

## DIVERSITY ACT LGBTIQ LIBRARY

### EXPANDED LIST

#### Part One: LITERARY WORKS (including BIOGRAPHY)

**Aciman, André. *Call Me by Your Name* (2007) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘A novel ... about a love affair between an intellectually precocious and curious 17-year-old American-Italian Jewish boy and a visiting 24-year-old American Jewish scholar in 1980s Italy. The novel chronicles their summer romance and the 20 years that follow.’ The novel was made into a film in 2017.

**Anders, Charlie Jane. *Choir Boy* (2005) [Transgender, GenderQueer: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘Berry, a twelve-year-old boy, wants nothing more than to remain a choirboy. Desperate to keep his voice from changing, Berry tries to injure himself, and then convinces a clinic to give him testosterone-inhibiting drugs that keep his voice from deepening but also cause him to grow breasts. Suddenly Berry’s thrown into a world of unexpected gender issues that push him into a universe far more complex than anything he’s ever known.’

**Anon. *The Little Book of Gay Love* (1999) [Lesbian, Gay]**

Amazon Books: ‘From Sappho and Plato to Janis Joplin and Jimmy Somerville, D.H. Lawrence and Oscar Wilde to Julian Clary and Ru Paul—this volume brings together quotes through the centuries of the experience of being gay— the pleasures and tenderness, the secrecy and the pain.’

**Ayres, Tony (ed.) *String of Pearls: Stories about Cross-Dressing* (1996)**

Google Books: ‘Boys will be girls and girls will be boys. *String of Pearls* is a collection of provocative, sexy stories about cross-dressing amassed by Australian writer and filmmaker Tony Ayres. Often the tales are about gender confusion, undermining the rigid boundaries by which sexuality is defined. They also touch upon themes of sexual ambiguity, clothing as fetish and ritual, and disguise as a vehicle for unveiling hidden truth.’

**Babcock, Joe. *The Boys and the Bees* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Goodreads: ‘James loves Andy but Andy loves Mark, a situation complicated further by the fact that this love triangle unfolds secretly in sixth-grade Catholic School. No one at Saint Marks is aware that Andy, a budding 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. Mark is on the outs with his girlfriend, whom all the boys are crazy about. All except James, the “school fag” and Andy’s childhood pal. Only now Andy wants desperately to lose James, whose more obvious sexuality threatens to open the closet door on Andy.’

**Babcock, Joe. *The Tragedy of Miss Geneva Flowers* (2002) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Amazon: ‘Like many gay sixteen-year-olds, Erick Taylor dreams of being a star. The problem is that he’s unpopular and stuck in Catholic school, and his parents, in their own desperate search for sainthood, fail to see that their son is on a path toward self-destruction. Unable to face his tormentors at school, unsure of whether he wants to live or die, Erick meets Chloe, “a twenty-six-year-old self-proclaimed ‘grandiloquent’ drag queen.” With a glam-rock makeover and a pair of platform shoes, Erick finally finds the courage to out himself, erasing his former identity and leaping blindly into Minneapolis’s gay nightlife. What begins as an innocent journey of self-discovery soon turns tragic when Erick’s life as an aspiring drag queen is halted by the unthinkable, and he finds himself alone, lost in the insanity of a world exploding.’

With exhilarating style and dark wit, Joe Babcock ... paints a provocative, devastating portrait of what it's like to grow up gay.'

**Badger, Meredith. *Things I Don't Know* (2014) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Goodreads: 'Lenni can't please anyone lately. At school, her friends want her to kiss someone for a stupid competition. At home, her grandmother wants her to be more ladylike. And on the playing field, her friend Adam has started acting like a big weirdo around her. Then Lenni meets Jo, the new girl at school, and everything feels so normal. Jo is cool, fun, and unlike anyone Lenni's ever known—finally, someone's on Lenni's wavelength!' Badger is an Australian writer.

**Baldwin, James. *Giovanni's Room* (1956) [Gay, Bisexual]**

Wikipedia: 'The book focuses on the events in the life of an American man living in Paris and his feelings and frustrations with his relationships with other men in his life, particularly an Italian bartender named Giovanni whom he meets at a Parisian gay bar. *Giovanni's Room* is noteworthy for bringing complex representations of homosexuality and bisexuality to a reading public with empathy and artistry, thereby fostering a broader public discourse of issues regarding same-sex desire.'

**Baldwin, James. *Another Country* (1962) [Gay, Bisexual]**

Wikipedia: 'The novel is set in Greenwich Village, New York City, in the late 1950s. It portrayed many themes that were taboo at the time of its release, including bisexuality, interracial couples and extramarital affairs.'

