

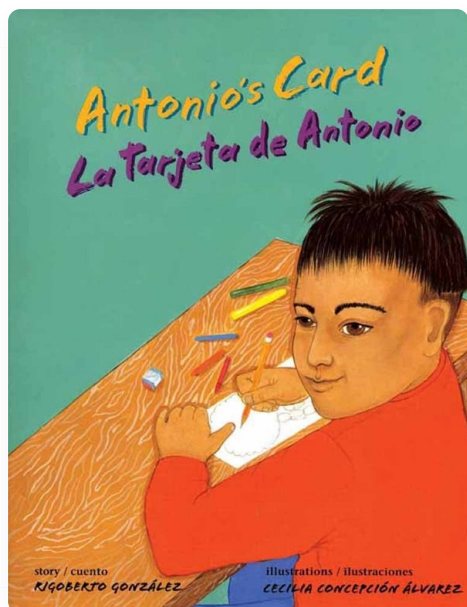
3rd-5th Grade Booklist

All the books on this list are included in the 2026-2027 School Year Rainbow Library collection. With each title is a full-text review, along with the awards the title has won. We encourage you to use this information when making book recommendations to students or when discussing these titles with families or other school staff.



Rainbow Library books are selected based on reviews from major journals, such as School Library Journal, Kirkus, and Booklist Reviews, and feedback from hundreds of educators and school librarians who previously received Rainbow Library sets. The grade range for each title follows School Library Journal (or, if unavailable, another reputable journal). Nearly all these titles have won awards or been featured on reputable lists, such as the American Library Association (ALA) Rainbow Book List.

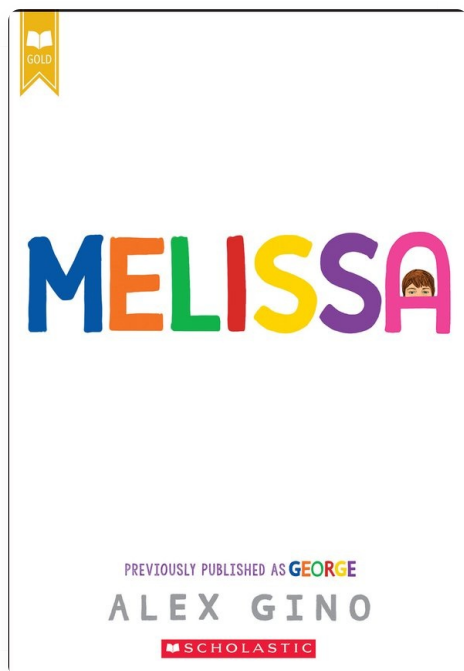
To purchase LGBTQ+ affirming titles for grades K-12, please visit **bookshop.org/shop/RainbowLibrary**. A portion of proceeds goes back to supporting this program.



Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio (bilingual)

Rigoberto González (Author), Cecilia Álvarez (Illustrated by)

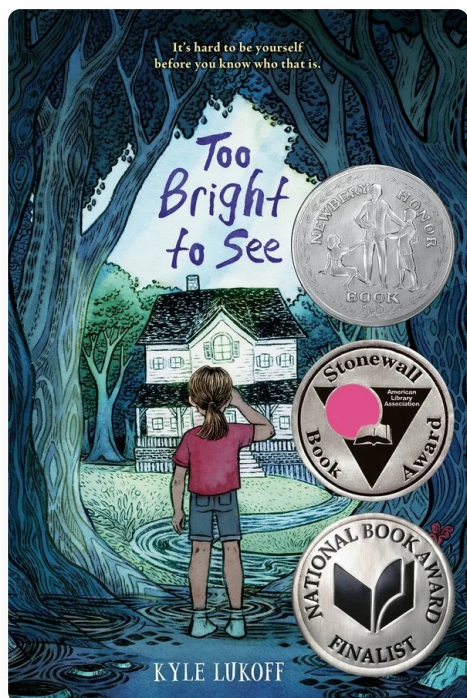
Bilingual English/Spanish. A tender story about a boy struggling to express his love for his mother and her partner in a nontraditional family. Antonio loves words, because words have the power to express feelings like love, pride, or hurt. Mother's Day is coming soon, and Antonio searches for the words to express his love for his mother and her partner, Leslie. But he's not sure what to do when his classmates make fun of Leslie, an artist, who towers over everyone and wears paint-splattered overalls. As Mother's Day approaches, Antonio must choose whether – or how – to express his connection to both of the special women in his life. Rigoberto González's bilingual story about a nontraditional family resonates with all children who have been faced with speaking up for themselves or for the people they love. Cecilia Concepción Álvarez's paintings bring the tale to life in tender, richly hued detail.



