

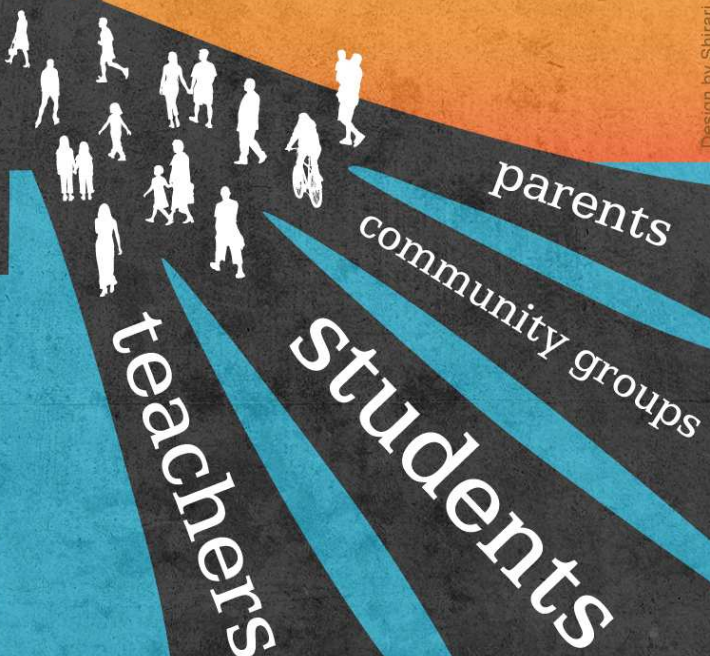
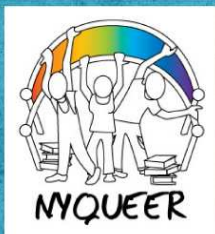
Beyond Tolerance

A resource guide for addressing LGBTQI issues in schools

Created by NYQueer, a working group of the New York Collective of Radical Educators (NYCoRE)

Edited by Bree Picower, Rosie Frascella, Joleen Hanlon, Alanna Howe

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Beyond Tolerance:
A Resource Guide for Addressing LGBTQI Issues in Schools
2010

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NYQueer and NYCoRE thank all of the individuals and groups who worked hard to produce the resources featured in this guide.



NYQueer is a working group of the New York Collective of Radical Educators. NYCoRE is a group of public school educators committed to fighting for social justice in our school system and society at large, by organizing and mobilizing teachers, developing curriculum, and working with community, parent, and student organizations. We are educators who believe that education is an integral part of social change and that we must work both inside and outside the classroom because

the struggle for justice does not end when the school bell rings.

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Join **NYQueer**, community organizations, and NYC youth for our 5th:



BEYOND
Scholarship

Come exchange ideas and resources with other youth and educators to create safer schools for LGBTQ youth.

- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Networking with local organizations
- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Open Mic performances

FRIDAY, Dec 10, 2010
4:30pm - 8:30pm
@ Vanguard High School
(317 E 67th St)

Register at:
www.nycore.org/nyqueer.html

Statement from NYQueer

NYQueer is excited to release a compiled guide of the resources we have gathered through our collaboration with educators, community organizations, and youth. Often, teaching about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex (LGBTQI) issues in the classroom is complex and unique – fraught with a variety of fears and uncertainty including fear of retribution and backlash from students, families or administration. But we must teach these issues because we know it is what is right—as individuals committed to social justice; as LGBTQI-identified educators; for the LGBTQI students we meet; and because we know too clearly what the outcomes are when we don't.

We really do live in a world where some people grow up feeling like it would be better to be dead than gay. Perhaps it was the alarming number of recent teen suicides that motivated you to look through this guide. Maybe you feel like you want to do *something*, and are hoping this is a good place to start. We hope so too. But more importantly, we hope that once the media coverage dies down, you will continue to seek out ways to raise awareness and help young people build the skills they need to identify and take action against any injustice they encounter.

The reach and relevance of LGBTQI-related topics extends into every area of study – from history to health and in the hallways of our schools. LGBTQI individuals have been shaping the sciences, the world of mathematics, writing the novels we know and love, and making history far before the Stonewall Riots of 1969. Most often, the identities of these heroes and historians have been ignored, diminished or outright excluded. It is through the efforts of resource guides like this one that we can ensure the voices, stories, contributions of LGBTQI individuals are shared and the identities of the LGBTQI youth that sit in our classrooms are acknowledged, affirmed, and inspired.

The goals of this resource guide are varied and depend upon the educators who come across it and make use of it in their classrooms. Some may find it helpful in clarifying personal misconceptions and make an effort to educate and better prepare themselves for answering questions their students may have about sexual orientation and gender identity/expression; for others it will provide ready resources for facilitating in-class sessions that educate students and help them understand the impact of homophobia and transphobia in their schools and community at large. Ultimately, we hope you find what you need to create safe and affirming spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and allied students and school staff.

The lifespan, so to speak, of teaching about LGBTQI issues is fresh and newly explored; we are learning as we teach. Sexuality is dynamic and teaching about gender identity/expression and sexual orientation are only one piece of this dynamic puzzle. Please recognize that these materials present a range of perspectives and access points. Although we have the utmost respect for all individuals and organization engaged in the work of creating these resources, some content may not wholly reflect [NYCoRE's mission or points of unity.](#)

-NYQueer, November, 2010

How to Use This Guide

This guide is most useful when used online, as opposed to a paper copy. Most of the resources in this guide are web-based links, so when viewed online, all you need to do is click on the links. Visit <http://www.nycore.org> to download the PDF. If you need a Word version, please email nyqueer@nycore.org. Whether you plan on using this guide immediately or sometime in the future, it is recommended that you visit the links NOW and print out any relevant articles immediately because these links may expire at any point. If you believe there is a mistake or misrepresentation in this guide, or if you know of a fabulous resource you think should be included, please write to us at nyqueer@nycore.org to let us know.

In addition to your own personal use, we encourage you to disseminate this resource and continue to support the organizations responsible for the progress we have made and the work still to come.

Resource and Support Organizations

NYC Anti-Violence Project AVP provides free and confidential assistance to thousands of LGBT people each year from all five boroughs of New York City. The organization maintains a 24 hour, Spanish/English bilingual hotline staffed by professional counselors and trained volunteers providing professional and peer support counseling, as well as advocacy with police, courts, and social service agencies. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.avp.org>



APICHA The Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS' (APICHA) mission is to combat HIV/AIDS stigma and related discrimination, to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, and to provide care and treatment for APIs living with HIV/AIDS and their families. Programs include: LGBTQ monthly workshops, mentorship program (GAYME), bi-weekly youth group (EquAsian), paid peer education program for young queer API men, volunteer and peer education opportunities for API allies through their Women and Youth Program. They also offer free workshops and presentations for schools, organizations, and groups. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) http://www.apicha.org/services/LGBT_program



Asian and Pacific Islander Family Pride The mission of Asian and Pacific Islander Family Pride is to end the isolation of Asian and Pacific Islander families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members through support, education, and dialog. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.apifamilypride.org/>



Audre Lorde Project The Audre Lorde Project is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit, Trans and Gender Non-Conforming People of Color community organizing center, focusing on the New York City area. Through mobilization, education and capacity-building, they work for community wellness and progressive social and economic justice. Committed to struggling across differences, they seek to responsibly reflect, represent and serve our various communities. (M, H, TR) <http://www.alp.org/>

Bronx Community Pride Center The Bronx Community Pride Center (BCPC) is the only LGBT organization in the Bronx. Since 1998, BCPC has been providing a variety of services and programs including case management, youth programs, medical and social service referrals, academic enrichment, cultural/arts activities and supportive services for the Bronx LGBT community. BCPC provides a safe space and home for the community to meet, network and grow. (NYC Based). (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.bronxpride.org/>

Gay Men of African Descent GMAD is working to improve quality of life within the NYC black gay community by effectively fighting the triple threat of AIDS, homophobia and racism through education, advocacy, health and wellness and social support. Recognizing that still there are variances within the subculture of the gay community of color, GMAD continues to provide targeted services in the form of drop-in groups, age and need appropriate activities and counseling. The organization offers a drop-in center for seniors, YMSM's, health and wellness counseling, prevention education, street outreach and HIV testing. Additionally, GMAD is actively planning more inclusive programming that will embrace both transgender individuals and lesbians. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.gmad.org/>



GLSEN The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, is a national education organization working to ensure safe schools for ALL students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. GLSEN's programmatic efforts include student and community organizing, training educators, developing safe schools resources, introducing, passing and implementing fully-comprehensive safe schools laws, research and more. GLSEN is one of the trainers in the NYC Department of Education's Respect for All program. The site houses many resources for teachers and those concerned with safety and harassment, from classroom curricula to policy analysis. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.glsen.org/>