**Barakiva, Michael. *One Man Guy* (2014) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: 'Alek Khederian should have guessed something was wrong when his parents took him to a restaurant. Everyone knows that Armenians never eat out. Why bother, when their home cooking is far superior to anything "these Americans" could come up with? Between bouts of interrogating the waitress and criticizing the menu, Alek's parents announce that he'll be attending summer school in order to bring up

his grades. Alek is sure this experience will be the perfect hellish end to his hellish freshmen year of high school. He never could've predicted that he'd meet someone like Ethan. Ethan is everything Alek wishes he were: confident, free-spirited, and irreverent. When Ethan gets Alek to cut school and go to a Rufus Wainwright concert in New York City's Central Park, Alek embarks on his first adventure outside the confines of his suburban New Jersey existence. He can't believe a guy this cool wants to be his friend. And before long, it seems like Ethan wants to be more than friends. Alek has never thought about having a boyfriend—he's barely ever had a girlfriend—but maybe it's time to think again. Michael Barakiva's *One Man Guy* is a romantic, moving, laugh-out-loud-funny story about what happens when one person cracks open your world and helps you see everything—and, most of all, yourself—like you never have before.'

**Barnes, Djuna. *Nightwood* (1936) [Lesbian]**

Goodreads: '*Nightwood*, Djuna Barnes' strange and sinuous tour de force, "belongs to that small class of books that somehow reflect a time or an epoch" (TLS). That time is the period between the two World Wars, and Barnes' novel unfolds in the decadent shadows of Europe's great cities, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna—a world in which the boundaries of class, religion, and sexuality are bold but surprisingly porous. The outsized characters who inhabit this world are some of the most memorable in all of fiction—there is Guido Volkbein, the Wandering Jew and son of a self-proclaimed baron; Robin Vote, the American expatriate who marries him and then engages in a series of affairs, first with Nora Flood and then with Jenny Petherbridge, driving all of her lovers to distraction with her passion for wandering alone in the night; and there is Dr. Matthew-Mighty-Grain-of-Salt-Dante-O'Connor, a transvestite and ostensible gynecologist, whose digressive speeches brim with fury, keen insights, and surprising allusions. Barnes' depiction of these characters and their relationships (Nora says, "A man is another person—a woman is yourself, caught as you turn in panic; on her mouth you kiss your own") has made the novel a landmark of feminist and lesbian literature. Most striking of all is Barnes' unparalleled stylistic innovation, which led T. S. Eliot to proclaim the book "so good a novel that only sensibilities trained on poetry can wholly appreciate it." Now with a new preface by Jeanette

Winterson, *Nightwood* still crackles with the same electric charge it had on its first publication in 1936.’

**Bauer, Marion Dane (ed.) *Am I Blue? Coming Out from the Silence* (1994) [Lesbian, Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘For the first-ever anthology of YA fiction devoted to lesbian and gay themes, Bauer .. has assembled original stories by a stellar list of popular children’s and YA authors, among them M.E. Kerr, Nancy Garden, William Sleator, Jane Yolen, C.S. Adler and Bruce Coville. With subjects ranging from first love to coming out, self-discovery to homophobia, the collection offers an eclectic mix of voices. Newbery winner Lois Lowry, for example, contributes “Holding,” a poignant tale of a high school student who confides in his best friend after the death of his gay father’s lover, while Francesca Lia Block weighs in with the wonderfully quirky “Winnie and Teddy,” in which a teenager comes out to his girlfriend during a momentous road trip to San Francisco. Perhaps the book’s most powerful moments are provided by Jacqueline Woodson’s shimmering “Slipping Away,” a painful look at one girl’s discovery that there are some tests that a friendship simply cannot withstand; and Gregory Maguire’s “The Honorary Shepherds,” which deftly employs the language of a film treatment to describe two mixed-race students who collaborate on a school video project.’

**Bechard Margaret. *If It Doesn’t Kill You* (1999) [Gay: Young Adult]**

School Library Journal: ‘When Ben’s father moves out, saying, “This is the hardest thing that I’ve ever done,” his son is not overly sympathetic. If his father wants to wreck the family and become a homosexual, that’s his affair. Ben has his own problems, such as being on what may be the worst freshman football team in his school’s history; his shaky driving skills that keep his mother clutching the dash; and Chynna, the very tantalizing new girl next door. She’s a sassy spirit hell-bent on projecting the image of daring promiscuity; even if it’s fake. Chynna befriends Ben and cajoles him into accompanying her on various escapades, including belly-button piercing and a boisterous football party. When she gets drunk at the party, Ben attempts to drive her home but gets stuck in a muddy field. With no help in sight, he

resorts to calling his father. When his father's friend comes to their rescue, Ben is confronted with his own limited viewpoint. The irony of Ben's unconditional acceptance of Chynna's wild affectations and his rejection of his dad's honesty is subtle, plausible, and convincing.'

**Berman, Steve. *Vintage. A Ghost Story* (2007) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Book Smugglers Review: 'The story follows a lonely gay teen that is a bit of a goth and a high-school dropout who works at a vintage shop. After his parents discovered he was gay and dubbed him a "sick child," he has run away from home and lives with his aunt. Scared that his aunt might react in the same way as his parents, he's never told her the reason why he has shown up at her door—although he is not ashamed of his sexuality. Rather, he has wholly accepted himself and found a close circle of friends that offer the external acceptance that has been denied by his family. He is lonely though and on the lookout for a boyfriend whom he could do boyfriend-y things like going out to his favourite café together and you know, make out and stuff. One day, walking alone in a deserted road, he meets this very hot guy (in vintage clothes) who later turns out to be the ghost of a gay boy who died in the 50s. At first he is ecstatic to have found someone to share things with but soon it becomes clear that the situation is not exactly ideal, not only because the guy is dead but also because he doesn't seem to be looking for a healthy relationship per se (leading to many scary scenes). To complicate matters even further, our protagonist starts to fall in love with his best friend's brother, amplifying the tension considerably.'

