his own father.



Elwin, Rosamund  
& Michele Pause

***Asha's Mums*** (1990)

ISBN: 978-0889611436

*K-Grade 3*

Asha's main concern is going on a school field trip. She is almost left behind, however, when her teacher demands that only her biological mom sign her permission slip.

Ewert, Marcus

***10,000 Dresses*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-1583228500

*K-Grade 2*

Every night, Bailey dreams about magical dresses, but no one wants to hear about his beautiful dreams. "You're a BOY!" Mother and Father tell Bailey. "You shouldn't be thinking about dresses at all." Then Bailey meets an older girl who is touched and inspired by Bailey's imagination. In friendship, the two begin making dresses together. Uplifting and trans-positive.

Fierstein, Harvey

***The Sissy Duckling*** (2005)

ISBN: 978-1416903130

*K-Grade 3*

Elmer is a sissy boy duckling who likes to bake cakes, build forts and put on puppet shows. This book teaches us to embrace our differences and celebrate special identities and talents.

Freeman, Martha

***The Trouble with Babies*** (2002)

ISBN: 978-0823416981

*Grade 2-4*

After nine-year-old Holly and her family move to a different neighborhood in San Francisco, she makes new friends, meets a new baby, and helps keep track of her stepfather's four cats. One of her new friends has two dads.

Gravett, Emily

***The Odd Egg*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0230531352

*K-Grade 1*

When Duck finds an egg of his own he's delighted: it's the most beautiful egg in the world! But all the other birds think it's a very odd egg indeed and everyone is in for a BIG surprise when the egg hatches. A subtle approach to discussing alternative families.



Jiménez, Karleen P

**Are You a Boy or a Girl?** (2000)

ISBN: 978-1896781143

*K-Grade 2*

A book to open the conversation about what it means to be a boy or a girl and the many possibilities of expressing oneself.

Kay, Verla

**Rough, Tough Charley** (2007)

ISBN: 978-1582461847

*K-Grade 4*

Picture book biography of a fearless stagecoach driver from the Old West whom everyone believed to be male until after his/her death.

Kilodavis, Cheryl

**My Princess Boy** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1442429888

*K-Grade 3*

Dyson is a 4-year-old boy who has a passion for dresses and all things sparkly. His family poignantly discusses their work to address and overcome the negative reactions of others as Dyson explores his identity. Whimsical illustrations help to tell the story of a boy who can grow up to be, and fully express, himself with the support of his friends, family, and school.

Kuklin, Susan

**Families** (2006)

ISBN: 978-0786808229

*K-Grade 4*

Children from diverse families — including gay, lesbian, single, adoptive, multiracial and divorced — share their thoughts about families.

Newman, Leslea

**The Boy Who Cried Fabulous** (2007)

ISBN: 978-1582462240

*K-Grade 3*

A boy named Rodger uses the word “fabulous” to describe everything he sees. Despite his enthusiasm, Rodger’s parents attempt to ban his use of the word. Rodger uses his creativity to find another way to express the wonder that he sees around him and in the end his parents come to see the fabulous nature of his ways. An impressive rhyming book that subtly addresses issues related to gender expression.

Parr, Todd

**The Family Book** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0316070409

*K-Grade 2*

Represents a variety of families, some big and some small, some with only one parent and some with two moms or dads, some quiet and some noisy, but all alike in some ways and special no matter what. See Todd Parr’s *It’s Ok to Be Different* and *Otto Goes to Camp* for more examples of the importance of diversity and difference.

Polacco, Patricia

***In Our Mothers' House*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0399250767

*K-Grade 4*

Three children experience the joys and challenges of being raised from babyhood into adulthood by two mothers.

Richardson, Justin & Peter Parnell

***And Tango Makes Three*** (2005)

ISBN: 978-0689878459

*K-Grade 3*

The true story of Roy and Silo, two male penguins in the Central Park Zoo, who make a family by sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches. One of the most frequently challenged and banned books in North America.

Rickards, Lynne

***Pink!*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0545086080

*K-Grade 3*

What's a penguin to think when he wakes up pink? Poor Patrick hates the idea of being different from all his friends and sets off to Africa in search of flamingos who might accept a pink penguin. He returns home and learns to accept himself.



Settingington, Ken

***Mom and Mum Are Getting Married*** (2004)

ISBN: 978-1896764849

*K-Grade 3*

Rosie and her brother Jack help Mom and Mum get married at their cottage. One of the first picture books to recognize and celebrate the realities of same-sex marriages in Canada.

U'Ren, Andrea

***Pugdog*** (2001)

ISBN: 978-0374361495

*K-Grade 2*

A tough, spiked-collar-wearing dog is unhappily forced to conform to her owner's idea of gender expression when a vet reveals that Pugdog is female. When a prissy white poodle turns out to be male, Pugdog's owner realizes he must change his attitude, not his dog.

## Upper Elementary (Grades 4-6)

---

Appelt, Kathi

***Keeper*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1416950608

*Grade 4-7*

Ten-year-old Keeper searches for her mermaid mother who abandoned her when she was three. This story about chosen families, including a male couple, is set on the Gulf Coast of Texas and has the timeless feel of a fable.

Harper, Charise Mericle

***Flashcards of My Life*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-0316166768

*Grade 5-8*

Emily's life in junior high school and at home is revealed as she uses the journaling flashcards her Aunt Chester sent as a birthday gift to help sort through changing friendships, possible boyfriends, and her mother's obsession with nutty desserts. Lesbianism is discussed by Emily and her classmates in reference to one of their teachers, and Emily's mother appears to have had a relationship with a woman in the past.

Howe, James

***The Misfits*** (2003)

ISBN: 978-0689839566

*Grade 4-8*

Four best friend "misfits," one of whom is called a "fairy," decide to change life at their school by starting a campaign against name-calling. An excellent book to explore gender stereotypes and non-conformity.