Hispanic AIDS Forum HAF's mission is to improve health outcomes for Latinos in New York City who are affected by HIV and other chronic illnesses. HAF fulfills this mission by integrating prevention and education into a set of multi-faceted wellness programs. (NYC Based). (H) <http://www.hafnyc.org/>

Intersex Society of North America The Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) is devoted to systemic change to end shame, secrecy, and unwanted genital surgeries for people born with an anatomy that someone decided is not standard for male or female. (H) <http://www.isna.org/>

Lambda Legal Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work. They represent LGBTQ students, teachers, and allies in 'impact' civil rights lawsuits that change schools and the law nationwide. Last year they represented an LGBTQ-allied New Jersey public high school teacher who enforced a 'zero-tolerance' rule against LGBTQ harassment in her classroom and won her tenure. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.lambdalegal.org/>



NYCLU The NYCLU is a leader in protecting and fighting for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. They use a multi-pronged strategy of litigation, legislation, community organizing and public education, including trainings and hosting events. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.nyclu.org/issues/lgbt-rights>

PFLAG NYC PFLAG is an organization of parents and families who love their LGBT children, siblings, cousins, parents, and other family members, and friends who see the challenges their LGBT friends face in a homophobic society, as well as gay people who seek nurturing relationships with accepting families. Together, they are on a journey out of myth, fear and misunderstanding into truth, understanding and acceptance. On that journey they learn the facts about non-heterosexual orientation, share experiences, and discover unexpected opportunities to celebrate those we love who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.pflagnyc.org/>



PFLAG for Families of Color and Allies in New York City PFLAG FCA, NYC is a family organization that strives to maintain family unity. They promote the health and well being of LGTB people, their families and friends through: support to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights. PFLAG FCA, NYC seeks to create cross-culture synergism and to make our ethnic communities safe for LGTB persons through education and advocacy. The site is bilingual in English and Spanish. (E, M, H) <http://www.pflagfamiliesofcolor.org/>

Safe Schools Coalition An incredible wealth of resources for educators for supporting LGBT youth and creating safer school environments. Explore the entire site, or use the link for specific resources on coming out. (E, M, H) <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/safe.html>

SLRP The Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP) works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine their gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence. SRLP is a collective organization founded on the understanding that gender self-determination is inextricably intertwined with racial, social and economic justice. Therefore, they seek to increase the political voice and visibility of low-income people of color who are transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming. (NYC Based). (E, M, H) <http://www.srlp.org>

The Staten Island LGBT Community Center The newly opened LGBT Center on Staten Island, an initiative of Community Health Action of Staten Island, seeks to promote the health, education, social growth and wellbeing of the Staten Island LGBTQ Community. We provide a myriad of programs, events and services for both youth and adults. Some of the services specific to LGBTQ youth include: support groups, a drop-in space, a cyber center, an on-going workshop series entitled 'Being Out Staying Safe', a peer-based health education/outreach program, free mental health services, skill building workshops and social and educational events. (NYC Based). (E, M, H) <http://www.silgbtcenter.org/>



TransJustice TransJustice is a political group created by and for Trans and Gender Non-conforming people of color. TransJustice works to mobilize its communities and allies into action on the pressing political they face, including gaining access to jobs, housing, and education; the need for Trans-sensitive healthcare, HIV-related services, and job-training programs; resisting police, government and anti-immigrant violence. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR)

<http://www.alp.org/whatwedo/organizing/tj>

Urban Justice The Urban Justice Center serves New York City's most vulnerable residents through a combination of direct legal service, systemic advocacy, community education and political organizing. They assist clients on numerous levels, from one-on-one legal advice in soup kitchens, to helping individual access housing and government assistance, to filing class action lawsuits to bring about systemic change. (NYC Based). (E, M, H) <http://www.urbanjustice.org/>

Welcoming Schools Welcoming Schools is a guide for administrators, educators, parents and guardians who want to strengthen their schools' approach to family diversity, gender stereotyping and bullying. It is specifically designed for use in K-5 learning environments and is inclusive of LGBT families and individuals in the broader context of diversity. The site has incredible teacher resources including lesson plans, bibliographies and more! (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.welcomingschools.org/>

Youth Focused Organizations

While many of the organizations listed above provide some programming for young people, the organizations below are specifically focused on youth and located in the New York City area. Spending some time surfing their websites is another great way to raise your own awareness about what's out there.

Adolescent AIDS Program Based in the Bronx, the Adolescent AIDS Program at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center is a leader in the field of HIV/AIDS among adolescents. The AAP serves as a local and national resource for those living with HIV/AIDS; adolescents who are at-risk for HIV infection; healthcare providers who treat adolescents living with or at-risk for HIV infection; and LGTBQ adolescents, their families and caregivers. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.adolescentaids.org/>

Advocates For Youth Resource Project YouthResource is a website created by and for LGBTQ young people. YouthResource takes a holistic approach to sexual health and exploring issues of concern to GLBTQ youth, by providing information and offer support on sexual and reproductive health issues through education and advocacy. Through monthly features, message boards, and online peer education, GLBTQ youth receive information on activism, culture, sexual health, and other issues that are important to them. YouthResource is a website hosted by Advocates for Youth. (M, H,) <http://www.amplifyyourvoice.org/youthresource>



Ali Forney Center The Ali Forney Center offers LGBT youth, ages 16-24, emergency and transitional housing and support so that these young adults can escape a life on the streets and begin to live healthy and independent lives. AFC offers an innovative range of services that provide a nurturing, caring and supportive environment. These services include the AFC Day Center, which offers street outreach, referral to the housing programs, case management, primary medical care, HIV testing, mental health assessment and

treatment, food, showers, and an employment assistance program. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.aliforneycenter.org/>

Connect to Protect The researchers involved in C2P are from the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network (ATN) for HIV/AIDS Interventions, the only nationwide group devoted to looking at how youth and their communities are affected by this epidemic. Made up of 15 city sites throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, the ATN strives toward: Caring for children, teenagers, and young adults with HIV; searching for ways to keep HIV from spreading among young people; and making sure that adolescents and young adults are represented in research ranging from HIV prevention to treatment and care. Look for C2P NYC on Facebook. (M, H, TR) <http://www.adolescentaids.org/c2p.html>

F.I.E.R.C.E. (Fabulous Independent Educated Radicals for Community Empowerment)

FIERCE is a membership-based organization building the leadership and power of LGBTQ youth of color in New York City. We develop politically conscious leaders who are invested in improving ourselves and our communities

through youth-led campaigns, leadership development programs, and cultural expression through arts and media. FIERCE is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of social justice movement leaders who are dedicated to ending all forms of oppression. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.fierceny.org>



Global Action Project (G.A.P.) SupaFriends Global Action Project (G.A.P.) works with young people, specifically those most affected by injustice, to build the knowledge, tools, and relationships needed to produce thought-provoking media on issues that affect them and their communities. SupaFriends is a youth-initiated, youth-facilitated program for LGBTQ youth and their allies. SupaFriends meets once a week to discuss issues of importance to the LGBTQ communities and produce videos and other media products to educate and advocate for these communities at G.A.P. and in their schools, neighborhoods, etc. Entrance to the SupaFriends program begins in the fall, but you can visit the G.A.P. site to find out more and see SupaFriends video. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.global-action.org/main.html>



Generation Q The Generation Q Youth Services Program serves all interested LGBT and ally youth up to age 22 with an after school drop in center that is a friendly, safe and supportive environment. The Gen Q program offers LGBT youth in Queens a wide variety of educational, social services and recreational opportunities, including weekly workshops, film screenings, support groups, writing

classes, socials, and arts- and theatre-based activities. The program also provides participants with meaningful opportunities for advocacy and activism, youth event planning, peer education, community building and leadership. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.queenscommunityhouse.org/index.php/programs-generation-q.html>

Girls for Gender Equity Girls for Gender Equity is committed to improving the physical, psychological, social and economic development of girls and women through education, organizing, and physical fitness. Girls for Gender Equity is currently forming a coalition of organizations, youth and teachers to formulate recommendations about putting an end to sexual harassment in NYC middle and high schools. (NYC Based). (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.ggenyc.org/>

Hetrick-Martin Institute The Hetrick-Martin Institute, home of The Harvey Milk High School, believes all young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential. Hetrick-Martin creates this environment for LGBTQ youth between the ages of 12 - 21 and their families. Services include: GED preparation, college advising, peer education, on-site HIV/STD testing, counseling, internships, tutoring, artistic programming, and a hot home cooked meal—all of which are free of charge to Hetrick-Martin members. (NYC Based). (H, TR) <http://www.hmi.org/>