**Bohjalian, Chris. *Trans-Sister Radio* (2000) [Transgender]**

Google Books: When Allison Banks develops a crush on Dana Stevens, she knows that he will give her what she needs most: attention, gentleness, kindness, passion. Her daughter, Carly, enthusiastically witnesses the change in her mother. But then a few months into their relationship, Dana tells Allison his secret: he has always been certain that he is a woman born into the wrong skin, and soon he will have a sex-change operation. Allison, overwhelmed by the depth of her passion, finds herself unable to leave Dana. By deciding to stay, she finds she must confront questions most people never even consider. Not only will her own life and Carly's be irrevocably

changed, she will have to contend with the outrage of a small Vermont community and come to terms with her lover's new body—hoping against hope that her love will transcend the physical.'

**Boock, Paul. *Dare Truth or Promise* (1998) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: 'New Zealand author Boock traces the developing lesbian romance between two high school seniors in an ultimately uplifting novel. The two are from different social strata: Louie quotes Shakespeare and poetry and comes from a conservative, upper-middle-class background, while newcomer Willa, still suffering from the repercussions of an ill-fated first relationship with another girl, lives above a pub. Told in a third-person narrative that alternates between the two characters' points of view, the book offers a frank appraisal of the girls' initial attraction, passions and the conflicts of dealing with a variety of outsiders—parents, friends, co-workers, etc. When Louie's mother discovers the two girls in bed together in Louie's room, she forbids Louie to see Willa. After a rather prolonged period of suffering and soul-searching, they are able to reunite.'

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *Warrior Woman* (1985) [Lesbian: Fantasy]**

Google Books: '*Warrior Woman* is Marion Zimmer Bradley's response to the Gor novels [of John Norman]—where men were men and women were slaves. Yes, this book does start out with a heroine who has been captured and is being sold as a slave, who has amnesia and remembers nothing of her life before the trip across the desert with the slavers—and, due to a head injury, remembers mercifully little of that. But she does know that she would rather fight in the arena than be a harlot for the men who do, and that choice changes the rest of the book. In a Gor-style novel the woman would become less her own person, eventually learning to be a contented and obedient slave. In this book, even while the heroine, called Zadiyek of Gyre, remains a slave, she is something quite different from the typical "slave girl"— she grows and develops, always searching for her memory and her past, convinced that this is not how her life is supposed to be. And, of course, she's right.'

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Heritage of Hastur* (1975) [Gay: Fantasy]**

Wikipedia: ‘*The Heritage of Hastur* is a science fantasy novel ... part of the [Darkover series](#) ... It explores sexual themes, particularly the view that homosexuality is a normal variant of human sexuality.’

**Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Shattered Chain* (1976) [Lesbian: Fantasy]**

Wikipedia: ‘*The Shattered Chain* is a ... part of the Darkover series. It ... is the first Darkovan novel to explore the world of the Renunciates—the Free Amazons or *comhii letzi*. The Renunciates are women who, despite living in a deeply patriarchal and feudal culture, have renounced both the protection and control of men, cutting their hair and living apart, vowing never to marry *di catenas* [(in a formal marriage) of chains] with a man... *The Shattered Chain* is a distinct deviation from the male-dominated narratives of Bradley’s previous Darkovan novels, and also as an experiment in feminist writing for an author who had previously written very conventionally male-dominated fiction.’

**Bram, Christopher. *Gods & Monsters* (1995) [Gay]**

Google Books: ‘Previously titled *Father of Frankenstein*, this acclaimed novel ... journeys back to 1957 Los Angeles, where James Whale, the once-famous director of such classics as *Frankenstein* and *Bride of Frankenstein*, is living in retirement, haunted by his past. Rescuing him from his too-vivid imagination is his gardener, a handsome ex-marine. The friendship between these two very different men is sometimes tentative, sometimes touching, often dangerous—and always captivating.’ A 1998 film version starred Sir Ian McKellen, Lynn Redgrave, and Brendan Fraser.

**Brown, Rita Mae. *Rubyfruit Jungle* (1973) [Lesbian]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Rubyfruit Jungle* is the first novel by Rita Mae Brown. Published in 1973, it was remarkable in its day for its explicit portrayal of lesbianism. The novel is



a coming-of-age autobiographical account of Brown's youth and emergence as a lesbian author. The term "rubyfruit jungle" is a term used in the novel for the female genitals.'