Melissa

Alex Gino (Author)

When people look at Melissa, they think they see a boy named George. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. Melissa thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. Melissa really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, Melissa comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte – but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.



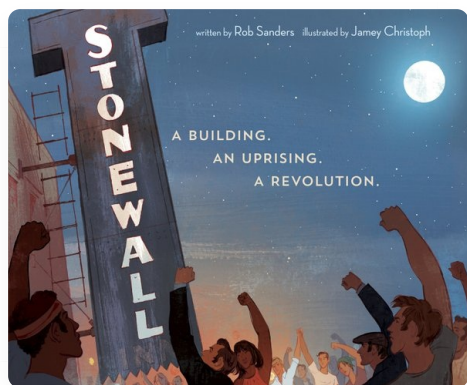
Too Bright to See

Kyle Lukoff (Author)

A National Book Award Finalist

Newbery Honor Award Winner

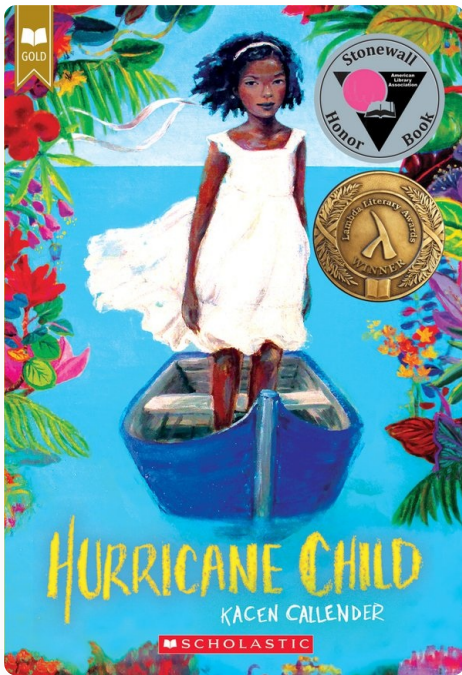
It's the summer before middle school and eleven-year-old Bug's best friend Moira has decided the two of them need to use the next few months to prepare. For Moira, this means figuring out the right clothes to wear, learning how to put on makeup, and deciding which boys are cuter in their yearbook photos than in real life. But none of this is all that appealing to Bug, who doesn't particularly want to spend more time trying to understand how to be a girl. Besides, there's something more important to worry about: A ghost is haunting Bug's eerie old house in rural Vermont...and maybe haunting Bug in particular. As Bug begins to untangle the mystery of who this ghost is and what they're trying to say, an altogether different truth comes to light—Bug is transgender.



Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution.

**Rob Sanders (Author), Jamey Christoph
(Illustrated by)**

A powerful and timeless true story that will allow young readers to discover the rich and dynamic history of the Stonewall Inn and its role in the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement—a movement that continues to this very day. In the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969, the Stonewall Inn was raided by police in New York City. Though the inn had been raided before, that night would be different. It would be the night when empowered members of the LGBTQ+ community—in and around the Stonewall Inn—began to protest and demand their equal rights as citizens of the United States. Movingly narrated by the Stonewall Inn itself, and featuring stirring and dynamic illustrations, *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution* is an essential and empowering civil rights story that every child deserves to hear.



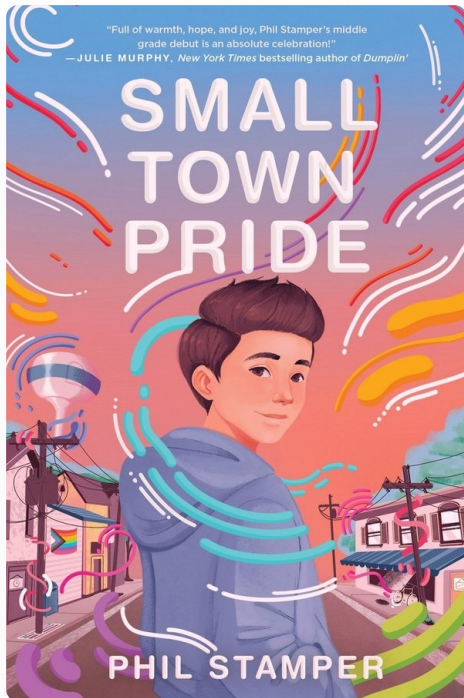
Hurricane Child

Kacen Callender (Author)