HOTT Since 1988, Callen-Lorde's Health Outreach To Teens (HOTT) Program has served LGBT as well as other homeless and street-oriented youth. It is a comprehensive program designed specifically to meet the medical and health-related needs of LGBT youth (ages 13-21) via a mobile medical unit and on site at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center. All of HOTT's confidential services, which are offered in an accessible, nonjudgmental environment, are provided at low cost or for free. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.callen-lorde.org/services/hott.html>

Latino Youth in Action! Latino Youth in Action has provided leadership training to Latino youth to fight the spread of HIV. LYIA is a leadership and HIV prevention program targeting young individuals between the ages of 14-24. (NYC Based). (M, H) <http://lyia.hafnyc.org>

LIVE OUT LOUD LIVE OUT LOUD is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower, energize, and enable LGTB Youth through the visibility of role models and the dissemination of information. They work with high schools, colleges and youth organizations to provide programs and scholarships that benefit LGBT Youth. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.liveoutloud.info/>



MCCNY An estimated 25% to 40% of NYC's 20,000 runaway and homeless youth are LGTB. The Homeless Youth Services of Metropolitan Community Church (MCCNY) has worked to meet the unique needs of the LGTB runaway and homeless. (NYC Based). (M, H, TR) <http://www.mccny.org/index.php>

Our Youth Our Youth is a non-profit organization designed to help LGTB youth and their straight allies through workshops, delivering motivational speeches at schools around the United States, and by hosting a weekly support group. Our Youth hosts a weekly support group where young people within the Tri-State area can come and be themselves. Group meetings are in Jersey City, NJ office. (M, H) www.myspace.com/our_youth or <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Youth/137120806327950>



The Peter Cicchino Youth Project The Peter Cicchino Youth Project is a legal services program dedicated to serving LGBT youth aged 13-24. They help with name changes, immigration issues including green cards, citizenship, work permits, housing court cases, public benefits problems, social security denials, foster care advocacy, and other legal problems. Any LGBT youth who wants to talk to a lawyer can call 646-602-5635 or 1-877-LGBT-LAW. All services are free and confidential. (M, H) <http://www.urbanjustice.org/ujc/projects/peter.html>

Pride for Youth Pride for Youth is a service and an advocate for LGBT youth. Their mission is to enhance the health, wellness and cultural competency of LGBT young people through supportive services, education and youth development. Pride for Youth offers a matrix of opportunities and supports that assist LGBT youth with their healthy development, break through obstacles to their success, and create a more responsive community in which they can grow. Pride for Youth is a Long Island based organization. (M, H, TR) <http://www.longislandcrisiscenter.org/pfy/index.html>



Project Reach Project Reach is a youth and adult-run, multi-racial, multi-gender, grassroots, anti-discrimination, youth organizing center with a clear mission and commitment to challenging the destruction among, of, and between NYC's disparate youth communities. Project Reach provides crisis counseling and advocacy for young people including marginalized youth communities such as youth of color, young women, immigrant/undocumented youth, lesbian, gay, bisexual, Two Spirit, transgender, questioning, and intersex youth, youth with mental/physical differences; HIV/young people living with AIDS, foster care/homeless youth, and court-involved/incarcerated youth. (M, H) <http://projectreachnyc.org/>

Project SOL @ Grand Street Settlement Project S.O.L. is a youth program specifically designed for LGBT youth and young adults based in the Lower East Side. Their mission is to provide advocacy services for LGBT youth, families and communities in a safe space in which youth can explore their feelings, learn communication skills, gain a sense of self-identity, and develop self-esteem. Project S.O.L. serves youth ages 14-21, and mentors up to the age of 24. Project S.O.L. is open Monday-Friday from 12-8pm. (NYC Based). (M, H) <http://www.grandstreet.org>



Safe Space In addition to being a safe place to simply hang-out, the Safe Space Drop-In Centers provide outreach, crisis counseling, case management and resources for street youth ages 13-21 who are at risk of homelessness. Youth gain access to all of Safe Space's programs and receive the services they need including education and job readiness, medical and mental health, family reunification and emergency and/or transitional housing. Safe Space includes drop-in centers, a Safe Spacemobile that offers a hospitable refuge from homelessness, drugs, crime, unsafe sex and prostitution, and a multi-service agency that provides many other services. (NYC Based). (M, H) <http://www.safespaceny.org/>

The Door Each year The Door serves more than 11,000 young people from all over New York City, aged 12-21, with a wide range of services including health care, GED and English language classes, tutoring and homework help, college preparation and computer classes, career development and training, job placement, legal services, arts, daily meals, and sports and recreational activities all under one roof. (NYC Based). (M, H) <http://www.door.org/>

Trevor Project The Trevor Project is an organization dedicated to ending the disproportionately high rates of suicide among LGBT and questioning youth. They do this through four programmatic efforts: (1) The Trevor Helpline, a 24/7 suicide and crisis helpline for LGBT youth; (2) Dear Trevor, an online forum to ask trained professionals about issues related to mental health, gender identity, and sexuality; (3) TrevorSpace, a new online social networking site which seeks to connect and empower young LGBT people; and (4) the Lifeguard Workshop program. (M, H) <http://www.thetrevorproject.org>

Youth Enrichment Services The YES program exists to provide LGBT young people with community support to foster healthy development in a safe, affirming, sex-positive, alcohol- and drug-free environment. The YES program is open to LGTBQI young people between the ages of 13 and 21, offering free and confidential support services, leadership training, discussion groups, creative arts workshops and social activities to youth in a safe and affirming, alcohol and drug-free environment. (NYC Based). (M, H) <http://www.gaycenter.org/youth/about>



Youth Pride YPI provides support, advocacy, and education for youth and young adults impacted by sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression. This organization is based in Rhode Island. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.youthprideri.org/>

Days to Recognize in the Classroom

No Name Calling Week by GLSEN. (January 24-28, 2011) This site includes free resources and information about the week, as well as a resource kit that can be purchased online. (E, M, H) <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>

Day of Silence (April 11, 2011) This site includes information about the day's history as well FAQs, reproducible materials, an organizing manual for students and more. (M, H) <http://www.dayofsilence.org>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7-rsuiwew>



The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) (May 17) Resources about LGBT injustices all around the world and ways to contribute to campaigns fighting for LGBT justice. (M, H, TR) <http://www.dayagainsthomophobia.org>

Ally Action Network Resources Ally Action educates and engages people to create school communities that are safe and inclusive for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. They provide lesson plans and book lists for teachers (TR) <http://www.allyaction.org/s/341/allyaction.aspx?pgid=913>

An Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Culture This site hosts a wide array of information and resources about LGBTB people and issues. (H, TR) <http://www.glbtc.com/sfeatures>

GLSEN Curriculum The website features tools and resources for teaching about gay issues, for addressing homophobia and for supporting students to start Gay/Straight Alliances. (E, M, H) <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/curriculum.html>

GLAAD - Topical and Annual Resource Kits Issue and holiday based kits that help educators find ways of including LGBT related lessons, history, or community members in traditional curriculum. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.glaad.org/resourcekits>

GroundSpark films See details listed below under "Films." Each film has an accompanying teacher curriculum guide. (E, M, H,) <http://www.groundspark.org/>

Haring Kids A searchable database of lessons related to Keith Haring for all grade levels. (TR) <http://bit.ly/auaJwv>

Human Rights Resource Center The activities in this curriculum promote action, reflection and discussion. Students are asked to take responsibility for the homophobia that causes human rights abuses. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/dvnc8X>

Jewish Mosaic LGBT Resource Library Jewish Mosaic works to increase the visibility of LGBT Jews as integral members of Jewish communities and to insure that LGBT Jews are supported and encouraged to lead active Jewish lives with integrity and pride. (M, H, TR) <http://www.jewishmosaic.org/resources>



No Outsiders This research project based in the UK supports primary teachers to live up to the motto that there are no outsiders in their classrooms. The site includes bibliographies, teaching resources, lessons and more to support teachers. (TR) <http://www.nooutsiders.sunderland.ac.uk/teachres>

No Name Calling Week Lesson Plans by GLSEN This site provides many useful anti-bullying



and community building lessons that can be used all throughout the year. (E, M, H) <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/resources/index.html>

Planned Parenthood Tools for Educators Scroll to the bottom of the page and use the “Search for Resources Now” boxes to find a comprehensive list of articles, activities, and websites related to everything from sexuality, body image, gender, and HIV/AIDS. (M, H)