**Burd, Nick. *The Vast Fields of Ordinary* (2009) [Gay, Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Kirkus Reviews: 'Trapped in a suburban wasteland the summer before his first year in college, closeted indie loser Dade Hamilton is stuck in the middle of his parents' disintegrating marriage and wastes his time pining after his girlfriend-ed hook-up buddy Pablo. That is, until he spots dreamy, drug-dealing Alex Kincaid at a party, and the summer explodes into a lusty haze of blazing romance, pot smoke and danger. Burd breathes new life into the old coming-out formula with a blast of 21st-century testosterone-injected anger, heaps of longing and insecurity and even some violence. His carefully drawn characterizations and raw tone make the drama of Dade's life feel urgent and very real. The allure of the illicit, decay and regret are only a few of the irresistibly dangerous themes woven into the mix, and readers will watch in rapt fascination and dread as Alex draws a willing Dade into his dark world. The results of their pairing aren't exactly pretty, but they're honest. One of the best in a new generation of LGBTQ novels.'

**Cart, Michael. *My Father's Scar* (1996) [Gay]**

Kirkus Reviews: 'Andy Logan is a college man recalling his childhood and the formative incidents of his teenage years, when he was isolated from both family and peers by his weight, his intellect, and his love for books. He discovers running and conquers the weight problem—but knows he'll never please his bullying, alcoholic father. When an older boy, Evan, whom Andy deeply admires, comes out, the swift and brutal reaction of the townspeople reveals the depth of their anti-gay prejudice. Andy can't go public about his own homosexuality, but he suffers from hiding his true self. Andy's growing awareness of his gayness is handled well, with action and dialogue revealing to readers what Andy hasn't fully recognized in himself. Cart's first novel does a good job of characterization, lifting the book beyond the category of a problem novel... The emotionally satisfying conclusion wraps up a sensitive tale.'

**Conigrave, Tim. *Holding the Man* (1995) [Gay: Biography]**

Amazon: ‘The mid-seventies—and satin baggies and chunky platforms reigned supreme... At an all-boys Catholic school in Melbourne, Timothy Conigrave fell wildly and sweetly in love with the captain of the football team. So began a relationship that was to last for 15 years, a love affair that weathered disapproval, separation and, ultimately death. *Holding the Man* recreates that relationship. With honesty and insight it explores the highs and lows of any partnership: the intimacy, constraints, temptations. And the strength of heart both men had to find when they tested positive to HIV. This is a book as refreshing and uplifting as it is moving; a funny and sad and celebratory account of growing up gay.’ The novel was made into a film in 2016.

**Coote, Stephen (ed.) *Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse* (1983)**

[Lesbian, Gay]

Goodreads: ‘Includes poems from Sappho, Theocritus, Horace, Virgil, Michelangelo, Shakespeare, as well as Goethe, Byron, Verlaine, Whitman, Swinburne, Symonds, Auden and Isherwood and many others.’

**Coyote, Ivan E. *Slow Fix* (2008) [GenderQueer, Lesbian, Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘Ivan E. Coyote ... is a Canadian spoken word performer, writer, and LGBT advocate. Coyote has won many accolades for their collections of short stories, novels, and films.... The CBC has called Coyote a “gender-bending author who loves telling stories and performing in front of a live audience.” Coyote is non-binary and uses singular they pronouns. Many of Coyote’s stories are about gender, identity, and social justice.’

Google Books: ‘Ivan E. Coyote is one of Canada's most acclaimed storytellers; her first three collections were insightful, deeply personal stories about gender, identity, and community. With *The Slow Fix*, Ivan returns to her short story roots in a collection that is disarming, warm, and funny while at the same time subverting our

pre-conceived notions of gender roles. In “By Any Other Name,” Ivan gets into some serious male bonding with her Uncle Rob; in “the Curse?” a cousin's stepdaughter helps her to overcome her lifelong dread of buying tampons; and in the title story, she does her best to fix what's wrong in the world by telling the homophobe in the barber's seat next to hers to shut up. Ivan excels at finding the small yet significant truths in our everyday gestures and interactions. By doing so, she helps us to embrace not what makes us women or men, but human beings.’

**Cunningham, Michael. *Home at the End of the World* (1990) [Gay, Bisexual]**

Wikipedia: ‘The book is narrated in the first person, with the narrator changing in each chapter. Bobby and Jonathan are the main narrators, but several chapters are narrated by Alice, Jonathan’s mother, and Clare. Bobby had grown up in a home in suburban Cleveland, Ohio during the 1960s and 1970s where partying and drugs were a recurring theme. He has already witnessed the death of his mother and beloved older brother by the time he befriends Jonathan, who comes from a sheltered family. After Bobby finds his father is dead, Jonathan’s family takes him in. Bobby and Jonathan become best friends, and also experiment sexually. The two eventually lose touch, but meet up again in their 20s in 1980s New York, where Bobby moves in with Jonathan and his eccentric roommate Clare. Clare had planned to have a baby with Jonathan (who is openly gay), but Bobby and Clare become lovers, while Jonathan still has feelings for Bobby. Clare and Bobby have a baby and move to a country home together with Jonathan. The trio form their own family, questioning traditional definitions of family and love, while dealing with the complications of their polyamorous relationship. ... Cunningham adapted his novel for a 2004 film with the same title.’