Howe, James

***Totally Joe*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-0689839580

*Grade 5-8*

In 13-year-old Joe's alphabiography assignment – the story of his life from A to Z – he bares his soul and comes out to his parents, teachers, friends and family. This sequel to *The Misfits* is a thoroughly engaging and heart-felt read. An excellent novel that can be used to open up classroom discussions surrounding sexual identity in upper elementary and junior high schools.

Ignatow, Amy

***The Popularity Papers*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0810984219

*Grade 4-6*

Best friends Lydia and Julia embark on a scrapbook project to study the behaviour of the popular girls at their elementary school so that they too will be able to fit in with the right crowd. Julie's parents are both male.



Williams, David

***The Boy in a Dress*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0007279043

*Grade 5-8*

Twelve-year-old Dennis lives with his dad and his older brother. He really misses his mom. Dennis loves soccer and he also loves *Vogue* magazine (which he keeps hidden under his mattress). He becomes friends with an older girl at school, Lisa, who shares his love of fashion. Lisa encourages Dennis to fulfill his desire to wear dresses... which brings enormous consequences. There is never any indication that Dennis is gay; he just enjoys gender fluidity.

Winter, Jonah

***Gertrude Is Gertrude Is***

***Gertrude Is Gertrude*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-1416940883

*K-Grade 6*

Written in Stein's playful, repetitive style, this brief biography shows famous authors Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas entertaining famous artists in their home in Paris, driving in the country, enjoying picnics and writing (Gertrude) and typing (Alice). Use as a possible introduction to modern art as well as to spark creative student writing.

Woodson, Jacqueline

***After Tupac and D Foster*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0142413999

*Grade 6-8*

Three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music in New York City in 1996, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live. One of the girls has an older brother, Tash, who is flamboyantly gay and is in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Themes of intolerance and injustice are central to the story.

# Junior High (Grades 6-9)

---



Carter, Timothy

***Evil?*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0738715391

*Grade 7-9*

Stuart Bradley, a gay teenager living in a conservative Christian town in Ontario, dabbles in several forbidden activities, and when word gets out, he and some other teens face grave danger from the fallen angels that are inciting hatred and extremism in the community.

Hartinger, Brent

***Geography Club*** (2004)

ISBN: 978-0060012236

*Grade 7-12*

A group of gay and lesbian teenagers find mutual support when they form a clandestine Gay-Straight Alliance school club by calling it the "Geography Club." The novel offers possibilities for discussion on changing social attitudes towards queer youth as well as the issue of integrity vs. popularity.



Huser, Glen

***Stitches*** (2003)

ISBN: 978-0888995780

*Grade 6-9*

This dramatic novel, set in an Alberta town, tells the story of Travis and his best friend Chantelle, who find refuge from being different and bullied through their friendship and love of creating puppet theatre. Governor General Award Winner.



Juby, Susan

***Another Kind of Cowboy*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-1554682607

*Grade 7-10*

When a gay teenager living on Vancouver Island is finally able to ditch Western-style riding and take up dressage, it's a dream come true for him. Getting paired with the supremely self-absorbed Cleo is part of the deal, however, and brings a whole new set of challenges for Alex.

Levithan, David

***Boy Meets Boy*** (2005)

ISBN: 978-0375832994

*Grade 8-12*

High school sophomore Paul says, "There isn't really a gay scene or a straight scene in our town. They got all mixed up a while back, which I think is for the best." And, as he observes at the end of the sweet, romantic story, "It's a wonderful world." Paul has both gay and straight friends and they all hang out together.



Lieberman, Leanne

***Gravity*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-1554690497

*Grade 8-10*

Ellisheva "Ellie" Gold is an Orthodox Jewish teen growing up in Toronto. When she falls for daring, sexy, non-Jewish Lindsay, Ellie must come to terms with her sexuality and her faith.

Lo, Malinda

**Ash** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0316040105

*Grade 7-12*

Torn between her emerging love for the King's mysterious huntress and the ethereal draw of a fairy prince, Ash discovers the strength of her own identity in this bisexual retelling of Cinderella.

Peters, Julie Anne

**Between Mom and Jo** (2008)

ISBN: 978-0316067102

*Grade 7-10*

Fourteen-year-old Nick has a great life with his two moms until they split up and he's caught in the middle with no support.

Peters, Julie Anne

**Luna** (2006)

ISBN: 978-0316011273

*Grade 8-12*

Regan is fiercely protective of her brother Liam and his secret desire to be Luna. She fears their family's reaction, and she fears that her brother may someday give in to despair. While Regan wonders if she will ever be able to have a life separate from the needs of her sibling, Liam seriously considers a permanent change.



Shraya, Vivek

**God Loves Hair** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0986551208

*Grade 7-12*

A delightful collection of brief, autobiographical stories by a gender-confused boy growing up in a South Asian Hindu family in Edmonton.



Sobat, Gail Sidonie

**Chance to Dance for You** (2011)

ISBN: 978-1926531113

*Grade 7-12*

Ian lives in a suburb where everything's the same. But Ian is different. Openly gay in his bigoted high school, Ian doesn't fit in. But he's been training in dance. Soon he'll be able to leave town to become a professional. Then he falls in love with Jess, the star quarterback...

Weatherford, Carole

**Becoming Billie Holiday** (2008)

ISBN: 978-1590785072

*Grade 7-12*

Verse format is used to narrate the life of Eleanora Fagan, an unwanted child who grew up to become a Harlem jazz legend. The poems draw their titles from Billie Holiday's songs.

Wilkinson, Lili

***Pink*** (2011)

ISBN: 978-0061926532

*Grade 8-11*

Ava, a bisexual Australian teen, attempts to re-invent herself by switching to a new school, but the results are both tragic and funny.

