

**ADDRESSING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL  
AND TRANSGENDER EQUALITY IN  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS:  
BOOKS FOR USE IN PRIMARY AND EARLY  
YEARS SETTINGS**

**AN ANNOTATED LIST COMPILED BY RENEE DEPALMA AND  
ELIZABETH ATKINSON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND FOR  
THE ESRC-FUNDED SEMINAR SERIES:**

***INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES: ADDRESSING SEXUALITIES EQUALITY IN  
CHILDREN'S WORLDS  
(2005 – 2007)***

**AND THE ESRC-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT:**

***NO OUTSIDERS: RESEARCHING APPROACHES TO SEXUALITIES  
EQUALITY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
(2006 – 2008)***

**<http://www.nooutsiders.sunderland.ac.uk>**



## BOOKS WITH AN EXPLICIT OF IMPLICIT LGBT FOCUS

Babcock, Joe. *Boys and the Bees*. Carroll & Graf Publishing, 2006

0786716479

978-0786716470.

Synopsis

Author's first book "The Tragedy of Miss Geneva Flowers" was self published, but later won awards and was picked up by a mainstream publisher. James loves Andy, but Andy loves Mark, a situation complicated further by the fact that this love triangle unfolds secretly in seventh grade Catholic School. No one at Saint Marks is aware that Andy, a budding twelve-year-old comic book writer, is obsessed with Mark, the captain of the school's basketball team. To Andy, falling in love with a straight boy seems as hopeless as his own unlikely quest to join the team, and become a star basketball player alongside the object of his affections. However, all is not lost. For Mark, too, is gay, even though his sexual self-awareness is clouded by his attraction to the class heartthrob, a girl whom all the boys lust after. All except James, the "school fag" and childhood pal Andy has tried to shake desperately ever since the boys reached adolescence and James's more obvious sexuality began to threaten to open the closet door on Andy. "The Boys and the Bees" is a bittersweet look at love - and boys - in bloom.

£6.39 (Paperback).

Bryan, Jennifer. *The Different Dragon*. Two Lives Pub, 2006

0967446864

978-0967446868.

This is an enchanting book of adventure and storytelling. Noah and his mother Go-Ma weave a tale of a boy in search of excitement and a dragon who doesn't want to be fierce anymore. The author knows exactly how parents and young children tell stories, with input from the child driving the narration. The fact that Noah has two moms is incidental to the main story. The book is inclusive without being preachy, and shows two moms as just another part of some children's families. All families with young children (preschool and early elementary) should read *The Different Dragon* for its magical tale and colorful, full-age illustrations. The fact that it celebrates difference - of both the dragon and Noah's family - is an added bonus.

Available via Amazon Marketplace £9.62.

Burks, Stephanie, and Kelli Bienvenu (Illustrator). *While You Were Sleeping*. Trafford Publishing, 2004

1412028531

978-1412028530.

Synopsis

*While You Were Sleeping*, written by Stephanie Burks, is a story that lovingly describes the day that two women learn that a birthmother has chosen them to adopt a newborn baby boy. While their future son sleeps through his first hours of life, his new mothers experience all of the joy and anticipation of their new life together. It shows the excitement of the new parents as they hear of their son's birth and drive to the hospital to meet him for the first time. Charming and colorful illustrations by Kelli Bienvenu

convey the warmth of this story from beginning to end, showing the moments that the adoptive parents meet their newborn son, sing him lullabies and arrive home, where the family pets are introduced to the newest member of their family. This book will speak to the hearts of all who cherish the true love of parents for their child and in the process, validate non-traditional families of all sorts.

Amazon UK - £4.95 + £1.99 sourcing fee.

Cole, Babette. *Mummy Never Told Me*. Red Fox, 2004

0099407132

978-0099407133.

Synopsis

What are tummy buttons for, and how do they get there? Why do grown-ups have hair in their ears and up their noses, but sometimes none on their heads? Why do Mummy and Daddy lock you out of their bedroom, and where do they go at night? Why do some women prefer to fall in love with other women, and some men with other men? Babette Cole explores these questions and many more with her wonderfully sharp text and riotously funny illustrations.

£4.79 [Paperback].

Combs, Bobbie, Desiree Keane, and Brian Rappa. *ABC: A Family Alphabet Book*.

Two Lives Pub, 2001

0967446813

978-0967446813.

It's family fun from A to Z in this alphabet book that shows kids and their parents laughing, playing and enjoying family life. All of the brilliant watercolors depict families headed by gays and lesbians. "C is for cookies. Both of my dads know how to make great chocolate chip cookies." "L is for lunch. We always pack a picnic lunch when my moms take me to the beach."

£4.47 [Paperback] available from Amazon UK, 4/07.

Considine, Kaitlyn Taylor. *Emma and Meesha My Boy: A Two Mom Story*. Xlibris Corp, 2004

1413416004

978-1413416008.

(consumer review: 'Parent of twin girls in a Mommy & Ma family')

I bought this book after finding a recommendation for it in a list on amazon.com. It's a bit 'young' for my two five year olds (It would be perfect for the 2-5 year old, my two are more in the 5-7 range), but the girls really enjoy it anyway. The pictures are quite charming - and I think that my girls get a kick out of Emma having two Moms, like they do. And they think Meesha is cute. They're really lobbying hard for a kitten, and that's another reason I got this book. As sort of primer on proper cat treatment. It works for that too. My babysitter was reading it to the girls the other day, and she omitted to read 'A Two Mom Story' while reading the title. One of the girls called her on it. You can't leave that part out, you see.