<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/resources/index.htm>



Planned Parenthood’s Teenwire This site is written for youth and contains information related to common questions about sex and sexuality. There are links specifically related to queer identities and an “Ask the Experts” section, which allow students to post questions or view previously posted questions that have been answered by trained staff from Planned Parenthood. (M, H)

<http://www.teenwire.com/education/>

Resource Center for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Although pregnancy prevention is the focus here, this site contains resources related to sexuality and puberty in general. There are articles and activities related to the importance of addressing gay and lesbian issues, including a self-evaluation for educators. While titles such as “Increasing Tolerance for Diversity” are by no means radical, related materials may be useful in generating conversation with youth. Click on the search tab and type “gay” to get a good list. (M, H)

<http://www.etr.org/recapp/>
<http://www.etr.org/recapp/index.cfm?fuseaction=pages.youthskillshome>

Safe Schools Coalition Month-by-Month Planning Page Month-by-month planning provides information and lessons that speak to the intersections between LGBT history and other heritage months. (E, M, H, TR)

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/blackboard-history.html>

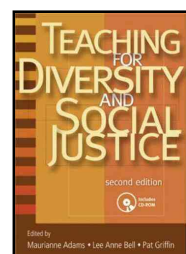


SIECUS Sex Ed Library Follow the link for Human Development under the lesson plans tab and then click on gender or sexual identity to get to a list of activities from various sites. Activities include a heterosexual questionnaire, and “How to be a super activist or ally.” (M, H)

<http://www.sexedlibrary.org>

Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice This book that supports teachers in addressing all “ism’s” has chapters specifically on heterosexism and homophobia that includes quizzes, activities and resources for addressing queer issues. (TR)

<http://bit.ly/9ZEGry>



Teaching Tolerance This website provides many articles and lessons around queer issues. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.teachingtolerance.org> A few useful lessons:



Editorial Cartoons: Gay Rights. This activity allows students the opportunity to discuss the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy while interpreting a political cartoon. (M, H) <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/editorial-cartoons-gay-rights>

Marriage Equality: Different Strategies for Attaining Equal Rights. This lesson helps students to understand the struggle for marriage equality in a historical context of other struggles for equality. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/c8AYDu>

A Bullying Survey. This survey for early grades and bullying quiz for middle/ upper grades increases awareness about and decrease instances of bullying. (E, M, H) <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/bullying-survey>

The Trevor Project's Survival Kit This kit is free and includes an educator's resource guide, workshop/curriculum guide, a video, and various materials to help you address bullying and suicide prevention. (M, H) <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/educators-and-parents/education-tools>

Welcoming Schools Welcoming Schools is an LGBT-inclusive approach to addressing family diversity, gender stereotyping and bullying and name-calling in K-5 learning environments. Welcoming Schools provides administrators, educators and parents/guardians with the resources necessary to create learning environments in which all learners are welcomed and respected. (E) <http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/>



Film and Video

Both my Moms' Names are Judy: Children of Lesbians and Gays Speak Out This video, (English or with Spanish subtitles) presents a diverse group of children (ages 7-11) who have lesbian and gay parents. In candid interviews, they talk about who's in their families, how it feels to be teased about their parents, how classroom silence about homosexuality affects them, and what they would like to see change. (TR) <http://bit.ly/9vHGyl>

Bullied Bullied chronicles the powerful story of a student who stood up to his anti-gay tormentors and won a landmark federal court decision that school officials could be held accountable for not stopping the harassment and abuse of gay students. Order a free copy from the Teaching Tolerance website which also has teaching materials. (M, H) <http://www.tolerance.org/bullied>

Fenced OUT A youth-inspired, produced and directed video created in collaboration between FIERCE, Paper Tiger Television and The Neutral Zone. It documents the struggle of LGBTSTQ youth of color to save the Christopher Street pier and the West Village from redevelopment and gentrification. The film includes a chronicle of queer peoples' fight for use of public spaces at Christopher Street and the piers. It can be used to talk about safety & violence, place & displacement, and possibilities for youth activism. (H, TR). Order/support FIERCE: <http://www.fierceny.org/index.php?s=110> <http://www.fierceny.org/uploadedforms/FencedOutOrderForm.pdf>

HIP-HOP: Beyond Beats & Rhymes

Hip-Hop (Unabridged) Beyond Beats & Rhymes This documentary provides an examination of manhood, sexism, and homophobia in hip-hop culture. Director Byron Hurt conceived the documentary as a

"loving critique" of a number of disturbing trends in the world of rap music. He pays tribute to hip-hop while challenging the rap music industry to take responsibility for glamorizing destructive, deeply conservative stereotypes of manhood. Critically acclaimed for its engagement with issues of race, gender violence, and the corporate exploitation of youth culture. Check out this study guide to use in your classroom. (M, H, TR) [Request](http://www.mediaed.org/wp/study-guides) a free copy here: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/classroom/hiphop.html>

I Look Up to the Sky Now Documentary directed by Barbara M. Bickart. Bickart and twelve young artists, activists and leaders from the YES program of New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center. This is a self-described "experimental documentary that interweaves their twelve self-portraits together with footage of events in the queer youth community over the past several years." It can be used to talk with youth about telling our stories – how, when, why... (M, H) <http://www.ilookuptotheskynow.org>

It Gets Better Project Columnist Dan Savage launched a YouTube channel to help provide isolated gay teenagers hope for the future. Created as a response to gay teen suicides, the "It Gets Better" Project allows users to post homemade videos about how their lives have improved once they were free from the torment of teenage bullies, providing teens hope about their futures. (M, H) <http://www.youtube.com/itgetsbetterproject>

It Doesn't Get Better, You Get Stronger A response to Dan Savage's *It Gets Better* project. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/9mq6mi>



It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School by GroundSpark. Designed for an adult audience, this film is a window into what happens when educators address LGBT issues with their students in age appropriate ways. It demystifies talking with kids about gay people. *It's STILL Elementary* includes follow-up interviews with teachers and students featured in the first film to see how lessons about LGBT people changed their lives. (TR) <http://bit.ly/cxkto2>

Let's Get Real by GroundSpark. Examines issues that lead to taunting and bullying, including racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, learning disabilities, religious differences, sexual harassment and others. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/aPZdqb>

No Dumb Questions This lighthearted and poignant documentary profiles three sisters, ages 6, 9 and 11, struggling to understand why and how their Uncle Bill is becoming a woman. This film offers a fresh perspective on a complex situation from a family that insists there are no dumb questions. There is one slip of a curse word when an adult is talking, but clips of this film or the film in its entirety could be shown to people of all ages. Running time: 24 minutes. (E, M, H, TR) <http://www.nodumbquestions.com/>

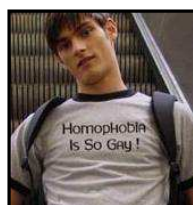
Put This on The Map A compelling documentary created for professional development settings. This film is an intimate invitation into stories of social isolation and violence, fearlessness and liberation of queer/trans youth. (TR) Releasing in December 2010, the film comes with a downloadable guide online at <http://www.putthisonthemap.org>



Saving Face Openly lesbian director Alice Wu's first feature film, *Saving Face* is about the relationship between 28-year-old closeted lesbian surgeon Wilhelmina "Wil" Pang (Michelle Krusiec) and her mother Ma (Joan Chen), a 48-year-old widow who only speaks Mandarin and socializes solely with other members of the Chinese American community in Flushing, New York. (M, H) <http://amzn.to/dyzzvE>

Straightlaced by GroundSpark. With a fearless look at a highly charged subject, *Straightlaced* unearths how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are confining American teens. Their stories reflect a diversity of experiences, demonstrating how gender role expectations and homophobia are interwoven, and illustrating the different ways that these expectations connect with culture, race and class. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/c890AL>

That's a Family! by GroundSpark. This documentary helps children understand the different shapes families take today. The site includes a teacher's guide. (E, M) <http://bit.ly/90YIAA>



Think Before You Speak: Don't Say "That's So Gay" PSA's by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight, Education Network (GLSEN). GLSEN'S Think B4 You Speak website includes video clips with Hilary Duff and Wanda Sykes that can be used for classroom discussion. (E, M, H) <http://www.thinkb4youspeak.com/>

Historical Events and Figures

Audre Lorde Audre Lorde was a Caribbean American Black Lesbian poet. She published more than 20 books of poetry and prose in her lifetime that gave voice to issues of race, gender, and sexuality. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches by Audre Lorde* is a good starting point. (H, TR). <http://amzn.to/aSBOJm>

106 LGBT Heroes and Role Models This is a direct link to names and brief bios of several well-known queer heroes. (E, M, H) <http://bit.ly/cZdBe8>

