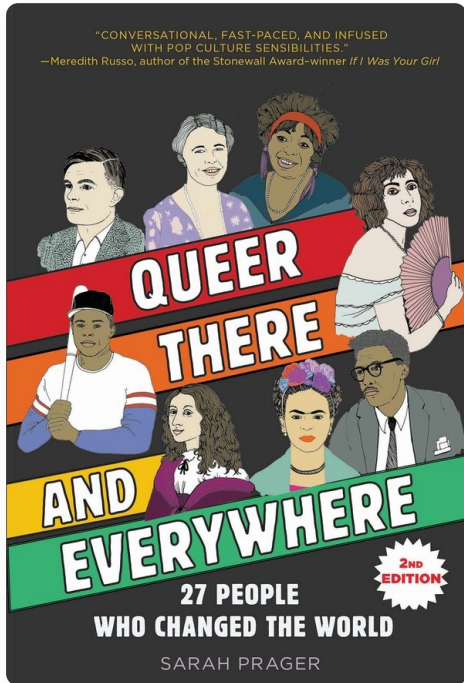


6th-8th Grade Booklist

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.

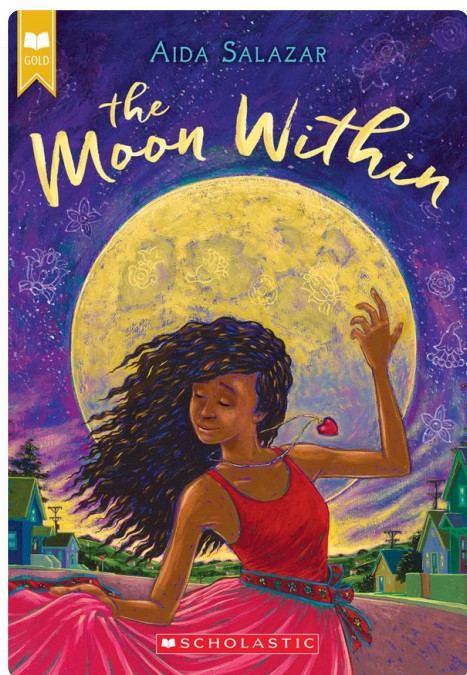
To purchase LGBTQ+ affirming titles for grades K-12, please visit **bookshop.org/shop/RainbowLibrary**. A portion of proceeds goes back to supporting this program.



Queer, There, and Everywhere: 27 People Who Changed the World

Sarah Prager (Author), Zoe More O'Ferrall (Illustrated by)

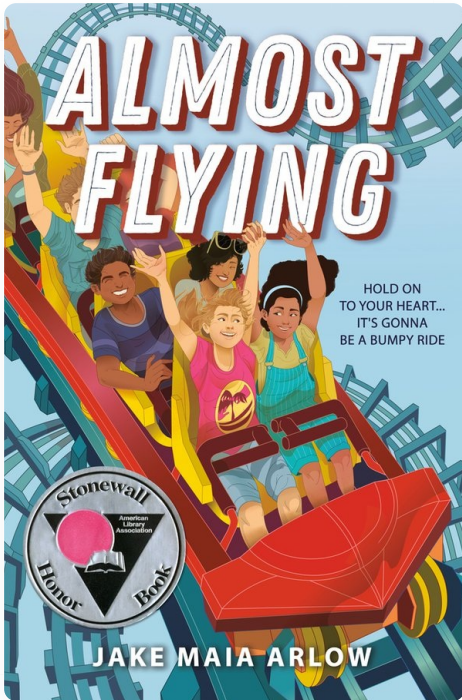
World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals—and you've likely never heard of many of them. Queer author and activist Sarah Prager delves deep into the lives of 27 people who fought, created, and loved on their own terms. From high-profile figures like Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt to the trailblazing gender-ambiguous Queen of Sweden and a bisexual blues singer who didn't make it into your history books, these astonishing true stories uncover a rich queer heritage that encompasses every culture, in every era. By turns hilarious and inspiring, the beautifully illustrated *Queer, There, and Everywhere* is for anyone who wants the real story of the queer rights movement.



The Moon Within

Aida Salazar (Author)

Celi Rivera's life swirls with questions. About her changing body. Her first attraction to a boy. And her best friend's exploration of what it means to be genderfluid. But most of all, her mother's insistence she have a moon ceremony when her first period arrives. It's an ancestral Mexica ritual that Mima and her community have reclaimed, but Celi promises she will NOT be participating. Can she find the power within herself to take a stand for who she wants to be? A dazzling story in verse told with the sensitivity, humor, and brilliant verse of debut talent Aida Salazar.