**Cunningham, Michael. *The Hours* (1998) [Lesbian, Bisexual]**

Wikipedia: ‘*The Hours* concerns three generations of questionably lesbian or bisexual women. Virginia Woolf was known to have affairs with women; Laura Brown kisses

Kitty in her kitchen, and Clarissa Vaughan is in a relationship with Sally, and was previously Richard's lover. Peripheral characters also exhibit a variety of sexual orientations. To some extent the novel examines the freedom with which successive generations have been able to express their sexuality, to the public and even to themselves. As such, a definable sexuality for the characters of Virginia Woolf and Laura Brown is hard to ascertain. It could be argued, as does the author Michael Cunningham himself on the DVD commentary of the film version of *The Hours*, that were such characters born at later times in different circumstances they would come out as lesbians. For Virginia and Laura it would have been extremely difficult to "come out". Such a position would have meant extreme consequences in societies where homosexuality was in many cases illegal, treated with extreme medical "therapies", and shunned by society. This can be understood to provide much of the undercurrent of anguish for the characters, particularly in Laura Brown's case. Without this understanding, Laura could be conceived as ungrateful or a drama queen (as indeed many readers regarded Virginia Woolf's Clarissa Dalloway when *Mrs Dalloway* was first published).<sup>7</sup> The novel was made into a film in 2002.

**Davis, Christopher. *Valley of the Shadow* (1988) [Gay]**

Library Journal: 'Andrew, a person with AIDS, here recounts his life, calling it "a story of just one gay man who enjoyed life, who enjoyed being gay, who loved his lover as much as one man can love another, and who will die before he is thirty." The love of his life is Teddy, and their relationship, at turns passionate and turbulent, provides the primary focus of the novel. Together for a couple of years, then separated, they reunite when Teddy develops AIDS. It is not until after Teddy's death that Andrew's AIDS is diagnosed. Andrew's life parallels the evolving gay world around him, from fresh-eyed innocence to joyous abandon to cautious fear to new hope. A well-written, contemporary novel, moving and thought-provoking.'

**Davis, Will. *My Side of the Story* (2007) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Amazon Books: ' "My name is Jarold, but everyone calls me Jaz, which is a damn sight cooler I think you'll agree. I'm sixteen (just) and I have two remarkably

undivorced parents, along with a sister and a grandmother and we all live in the same house together just like in a TV show. I've just started my A levels too, which me and Al are planning to fail, which is our way of saying Fuck You to the British educational standard." So what if your parents hate each other and want you to have therapy? So what if your holier-than-thou sister and her posse have decided you're going to hell? So what if the school tyrant and his goons are hunting you down, or if your best friend has just outed you to a neo-Nazi? Jaz isn't planning to lose any sleep over it—at least until he meets the guy of his dreams at the local gay bar. Suddenly things are a lot more complicated Witty, acerbic, and incredibly funny, *My Side of the Story* is the perfectly rendered portrait of a precocious, troubled teenager faced with the awkward process of growing up and coming out.'

**Degeneres, Ellen. *My Point .. and I do have one* (1995) [Lesbian: Biography]**

Google Books: 'An American comedian, star of the tv sitcom "Ellen", reflects humorously on aspects of life and her past experiences.'

**Dickson, Lovat. *Radclyffe Hall at the Well of Loneliness* [Lesbian: Biography]**

**Donoghue, Emma. *Stir-Fry* (1994) [Lesbian]**

Panmacmillan: 'Seventeen and sure of nothing, Maria has left her parents' small-town grocery for university life in Dublin. An ad in the Student Union—"2 women seek flatmate. No bigots"—leads Maria to a home with warm Ruth and wickedly funny Jael, students who are older and more fascinating than she'd expected. A poignant, funny, and sharply insightful coming-of-age story, Emma Donogue's *Stir-Fry* is a lesbian novel that explores the conundrum of desire arising in the midst of friendship and probes feminist ideas of sisterhood and nonpossessiveness.'

**Duane, Diane. *Door into Fire* (1979) [Gay, Bisexual: Fantasy]**

Google Books: ‘The first novel in the groundbreaking fantasy series. Herewiss is the only man in centuries to possess the Power of the blue Flame, but he can’t use or control it—not even to help his friend and lover Prince Freelorn, exiled from his native land of Arlen and pursued across the Middle Kingdoms by the usurpers and their allies. Invoking perilous sorceries and the even more dangerous assistance of the fire elemental Sunspark, Herewiss manages to rout the armies besieging Freelorn and his little band of followers. Together they flee eastward to seek temporary refuge in the mysterious lands near the edge of the world they know. But now Herewiss faces a devastating choice. His time to master the blue Fire is running out. Should he abandon his fruitless search and join Freelorn in his fight to regain his kingdom? Or should he seek out the ancient keep in the Waste where doors lead into other worlds—perhaps even the door whose use will teach him to control the Power that he must master or die?’