Bayard Rustin Bayard Rustin, civil rights activist, was one of the chief organizers of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He became an advocate on behalf of gay and lesbian causes in the latter part of his career. The following two resources can be used to teach about his work and legacy: *Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement* (M, H) <http://bit.ly/bnSQQD> *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin* (E) <http://bbpbooks.teachingforchange.org/book/9781590784983>

Del Martin and Phyllis Lewis These two women are often thought of as the founders of the lesbian rights movement. The following two resources can be used to teach about them. *Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's Wedding Video* is a GroundSpark video of their wedding, which was the first marriage performed in San Francisco under Gavin Newsom. (M, H, TR)

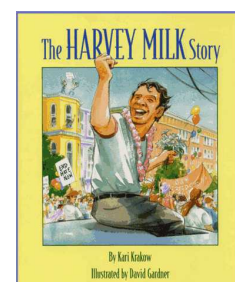


<http://groundspark.org/del-and-phyllis>. *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lewis* directed by JEB. This film reveals the couples' inspiring public activism as well as their charming and very funny private relationship. (H) <http://www.jebmedia.com/>

Gay America: Struggle for Equality by Linas Alsenas This work of non-fiction describes the history of LGBT people in America. Focusing primarily on the twentieth century, it brings to light many significant figures that are left out of most history books. There are dozens of photographs that could be used as document-based questions in Social Studies and History classes. It would be a great resource for LGBT History Month as well. (M, H, TR) <http://amzn.to/a2DxQ2>

GLBT History Month website This site provides biographies and resources on key GLBT figures from the past and present. (E, M, H) <http://www.glbthistorymonth.com>

Harvey Milk Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man elected to public office. The following two resources can be used to teach about his grassroots political organizing activities, his election, his assassination and its response. *The Times of Harvey Milk* is a documentary that recreates his life and legacy (H, TR) <http://bit.ly/cJLA2E> <http://bit.ly/9mJWFz> *The Harvey Milk Story* by Kari Krakow and David Gardner is a children's book that can be



used to spark discussions with younger children around topics of identity, pride, courage, activism and the broader concepts of freedom and representation in the United States. The website includes an educators' guide and lesson plans for the book. (E) <http://www.harveymilkstory.com/>

Hope Along the Wind: The Life of Harry Hay This documentary follows the life of one of the founders of the Mattachine Society, Harry Hay. The website has info regarding Hay's life and a transcript of the film. (H) http://www.harryhay.com/AH_matt.html

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: Online Exhibition of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum This online exhibit provides resources, photographs and more to learn about the Nazis' persecution of homosexuals. (M, H) http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/homosexuals_02/



Online Guide to LGBT History This site features discussion of queer history during different points in time. From ancient times through world wars, follow links according to a point in time your students are studying. Links will lead to text or other resources. (M, H, TR) <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/>

The Rainbow History Project The project contains photos and other resources that document the first Gay Pride March. It includes audio of Audre Lorde's and Allen Ginsberg's speeches. (E, M, H) <http://www.rainbowhistory.org/mow79.pdf>
<http://www.rainbowhistory.org/mow79.htm>

Southern California LGBT History This website provides a timeline from the 1940s - 2000s about key events in LGBT history. It is a good resource for social studies lessons. (M, H, TR) <http://www.lgbthistory.org/>

Stonewall and Beyond: Gay and Lesbian Issues by Bay Breeze Educational Resources. This lesson provides students firsthand experiences of struggles facing gays and lesbians. It includes role-playing. (H) <http://bit.ly/ayLoF7>

The Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation Movements Text of speech in which Newton stresses the need for solidarity between oppressed groups. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/cbAUy0>



Transgender and Intersex Support



Beyond The Binary, A Tool Kit for Gender Identity Activism in Schools by the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, Transgender Law Center and The National Center for Lesbian Rights. This guide includes information for helping students deconstruct some of the myths behind gender identity. It can be used to develop plans for Transgender Day of Remembrance, or for action planning to change school policies that are not supportive of all students. (E, M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/doauxk>

Intersex Initiative Website A website with information about intersexuality, including FAQ's and articles. (H, TR) <http://www.intersexinitiative.org/index.html>

No Outsiders: Researching Approaches to Sexualities Equality in Primary Schools Website No Outsiders' website has various resources for educators to teach about transgender, sexuality, and gender. There are lesson plans, books, films, and links to other websites. (E, M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/8WYsSU>

Sylvia Rivera Law Project Sylvia Rivera Law Project's website has several training and reference materials to teach about the discrimination against Transgender and gender non-conforming people. (M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/aTTAL2>

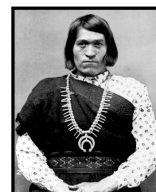
This American Life An episode of NPR's This American Life radio show in 3 acts. The 2nd act highlights a pair of transgender children who met at a conference on transgender parenting. The act explores the emotional impact of the children and their families, and is told in their own voices. (M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/as0JfX>

Trans Youth Network Trans Youth Network is a project of the Queer Youth Network, the UK's National Organization run by and for LGTB young people. (M, H) <http://www.transyouth.org/>

Transgender Youth and the Prison Industrial Complex by FIERCE. This flow chart outlines the life experiences and institutional factors that place trans youth of color within the prison industrial complex. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/clkQ7o>

TransRespect101 A pdf file that contains basic dos and don'ts when learning about, talking about or talking with trans people. It is taken from TimTum: A Trans Jew Zine and one person's personal take. (M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/ceHYTp>

Two Spirits by Lydia Nibley. The film tells the story of Fred Martinez, a Native American teenager who identified as "two spirited." The film interweaves his life and murder with an examination of the two-spirit tradition among American Indians, telling a nuanced story of what it means to be poor, transgendered, and Navajo. The website's offers books and resources. (M, H, TR) <http://www.twospirits.org/film.html>



Youth Trans and Intersex Education Services (Youth TIES) is a youth-led organization advocating for trans, gender-variant, intersex and questioning youth. (M, H) <http://www.youthgenderproject.org>

Homophobia

Acting Out: Combating Homophobia Through Teacher Activism by Mollie V. Blackburn, Caroline T. Clark, Lauren M. Kenney, and Jill M. Smith. This book chronicles how teachers from urban, suburban, and rural districts joined together in a teacher inquiry group to challenge homophobia and heterosexism in schools and classrooms. (TR) <http://www.educationrevolution.org/actingout.html>



The Power of Words: Examining the Language of Gender, Ethnic and Sexual Orientation Bias These lessons encourage students to explore the words used in the United States to label ethnic groups, women and sexual minorities and to examine the ways in which these words reveal our nation's social landscape. The curriculum offers standards-based lesson plans for use in language arts and social studies classrooms and subject areas. (M, H) <http://bit.ly/bo7liN>

Speaking about Silence: Addressing Homophobia in the Sports World Resources for addressing and teaching about homophobia in sports. (M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/92J3FS>

Marriage Equality

And Tango Makes Three This book is based on two male penguins in New York's Central Park Zoo who became a couple and were given an egg to raise. The most banned book of 2009, *And Tango Makes Three* has won many awards and has been at the center of numerous censorship and culture war debates on same-sex marriage, adoption and homosexuality in animals. (E) <http://bit.ly/cnmmWp>

Freedom to Marry This campaign website provides historic and current information about nationwide efforts to secure equal marriage rights for all couples. Includes ideas for social action. (TR) <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/>



The Gay Marriage Debate A listing of links to articles and GLSEN lessons on marriage equity. (H, TR) <http://bit.ly/bvf1OK>

Kicking the Apartheid Habit The Pinky Show is an animated online TV show featuring a cat named Pinky. This episode discusses how many individuals choose not to participate in racial segregation yet continue to benefit from heterosexual privileges such as marriage. (E, M, H) <http://bit.ly/9GtaXC>

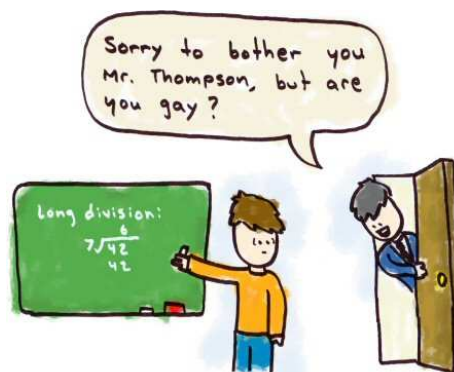
Safe Schools Coalition Marriage Equality Page. A list of resources from ice-breakers to talking points about the national movement to create marriage equality. (M, H, TR) <http://bit.ly/cGxeMB>