\$10.95 (£5.87) [Paperback]

AVAILABLE FROM THE US ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

Available via Amazon sellers from £19.

De Haan, Linda, and Stern Nijland. *King and King and Family*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle, 2004.

Synopsis

Join newlyweds King Lee and King Bertie on their journey into the noisy jungle. As they float down a river, wild animal families turn out to greet them but the royal travellers suspect something more significant awaits them in the trees. The illustrious pair soon discover that there's no adventure more wonderful than starting a family.

£7.22.

De Haan, Linda, and Stern Nijland. *King and King*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2002

1582460612

978-1582460611.

When a grouchy queen tells her layabout son that it's time for him to marry, he sighs, "Very well, Mother. I must say, though, I've never cared much for princesses." His young page winks. Several unsatisfactory bachelorettes visit the castle before "Princess Madeleine and her brother, Prince Lee" appear in the doorway. The hero is smitten at once. "What a wonderful prince!" he and Prince Lee both exclaim, as a shower of tiny Valentine hearts flutters between them. First-time co-authors and artists de Haan and Nijland matter-of-factly conclude with the royal wedding of "King and King," the page boy's blushing romance with the leftover princess and the assurance that "everyone lives happily ever after." Unfortunately, the multimedia collages are cluttered with clashing colors, amorphous paper shapes, scribbles of ink and bleary brushstrokes; the characters' features are indistinct and sometimes ugly. Despite its gleeful disruption of the boy-meets-girl formula, this alterna-tale is not the fairest of them all. For a visually appealing and more nuanced treatment of diversity in general, Kitty Crowther's recent *Jack and Jim* is a better choice. Ages 6-up.

£6.71 UK Amazon

\$9.72 (£5.28) (Hardcover)

AVAILABLE FROM THE US ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

Elwin, Rosamund, and Michele Paulse. *Asha's Mums*. Women's P.of Canada, 1990

0889611432

978-0889611436.

Synopsis

For ages 4-8. When Asha's lesbian mums become an issue for the teacher and the curiosity of classmates, Asha responds that having two mums is not a big deal. They are a family.

£5.50.

Garden, Nancy, and Sharon (Illustrator) Wooding. *Molly's Family*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004

0374350027

978-0374350024.

PreS-Gr. 2. When Molly draws a picture of her family for her kindergarten class, Tommy jeers at her that no one has two mommies. At first she is angry and hurt, but with the support of her teacher and her loving parents--Mommy (her birth mother) and Mama Lu (her adoptive mother)--she comes to accept her family. What helps her most is seeing

many different kinds of families: Tanya has a mommy, a daddy, a grandma, and two brothers; Stephen has no father; Adam has no mother ("Daddy and me!"); some kids are adopted. Wooding's warm, soft-textured colored-pencil pictures show Molly in her lively classroom and in her happy, nurturing home. Less overtly messagey than Lesléa Newman's *Heather Has Two Mommies* (1989), this will open up discussion in many families.

£7.23.

Gleitzman, Morris. *Two Weeks with the Queen*. Puffin Books, 2003

0141314559

978-0141314556.

Reviewed by Mark Jennett, Diversity Trainer, No Outsiders

When his brother Luke is diagnosed with cancer, Colin is sent to London to stay with his aunt. Determined to find the Best Doctor In The World he visits The Best Cancer Hospital In London. There he meets Ted whose lover, Griff, has AIDS. The ever resourceful Colin helps his new friends when circumstances threaten to separate them and, in supporting Ted through his grief, is able to come to terms with his own. Fast paced, sensitively written and very funny. Will also appeal to Year 7s.

£6.99 [Paperback].

Howe, James. *Totally Joe*. Aladdin Paperbacks, 2007

0689839588

978-0689839580.

From School Library Journal, Amazon.com

Grade 6-8—Joe's teacher asks his seventh-grade class to write an alphabiography throughout the year, presenting themselves and their lives in entries from A to Z. Joe's essays begin and end with friends, from Addie, a long-time pal and confidant, to Zachary, a new student who, like Joe, has a unique approach to life. Throughout, Joe demonstrates that he truly is a one-of-a-kind kid, mostly comfortable with himself but still struggling with common adolescent issues. It's difficult for him to relate to his athletic brother, and he misses his much-loved Aunt Pam, who moves to New York City. He also comes to grips with his sexuality, questioning gender expectations and traditional roles as he realizes he is gay. Because he is different, he is tormented by Kevin, who calls him a girl and faggot and falsely accuses him of kissing his friend Colin (a jock not yet ready to come out). Joe's narration always feels honest if not entirely credible. He and his family accept his emerging sexuality rather easily. While a range of responses is depicted, the characters seem to come around too quickly. For example, when the principal is informed of Kevin's actions, he, too, handles the situation expeditiously, and the troublemaker conveniently transfers to another school. Though idealized and contrived, the approach is novel and the conclusion optimistic

£2.99 (paperback reprint ed.).

Krakow, Kari, and David (Illustrator) Gardner. *The Harvey Milk Story*. Two Lives Pub, 2002

096744683X

978-0967446837.