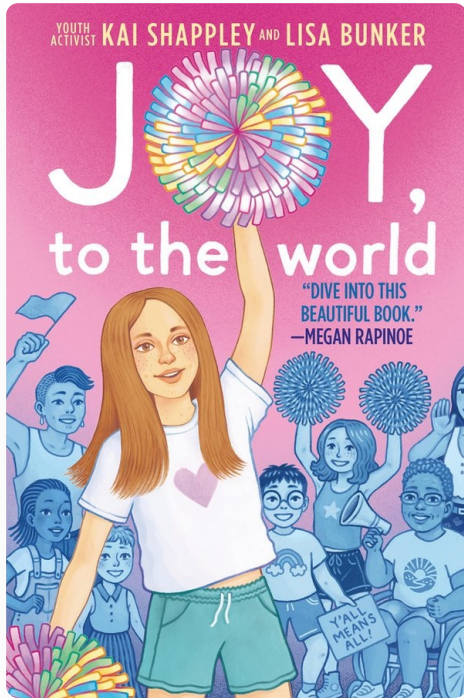


Almost Flying

Jake Maia Arlow (Author)

A Stonewall Honor Book

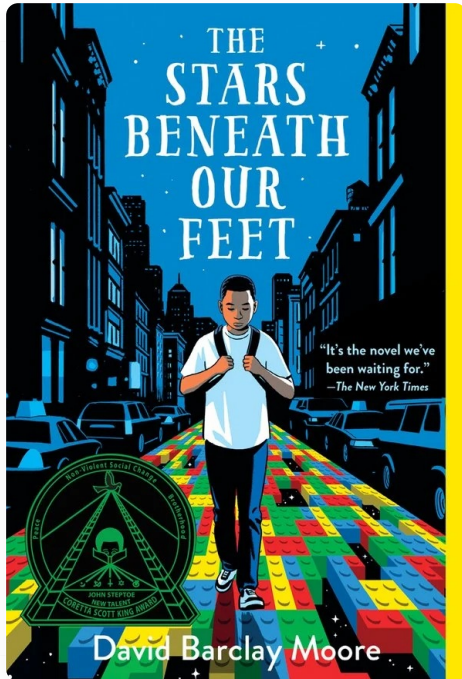
Would-be amusement park aficionado Dalia only has two items on her summer bucket list: (1) finally ride a roller coaster and (2) figure out how to make a new best friend. But when her dad suddenly announces that he's engaged, Dalia's schemes come to a screeching halt. With Dalia's future stepsister Alexa heading back to college soon, the grown-ups want the girls to spend the last weeks of summer bonding—meaning Alexa has to cancel the amusement park road trip she's been planning for months. Luckily Dalia comes up with a new plan: If she joins Alexa on her trip and brings Rani, the new girl from her swim team, along maybe she can have the perfect summer after all. But what starts out as a week of funnel cakes and Lazy River rides goes off the rails when Dalia discovers that Alexa's girlfriend is joining the trip. And keeping Alexa's secret makes Dalia realize one of her own: She might have more-than-friend feelings for Rani.



Joy, to the World: A Middle Grade Novel About Trans Joy and Fighting to Cheer for Kids

Kai Shappley (Author) and Lisa Bunker (Author)

A young Dumplin' meets Melissa in this joyful and energetic middle grade novel about a twelve-year-old girl living her life to the fullest, celebrating her love for sports and fighting for her right to cheer. Joy, a twelve-year-old trans girl, just moved to Texas with her mother and older brother. Her family has accepted Joy as the girl she is early in her transition, with little fuss, leaving Joy to explore her love of sports, competition, teamwork, school spirit, and worship. But when she is told she's off the cheerleading team, Joy wants to fight for her right to cheer. As her battle with the school board picks up momentum, Joy attracts support from kids all around the country . . . she even gets the attention of her hero, trans activist Kai Shappley. Inspired by Kai's own life, Joy, to the World is a timely story of living life to the fullest, celebrating and centering trans joy, courage, and resilience.



The Stars Beneath Our Feet

David Barclay Moore (Author)

A New York Times Notable Book

A Time Top 10 Children's Books of the Year

A Boston Globe Best Children's Book of the Year

A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year

A Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of the Year

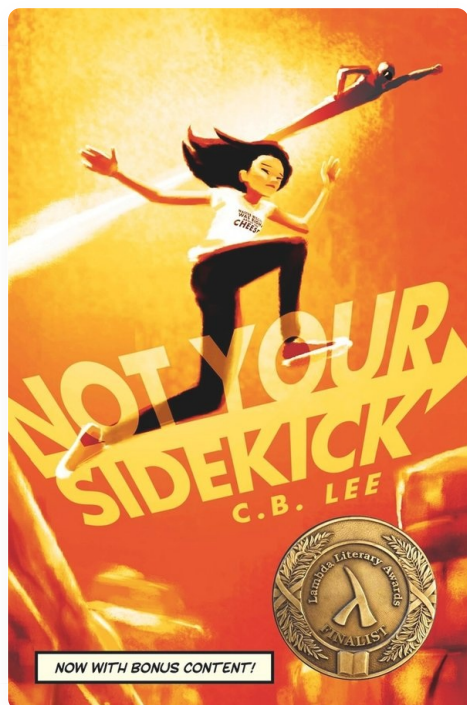
A Shelf Awareness Best Children's Book of the Year

An ALA-YALSA Quick Pick

An ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book

Winner of the Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe Award for New Talent

It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward. His path isn't clear—and the pressure to join a "crew," as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a fantastical Lego city at the community center provides Lolly with an escape—and an unexpected bridge back to the world. David Barclay Moore paints a powerful portrait of a boy teetering on the edge—of adolescence, of grief, of violence—and shows how Lolly's inventive spirit helps him build a life with firm foundations and open doors.