Wittlinger, Ellen

***Parrotfish*** (2011)

ISBN: 978-1442406216

*Grade 7-10*

In the days between American Thanksgiving and Christmas, Grady comes out as female-to-male transsexual, facing issues of acceptance and rejection at school and at home. Grady deals with his vexing issues of self-identity with courage and grace. An excellent resource for building awareness about, and serving the increasing number of transgender and transsexual teens

## Senior High (Grades 9-12)

---

Beam, Cris

***I Am J*** (2011)

ISBN: 978-0316053617

*Grade 9-12*

J was born Jenifer but has never felt female. At 17, J is sure of his masculinity, but he is confused about what to do next. Readers will learn a lot about transgender teens as J does research online, attends a support group and gets advice from friends who have transitioned.

Block, Francesca Lia

***Baby Be-Bop*** (1995)

ISBN: 978-0064471763

*Grade 8-12*


Dirk McDonald, a 16-year-old boy in Los Angeles, comes to terms with being gay after he receives surreal storytelling visitations from his dead father and great-grandmother.

Burd, Nick

***The Vast Fields of Ordinary*** (2011)

ISBN: 978-0142418208

*Grade 9-12*

The summer after graduating from an Iowa high school, eighteen-year-old Dade ends his long-term, secret relationship, comes out of the closet, and finds first love. Dade's new boyfriend is the local drug dealer, Alex. Neither Dade nor Alex can predict the future of their relationship, since they both know that Dade plans to leave town for college in September. 

Cameron, Peter

***Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0312428167

*Grade 10-12*

A funny and painful account of James, a gay eighteen-year-old who lives in New York City with his older sister and divorced mother and struggles to find a direction for his life the year following 9/11.

Cart, Michael (ed.)

***How Beautiful the Ordinary*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0061154980

*Grade 9-12*

The tales in this collection present not only the wide variety of identities in the LGBTQ community – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and questioning – but also the variety of experiences of being human – love, regret, betrayal, and discovery.

Cruse, Howard

***Stuck Rubber Baby*** (1995; 2011)

ISBN: 978-1401227036

*Grade 10-12*

A lyrical tale of a young man caught in the turbulence of the civil rights movement and the systematic homophobia of the American South of the 1960s. The title refers to a pregnancy that follows a condom malfunction. Graphic Novel



Diersch, Sandra

***Out*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-1552774212

*Grade 9-12*

Alex struggles with his faith when he witnesses a church member cheating on his wife and learns that his brother is gay. When his brother is brutally attacked, Alex is forced to decide where his loyalties lie and what he really believes in. Set in Maple Ridge, B.C. **HI / LO**

Doyle, Mayra Lazara

***Down to the Bone*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-0060843106

*Grade 9-11*

16-year-old Laura is a Latina lesbian living in Miami. After she is outed at school, kicked out of her home, and rejected by her girlfriend, she finds herself and her community.



Dunnion, Kristyn

***Big Big Sky*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-0889954045

*Grade 8-12*

A tightly-knit female warrior group are trained to be aggressive, quick thinking, and obedient, but when it becomes clear that they face being unplugged (finished, dead) they make a run for it. Eventually they make it to the outside of the great mountain where they've been raised and programmed – and here for the first time they behold the big, big sky of the real world. Science fiction with effective use of invented language.



Fullerton, Alma

***In the Garage*** (2006)

ISBN: 978-0889953710

*Grade 9-12*

BJ, who is bullied at school, betrays her best friend Alex by stealing the journal where he's recorded his thoughts about being gay. Calgary author Fullerton uses verse format to tell this tragic tale.



Francis, Brian

***Fruit*** (2004)

ISBN: 978-1550226201

*Grade 10-12*

Peter Paddington is 13, overweight, and the subject of his classmates' ridicule. When his nipples begin speaking to him one day and inform him of their diabolical plan to expose his secret desires to the world, Peter finds himself cornered in a world that seems to have no tolerance for difference. This hilarious former Canada Reads contender is set in Sarnia, Ontario.

Garden, Nancy

***Annie on My Mind*** (1982; 2007)

ISBN: 978-0374400118

*Grade 9-12*

After a disaster at school, Liza puts aside her feelings for Annie, but eventually allows love to triumph over the ignorance of other people. *School Library Journal*: "No single work has done more for young adult LGBT fiction than this classic about two teenage girls who fall in love."

SENIOR HIGH (GRADES 9-12)

Garsee, Jeannine

***Say the Word*** (2011)

ISBN: 978-1599906133

*Grade 9-12*

The word that Shawna refuses to say is “lesbian.” Her mother abandoned her and her father in order to be with her new love, Fran. In the years since, Shawna has barely seen her mother, who has made a life with Fran and two sons. When her mother dies, Shawna learns that her father has not been truthful with her, and suddenly making moral decisions becomes much more difficult.



Goobie, Beth

***Hello, Groin*** (2006)

ISBN: 978-1551434599

*Grade 9-12*

A realistic look at a lesbian teen coming to terms with her sexuality at the same time as she is embroiled in a censorship issue at her school in Saskatoon.

Green, John & David Levithan

***Will Grayson, Will Grayson*** (2011)

ISBN: 978-0142418475

*Grade 9-12*

When two teens, one gay and one straight, meet accidentally and discover that they share the same name, their lives become intertwined as one begins dating the other’s best friend, who produces a musical revealing his relationship with them both. Told in alternating voices of the two Will Graysons.

Harmon, Michael

***Last Exit to Normal*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0440239949

*Grade 9-12*

Ben and his two dads move to rural Montana where Ben absolutely does not fit in and finds it harder to deal with having two dads than he did in their previous urban home.

Horner, Emily

***A Love Story Starring My Dead Best Friend*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0803734203

*Grade 8-12*

16-year-old Cass mourns the death of her best friend, Julia, and helps a group to mount a musical Julia had written. In alternating then and now chapters, Cass also describes a solo bicycle journey she undertook in Julia’s memory. Cass learns not to denigrate the value of friendship by saying “we were just friends” and she kisses a girl for the first time.