A Kid's Review (from US, no review available at UK site)

Although I loved and think everybody should read the book, "The Harvey Milk Story" by Kari Krakow, I have to admit in the beginning before I read the story I thought the story would be like "Harvey Milk was born in? and died in?" I got a big surprise when the first sentence was "No one every guessed that the little kid with big ears would one day make history." I think the book really changed how I thought about gay and lesbian. It must have been very hard for Harvey Milk not to tell anyone about how he felt. My favourite part is that Harvey actually makes a living at a camera shop and it sort of turns into a place where people can talk with him. He ends up getting a very nice partner. I won't tell you more, but I really, really hope Kari Krakow will write another book.  
£9.27 [Hardcover].

Newman, Lesléa. *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride*. Alyson Publications Inc.,U.S, 1991.  
Synopsis

[Part of a review on the GLSEN website: no detailed synopsis on Amazon.]

*Gloria Goes To Gay Pride* is a story about Gloria's day at the Gay Pride Parade (it is also one of the books recommended in the CHILDREN OF THE RAINBOW, FIRST GRADE, FIRST EDITION). Gloria begins her narrative with a description of some of the events that occur during such celebrations as Valentine's Day, Halloween, Chanukah and Mother's Day. She then recounts the events, colors, people and families who make up Gay Pride Day. She finds this celebration as enjoyable as the other holidays. Various issues are discussed throughout the book and several implicit messages are conveyed. One of the messages which may or may not be explicit to adults and children is that anyone can be gay. One of Gloria's moms, for instance, holds a more traditional woman's job as a nurse while the other is a mechanic. At the parade, Gloria sees many familiar faces, such as her female mail carrier, male music teacher and the male nurse who works with her mother and who is there with his toddler son. The primary message of this story is that "love is the most important thing of all." (ages 3 – 7)  
£7.94 [Paperback].

Newman, Lesléa. *Too Far Away to Touch*. Houghton Mifflin, 1998  
0395900182  
978-0395900185.

Zoe's favorite uncle Leonard takes her to a planetarium and explains that if he dies he will be like the stars, too far away to touch, close enough to see.  
Amazon marketplace from £2.57.

Newman, Lesléa and, and Adriana Romo. *Felicia's Favorite Story*. Two Lives Pub, 2002  
0967446856  
978-0967446851.

From School Library Journal (from US, no review available at UK site)

PreSchool-Grade 1-In a story set in a loving family with two women as parents, a little girl asks for her favorite bedtime story-the tale of how she became part of the family. As Felicia asks questions and fills in the blanks, her mothers playfully relate the tale of their decision to share their love by bringing her into their lives. The gentle, rhythmic text perfectly mirrors the give-and-take that occurs with preschoolers when parents extend the story: Did they decide to adopt a giraffe, a mouse, or a baby? Did they take a boat

or a car to Guatemala to pick her up? Was she as small as a button or a cookie when she was a baby? In the cozy conclusion to her own story and the book itself, Felicia's moms tell her that her name means "happy" in Spanish-a feeling shared by all. Each piece of art is framed by a stylistic geometric border reminiscent of stained glass. The smiling child and parents are drawn in a somewhat static style that is softened by the use of pastel colored pencils. This is a comforting book for children in alternative families as well as a pleasant tale for all children who rejoice in sharing their own life story.

Available via Amazon Marketplace.

Newman, Lesléa, and Diana (Illustrator) Souza. *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Alyson Publications Inc., U.S., 1995

155583180X

978-1555831806.

Synopsis

When Heather goes to playgroup, at first she feels bad because she has two mothers and no father, but then she learns that there are lots of different kinds of families and the most important thing is that all the people love each other.

£8.95 + £1.99 sourcing fee [Paperback].

Newsom, Gavin. *We Do: A Celebration of Gay and Lesbian Marriage*. Chronicle Books, 2004

0811846121

978-0811846127.

Synopsis

This is the only book in the market to celebrate the gay marriages of February and March 2004 around the US First comes love, then comes marriage -- unless, of course, you're gay. But when San Francisco's mayor, Gavin Newsom, ordered City Hall to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on February 12th, thousands of gays and lesbians from around the world lined up to take their vows, inspiring other cities to follow suit. As intense public debate continues, *We Do* is an intimate portrait of these history-making weddings. A many-splendour thing, love is captured here in all its joy and diversity. Drawing on ceremonies from around the country, here are weddings both traditional and unconventional, whether the brides and grooms are in flowing white gowns, business suits, or blue jeans. The result is a touching album of happy couples, from the two lesbians who've been together 51 years to dads with babes in arms. A joyful celebration, *We Do* stands witness to the fact that we are all created equal in love. £9.09 (Paperback).

Parr, Todd. *The Family Book*. Magan Tingley Books, 2004

0316738964

978-0316155632.

Reader comment: I like it because it has all sorts of families - big /small, animal /people, single /two parent, with just one page on same sex parents i.e. part of the wider picture. It shows differences but emphasises the things which are the same about all families e.g. 'All families are sad when they lose someone they love', 'All families can help each other

be strong!' and final page 'There are lots of different ways to be a family. Your family is special no matter what kind it is'.

Illustrations bold, simple, colourful and humorous.

£4.99.