Uncle Bobby's Wedding This picture book is about a little girl who is worried, not about her uncle's gay wedding, but that she might not be as special to him once it's over. It is a great book to include for a read aloud that intends not to highlight gay marriage, but to normalize it. (E) <http://bit.ly/djCUVi>

Professional Resources

Acting Out: Combating Homophobia Through Teacher Activism by Mollie V. Blackburn, Caroline T. Clark, Lauren M. Kenney, and Jill M. Smith. This book chronicles how teachers from urban, suburban, and rural districts joined together in a teacher inquiry group to challenge homophobia and heterosexism in schools and classrooms. (TR) <http://www.educationrevolution.org/actingout.html>

Beyond Diversity Day: A Q&A on Gay and Lesbian Issues in Schools by Arthur Lipkin. This handbook is for educators who want to understand and affirm sexuality differences; promote and protect the well-being of all students; and reduce bigotry, self-hatred, and violence. It offers advice to nurture positive relationships among glbt youth, their families, and the schools; welcome glbt families in the school community; support glbt educators; and incorporate sound and appropriate glbt-related curricula. (TR) <http://amzn.to/9ixfl0>



Everyone is Gay An online website where founders Kristin Russo and Dannielle Owens-Reid answer one advice question each day asked by members of the LGBTQ community. These questions are asked primarily by youth aged 15-24. In the spring of 2011, Kristin and Dannielle will be visiting high school and college campuses to discuss their issues. (H) <http://www.everyoneisgay.com>

Flaunt It! Queers Organizing for Public Education and Justice by Therese Quinn and Erica Meiners. This book provides examples of on-the-ground organizing and academic activism, drawing attention to the militarization of schools, the erasure of queer lives at private institutions with anti-gay lifestyle statements, and the failure of professional educational organizations to act for social justice. (TR) <http://amzn.to/9Bcl8A>

How Educators Can Address Homophobia in Elementary School by Joleen Hanlon This article provides a literature review of existing research on addressing homophobia in elementary schools. It also includes research about how a group of New York City teachers respond to homophobic attitudes in their schools. Published by Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice. (E, M, H) <http://bit.ly/bxEAh6>

inFOCUS A consulting firm that works with nonprofits, schools (pre K-12), and colleges to provide a variety of services including creation of customized LGBT-inclusive curricula, tools to prevent or respond to anti-LGBT discrimination and student and staff trainings on diversity and inclusion. (E, M, H) <http://www.infocusri.com/index.html>

National Lesbian and Gay Task Force Report on homeless LGBT youth A comprehensive report on the state of homeless LGTB youth. (M, H, TR) <http://www.radicalmath.org/docs/GLBTHomelessYouth.pdf>

Understanding Homosexuality, Changing Schools by Arthur Lipkin. This book helps readers to better understand gay and lesbian issues in education and promotes ways in which gay and lesbian students and families can be more accepted in schools. (TR) <http://amzn.to/dh5hzN>

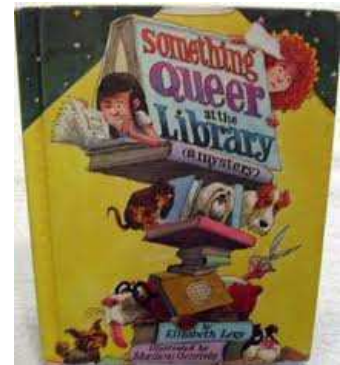
Booklists and Databases by Organizations Other than NYQueer

Ally Action LGBTQ Bibliography Incredibly organized book list of LGBTQ-themed fiction and non-fiction books written for grades K-12 and for adults, arranged by age-appropriateness. (TR) <http://bit.ly/allyactionlist>

American Library Association's Rainbow Project The Rainbow Project is a joint project of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table and the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. The Rainbow Project presents an annual bibliography of quality books with significant and authentic GLBTQ content, which are recommended for people from birth through eighteen years of age. (E, M, H, TR) <http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com/about/>

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center's Online Library There are more than 20,000 circulating titles of fiction and nonfiction, both current and classic, making it New York's largest lending library of LGBT material. The video collection, named in honor of film professor Michael Janiak who died of AIDS in 1992, includes more than 1,500 circulating videos and DVDs by, about, or of interest to our community. (H, TR)

<http://www.gaycenter.org/community/library>



The Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award In 2010, the American Library Association (ALA) announced it will add an annual award for "English-language works for children and teens of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered experience." (E, M, H, TR). <http://bit.ly/9ztct9>

Welcoming Schools Bibliography Welcoming Schools compiled bibliographies for students and adults related to family diversity, gender stereotyping and bias-based bullying. Be sure to also review the Welcoming Schools materials about how to prepare to read these books to a class. (TR) <http://www.welcomingschools.org/bibliographies/>

NYQueer's Annotated Booklist of Children's Literature



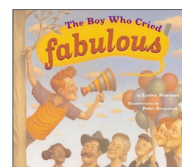
This booklist includes the typical description of each book and some commentary that may raise questions or give ideas about how they can be used with students Edited by Catherine Carithers, Alanna Howe, Rosie Frascella.



The Boy Who Cried Fabulous by Lesléa Newman. This is a rhyming book about a boy who is always getting in trouble for being late because he is so fascinated with the world. <http://bit.ly/9W7LEa>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

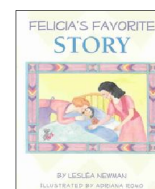
I have never said the word fabulous so many times in the span of 10 minutes before, ever. Students will not go without learning it after reading this. It is great for teaching rhyme and also synonyms are a big part of the word choice. There is potential for opening a dialogue about different ways of being or seeing the world.



Felicia's Favorite Story by Lesléa Newman. Felicia and her moms recount the story of her adoption from Guatemala as she's going to bed. <http://bit.ly/alrNJW>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

There is a real sense of family in this story. It is a great illustration of oral story telling and how stories get passed down. It would also be a great book to use for lessons on dialogue or looking at context clues in order to identify who is speaking at any given time.



Holly's Secret by Nancy Garden. When 12 year-old Holly moves from the city to the country, she changes her name decides that she is not going to tell anyone that she has gay parents. She wants to avoid ridicule and name-calling. Over time, this secret becomes too strenuous and she reveals her real name and the truth about her parents. (E) <http://www.amazon.com/Hollys-Secret-Nancy-Garden/dp/0374332738>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

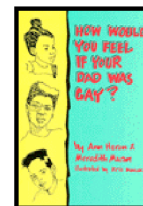
This chapter book could be used for a read-aloud, a book club, or just as part of your classroom library. Students in grades 4 - 8 could benefit from this book; however, be prepared to discuss language such as "dyke" and "faggot." This book provides opportunities for discussing name-calling, identity, and the desire to "fit in." Students can make connections to their own lives and discuss times when they may have kept a secret in order to be accepted.



How Would You Feel If Your Dad Was Gay? By Ann Heron & Meredith Maran. In this book, there are three third-grade characters with gay parents. Students at school ridicule them with homophobic comments. In the beginning, Jasmine decides to tell her class about her gay parents, which angers her brother who wants to keep their family a secret. (E) <http://www.glsen.org/cqi-bin/iowa/all/booklink/record/2158.html>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This chapter book could be used in grades 3 - 5. It provides an opportunity for clarifying the definition of the words "gay" and "lesbian" in the chapter when the school counselor leads an assembly about family diversity. It is also a great book for discussing name-calling and how people who are different are really never alone. ELA teachers could use this book for lessons about how characters change over time, accumulating events across chapters, and making inferences.



King & King by Linda de Haan & Stern Nijland. This is a fairytale about a queen who no longer wants to rule and decides it is time to marry off her son. The prince is not at all pleased with the parade of princesses who come to meet him. He is about to give up when one last princess arrives with her brother. The brother and the prince fall in love instantly, get married, and live happily ever after. Everyone is happy. The queen even sheds a tear. <http://bit.ly/cvjZeG>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

It's kind of nice that this is a fairytale in which there is no conflict whatsoever about the prince wanting to marry a man. At the same time, there isn't much to the book. It would be good as part of a fairytale study for kids who are just learning the simple components of one.

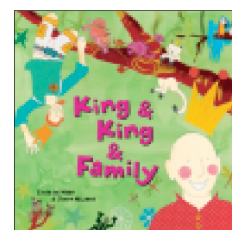
What I like least about it is that the one character of color, Rahjamashputtin from Mumbai, is made fun of for her long arms, although her legs are described as elegant. If I were using this in my 5th grade class we'd be trying to figure out what's going on with the authors' choices there. I love the cat, though.



