

# LGBTQ Characters or Themes: Books for Young Adults

Listed below are books for young adults that have gay and/or lesbian characters or themes. These books vary in the difficulty of both the text and the content. Not all books are appropriate for all readers. (Annotations from Library of Congress).

Brothers, Meagan. *Debbie Harry Sings in French*. When Johnny goes to live with his uncle in North Carolina, he meets Maria, who seems to understand his fascination with the new wave band Blondie, and he learns about his deceased father's youthful forays into "glam rock."

Dole, Mayra Lazara. *Down to the bone*. Laura is thrown out of her house when her mother discovers she is a lesbian, but after trying to change her heart and hide from the truth, Laura finally comes to terms with who she is and learns to love and respect herself.

Ferris, Jean. *Eight Seconds*. Eighteen-year-old John must confront his own sexuality when he goes to rodeo school and finds himself strangely attracted to an older boy who is smart, tough, complicated, gorgeous, and gay.

Freymann-Weyr, Garret. *My Heartbeat*. As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, fourteen-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing.

Frost, Helen. *Keesha's House*. Seven teens facing such problems as pregnancy, closeted homosexuality, and abuse each describe in poetic forms what caused them to leave home and where they found home again.

*The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Other Identities*. Edited by David Levithan and Billy Merrell. A collection of original poems, essays, and stories by young adults in their teens and early twenties explores many sexual issues, including coming out, first kisses, break-ups, religion/faith, and friendship. **306.766 FUL**

Hartinger, Brent. *Geography Club*. A group of gay and lesbian teenagers finds mutual support when they form the "Geography Club" at their high school.

Hartinger, Brent. *Order of the Poison Oak*. After "coming out" at school, sixteen-year-old Russel decides to take a counselor job at a camp for burn victims to get away from the antagonism of his classmates, but finds ten-year-old boys have just as many problems as he does.

Howe, James. *Totally Joe*. As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphabiography--life from A to Z--and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.

Katcher, Brian. *Almost Perfect*. With his mother working long hours and in pain from a romantic break-up, eighteen-year-old Logan feels alone and unloved until a zany new student who keeps a big secret arrives at his small-town Missouri high school.

Kerr, M.E. *Deliver Us from Evie*. Sixteen-year-old Parr Burrman and his family face some difficult times when word spreads through their rural Missouri town that his older sister is a lesbian, and she leaves the family farm to live with the daughter of the town's banker.

Koertge, Ron. **Boy Girl Boy**. Three troubled high school seniors, who plan to run away together from Illinois to California after graduation, try to figure out who they are and who they want to be.

LaRochelle, David. **Absolutely, Positively Not**. Chronicles a teenage boy's humorous attempts to fit in at his Minnesota high school by becoming a macho, girl-loving, "Playboy" pinup-displaying heterosexual.

Levithan, David. **Boy Meets Boy**. When Paul falls hard for Noah, he thinks he has found his one true love, but when Noah walks out of his life, Paul has to find a way to get him back and make everything right once more.

Myracle, Lauren. **Kissing Kate**. Sixteen-year-old Lissa's relationship with her best friend changes after they kiss at a party and Lissa does not know what to do, until she gets help from an unexpected new friend.

Peters, Julie Anne. **Grl2grl**. Features several short stories portraying teens and their issues with relationships and sexual identity. A lesbian attempting to come out, strangers meeting on a train, and a girl with an abusive father try to discover the secrets of love, dating, family, and a sense of self.

Peters, Julie Anne. **Luna**. Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

Ryan, P.E. **Saints of Augustine**. In St. Augustine, Florida, Charlie Perrin and Sam Findley, now both sixteen, realize that their friendship is the only thing that will keep them afloat when each of their worlds is turned upside down through death, divorce, and the out-of-control direction of their lives.

Yates, Bart. **Leave Myself Behind**. Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

List compiled by Diane Linenbroker

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