Quinlan, Patricia, and Janet Wilson. *Tiger Flowers*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited, 2005

1550051393

978-1550051391.

a book full of good intentions but marred by evasions. Her story centers on Joel, who copes with his grief at his uncle Michael's death by recalling the happy times they shared, including visiting the zoo, creating a picture book and planting a garden of tiger lilies (the "tiger flowers" of the equivocal title). While it is stated early on that Michael had AIDS, the disease and its effects are mentioned only twice, once in a tacked-on, indirect statement about its transmission ("He told me that I couldn't catch AIDS by being near him the way I caught the chicken pox from Tara"). Equally vague is the relationship between Michael and his "best friend," a young man who has also died of AIDS. On one level, this is a simple, warm story about the power of love and remembrance to overcome pain, with Wilson's sunny, color- and light-filled paintings mirroring Joel's fond memories. But the timid, side-stepping approach to the complex issues of AIDS and homosexuality is likely to raise more questions than it answers.

Ages 5-up.

£4.06.

Richardson, Justin, Peter Parneel, and (Illustrator) Henry Cole. *And Tango Makes Three*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2005

0689878451

978-0689878459.

PreSchool-Grade 3-This tale based on a true story about a charming penguin family living in New York City's Central Park Zoo will capture the hearts of penguin lovers everywhere. Roy and Silo, two male penguins, are "a little bit different." They cuddle and share a nest like the other penguin couples, and when all the others start hatching eggs, they want to be parents, too. Determined and hopeful, they bring an egg-shaped rock back to their nest and proceed to start caring for it. They have little luck, until a watchful zookeeper decides they deserve a chance at having their own family and gives them an egg in need of nurturing. The dedicated and enthusiastic fathers do a great job of hatching their funny and adorable daughter, and the three can still be seen at the zoo today.

£7.32 available from Amazon UK, 4/07

This is Elizabeth's favourite!

Salat, Cristina. *Living in Secret*. Bantam Books, 1999

0553086707

978-0553086706.

Amelia was excited about escaping from her father's house to go live with her mother and her mom's lesbian lover in San Francisco. However, the 12-year-old soon discovers that having an assumed name, lying to her new friends about her past and negotiating

the maze of complications arising from her mom's lifestyle isn't as much fun as she thought it would be. But when her father finally hunts her down and forces her to return home, Amelia is able to draw strength from her experiences to make a difficult choice. This first novel tackles some hefty social issues including racism, homosexuality, lawbreaking, personal integrity and justice. Though Salat's carefully worded treatment generates options for the reader, her style is constrained and lacks spontaneity. Still, this is a courageous, thought-provoking and thorough foray into some tough, worthy concerns. Ages 9-12.  
Amazon Marketplace £4.57.

Snow, Judith E. *How It Feels to Have a Gay or Lesbian Parent: A Book by Kids for Kids of All Ages*. Harrington Park Press Inc., U.S., 2004  
1560234202  
978-1560234203.  
Book Description

This book gives voice to the thoughts, feelings and experiences of children, adolescents and young adults who have a gay or lesbian parent. In their own words, they talk openly and candidly about how and when they learned of their parents sexual orientation and the effect it had on them - and their families. The one-on-one interviews illustrate the effects of homophobia on family life. Children struggle with the choice between living in a closet, shamed by peers and family members, or dealing with discrimination. These are stories of acceptance and understanding.  
£6.25 (Paperback).

Sollie, Andre, and (Illustrator) Ingrid Godon. *Hello Sailor*. Macmillan Children's Books, 2004  
0333992903  
978-0333992906.  
Synopsis

Matt lives in a lighthouse. He watches the sea every day for ships and for his friend, Sailor. Rose and Felix say Sailor is never coming back, but Matt won't give up hope. Surely Sailor will come back for Matt's birthday? This gentle story of hope and friendship complemented by Ingrid Godon's subtle illustrations will charm every parent and child.

#### Customer review

I am a gay father of two little boys, and I was delighted with this book. My older son (5 years old) picked it out at the library, and I had no idea of the theme until I was reading it to him. I nearly cried when I realized that this is a sweet little love story about two men, and I loved the illustrations. My son, however, thought it was "boring" and that the pictures were "too dark." I can see how a five-year-old would think this, but I will be adding this book to my permanent collection. How refreshing to see a love story about two gay men that doesn't focus on their sexuality, but instead on their commitment to one another. I think this is an important children's story for any family with gay parents or straight parents.  
£2.20 Amazon Marketplace.

Valentine, Johnny. *The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans and Other Stories*. 2004  
1555838472  
978-1555838478.

Synopsis

A collection of five fairy tales about children with gay parents.  
£5.24 (Paperback).

Valentine, Johnny, and Lynette (Illustrator) Schmidt. *The Daddy Machine*. 2nd ed:  
Alyson Publications Inc.,U.S., 2004  
1555838464

978-1555838461.

Book Description

In a fantasy reminiscent of Dr. Seuss, two kids with lesbian mothers fantasize about what it would be like to have a father. When their mothers go away for the day, the kids make themselves a daddy machine, and soon they get their wish: they turn on the machine, and a dad pops out. Then comes another, and another, and another. The machine is great, but it is missing one thing - it doesn't have an OFF switch!

£5.74 [Paperback].

Valentine, Johnny, and (Illustrator) Melody Sarecky. *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dad*. Alyson Publications Inc.,U.S., 2004  
1555838480

978-1555838485.

Book Description

Two children - one with blue dads and one from a more traditional family - compare notes in this light hearted, easy-to-read book about parents who are different. In the end, of course, they discover that blue dads aren't really that different from other dads. Except for one thing.

£5.24 [Paperback].

Watson, Katy, and Vanda (Illustrator) Carter. *Spacegirl Pukes*. Onlywomen Press, 2006  
0906500877

978-0906500873.