**Evans, Alison. *Ida* (2017) [Transgender, Bisexual: Young Adult]**

Sydney Morning Herald: ‘Queer young-adult fiction with a speculative bent, [Australian] Alison Evans’ *Ida* melds far-out physics with late-adolescent pathfinding and ultra-liberal gender politics. The title character appears to have the power to change fate—she can avert disasters before they happen, or rectify poor choices with unhappy outcomes. What’s going on? The mysterious Damaris reveals an explanation based on multiverse theory, where everything that can happen does happen in its own reality. *Ida*, it seems, has been shifting between universes, and stands to lose the things she holds most dear. Almost every character is genderqueer, genderfluid or transgender (this plays havoc with Evans’ pronouns).’

Illustrated Page: ‘One of my favorite things about *Ida* was the sheer diversity of the cast. This book has more transgender characters than any other I’ve read. *Ida* herself is bisexual and mixed race (half white, half Vietnamese). Her partner Daisy is genderqueer, and her cousin Frank is a transgender boy. There’s also two genderfluid characters who work for a mysterious time travel authority.’

**Faderman, Lillian. *Chloe Plus Olivia: An Anthology of Lesbian Literature from the Seventeenth Century to the Present* (1994) [Lesbian]**

Goodreads: ‘In *Chloe Plus Olivia* Lillian Faderman seeks no less than to radically redefine four centuries of lesbian literature, filling a need that has long been neglected: a literary anthology of lesbian writers over the past four centuries, with each piece set in historical and literary context. This landmark work of scholarship offers an enlightening review of the shifting concept of “lesbian literature,” followed by examples of six different genres: Romantic Friendship, Sexual Inversion, Exotic and Evil Lesbians, Lesbian Encoding, Lesbian Feminism, and Post-Lesbian Feminism.’

**Fallens, Bronny & Vincente Muntsa. *My Two Super Dads* (2011) [Gay: Children]**

Google Books: ‘Families come in all different shapes, sizes and makeup these days. This family has two dads and shares the story of day to day life: cooking, games and fun all around!’

**Feinberg, Leslie. *Drag King Dreams* (2006) [Lesbian, Gay, Etc.]**

Goodreads: ‘The story of Max Rabinowitz, a butch lesbian bartender at an East Village club where drag kings, dykes dressed as men, perform. A veteran of the women’s and gay movement of the past 30 years, Max’s mid-life crisis hits in the midst of the post-9/11 world. Max is lonely and uncertain about her future—fearful, in fact, of America’s future with its War on Terror and War in Iraq—with only a core group of friends to turn to for reassurance. Max is shaken from her crisis, however, by the news that her friend Vickie, a transvestite, has been found murdered on her way home late one night. As the community of cross-dressers, drag queens, lesbian and gay men, and “genderqueers” of all kinds stand up together in the face of this tragedy, Max taps into the activist spirit she thought had long disappeared and for the first time in years discovers hope for her future.’

**Ferris, Jean. *Eight Seconds* (2000) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘Ferris .. tackles issues of tolerance, homosexuality and self-discovery in this insightful and atmospheric novel set in rodeo country. On the surface, John, the 18-year-old narrator, seems to fit right in: as he puts it, being a guy entails “riding spirited horses, being able to castrate fifty calves in an afternoon, and burping the alphabet after chugging a long-neck beer,” as well as getting in fights and dating pretty girls. Even so, he feels like an “outsider.” When his father sends him to a five-day rodeo school, John discovers a newfound passion in the danger and unpredictability of bull riding, in which the rider attempts to stay on the violently bucking bull for eight seconds, all the while being judged on style and grace. He also forges a highly charged friendship with Kit, another boy at rodeo school, whom John subsequently finds out is gay. John turns on Kit to silence a rumor, one of the many realistic, often subtle story elements that allow the reader to understand the nature of John’s attraction to Kit well before John does. At the credible conclusion, readers find John coming to terms with his newfound self-knowledge but not yet able to share it with others. A fast-paced ride that will leave readers thinking.’

**Flagg, Fannie. *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* (1987)**

[Lesbian, Bisexual]

Wikipedia: ‘It weaves together the past and the present through the blossoming friendship between Evelyn Couch, a middle-aged housewife, and Ninny Threadgoode, an elderly woman who lives in a nursing home. Every week Evelyn visits Ninny, who tells her stories about her youth in Whistle Stop, Alabama where her sister-in-law, Idgie, and her friend, Ruth, ran a café. These stories, along with Ninny’s friendship, enable Evelyn to begin a new, satisfying life while allowing the people and stories of Ninny’s youth to live on. The book was also made into a movie, and explores themes of family, aging, lesbianism, and the dehumanizing effects of racism on both blacks and whites... Although it is not explicitly labeled as a lesbian relationship, every resident both knows about and accepts Idgie and Ruth’s relationship, making lesbianism a theme in the novel.’