King & King & Family by Linda de Haan & Stern Nijland. In this sequel to *King & King*, the happy newlyweds jet off on their honeymoon to an unidentified jungle where happy animal families inspire them to want a family of their own. Then poof! Just like that they arrive home to find a young girl from the jungle in their suitcase. They adopt her immediately and live happily ever after. <http://bit.ly/cj4Cpr>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

On the plus side, like in the first book, the illustrations are quite fun. It's an example of an atypical fairytale. And again, the cat is hysterical. But it comes across a bit as an ode to assimilation. The animal families are all very uniform in their representation of what makes a family. And our gay protagonists want nothing more than to be like them, which is interesting considering how

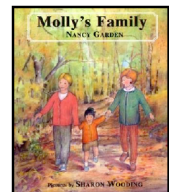


“different” their family will be by comparison. The means by which they acquire their family is perhaps the most questionable aspect of the story. I know it’s supposed to be fantasy, but she follows them home in their suitcase? Why is this tan skinned girl following these white men out of the jungle? She wants to leave her home? What for? She doesn’t even know them. Could they not have met her in the jungle, grown to love each other and *then* made a family? What if they met her and later decided to *stay* in the jungle? Maybe it’s too big a stretch to say there are white imperialist undertones, but I wouldn’t read this with my students without having them question the stereotypes this book may be perpetuating.

Molly's Family by Nancy Garden. Molly draws a picture of her family to hang up for Open School Night. When another student tells her that she can't have two mommies, she is not sure if she still wants to hang up the drawing. In the end, she decides that it's ok that her family is just as "real" as any other. (E) <http://bit.ly/avgCtU>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

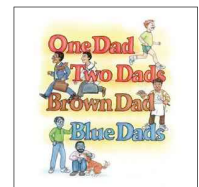
Molly's Family is appropriate for grades Pre-K - 2. It would be a great addition to a unit on family diversity. It also opens up a discussion about adoption. After reading this book, students could make drawings of their own families.



One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads Johnny Valentine. A rhyming book about a boy named Lou whose dads are blue. His friend is shocked by this and asks him all kind of questions. Are they different from other dads? What do they do? How did they get that way? <http://bit.ly/cb3La6>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

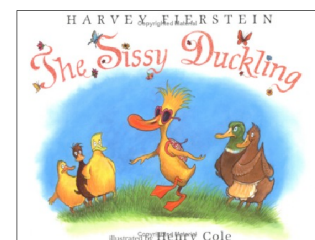
I like the message that it really doesn’t matter that they are blue or how they got that way. At the same time I have to ask—why blue? Just to be funny? I’m still not sure how I feel about it, but the book could definitely be used in teaching rhyme scheme, as well as discussing differences and similarities between people. It would be worth it to raise the question of what the author’s point is even with really small children.



Sissy Duckling By Harvey Fierstein. Here is a classic tale of a young male duck, Elmer, who prefers cooking and singing to playing baseball, which he is terrible at. He wears heart glasses and carries a little pink book bag with flowers on it. Even his father teases him until he runs away from home. Later after his father is gunned down during the migration south, Elmer takes his father in and nurses him back to health. In the end, of course, everyone realizes how great Elmer is, even if he is a Sissy. Or, everyone realizes how great it is that he’s a sissy. <http://bit.ly/bS4qt9>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This book has been critiqued because of its use of the word sissy and the negative portrayal of Elmer’s father. Would it be a stretch to link this to the realities of homeless LGBT youth? In real life, people don’t typically get to change the

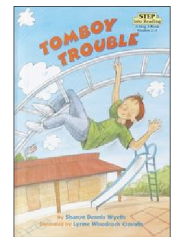


minds of everyone around them by accomplishing some amazing feat. Should they have to? Should a Sissy Duckling have to? I'd say no, but I believe the book is still a good way to start these conversations with young people. Older students might check out some of the online commentary about how this book "pushes the gay agenda." This can be found on sites like Amazon where the book is sold. Similar comments can be found about other books, such as *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*, another book that never mentions anything about sexuality.

Tomboy Trouble By Sharon Dennis Wyeth (Out of print but can still be found) This is a story about a baseball playing girl who chooses to cut her long hair so short that at her new schoolmates do not initially accept her. She's asked to get out of the "girl line," she is called "George" instead of Georgia and she is told she plays "boy's games." Her mother tells her it will all be better when her hair grows out but she refuses and remains confident. <http://amzn.to/aKqUse>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

I love this story. It is one that should not be mistaken for a book about sexuality. Discussion with younger students might center on self-confidence and pride, as the main character is unwavering in her determination of how she wants to express herself. Conversations with older students could center on the assumptions people might make about Georgia because of how she wishes to express herself.

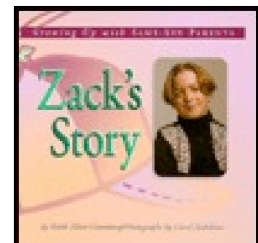


Zack's Story: Growing Up with Same-Sex Parents by Keith Elliot Greenberg. This personal narrative is told from the perspective of an 11 year-old boy who lives in New Jersey with his two moms. Zack narrates his daily life, which is comparable to many children his age. He also explains his family dynamic, including how his birth mother divorced his father and is now in a relationship with a woman. (E)

[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2405932.Zack s Story](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2405932.Zack_s_Story)

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

Zack's Story would be appropriate for grades 3 - 5. It could be read during a unit on personal narratives. It could also be used as a way of teaching empathy for people who are different, while also realizing things that we all have in common. On the last page, Zack states, "If there's one lesson I'd want a kid to know, it's that gay people are pretty much the same as anybody else." This line could be the start of a rich classroom dialogue.



Collection of Young Adult/Adult LGTB Literature

Am I Blue? Coming Out from the Silence by M. Bauer, ed. This is a collection of short stories about homosexuality. A wide variety of authors including Bruce Coville and Lois Lowry have contributed to a very diverse and enjoyable anthology. <http://amzn.to/buxl6p>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

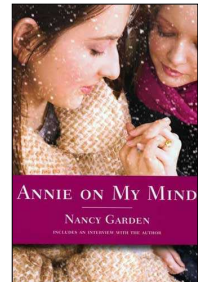
The title story (“Am I Blue?” by Bruce Coville) is a powerful tool for a read aloud in a high school class. It addresses the assumptions we make about others’ sexualities based on factors such as clothing, hairstyles and walks. One of the best parts about the collection as a whole is that it features people of many races and socioeconomic backgrounds – “gay” is not something to be associated with the white upper-middle class in this collection.



Annie on my Mind by Nancy Garden. Liza Winthrop is student council president and lives in the distinctly middle class neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights. A dedicated student and aspiring architect, she often visits the Metropolitan Museum on weekends, and that is where she meets Annie. The daughter of a taxi driver, Annie is totally unlike anyone she has ever met and the two begin a friendship, which quickly blossoms into love. <http://bit.ly/dckvo4>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

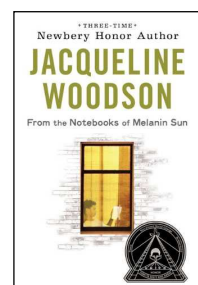
A bit old-fashioned and slow moving, but not a bad choice for an independent reading novel. Supports the notion that the best place for love to begin is with friendship and friendship often begins with common passion. Especially notable is that this book was originally published in 1982!



From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun by Jacqueline Woodson. Fourteen-year-old Melanin Sun thinks his biggest problems are figuring out what to say to the girl he likes, learning to be less withdrawn, improving his slam-dunk, and wishing his name was something like Donald or Carlos. Then his mama, his only parent and near best friend, tells him something that changes his life and shows him, for the first time, what problems are really all about. Her news makes him question who he is, what love means, and if he can love his mother in spite of what she tells him she is. <http://amzn.to/aerzEQ>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This is a great book for middle school students and English language learners. It addresses themes around forbidden love, coming to age, and puberty. Most of Jacqueline Woodson novels have a queer character, but this one is her queerest by far. It is a great young adult read.



The Full Spectrum: A new generation of writing about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and other identities by David Levithan and Billy Merrell, eds. A hip, intelligent and diverse collection of writings from various youth who identify along the whole rainbow of gender and sexuality. <http://amzn.to/97WHki>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This book is targeted more toward older teenagers, but could be made accessible to youth as young as 14. This serves as an interpretation of how the notion of “the queer identity” has changed in recent years – coming out is nothing like it was 50 years ago, after all. Could be a great supplement to a unit on memoirs and vignette writing.