Synopsis

Young spacegirl is especially lucky to have two mothers and a very curious cat nearby when rocket troubles and nausea begin.

£5.99 [Paperback].

Wickens, Elaine. *Anna Ray and the O-Ring*. Alyson Publications Inc.,U.S.  
1555832520

978-1555832520.

Customer review

Real photos of the Evan, his 2 moms, and their dog make this the favorite book of my 4 year old--and it has been for 2 years now! The 2-mom-family is so natural in the story that it makes a great book for a child to bring to pre-school during "family studies month." All the kids in my son's class loved the book, and any positive message on

family diversity is secondary to the story and subtle enough to be effective. This is still the best of all the gay/lesbian family kids' books I've found in my 4 year search.  
£7.94 sourced by Amazon UK.

Willhaite, Michael. *Daddy's Roommate*. Alyson Publications Inc., U.S., 1991  
1555831184  
978-1555831189.  
Synopsis

A young boy discusses his divorced father's new living situation, in which the father and his gay roommate share eating, doing chores, playing, loving, and living.

[This gentle book caused an uproar in the US in the 1990s, as did Lesléa Newman's *Heather Has Two Mommies*].

£5.66 [Paperback].

## **BOOKS ADDRESSING IDENTITY, INDIVIDUALITY AND DIFFERENCE**

Andreae, Giles, and Guy Parker-Rees. *Giraffes Can't Dance*. Orchard Books, 2001  
1841215651  
978-1841215655.

Amazon.co.uk Review

Gerald was a tall giraffe Whose neck was long and slim, But his knees were awfully bandy And his legs were rather thin. Every year Gerald dreads the great Jungle Dance, and feels ashamed that he cannot tango and two-step with the rest of the jungle animals. But then one day he realises that it doesn't matter that he is different from everyone else--its just that he needs a different tune to dance to. A lovely story, wittily illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees and told in rhyme by the award-winning author Giles Andreae, it has a stealth and humour that makes it perfect for reading aloud. *Giraffes Can't Dance* is a nifty little 1story that children and adults will love to read time and time again. (Ages 3 to 5 years)

£3.59 [Paperback].

Bateman, Teresa. *The Princesses Have a Ball*. Reprint ed: Albert Whitman & Company, 2005  
0807566284  
978-0807566282.

From School Library Journal, amazon.com (US)

Grade 1-4-In an athletic twist on "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," these nocturnal royal sisters are dancing around a basketball court (divided into two teams and two substitutes). It takes the clever cobbler to solve the mystery of their worn-out shoes and to come up with better footwear for these WNBA wanna-bes. "He designed a shoe/with a rubber sole,/and a high-topped edge/to stop ankle roll./He put arch supports/in the proper places,/and ditched pink ribbons/for sturdy laces." Finally, at a fancy dress ball, the princesses reveal their dribbling talents, which not only delight the king, but also inspire him to be their new referee. Bateman's verse uses wordplay and offers a fresh look at the beloved story. Cravath's cartoon pictures have just the right look, adding

amusing anachronistic features such as an airplane advertising a big reward while men in tights and women in ball gowns frolic below. Pair this inventive story with any of the more traditional versions for a fun look at classic tales and their retreads.

£3.49 (Paperback).

Cave, Kathryn, and (Illustrator) Chris Riddell. *Something Else*. New ed: Puffin Books, 1995

0140549072

978-0140549072.

Customer review

This story is about a 'something else' who is always different from everyone else, it wants so much to be the same but it is always different. Until the day it meets another something else! Something else finds it a bit hard to accept the new creature at first and then it realises that their differences are strengths and they become best friends. They met a human at the end of the story who really is a 'something else'! This story gently helps children understand how people can be different and shows them a way to accept others who are different to them.

£3.99 (Paperback).

Cole, Babette. *Princess Smartypants*. Puffin Books, 2002

0140555269

978-0140555264.

Customer review (Year 3 Amington Heath School, Tamworth, UK)

We are a year 3 class and have used Princess Smartypants in our literacy lessons. We think that the book Princess Smartypants has colourful and funky pictures, she is a strange princess, with horrid and enormous pets. But, overall Princess Smartypants is a fantastic and an exciting book.

£4.49.

Cole, Babette. *Long Live Princess Smartypants*. Puffin Books, 2005

0140569626

978-0140569629.

Synopsis

A modern fairy tale for the twenty-first century and a second adventure for the irrepressible and highly popular Princess Smartypants. Princess Smartypants has decided she'd like to have a baby but doesn't want the husband to go with it. The King and Queen will not hear of such a plan and attempt to take her mind off it by keeping her busy. However, a crackly telephone line and a mixed-up grocery list result in Smartypants getting the baby she wants - until she discovers he has super-human strength and begins to wreak havoc around the Royal palace. Perhaps looking after a baby on her own isn't going to be as easy as she thinks! However, the baby is seen by Princess Smartypants's enemy, Prince Rottenghnut, as a pawn in a plot to get his revenge and is duly kidnapped. Princess Smartypants launches a counter-attack to rescue her baby - will she see her baby again?

£4.49 (Paperback).

Cole, Babette. *Prince Cinders*. Puffin Books, 1997

0140555250

978-0140555257.