**Forster, E.M. *Maurice* (1913/1914, 1932, 1959/1960) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘A tale of homosexual love in early 20th-century England, it follows Maurice Hall from his schooldays through university and beyond. ... Although Forster showed the novel to a select few of his friends (among them Christopher Isherwood), it was published only posthumously, in 1971. Forster did not seek to publish it during his lifetime, believing it to have been unpublishable during that period due to public and legal attitudes to same-sex love. A note found on the manuscript read:

‘Publishable, but worth it?’ Forster was particularly keen that his novel should have a happy ending, but knew that this would make the book too controversial. However, by the time he died, British attitudes, and law, had changed. The novel has been adapted once for film and once for the stage.’ Forster is best known, of course, for novels such as *Howards End* and *A Passage to India*.

**Freymann-Weyr, Garret. *My Heartbeat* (2002) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘Narrator Ellen learns about love, family and “society’s unwritten rules” in this sophisticated but gentle novel set in Manhattan. Ellen adores her older brother, Link, and has had a crush on Link’s best friend, James, since seventh grade. But at 14, when she starts high school, popular classmate Adena, who really likes Link, mentions to Ellen: “They’re like a couple, aren’t they?” Freymann-Weyr .. subtly and authentically follows Ellen’s thought process as the question triggers a series of responses: “I resolve never to ask them. Ever. I resolve to put it out of my mind. There is no reason for me to know.” Yet Ellen reviews their past behavior for clues. When Ellen finally frames the question to Link and James (“I spear a cherry with an unused fork... and ask if they are a couple”), Link denies it, avoids James and gets a girlfriend. Ellen and James, meanwhile, grow closer. ... Ellen relates telling details about herself and those around her with humor and compassion, exposing the many dimensions of her parents as well as the three featured teens. A thoughtful approach to the many confusing signals that accompany awakening sexuality.’

**Gantos, Jack. *Desire Lines* (1997) [Lesbian, Gay: Young Adult]**

Kirkus Reviews: ‘This bitter, open-ended tale of a Florida teenager who “outs” a lesbian couple, then watches as one kills the other before turning the gun on herself, offers an astonishing change of pace for the author of *Jack’s New Power* (1995). A long-abandoned, overgrown golf course is Walker’s refuge, a private place where he spends every free moment: There, he liberates animals from the school’s lab and watches classmates Karen and Jennifer—in his words—“screwing around”. None of his business, he figures—until a teenage preacher appears outside school grounds to start a gay witch-hunt, and expertly enlists Walker as his informant. The preacher’s relentless innuendo, blared through a bullhorn, puts Walker into a panic about his own reputation; he takes up with three punks-in-training, and blurts out Karen and Jennifer’s secret to them. Soon everyone knows, and a few days later, the tragedy plays out. Although Gantos is vague about what gays do once their clothes are off, he is explicit when demonstrating how a climate of fear and suspicion can be concocted in a community, and how insecure young people—gay, straight—can be tormented by it. There are no admirable characters, acts, or role models here, and Walker’s sense of failure haunts his narrative; Karen, only injured, shows up at the end to tumble Walker’s weak defense—leaving him alone with his regret, and readers to wonder how they would react in similar circumstances. No answers here, just harsh questions.’

**Garden, Nancy. *Annie on my Mind* (1982) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Lexile website: ‘This groundbreaking book ... is the story of two teenage girls whose friendship blossoms into love and who, despite pressures from family and school that threaten their relationship, promise to be true to each other and their feelings. Of the author and the book, the Margaret A. Edwards Award committee said, “Nancy Garden has the distinction of being the first author for young adults to create a lesbian love story with a positive ending. Using a fluid, readable style, Garden opens a window through which readers can find courage to be true to themselves”.’

**Garden, Nancy. *Good Moon Rising* (1996) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

School Library Journal: ‘Jan is a high school senior, just back from summer stock and hoping for the role of Elizabeth in the school production of *The Crucible*. When a new student named Kerry gets the part, Jan’s larger-than-life mentor, Mrs. Nicholson, assigns Jan to be stage manager instead. Then, as stand-in director when Mrs. Nicholson falls ill, Jan coaches Kerry. Eventually, the two realize that they are sexually attracted to one another. Other cast members notice, too. Some harass them, threatening the success of the play; others think it’s nobody’s business. Told in third-person narrative, this is a straightforward story of teen romance with a ’90s twist. It gets off to a slow start, but tension builds as the young women receive increasingly disturbing hate messages. They finally “come out,” affirming their feelings and undercutting the clique that had targeted them.’

**Garden, Nancy. *The Year They Burned the Books* (1999) [Lesbian, Gay: Young Adult]**

Amazon Review: ‘High school condom distribution and a hotly contested sex education curriculum set a small New England town’s blood boiling and books burning in *The Year They Burned the Books*, an issue-driven novel by Nancy Garden. Jamie Crawford is the senior editor of the “Telegraph,” her high school’s newspaper, but the publication of her editorial in favor of the school’s new policy to distribute condoms happens to coincide with the election of a new, highly conservative school board member. As a result, Jamie suddenly finds her editorial voice gagged. Soon the school’s health books have been removed from the classrooms for “review,” a conservative parents’ group stages a library book burning, and Jamie’s beloved teacher is forced to resign as the newspaper’s faculty advisor. Jamie’s personal life also becomes more complicated as she tries to deal with her physical attraction to Tessa, a new girl at school. Then, on top of it all, Jamie and her best friend Terry (who is openly gay) are the victims of an attack by a group of conservative students and Jamie has to decide if she can handle the consequences of coming out.’