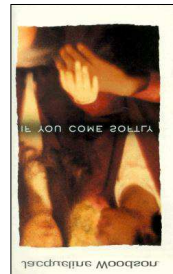


If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson <http://bit.ly/9DXZGS> *If You Come Softly* is about Jeremiah who is fifteen and black and Ellie who is fifteen and white. They meet at a private school and fall in love and then have to deal with how society treats them because they're an interracial couple. It was inspired by a poem by Audre Lorde that begins:

*If you come softly
as the wind within the trees
you may hear what I hear
see what sorrow sees.*

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

The main theme in the novel is “Forbidden Love”, which is a great link into queer relationships. Educators can do anticipatory guides on the different types of Forbidden Love (same-sex relationships, interracial relationships, polyamorous relationships, etc.) and have students explore their ideas on each type through discussions, class debates, position papers, and interviews. In addition to the theme of Forbidden Love, Ellie’s sister is a lesbian. She is not a main character, but Ellie talks about her throughout the book. Ironically, Anne (Ellie’s sister) is initially not supportive of her interracial relationships. This scenario also makes for great class discussion.



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Keeping You a Secret by Julie Peters. Holland Jaeger is a high school senior who worries about grades and about her college applications. She has some good friends and a nice boyfriend (even if she doesn’t enjoy the sex too much). One day, a new girl shows up with blonde ponytail and a t-shirt that says “IMRU?” and features a large pink triangle. Holland does not know what that means, but she is fascinated by the new girl,

Cece, and begins to feel differently about everything in her life. Holland and Cece develop a friendship and then a romantic relationship, but Holland cannot tell anyone. She must face homophobia, ostracism and being kicked out of her own home as well as coming to terms with her own sexual identity. <http://bit.ly/dl6lhz>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning.

ill quickly become a standard in YA Libraries. What is really wonderful about this novel is how much Peters seems to stress that you can only come out when YOU are ready – you do not have to work on someone else’s time table. A point of concern is that Holland does not process her romantic feelings (or lack thereof) for men – she tries a girl and never looks back! This might be frustrating or off-putting for adolescents who find themselves in a constant state of flux regarding sexual identity.

Luna by Julie Peters. Told from the perspective of Regan whose older brother Liam transforms every night into the woman he knows he should be: Luna. Regan is always respectful of Liam/Luna’s feelings, but is taken aback when Liam announces that he wants to become Luna full-time. She tries the hardest she can to be supportive and loving as she has to cope with the loss of her brother. <http://amzn.to/9DGP2v>

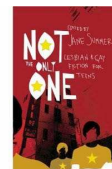
Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This is an important text simply because it is one of very few that addresses transgender issues. Regan stands as a role model for what it is to be an ally.

Not the Only One: Lesbian & Gay Fiction for Teens. This is an anthology of short stories from a wide variety of authors on the topic of homosexuality. <http://amzn.to/aYC24g>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This anthology is not as fun as *Am I Blue?* but would serve as a nice supplemental resource for any unit on homophobia or bullying.



The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky Already a perennial favorite on YA reading lists, Chbosky’s first novel is not what most would call a “Queer Book” but rather a “Book with Queer Characters.” This epistolary novel is told from the point of view of a ninth grader, Charlie, who has decided to write anonymous notes to a stranger. The novel follows Charlie through his freshman year as he makes friends, makes choices and grows up. One of Charlie’s best friends is Patrick, a senior who carries on a secret relationship with Brad, the quarterback of the football team. This is Charlie’s first gay friend and although Patrick and Brad are merely a subplot, this book can be a powerful tool in promoting allies and an end to homophobia. <http://bit.ly/an8Rkf>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

This book is NYSTL approved. Provides good opportunity for discussion on homophobia, social expectations for each gender (and how heterosexuality is “expected” of us) and what it is to be an ally.

Rainbow Boys by Alex Sanchez. The overlapping stories of three high school seniors as they deal with sexuality and friendship. Nelson is loud, proud and looking for love. Kyle is coming out of his shell and in love with the star of the basketball team. Jason finds himself developing feelings for the same sex.

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

Provides many perspectives on “the gay experience.” Three boys, all in different stages of coming out, face struggles that are similar and completely different all at once. Also supports the notion that there is more than one way to be gay – after all, if the big man on campus, basketball star Jason Carillo, can admit to his own feelings for men, then gay men must not all be like the flamboyant Nelson who wears his sexual orientation unapologetically on his sleeve. Also gets props for including a Latino character! Includes great opportunities for discussion about safe sex.



Rainbow High by Alex Sanchez A sequel to Sanchez’s *Rainbow Boys*. Nelson might be HIV-positive and reluctantly begins to date a young man who is HIV-positive. Kyle and Jason continue their relationship but Kyle is falling hard and falling fast; he’s even willing to give up an Ivy League Education to be with Jason. Jason must decide whether or not he will come out to his teammates, and find out whether or not his willingness to be openly gay will affect his college scholarship options.

<http://bit.ly/9wo2Rm>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

Includes great opportunities for discussion about safe sex and HIV-awareness. This book seems to focus on the pain of living closeted (as Jason struggles with his team, or as Nelson hides his boyfriend’s HIV-status from his mother) as well as the effects of bullying and ignorance.



Rainbow Road by Alex Sanchez. A sequel to *Rainbow Boys* and *Rainbow High*. Nelson struggles with feeling like a third wheel as he, Jason and Kyle embark on a road trip from their home in Washington DC to Los Angeles, California, where Jason has been invited to speak at a gay and lesbian high school. Now that he has accepted his attraction to men, Jason doesn’t know what to do with his feelings for women; as a bisexual, he doesn’t feel he fits in with either the straight or the gay community entirely. The three recent high school graduates run into allies and homophobes alike on their two-week journey. <http://bit.ly/9YzEfl>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

Really serves as a nice way to wrap up Sanchez’s *Rainbow* trilogy. The most notable aspect of this text is that Jason feels torn between his lingering attraction to women and his newfound attraction to men. He feels uncomfortable in the gay bars as well as the straight world. This book takes a very honest look at what it means to be bisexual and how isolating it can be for an individual who loves people of many genders.



So Hard to Say by Alex Sanchez. A native of Wisconsin, blond-haired blue-eyed Frederick does not quite fit in at his new, largely Chicano school in California. Xio, a bold and friendly Latina classmate, quickly befriends him and sets sights on making him into her boyfriend. Unfortunately, Frederick has a secret that he cannot tell anyone: he would much rather date Victor, the captain of the soccer team. Xio feels hurt, confused and betrayed by his secret, and she is absolutely humiliated to understand why Frederick has been so unresponsive to her unabashed flirtations. <http://bit.ly/dhuf16>

Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

The narrative is split between Xio and Frederick, which lends itself nicely to discussion about narrative voice and reliable narrators. The book opens up opportunity for discussion on heterosexism – the belief that we are all straight until proven queer. Again, it is wonderful to see a Hispanic lead character.

Two Teenagers in Twenty By Ann Heron, ed. Ann Heron collects writings from Gay and Lesbian Youth, ages ranging from twelve to twenty-four, from cities and towns all over the United States. They write about coming out to themselves, to their friends and to their families. They write about hardships they face, both internally and externally in their journeys toward acceptance and love. <http://amzn.to/cZnkV>

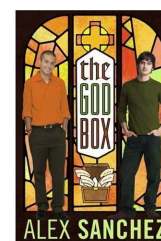
Points for Discussion and Lesson Planning

The vignettes are modest and unpretentious. Might make an excellent supplement to a unit on memoirs and vignette writings. Because these are the words of teenagers, it might be especially poignant for students in your classroom, whether they are bullies or the ones who are ostracized for being “different”.



The Geography Club by Brent Hartinger. This work of fiction includes characters who identify as gay and form an after-school club. They call it The Geography Club in order to hide their true identities. At the end, they decide to come out and change their club's name to the Gay Straight Bisexual Alliance. (H) <http://amzn.to/drQpoj>

The God Box by Alex Sanchez. Paul has dated Angie since middle school, and they're good together. They have a lot of the same interests, like singing in their church choir and being active in Bible club. But when Manuel transfers to their school, Paul has to rethink his life. Manuel is the first openly gay teen anyone in their small town has ever met, and yet he says he's also a committed Christian. Talking to Manuel makes Paul reconsider thoughts he has kept hidden, and listening to Manuel's interpretation of Biblical passages on homosexuality causes Paul to reevaluate everything he believed. (H) <http://amzn.to/9rnWaa>



Stuck Rubber Baby by Howard Cruse. The story is set in the South in the early '60s and deals with homophobia, racism and the gay subculture of that period. The art is absolutely beautiful; Cruse is a master of the cross-hatching technique, which gives a certain "texture" to his artwork and brings his pages to life. (H) <http://amzn.to/cfphND>



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