Synopsis

Prince Cinders leads a hard life, he spends all his time cleaning up after his three brothers who bully him. One night, Prince Cinders' luck changes as a small, dirty fairy falls down the chimney and promises that his wishes shall come true. However, not all the fairy's spells turn out as planned.

£3.99 [Paperback].

de Paola, Tomie. *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*. Harcourt Publishers Ltd, 1990

0156681404

978-0156681407.

Customer review

This book just great. It has my childhood summed up completely. There are few books which deal with being a boy in the rough world, as well as this one. You see Oliver B. doesn't like basket ball, or volley ball, or any kind of ball. So he ends up going to tap dance classes. Well, after a lot of teasing there is a talent show in which he loses! There is a really neat end to the story though. I read it to my Year 2 class every year.

£3.45 [Paperback].

Fierstein, Harvey, and (Illustrator) Henry Cole. *The Sissy Duckling*. Simon & Schuster Inc, 2002

0689835663

978-0689835667.

Book Description

Illustrated by Henry Cole Adapted from an award-winning HBO animated special written by 3-time Tony Award-winning playwright and actor Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Bullets over Broadway*), this is a heart-warming tale about learning to embrace the special qualities we possess. Instead of building forts and playing sports like other boy ducklings, Elmer wants to bake cakes and put on the halftime show. He is great a big sissy. But when his father is wounded by a hunter, Elmer proves that the biggest sissy can also be the greatest hero'

£11.99 (library binding).

Fine, Anne. *Up on Cloud Nine*. Corgi, 2006

0552554650

978-0552554657.

Amazon.co.uk Review

Anne Fine's *Up On Cloud Nine* is possibly one of the best books you will ever read. Character-led, beautifully crafted, uplifting and life-affirming, Fine's masterpiece tells the story of a deep friendship between two boys, Stolly and Ian. The pair are introduced to the reader at the point where the accident-prone Stolly is lying unconscious in a hospital bed having survived a rather spectacular plummet to the ground from a very high window. Age 9 and over.

£3.99 [Paperback].

Gardner, Graham. *Inventing Elliot*. Orion Children's Books, 2004  
1842552082

978-1842552087.

Customer review

I took *Inventing Elliot* from my school book club, with the intention of simply having something to read every now and then. However, after the first chapter, I couldn't put it down! *Inventing Elliot* is a chilling but fully believable story about a boy who is violently bullied at his school. However, even though the majority of the book was brilliant, the ending was rather disappointing. It builds up and builds up but then it all happens too quickly. I got to the last page and turned it over, expecting more, to find only a blank sheet! Despite this one set-back, *Inventing Elliot* is a fantastic read and I can sincerely recommend it to all those in the 13 to infinity age bracket!  
£4.49 [Paperback].

Gardner, Sally. *The Strongest Girl in the World*. Orion Children's Books, 1999  
1858816491

978-1858816494.

Book Description

What happens when a small girl finds she can lift something as big as a bus?  
£3.99 (Paperback).

Garland, Sarah. *Pass It, Polly*. Puffin Books, 1995  
0140555218

978-0140555219.

Customer review

Belmont Primary is to field a football team - and Polly and Nisha are completely humiliated as the only girls in the practice match. Trying to do something to improve their skills isn't easy, until they discover that Nisha's grandfather used to play football. On with the coaching! Appropriate football vocabulary is used; Polly and Nisha get stuck in and the boys have to learn respect. Sarah Garland's cheerful, casual, detailed style of illustration delights from start to finish and female football gets a boost.  
Available via Amazon Marketplace.

Giles Andreae, David Wojtowycz (Illustrator), and £4.79 [Paperback]. *The Lion Who Wanted to Love*. New ed: Orchard Books, 2007

1846162726

978-1846162725.

Synopsis

Deep in the African heartland/Way out on the hot sunny plains,/There lived a small lion who didn't fit in/And Leo was this lion's name. All Leo wants is to love and hug his fellow lions, but his mother tells him that if he can't learn to hunt he has no place in the pride. So Leo is all alone.until out in the wide world he meets lots of animals who appreciate his love, hug and help. Soon he has a whole pride of his own, made up of all his friends. Even the other lions appreciate Leo's love in the end. This funny, touching rhyming text is wonderfully brought to life by Hugh Laurie with accompanying jungle music and sound effects.

£6.39.

Harris, Robie H, and (Illustrator) Michael Emberley. *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex & Sexual Health*. 10 ed: Candlewick Press (MA), 2004  
0763624330

978-0763624330.

Customer review

This is the best sexuality education book for children I've seen (I have been looking at many). Visually, the book presents extremely well -- it's in colour throughout, has enjoyable pictures (coloured pencil drawings), and is not afraid of using nudity in pictures. The attitudes expressed are excellent, beginning with the bird and bee characters expressing different feelings about learning about sexuality -- the bird finds everything fascinating and is very positive towards learning more; the bee feels more hesitant, wanting time to feel ready. The positive attitude towards nudity I've mentioned already; the attitudes towards (for example) homosexuality, non-nuclear families, race, and masturbation demonstrate an acceptance of difference, a respect for others, and a positive attitude to it all.

£4.94.

Hobbie, Nathaniel. *Priscilla and the Pink Planet*. Little Brown and Company, 2004  
0316735795

978-0316735797.

Book Description

Priscilla lives on a planet where everything is pink. 'Pink, pink, pink!' she cries with fright. 'Pink to the left and pink to the right!' Priscilla dreams of seeing the world in other colors and ends up teaching the Great Queen of Pink that diversity leads to true beauty. Told in lyrical verse, here is a clever read-aloud that is sure to become a modern classic.