Hurwin, Davida

***Freaks and Revelations*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-0316049962

*Grade 9-12*

Tells, in alternating fictional voices, of events leading up to a true 1980s incident in Los Angeles in which a fourteen-year-old homeless gay youth was beaten and left for dead by a seventeen-year-old skinhead. The two met again, years later, and now give talks together about overcoming hatred. Pair this with *The Laramie Project* play or film.

Katcher, Brian

***Almost Perfect*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0385736657

*Grade 8-12*

With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student named Sage arrives at his small-town Missouri high school, keeping a big secret. By the time Logan learns that Sage is transgender, he is already in love with her. **S**

Kaufman, Moises

***The Laramie Project*** (2001)

ISBN: 978-0375727191

*Grade 10-12*

A stunning, internationally-acclaimed play that attempts to find meaning in the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student. The tragedy was a watershed event and stimulated debates on anti-gay prejudice and violence. Members of Kaufman's theater group travelled to Laramie, Wyoming, and interviewed townspeople, which gives the play's dialogue a raw authenticity. Many different voices are heard: a policewoman, Matthew's father, a Catholic priest, a lesbian college professor, Matthew's killers, a Unitarian minister, a viciously anti-gay protestor, etc.



Mac, Carrie

***The Beckoners*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-1551437293

*Grade 8-12*

15-year-old Zoe is not pleased to be moving yet again, this time from Prince George to Abbotsford, BC. Unsure of herself and merely trying to fit in, Zoe is initiated, painfully, into the Beckoners, a twisted group of girls whose main purpose is to stay on top by whatever means necessary. A chilling portrait of bullying and violence and the terrible price that can be exacted for standing up for what is right. Two of the protagonists are gay teens and Zoe is sorting out her own sexual identity.



Mac, Carrie

***Crush*** (2006)

ISBN: 978-1551435268

*Grade 9-12*

During a summer in New York, Hope falls in love with another girl and must decide whether or not she is a lesbian. **HI/LO**





McDonald, S

***Confessions of an Empty Purse*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1897181331

*Grade 10-12*

Autobiography in verse format of a Toronto teenager aching for role models and giddy with the excitement of spotting real, live transsexuals on Parliament Street. The inherent tragedy of being fat, pimply, and male while longing to be glamorous, willowy and female is balanced with campy humour. Suicide is considered and averted, with the courage it takes to accept that some dreams will never come true.

Peters, Julie Anne

***grl2grl*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-0316013437

*Grade 9-12*

The young queer women in this collection of ten short stories are at different levels of self-discovery, searching for satisfying relationships.



Rainfield, Cheryl

***Scars*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1934813324

*Grade 9-12*

Fifteen-year-old Kendra, a lesbian and budding artist, has not felt safe since she began to recall devastating memories of childhood sexual abuse, especially since she cannot remember her abuser's identity, and she copes with the pressure by cutting herself.

St. James, James

***Freak Show*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-0142412312

*Grade 9-12*

Outrageously over-the-top teen drag queen Billy Bloom, a new student at the very conservative Dwight D. Eisenhower Academy, finds that life is not easy for him among the rich students with their brutal homophobia.

Sanchez, Alex

***Rainbow Boys*** (2003)

ISBN: 978-0689857706;

***Rainbow High*** (2005)

ISBN: 978-0689854781;

***Rainbow Road*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-1416911913;

*Grade 9-12*

A trilogy told in multiple points of view that follows the overlapping lives of several gay and questioning high school seniors as they come of age.


Schrag, Ariel

***Awkward and Definition*** (2008)


ISBN: 978-1416552314

*Grade 10-12*


Pen-and ink comics drawn during Schrag's early high-school years in San Francisco illuminate her journey toward a sexual identity, amid concerns about school, sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Graphic Novel

 Scofield, Gregory  
***Kipocihkân: Poems New and Selected*** (2009)  
 ISBN: 978-0889712287  
 Grade 11-12


Award-winning poet Scofield features work from five earlier collections. Some, like “Divided,” address the issue of ethnic identity for a blue-eyed Métis, while poems from *Love Medicine* and *One Song* reflect tenderness toward a male lover.

 Scofield, Gregory  
***Thunder Through My Veins*** (2000)  
 ISBN: 978-0006385431  
 Grade 10-12

Scofield’s autobiography describes how he survived a childhood marked by loss, poverty and violence and did not learn to accept himself and his gay identity until he accepted his Métis heritage.


 Selvadurai, Shyam  
***Swimming In the Monsoon Sea*** (2007)  
 ISBN: 978-0887768347  
 Grade 8-12

14-year-old Amrith finds his life in Sri Lanka turned upside down when his Canadian cousin visits and Amrith falls in love with him.


 Stevenson, Robin  
***Big Guy*** (2008)  
 ISBN: 978-1551439105  
 Grade 9-12

Derek thinks he might be falling in love for the first time ever. The problem is, he hasn’t been entirely honest with his online boyfriend.

**HI / LO**

 Stevenson, Robin  
***Inferno*** (2009)  
 ISBN: 978-1554690770  
 Grade 8-12

Grade 10 at a new school was bearable because Dante was wrapped up in romance with Beth... but now Beth has moved away. It was a secret affair; nobody is out at Dante’s school and she hasn’t said anything about her sexuality to her parents, either. Somebody new has caught Dante’s eye, however. Parker has sled-dog blue eyes and no eyebrows. She quit school but comes by to pass out flyers. “WOOF, WOOF. YOU ARE NOT A DOG. WHY ARE YOU GOING TO OBEDIENCE SCHOOL?” When Dante joins Parker’s small circle of activists, she was hoping to escape from the hell of school. But is she jumping into the flames instead?