Not Your Sidekick

C.B. Lee (Author)

Welcome to Andover, where superpowers are common, but internships are complicated. Just ask high school nobody, Jessica Tran. Despite her heroic lineage, Jess is resigned to a life without superpowers and is merely looking to beef up her college applications when she stumbles upon the perfect (paid!) internship—only it turns out to be for the town’s most heinous supervillain. On the upside, she gets to work with her longtime secret crush, Abby, whom Jess thinks may have a secret of her own. Then there's the budding attraction to her fellow intern, the mysterious “M,” who never seems to be in the same place as Abby. But what starts as a fun way to spite her superhero parents takes a sudden and dangerous turn when she uncovers a plot larger than heroes and villains altogether.

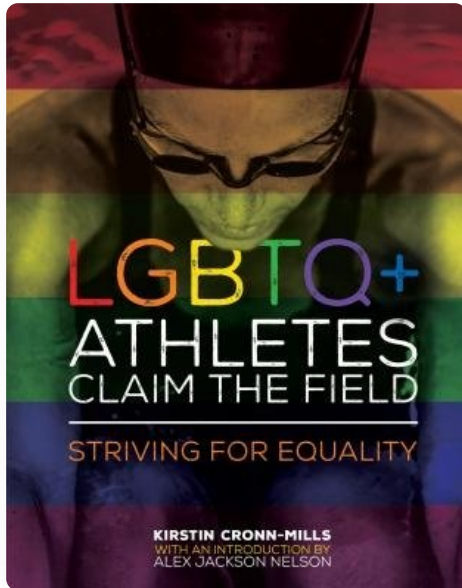


In the Key of Us

Mariama J. Lockington (Author)

Stonewall Honor Book

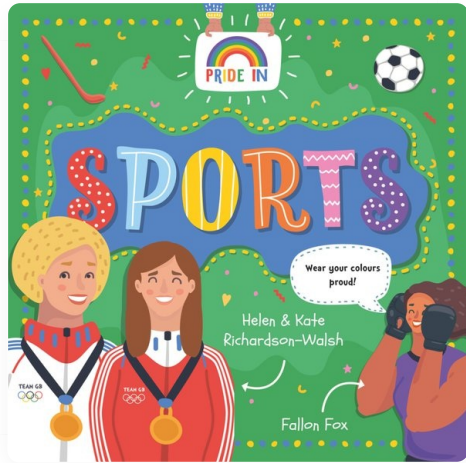
Thirteen-year-old Andi feels stranded after the loss of her mother, the artist who swept color onto Andi's blank canvas. When she is accepted to a music camp, Andi finds herself struggling to play her trumpet like she used to before her whole world changed. Meanwhile, Zora, a returning camper, is exhausted trying to please her parents, who are determined to make her a flute prodigy, even though she secretly has a dancer's heart. At Harmony Music Camp, Zora and Andi are the only two Black girls in a sea of mostly white faces. In kayaks and creaky cabins, the two begin to connect, unraveling their loss, insecurities, and hopes for the future. And as they struggle to figure out who they really are, they may just come to realize who they really need: each other. Mariama J. Lockington's *In the Key of Us* is a lyrical ode to music camp, the rush of first love, and the power of one life-changing summer.



LGBTQ+ Athletes Claim the Field: Striving for Equality

Kirstin Cronn-Mills (Author)

In 2015, the world watched as soccer star Abby Wambach kissed her wife after the US women's World Cup victory. Milwaukee Brewers' minor league first baseman David Denson came out as gay. And Caitlyn Jenner, an Olympic decathlete, came out as transgender. It hasn't always been this way. Many great athletes have stayed in the closet their whole lives, or at least until retirement. Social attitudes, institutional policies, and laws are slow to change, but they are catching up. Together, athletes, families, educators, allies, and fans are pushing for competitive equity so that every athlete, regardless of identity, can have the opportunity to play at their very best.



Sports (Pride In...)

Emilie Dufresne (Author)

Sometimes being who you are can be a hard thing to do. Learn about people from across the LGBTQIA+ community who celebrate who they are and never stop fighting for what they believe in. No matter who you are, inside or out, this book is here to teach you that you can be proud of who you are.



Who Is Megan Rapinoe? (Who HQ Now)

**Stefanie Loh (Author), Who HQ (Author),
Andrew Thomson (Illustrated by)**

On July 7, 2019, Megan Rapinoe ran out onto the field to play in her third Women's World Cup final. Determined to succeed after having to sit out of the semifinals due to an injury, Megan scored the first goal of the match. Thanks to this goal, Team USA won the Women's World Cup and Megan added yet another victory to her impressive record. In her career, Megan has won Olympic gold medals, several World Cup trophies, ESPY Awards, and more. Not only is Megan a fierce competitor on the field, she's also a brave activist who stands up for the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals like herself. Learn about Megan Rapinoe's incredible soccer career and inspiring life as an activist in this book for young readers!