£7.23.

Magorian, Michelle, and (Illustrator) Jan Ormerod. *Jump*. Walker Books, 2002  
0744589614

978-0744589610.

Synopsis

Every Saturday Steven watches his sister at her ballet class - jumping and dancing - and he longs to join in. But his mother says that real boys don't dance; they play games like basketball. However, there's one skill that you need for both ballet and basketball - and, fortunately for Steven, it's the thing that he loves doing best! Michelle Magorian says her inspiration for *Jump!* came from the comments people used to make about her eldest son when he was still in nappies, saying "I was surprised to hear people talking about all the "boyish" activities he would take part in when he was older and thought, 'What if my son preferred dance to rugby?'"

£4.99 [Paperback].

Munsch, Robert. *The Paper Bag Princess*. New ed: Scholastic, 2003  
0439973406  
978-0439973403.

This review is by Class 3/2 from Westfield First School Hertfordshire

The Paperbag princess is an adventurous story for all ages! The story is funny, with lots of action and it is not like any other Princess story because Elizabeth is very brave and clever. We start in a castle and end in a cave. You will have to see if it is a 'happy ever after' by reading the book yourself.

£3.99 (Paperback).

Newman, Lesléa. *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle, 2004  
1582461015  
978-1582461014.

Synopsis

To Roger, the world is a wonder, full of details that one just simply cant rush by. But his parents have an entirely different view, and they expect Roger to see things the way they do. Vibrant illustrations punctuate this rhyming tale about a boy who just cant stop smelling the roses.

£12.99 + £1.99 sourcing fee [Hardcover].

Singer, Nicky. *Feather Boy*. Collins, 2002  
0007120265  
978-0007120260.

Nicky Singer's Feather Boy is more than just a story about bullying. It's bigger than that. It's about finding your voice, shouting from the rooftops about something you believe in, refusing to back down, helping a friend and never giving up. It's enormously uplifting, accomplished and satisfying. (Age 10 and over)

£4.19 [Paperback].

Skutch, Robert. *Who's in a Family?* Tricycle Press,U.S., 1998  
0552554650  
978-0552554657.

Customer review

This book describes different types of families: single parents, lesbian and gay parents, grandparent carers, step families and multi-race families. These are interspersed with different types of animal families. The implicit message is that all are normal constructions, without labouring the point. It includes a section at the back for children to draw a picture of their family members. Probably most appropriate for 5-8yrs. It will hold attention because the script is brief and the illustrations are beautiful.

£6.29 [Paperback].

U'Ren, Andrea. *Pugdog*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2001  
0374361495  
978-0374361495.

A gargoyle-faced puppy grins from the appealing dust jacket of U'Ren's debut, inviting dog lovers to hear its story. This is the fawn-brown, muscular Pugdog, who drools incessantly and loves romping in the dirt. Pugdog looks tough and always wants to play.

One day at the vet's, "Pugdog didn't whimper once as the vet removed a long splinter. 'He's such a good boy!' said [Pugdog's owner] Mike proudly. 'He?' asked the vet. 'She! Pugdog's a she! See?' " Mike's attitude toward his pet quickly changes. Pugdog finds her black spiked collar replaced by ribbons and a leash (" 'Like a real lady,' as Mike would say"), when what she really wants is to be a "big, slobbering mess" at the park. U'Ren shows how Mike's sensibilities are shaken when his girl dog gets muddy, and again when an immaculately coifed white poodle turns out to be male. "I can see I'm the one who has a lot to learn!" Mike moans at the conclusion, slapping his forehead. The author-illustrator's winsome portraits make the wiggly, wrinkly Pugdog resemble both a pug and a bulldog; aficionados of snub-nosed, bulging-eyed breeds will find these images hilarious. And U'Ren's marvelous pictures underscore the message that traditional gender roles need not apply. Ages 3-6.  
Amazon - AVAILABLE USED £30.55.

Wilson, Jacqueline, and (Illustrator) David Roberts. *My Brother Bernadette*. Egmont Books, 2001  
0749742232  
978-0749742232.

#### Synopsis

Sara tries to take care of her younger brother when he is teased and called Bernadette at summer camp, but he finds an activity that he enjoys and that gives him the chance to shed his new nickname for good.  
£3.99 [Paperback].

Zolotow, Charlotte. *William's Doll*. HarperCollins Publishers, 1972  
0060270470  
978-0060270476.  
Customer review

An oddly tender tale about a boy and his desire to own a doll of his own. Books that break stereotypes rarely do it as intelligently and simply as Charlotte Zolotow's remarkable, "William's Doll". Usually if a picture book has something to say, it'll announce the fact to you with great pomp and flair, and maybe a little more pomp. It'll take its message and shove it down your throat, attempting to cram every little bit of lesson into you. This is not the case with this book. In "William's Doll" you've a delicate tale told in such a way that its message, while remaining very powerful, is spoken in a small quiet voice.  
£7.31.