 Tamaki, Mariko &  
Jillian Tamaki

**Skim** (2010)

ISBN: 978-0888999641

*Grade 9-12*

Would-be Wiccan and goth Skim, aka Kimberly Keiko Cameron, is revealed as a sometimes target for the popular students at her all-girls private school in Toronto, where she falls in love with her English teacher Ms. Archer. Graphic Novel

Weir, Johnny


**Welcome to My World** (2011)

ISBN: 978-1451610284

[NOTE: new paperback ed.  
due out Sept. 2011]

*Grade 9-12*

Autobiography of Olympic athlete Johnny Weir, who received his first pair of new skates when he was eleven. After only two hours of lessons, he astonished his instructor by taking off on his own and landing an axel jump. Weir went on to win the US National Championship three years in a row. At the Olympics in Vancouver in 2010, he was at the centre of a media storm after two Quebecois broadcasters said that he needed a gender test because they didn't know if he was a man or a woman. Proud of his individuality, Weir spoke out confidently in support of all the "weirdos" of the world.


 Whatling, Michael

**A Vigil for Joe Rose** (2009)

ISBN: 978-1440178559

*Grade 9-12*

A collection of eight short stories and a novella about the experience of being out in high school in Montreal. They chart the journey of the main characters from first coming out to their growth into confident young gay men, and the challenges, triumphs, and losses along the way.

 Winter, Kathleen

**Annabel** (2011)

ISBN: 978-0887842900

*Grade 10-12*

In a small Labrador community in 1968, an unusual baby is born at home with a very small penis, a testicle on one side and a vagina on the other - a hermaphrodite. This is the story of his life; his, because his father decides that he will have a son called Wayne. Thomasina, a friend who was there to assist at his birth, calls him Annabel, after her dead daughter. Wayne's mother always regrets that surgery was imposed upon her child, wishing it was possible to raise the child as neither male nor female, or both.

Wittlinger, Ellen

***Hard Love*** (2001)

ISBN: 978-0689841545

*Grade 8-12*

16-year-old John deals with his broken family life by writing a zine and falls in love with another writer, Marisol, who is a lesbian.

Wittlinger, Ellen

***Love & Lies*** (2009)

ISBN: 978-1416979142

*Grade 10-12*

Marisol's story picks up four months after *Hard Love* ended, but it can be enjoyed independently of the first book. Her roommate Birdie is a gay guy who brings home strays of all sorts, including a new boyfriend, Damon. Marisol plans to find herself a girlfriend – easier said than done, especially when the one Marisol wants is not the girl who falls in love with her.

# Nonfiction Resources for Students and Teachers

---

Alsenas, Linus

***Gay America:  
Struggle for Equality*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-0810994874

*Grade 7-12*

A well-illustrated and engaging history of gay and lesbian life in the United States, with a focus on the twentieth century.

Beam, Cris

***Transparent: Love, Family,  
and Living the T with  
Transgender Teenagers*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-0151011964

*Grade 10-12*

A compelling memoir describing how a volunteer stint at an alternative school for queer youth in Los Angeles resulted in the author forming meaningful relationships with several of the transgendered students.

Bornstein, Kate

***Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives  
to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and  
Other Outlaws*** (2006)

ISBN: 978-1583227206

*Grade 7-12*

A self-help book that remains fiercely positive and supportive while acknowledging the difficulties marginalized youth face.

Bornstein, Kate &  
S. Bear Bergman. Editors

***Gender Outlaws:  
The Next Generation*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1580053082

*Grade 10-12*

This collection of stories and dialogues provides a new way of thinking about gender, politics, and transgender identities.

Brill, Stephanie & Rachel Pepper

***The Transgender Child: A Handbook  
for Families and Professionals*** (2008)

ISBN: 978-1573443180

*Professional*

A first-of-its-kind guidebook that explores the experiences of families raising transgender and gender non-conforming children. The authors, who are experts in the field, cover a wide variety of topics ranging from birth to university, including “what is gender?” and how to advocate for gender-variant children in elementary school.





Canadian Teachers' Federation

***Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Trans-Identified, and Two-Spirited (BGLTT)***

(series; 2002-2007)

*Professional*

This series is designed to assist teachers, school administrators, and counsellors in understanding the educational, health and safety needs of those students and staff who are or are perceived as being BGLTT. All books are available in French and English:

Canadian Teachers' Federation  
and Elementary Teachers'  
Federation of Ontario  
***Seeing the Rainbow: Teachers  
Talk About Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian,  
Transgender, and Two-Spirited  
Realities*** (2002)

ISBN: 0-88989338-1

Canadian Teachers' Federation  
***Lessons Learned: A Collection of  
Stories and Articles About Bisexual,  
Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender  
Issues*** (2005)

ISBN: 0-88989348-9

Wells, Kristopher  
***Gay-Straight Student Alliance  
Handbook: A Comprehensive  
Resource for Canadian K-12  
Teachers, Administrators, and  
School Counsellors*** (2006)

ISBN: 0-88989355-1

Schrader, Alvin and  
Kristopher Wells  
***Challenging Silence, Challenging  
Censorship: Inclusive Resources,  
Strategies, and Policy Directives for  
Addressing Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian,  
Trans-Identified, and Two-Spirited  
Realities in School and Public  
Libraries*** (2007)

ISBN: 0-8898360-8

Fakhrid-Deen, Tina, with COLAGE

***Let's Get This Straight: The  
Ultimate Handbook for Youth  
with LGBTQ Parents*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1580053334

*Grade 5-12*

A guide to help children and teens learn to combat homophobia, develop a sense of belonging and heal the shame that can result when your family is "different."

***The Gallup's Guide to Modern Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Lifestyle***  
(series; 2009-2011) *Grade 7-12*

While today's teens see homosexuality as a fact of their everyday lives, discrimination, bullying and rejection are still very real. This series presents a look at positive role models and supportive communities. It confronts the issues without bias, offering young adults the necessary facts to build understanding.