Winner of the Stonewall Book Award

Winner of the Lambda Literary Award

Caroline Murphy is a Hurricane Child. Being born during a hurricane is unlucky, and 12-year-old Caroline has had her share of bad luck lately. She's hated and bullied by everyone in her small school on St. Thomas of the US Virgin Islands, a spirit only she can see won't stop following her, and – worst of all – Caroline's mother left home one day and never came back. But when a new student named Kalinda arrives, Caroline's luck begins to turn around. Kalinda, a solemn girl from Barbados with a special smile for everyone, becomes Caroline's first and only friend – and the person for whom Caroline has begun to develop a crush. Now, Caroline must find the strength to confront her feelings for Kalinda, brave the spirit stalking her through the islands, and face the reason her mother abandoned her. Together, Caroline and Kalinda must set out in a hurricane to find Caroline's missing mother – before Caroline loses her forever.



Small Town Pride

Phil Stamper (Author)

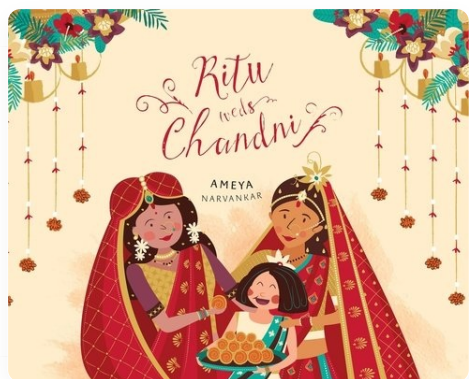
An ALA Rainbow List Pick

A 2022 Goodreads Choice Awards Finalist for Best Middle Grade and Children's Book

A School Library Journal Best Book of 2022

A Maine Student Book Award 2023-2024 Reading List Nominee

Jake is just starting to enjoy life as his school's first openly gay kid. While his family and friends are accepting and supportive, the same can't be said about everyone in their small town of Barton Springs, Ohio. When Jake's dad hangs a comically large pride flag in their front yard in an overblown show of love, the mayor begins to receive complaints. A few people are even concerned the flag will lead to something truly outlandish: a pride parade. Except Jake doesn't think that's a ridiculous idea. Why can't they hold a pride festival in Barton Springs? The problem is, Jake knows he'll have to get approval from the town council, and the mayor won't be on his side. And as Jake and his friends try to find a way to bring Pride to Barton Springs, it seems suspicious that the mayor's son, Brett, suddenly wants to spend time with Jake. But someone that cute couldn't possibly be in league with his mayoral mother, could he?



Ritu Weds Chandni

Ameya Narvankar (Author)

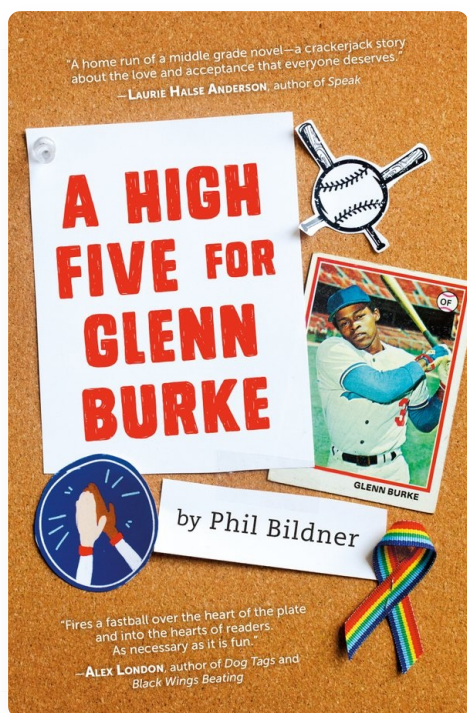
A Kirkus Reviews' Best Picture Book of 2020