## **ACADEMIC TEXTS: AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON UK**

**Playing It Straight (Changing Images of Early Childhood)** Mindy Blaise  
Routledge, 2005  
ISBN: 0415951143  
978-0415951142

£17.99(Paperback)

Synopsis

This thought-provoking study challenges the usefulness of existing parameters for assessing and describing the development of children in early education settings, and shows how notions of developmentally appropriate practices exclude vitally important social and political constructs of gender. By repositioning gender at the centre of our view of children's interactions and emotional, physical, intellectual and social development, Blaise highlights the imbalance of power in the classroom and the continually shifting performances and understanding of young children's awareness of gender and gender roles. Insightful and inspiring for classroom practitioners, this book will also be of interest to anyone concerned with child development, gender studies, feminist and queer studies, and all those fascinated by the socialization of our children.

**Schooling Sexualities** Debbie Epstein and Richard Johnson

Open University Press, 1998

ISBN: 0335195369

978-0335195367

£23.74 (Paperback)

Synopsis

In "Schooling Sexualities", Debbie Epstein and Richard Johnson bring together contemporary debates about sexuality with the study of schooling. They pose controversial questions. How far is schooling influenced by wider public debates and scandals about sexuality? How can we understand the role and limits of moral traditionalism? What has the impact of feminism and the lesbian and gay movement been? How have these radical influences been recuperated? What part does schooling play in the production of sexual and other identities? Why is sex education in schools so 'impossible'? What are the strategies for improving it? They have written the first sustained study of these questions - accessible, engaging and argumentative. This will be a key text for teachers and policy makers, for those concerned with sexual and educational politics and for students of sexuality, gender, cultural studies and the history and sociology of education.

**Silenced Sexualities in Schools and Universities** Debbie Epstein, Sarah O'Flynn and David Telford

Trentham Books Ltd, 2003.

ISBN: 185856249X

978-1858562490

£11.21 (Paperback)

Synopsis

This study deals with sexuality in all phases of formal education, from early years to university. It presents a review of the literature across the phases and combines it with original research by each author. It examines the naturalization of heterosexuality in educational settings and the playing out of sexualities in relation to other differences that make a difference, exploring the interrelations of sexuality, dis/ability, race, class

and gender. A key theme is the way sexualities are manufactured in and by schools and universities. The individually written chapters, "wrapped" in the collaboratively written introduction and conclusion, deal with: the primary phase - the informal curriculum of classroom and playground; sex education and compulsory heterosexuality in primary schools; emergent sexualities in secondary schools; disability, achievement, market and sexuality; post-compulsory education, post compulsory heterosexuality, transitions to university; and the hidden curriculum of higher education - possibilities, locations and the gay scene. This book makes an original contribution to the literature on equality - or inequality - of opportunity and on sexuality. It should interest researchers, academics and teachers.

**Challenging Lesbian and Gay Inequalities in Education** Debbie Epstein (editor)

Open University Press, 1994.

ISBN: 0335191304

978-0335191307

Amazon marketplace

This work is concerned with developing education for social justice and challenging inequalities in society. Through a series of historically-located articles ranging from personal stories, through examples of "good practice", to theoretical analyses of the interweaving of heterosexism, sexism and racism, the work traces the ways in which oppressions are constructed and played out within and through the system of schooling and through education policies. The majority of contributors are lesbian or gay activists and educators. The work should be of interest to those involved in the education system and in studying education, and to those interested in cultural studies, gender and the study of masculinity, lesbian and gay studies, sociology and women's studies.

**Queering Elementary Education: Advancing the Dialogue About Sexualities and Schooling** William J. Letts and James T. Sears (Editors)

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1999.

ISBN: 0847693694

978-0847693696

£20.99 (Paperback)

Synopsis

This volume assembles a range of writers from diverse backgrounds and geographies to examine five broadly-defined areas in elementary education: foundational issues; social and sexual development; curriculum; the family; and gay/lesbian educators and their allies. It seeks to provide scholarly insights, pedagogical strategies, and curricular resources for use in schools. At the core of the book is the belief that public school educators have the responsibility to affirm sexual diversity in an intellectually honest and age-appropriate manner, respectful of various religious and moral beliefs, and mindful of the reciprocal relationship between theory and practice.

**Gender in Early Childhood** Nicola Yelland

Routledge Falmer, 1998

ISBN: 041515409X

978-0415154093

£24.99 (Paperback)

#### Book Description

This book will explore the ways in which young children perceive themselves and are viewed by others in terms of their gendered identities as individuals and as members of society. It considers research from a variety of perspectives in the context of home/family and school. Topics covered include: \* the construction of gender from the time the child is conceived \* the politics of category membership \* analyses of play and art making \* young children's experiences with technology \* the influence of popular culture on the body image \* gender equity policies in early childhood education \* understanding sexual orientation. An examination and reflection of the issues will enable educators to improve their practice and have a greater understanding of the families and the children whom they teach. The diverse range and content of the research will make this book a valuable resource for all those interested in the education of young children. This book covers the issue of gender expectations of children with disabilities, and also discusses young children's experiences with technology and the ways in which they feel about their bodies. This book will be of great interest to all early childhood educators who are concerned about the ways in which the home and school impact on the lives of young children in terms of how they view themselves and how others view them. Trainee teachers will find this book helpful in developing their own attitudes, understandings and behaviours in relation to gender equity and young children.

**The Amazon site ([www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)) has been used to track down bibliographic details, for prices and, unless otherwise stated, for the book descriptions.**

**All the books on the list should be available from Amazon (UK or USA), Gays the Word, London ([gays.theword@virgin.net](mailto:gays.theword@virgin.net)), and the Norfolk Children's Book Centre ([www.ncbc.co.uk](http://www.ncbc.co.uk)).**

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