---

Palmer, Bill

***A New Generation of Homosexuality: Modern Trends in Gay & Lesbian Communities***

ISBN: 978-1422218730

Seba, Jaime A

***Being Gay, Staying Healthy***

ISBN: 978-1422218648

Seba, Jaime A

***Coming Out: Telling Family and Friends***

ISBN: 978-1422218655

Seba, Jaime A

***Feeling Wrong in Your Own Body: Understanding What It Means to Be Transgender***

ISBN: 978-1422218662

Seba, Jaime A

***Gay and Lesbian Role Models***

ISBN: 978-1422218679

Sanna, Emily

***Gay Believers: Homosexuality and Religion***

ISBN: 978-1422218686

Seba, Jaime A

***Gay Characters in Theater, Movies, and Television: New Roles, New Attitudes***

ISBN: 978-1422220139

Seba, Jaime A

***Gay People of Color: Facing Prejudices, Forging Identities***

ISBN: 978-1422218778

Seba, Jaime A

***Gays and Mental Health: Fighting Depression, Saying No to Suicide***

ISBN: 978-1422218709

Hunt, Jaime

***Homophobia: From Social Stigma to Hate Crimes***

ISBN: 978-1422218716

Seba, Jaime A

***Homosexuality Around the World: Safe Havens, Cultural Challenges***

ISBN: 978-1422218723

Seba, Jaime A

***Smashing the Stereotypes: What Does It Mean to Be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender?***

ISBN: 978-1422218747

Chastain, Zachary

***Statistical Timeline and Overview of Gay Life***


ISBN: 978-142221875

Palmer, Bill

***What Causes Sexual Orientation? Genetics, Biology, Psychology***

ISBN: 978-1422218761

---

 Haskell, Rebecca  
& Brian Burtch

***Get that Freak: Homophobia and Transphobia in High Schools*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1552663783

*Professional*

The authors explore the experiences of 16 youth from British Columbia as they negotiate the homophobic and transphobic terrain of high school. This book examines the motivations of bullying, taunting, and homophobic language and provides ways in which teachers and administrators can create safer schools for sexual and gender minority youth and their allies.

Huegel, Kelly

***GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer & Questioning Teens***

2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2011)

ISBN: 978-1575423630

*Grade 7-12*

Addresses the concerns and questions LGBTQ youth face every day, including coming out, dating and religion. Each chapter contains sidebar quotes from queer teens and descriptions of appropriate resources such as books, organizations and Web sites.


Jennings, Kevin. Editor

***One Teacher in 10*** 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2005)

ISBN: 978-0739452738

*Professional*

Forty LGBTQ educators describe what it is like to teach in today's classrooms. The stories of hope, struggle, and emergence shared in this collection are profoundly inspiring.

 Killoran, Isabel & Karleen Pendleton Jiménez. Editors

***"Unleashing the Unpopular": Talking About Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity in Education*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-0871731715 Professional

A unique teacher education resource that strives to improve understanding of issues related to sexual orientation, gender diversity, and education, and how they impact students, teachers, schools, and the community. A powerful and poignant collection of personal and professional narratives.

Marcus, Eric

***What If Someone I Know Is Gay?*** (2007)

ISBN: 978-1416949701

*Grade 7-10*

Updated edition of a candid resource that answers real questions from teens on all aspects of homosexuality. Myths and negative stereotypes are pushed aside and students are helped to understand what being gay is really all about.





McNinch, James &  
Mary Cronin. Editors

***I Could Not Speak My Heart:  
Education and Social Justice for  
Gay and Lesbian Youth*** (2004)

ISBN: 978-0889771789 *Professional*

A western Canadian anthology documenting the struggle for equity and social justice for LGBTQ youth, teachers, and families in public schools. A diverse collection of authors, identities, and issues. An excellent resource for pre-service and professional development.



Meyer, Elizabeth  
***Gender and Sexual Diversity in  
Schools: An Introduction*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-9400704879

*Professional*

An easy-to-read introduction to gender and sexual diversity in schools. This text provides definitions, background history, research evidence, and concrete strategies to identify and address homophobia, heterosexism, and transphobia in schools.



Public Health Agency  
of Canada

***Questions & Answers: Gender  
Identity in Schools*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1100151205 *Professional*

Written in an informative Q&A style, this guide provides evidence-informed information for teachers, administrators, school trustees, and sexual health educators to help them understand and support transgender and gender non-conforming youth in K-12 schools.

Available for free download in French and English.



Public Health Agency  
of Canada

***Questions & Answers: Sexual  
Orientation in Schools*** (2010)

ISBN: 978-1100151229

*Professional*

This easy-to-read Q&A format provides the latest scientific research to help inform and support teachers, administrators, parents, and policy makers to take positive action on issues related to sexual orientation in K-12 schools. Available for free download in French and English.

Sears, James. Editor


***Journal of LGBT Youth:  
An International Quarterly  
Devoted to Research, Policy,  
Theory, and Practice***

[www.tandf.co.uk/journals/  
titles/19361653.asp](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/19361653.asp)

An interdisciplinary forum dedicated to improving the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. This quarterly journal presents peer-reviewed scholarly articles, practitioner-based essays, policy analyses, and revealing narratives from young people. The wide-ranging topics include formal and non-formal education; family; peer culture; the media, arts, and entertainment industry; religious institutions and youth organizations; health care; and the workplace.

# Documentary and Nonfiction DVDs

---

 **Apples and Oranges** (2003)  
National Film Board; 17 min.  
*Grade 4-8*

Two animated short films addressing homophobia are paired with an elementary school classroom discussion of bullying and stereotyping. The film challenges negative stereotypes about gays and lesbians and shows the children coming up with more positive views. PDF teaching guide also available.

**Beyond Hatred**  
(*French with subtitles*) (2005)  
First Run Features; 85 min.  
*Grade 10-12*

François Chenu was murdered by skinheads in a violent hate crime in Rheims, France. The film explores the aftermath of his murder and the roots of hate and homophobia. Chenu's family speaks openly about their struggle to make sense of the loss.

**Brandon Teena Story** (1998)  
New Video Group; 88 min.  
*Grade 10-12*

An award-winning documentary exploring the life of Brandon Teena, a young woman who wanted to desperately be a man. This riveting and, at times, horrifying narrative, utilizes news footage and interviews with Brandon's friends, family, and former girlfriends to explore Brandon's life and tragic death. Academy Award-winning *Boys Don't Cry* was based on this.