A 2021 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People

A 2021 ALA Rise: A Feminist Book Project's Top Ten Book

A 2021 South Asia Book Award Honor Book

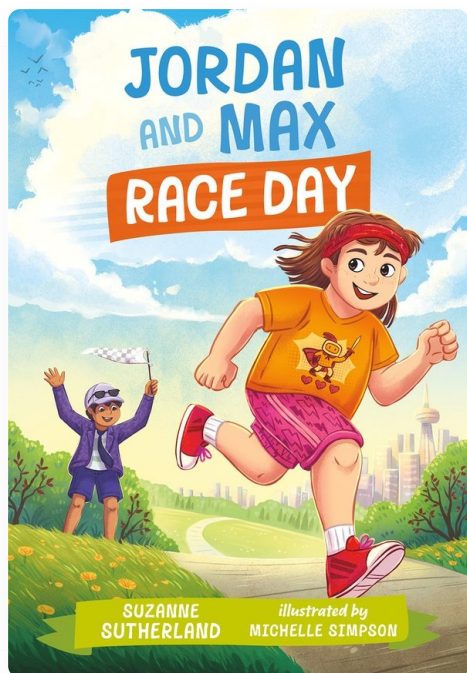
Ayesha is excited to attend her cousin Ritu's wedding. She can't wait to dance at the baraat ceremony! But not everyone is happy that Ritu is marrying her girlfriend Chandni. Some have even vowed to stop the celebrations. Will Ayesha be able to save her cousin's big day? Centering Ayesha's love for her cousin as much as it showcases Ritu and Chandni's love for each other, this warmhearted debut from Ameya Narvankar celebrates the power of young voices to stand up against prejudice and bigotry.



A High Five for Glenn Burke

Phil Bildner (Author)

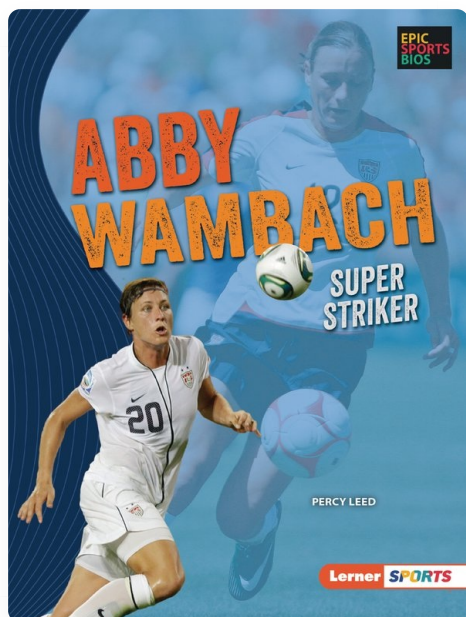
When sixth grader Silas Walker does a school presentation on former Major League Baseball player Glenn Burke, it's more than just a report on the inventor of the high five. Burke was a black gay baseball player in the 1970s—and for Silas, the presentation is his own first baby step toward coming out as gay. Soon he tells his best friend Zoey, but the longer he keeps his secret from his baseball teammates, the more he suspects they know something's up. Kids get pulled from the team, fingers point at Silas, and he stages one big cover-up with terrible consequences. Was it a mistake to share his truth? *A High Five for Glenn Burke* is Phil Bildner's most personal novel yet, and drives home the message that there's no one way to come out—and there's a place in the field for everyone.



Jordan and Max, Race Day

Suzanne Sutherland (Author), Michelle Simpson (Illustrated by)

When Max tells Jordan that their school's end-of-year carnival will include the Massey Obstacle Olympics, Jordan is super excited. He's been jogging with his grandmother and dreaming of the chance to be in a real race. Even though chatter at school does make the obstacle course sound intimidating, and the new kid, Ivan, is trying to scare him off, Jordan knows that, with Max as his coach, he's ready for anything. When it rains on the day of the carnival, Max starts panicking. Then Ivan shows up wearing fancy new cleats and Jordan begins to wonder if he's up for the challenge. But during the race, Jordan finds out that help can come from unlikely places—and new friendships can blossom when you least expect them. This is the third book from Suzanne Sutherland featuring Jordan and Max, following *Jordan and Max: Showtime* and *Jordan and Max, Field Trip!*



Abby Wambach: Super Striker

Percy Leed (Author)

Soccer superstar Abby Wambach grew up playing sports with her six older brothers and sisters. They helped her become one of the world's best athletes. Wambach and Team USA won two Olympic gold medals and the 2015 Women's World Cup. In 2013, she became the all-time leading scorer in international soccer history. Find out more about Wambach's life and incredible career.