**Breaking the Silence: LGBTQ Youth Tell Their Stories** (2006) National Center for Lesbian Rights;  
*Grade 9-12*

Ten former foster youth tell of their experiences as queer youth in the American foster care system. They describe their experiences – some positive, some heartbreakingly negative – and offer suggestions for change. Free to order. Comes with discussion guide.

**...But Words DO Hurt: Stories from GLBTT Youth** (2005). Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre; 30 min.  
*Grade 10-12*

GLBTT youth from Alberta talk about their identities, coming out, family, the media, and their experiences in school and their dreams and hopes for the future. Professionals from a wide-variety of backgrounds (police officers, social workers, lawyers, and teachers) also discuss why it is important to address GLBTT issues in schools. Comes with study guide.

**Fagbug** (2010)  
Garden Thieves Pictures; 83 min.  
*Grade 7-12*

When Erin Davies' car is spray-painted with homophobic slurs, she takes it on a cross-country awareness-raising tour. The film documents the journey with footage of the drive, interviews with the families of hate crimes victims, and interviews with people both supportive and unsupportive of Erin's project.

***For the Bible Tells Me So*** (2007)

First Run Features; 98 min.

*Grade 9-12*

A multiple-award winning documentary, which follows the lives of five “very normal, very Christian, very American” families who positively address the revelation of having a gay child.

***Further Off the Straight and Narrow*** (2006)

Media Ed. Foundation; 61 min.

*Grade 9-12*

Reviewing the presence of LGBTQ characters and personas, this film explores the development and expansion of representations of queerness on television. The impact of commercial interests is discussed, as are the possibilities LGBTQ characters on television create for queer youth.

***Gay Youth*** (2006)

New Day Films; 30 min.

*Grade 7-12*

The stories of LGBTQ youth are presented in the context of how schools, families, and community groups can support and accept them. Looking at both tragic and inspirational examples of gay youth navigating the tumultuous teen years, the film is both frank and informative. PDF study guide available.



***Girl Inside*** (2007)

Women Make Movies; 70 min.

*Grade 10-12*

A documentary that follows Madison, a 26-year-old trans woman during her three-year transition process. Strong focus on family and relationships.

***In My Shoes: Youth with LGBT Parents*** (2005)

Frameline; 31 min.

*Grade 7-12*

Though not the first film to showcase the voices of children, *In My Shoes* is a youth-produced documentary about LGBT parents. Five youth speak about their experiences, as well as gay marriage, social change, and family.



***In Other Words*** (2001)

National Film Board; 27 min.

*Grade 6-12*

Looking at how language sculpts attitude, the film collects accounts from LGBTQ teens. It explores various facets of language, formal and informal, and the prevalence of homophobic language across media. Includes ideas about how to move beyond negative language.

***Is It a Boy or a Girl?* (2001)**

VSB Consultant; 53 min.

*Grade 10-12*

A Discovery Channel production, this short film explores gender from the perspective of intersexuals. Individuals whose sex at birth is neither traditionally understood as male nor female, or may have mixed sexual characteristics. Through interviews with parents, intersexed people, and medical professionals the film outlines the daily realities and struggles intersexuals experience.

***It's Still Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in Schools* (2007)**

Groundspark; 47 min.

*K-Grade 8*

Examines the powerful impact of the original film "It's Elementary", ensuing backlash and protests, and explores the possibilities of igniting positive social change through grassroots community organizing. This collection also includes the original "It's Elementary" training video (37 min) and full-length feature (78 min), along with a 136-page curriculum/resource guide. This collection presents an honest and critical reflection on challenging the censorship of dialogue about homosexuality as teachers open their classrooms to cameras. In doing so, teachers model age-appropriate ways of discussing family diversity, name-calling, stereotyping, and challenging homophobia.

***Laramie Inside Out* (2005)**

New Day Films; 56 min.

*Grade 10-12*

The filmmaker Bev Seckinger returns to her hometown, Laramie, to investigate the impact of Matthew Shepard's murder on the community. She speaks to a cross-section of community members as well as the fanatical Rev. Fred Phelps of Westboro Baptist Church. Can be used in conjunction with *The Laramie Project* to stimulate discussion on homophobia and hate crimes.

***Let's Get Real* (2003)**

Groundspark; 35 min.

*Grade 6-9*

An exploration of the various differences that are targeted with bullying behaviour. Simultaneously heartbreaking and heartwarming, the film effectively presents multiple perspectives: those of the bullies, the bullied, and the students who try to help.

***Little Sister's vs. Big Brother***


(2002) National Film Board; 71 min.

*Grade 10-12*

This documentary covers the details of the case of Little Sister's bookshop in Vancouver being censored by Canada Customs. LGBTQ materials destined for the shop were seized at the border, described as pornographic. A historical fifteen-year struggle in the Canadian LGBTQ community's quest for equal rights and freedom of speech.

**No Dumb Questions** (2001).  
Epiphany Productions; 24 min.  
*Grades 7-12.*

A poignant and award-winning documentary, which profiles three sisters, ages 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman. A unique and powerful tool for opening minds and sparking dialog in schools, colleges, workplaces, faith communities, and families. Also includes a discussion guide and best practice examples to use the film to inspire change.

 **One of Them** (2000)  
National Film Board; 25 min.  
*Grade 7-12*

In a dramatization that focuses on homophobia, Jamie realizes that her friend Carla is the victim of homophobic bullying. The film examines social responses to both Carla and Jamie. NFB offers a teacher guide for classroom discussion of the film.

**Out in the Silence: Love, Hate, and a Quest for Change in Small Town America** (2009)

Garden Thieves Pictures; 56 min.  
*Grade 9-12*

A filmmaker returns to his roots when, after announcing his upcoming marriage to a man, he is contacted by the mother of a gay teen being agonizingly bullied in the town where he grew up. Joe Wilson and his partner, Dean Hamer, return to the town and document conversations with religious, political, and educational leaders all in effort to increase tolerance and respect for diversity.

**Pursuit of Equality** (2007)  
Prerogatives; 80 min.  
*Grade 10-12*

On the steps of San Francisco City Hall, Callan and Shaw capture the first same-sex marriage in the United States. They follow the story through courtrooms and on the streets as the historic fight for equal marriage rights unfolds across the nation.



**Red Without Blue** (2007)

Cinema Libre Studio; 77 min.

*Grade 10-12*

Mark and Alex are identical twins who come out in their teens. Alex then comes out as trans. The film follows their relationship with each other and with their parents through Alex's transitioning. Gender, identity, and the bonds of twinship are all re-imagined in this beautiful film about family, love, and self.

**Rough Cuts:****Class Queers** (2003)

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation; 39 min.

*Grade 10-12*

The Triangle Program, Canada's only high school program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans youth, is what connects the three queer students followed in this short film. Their daily lives and struggles are documented, from family life to school and their intersections. Includes a discussion guide.

**She's a Boy I Knew** (2007)

Media Education Foundation; 70 min.

*Grade 10-12*

Filmmaker Gwen Haworth documents her own biological transition from male to female. Her family relationships take centre stage as she presents us with her very personal account of coming out. Elements of humour about gender roles punctuate a very raw, emotional narrative.

**Sticks and Stones** (2001)

National Film Board; 17 min.

*K-Grade 6*

Young children describe the experience of being teased or bullied about their same-sex parents. The children articulate what they think should be done to prevent bullying and to foster respect for family diversity.

**Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up** (2008)

New Day Films; 67 min.

*Grade 10-12*

Interviews with more than fifty teens are woven together in this examination of how gender and sexual orientation play out in the social lives of high school students. The teens provide candid accounts of how they work with and against media, stereotypes, and social pressures to establish their own identities.

**That's a Family** (2000)

Groundspark; 35 min.

*K-Grade 6*

Children take viewers through their family lives, illustrating the diversity in their families: parents of different race, religion, sexual orientation, marital status. With grace and sincerity as well as humour, the children narrate their individual experiences. A great starting point for discussing the different faces and shapes of families.

# Feature Films

---

 **Breakfast with Scot** (2007)

Mongrel Media; 95 min.

*Grade 10-12*

A delightful Canadian comedy about Eric, a gay retired hockey player who lives with his partner Sam, a sports lawyer. When Sam unexpectedly becomes the guardian of his brother's son, Scot, the couple's lives are turned up side down. *Breakfast with Scot* was the first LGBTQ-themed film to ever receive endorsement from a professional sports team.

**Brokeback Mountain** (2006)

Universal Studios Home Entertainment; 135 min.

*Grade 9-12*

A multiple Academy Award-winning movie that tells the tale of two men in love over the course of their lifelong relationship. An emotionally complex and beautiful film, which explores critical concepts of homophobia, heterosexism, and the devastating impacts of societal prejudice.

 **C.R.A.Z.Y.** (2005)

TVA Films; 129 min.

*Grade 10-12*

Zachery, who was born on Christmas day, always knew there was something different about himself. As he grows up in a family of four brothers, he undertakes a journey of self-discovery, which leads him to finally accept his true identity. Sharp humour, with a new take on a classic coming-to-terms narrative and complex family dynamics.

 **The Hanging Garden** (1997)

MGM Home Entertainment; 91 min.

*Grade 10-12*

A sensitive and wry take on dysfunction and family in which the overweight, lonely, awkward teenage hero returns home after 10 years, as a slim, self-possessed gay man.

**The Laramie Project** (2002)

HBO Home Video; 96 min.

*Grade 10-12*

Based on the play by Moises Kaufman, *The Laramie Project* dramatizes the events surrounding and leading up to Matthew Shepard's murder. Winner of multiple prestigious awards, the film pairs well with *Laramie Inside Out* as a starting point for discussion of homophobia and hate crimes.

***Ma Vie en Rose*** (1997)

Columbia TriStar Home Video;  
88 min.

*Grade 10-12*

A fictional, inspirational account of a 7-year-old boy who is convinced she was meant to be a girl.

***Milk*** (2008)

Universal Studios Home  
Entertainment; 129 min.  
*Grade 8-12*

An Academy Award-winning biopic dedicated to the memory of San Francisco activist and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, who was an early champion of gay rights in the United States.

***...Prayers for Bobby*** (2009)

New Video; 91 min.  
*Grade 9-12*

Based on a true story, *Prayers for Bobby* follows Mary, mother of gay son Bobby, as she contends with his coming out and subsequent suicide. She rejects him in life after failing to “heal” him with religion. Following his death, Mary moves beyond fundamentalist religious doctrine, eventually joining the LGBTQ community in the fight for human rights.

***TransAmerica*** (2006)

Genius Products; 104 min.  
*Grade 10-12*

A funny and heartbreaking story of Bree, born as Stanley, a genetic male, who embarks on a gender transition process as she reunites with her long-lost 17-year-old son. Their physical and emotional journey together across America gives them both the courage to challenge and change their individual lives and relationship.

***Were the World Mine: A Musical Dream Come True*** (2008)

Wolfe Video; 95 min.  
*Grade 9-12*

With a high school production of *A Midsummer’s Night Dream* as a backdrop, Timothy concocts a magical potion to force his conservative hometown to experience love from his perspective. A musical fantasy full of fun and delight ensues.

---

*This list has been compiled by Dr. Kristopher Wells (Edmonton Public Schools), Lindy Pratch (Edmonton Public Library), and Kim Bewick (Edmonton Public Library). Please email your comments or suggestions to: kris.wells@epsb.ca.*





## Contact

Rosalind Smith or Dr. Kristopher Wells  
Edmonton Public Schools  
P 780.429.8120

[www.epsb.ca](http://www.epsb.ca)