**Gay Love Poetry – see Powell**

**Genet, Jean. *Our Lady of the Flowers* (1944) [Gay]**

The Merriam-Webster Encyclopedia of Literature: ‘Written while he was in prison for burglary and published ... in French as *Notre-Dame des fleurs*. The novel and the author were championed by many contemporary writers, including Jean-Paul Sartre and Jean Cocteau, who helped engineer a pardon for Genet. A wildly imaginative fantasy of the Parisian underworld, the novel tells the story of Divine, a male prostitute who consorts with thieves, pimps, murderers, and other criminals and who has many sexual adventures. Written in lyrical, dreamlike prose, the novel affirms a new moral order, one in which criminals are saints, evil is glorified, and conventional taboos are freely violated.’

**Green, John & D. Levithan. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (2010) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Will Grayson, Will Grayson* is a novel by John Green and David Levithan... The book's narrative is divided evenly between two boys named Will Grayson, with Green having written all of the chapters for one and Levithan having written the chapters for the other, presented in an alternating chapter fashion. The novel debuted on *The New York Times* children's best-seller list after its release and remained there for three weeks. It was the first LGBT-themed young adult novel to make it to that list.... The novel follows two boys who both go by the name Will Grayson. The first Will, whose POV always has correct capitalization, is described as trying to live his life without being noticed. This is complicated by the fact that his best friend, Tiny Cooper, described as “the world's largest person who is really, really gay” and “the world's gayest person who is really, really large”, is not the type to go around unnoticed. Tiny is also throughout the novel trying to create an autobiographical musical, which further draws attention to himself and everyone around him. The other Will Grayson, whose POV never has capitalization, goes through his life without anything good to hold on to besides an online relationship with someone who goes by the name Isaac. Intent on meeting up with Isaac, Will Grayson sets up an encounter one night in Chicago but eventually finds out that Isaac was invented by a girl named Maura (who is also his peer in his daily school life). What ensues brings both characters together and changes both of their lives forever in ways they could never have guessed or imagined.’

**Greenwell, Garth. *What Belongs to You* (2016) [Gay]**

Review from The Guardian: ‘It documents three phases in an unnamed author’s infatuation with a Bulgarian hustler, and the various settings and transactions involved are described with a detached, carefully styled literary brutalism that feels very of the moment; however, the emotional geography of the story could have come straight from Proust. Alienated sex with a financially dependent and forever unknowable object of desire; the unresolved trauma of parental rejection; the overriding conviction that guilt-stained autobiographical disclosure is what gay men do best ... By the end of this short, intense novel it becomes clear that the collision between our hard-won new capacity for frankness and a deep-rooted sense of archaic guilt and grief is precisely Greenwell’s subject.’

**Gregorio, I.W. *None of the Above* (2015) [Intersex: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘Kristin Lattimer is a champion hurdler and homecoming queen who, after a painful first sexual experience, discovers she has an intersex trait, androgen insensitivity syndrome. The book explores the unraveling of her school life, home life and sport life, once her diagnosis is disclosed to her school.’

**Griffin, Matthew. *Hide* (2016) [Gay]**

Google Books: ‘Wendell and Frank meet at the end of World War II, when Frank returns home to their North Carolina town. Soon he’s loitering around Wendell’s taxidermy shop, and the two come to understand their connection as love—a love that, in this time and place, can hold real danger. Cutting nearly all ties with the rest of the world, they make a home for themselves on the outskirts of town, keeping a string of beloved dogs for company... When Wendell finds Frank lying outside among the tomatoes at the age of eighty-three, he feels a new threat to their careful self-reliance: as Frank’s physical strength and memory deteriorate, the two of them must

fully confront the sacrifices they've made for each other—and the impending loss of the life they've built.'

**Grimsley, Jim. *Dream Boy* (1995) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: 'Nathan is an intelligent but shy teenage boy who wants to escape from his abusive and violent father, and fantasizes about a relationship with Roy, the boy who lives next door. Roy is a senior at the same high school as Nathan, and he drives the school bus. Gradually their relationship deepens and becomes sexual. Drunk one evening, Nathan's father tries to molest him. This is clearly not the first time it has happened and helps explain Nathan's desire to escape from his family. His mother avoids the issue, although she knows what is going on. Nathan is accepted into Roy's social circle and is invited to go on a camping trip with Roy and his friends Randy and Burke. During the trip, they discover an abandoned and possibly haunted plantation house and Nathan and Roy are discovered in a compromising situation. ...'

The final sentences from the Wikipedia summary have been excluded, partly to avoid a spoiler, but also because the ending is more ambiguous than the Wikipedia summary suggests. The novel was made into a film in 2008, and though it follows the novel very closely, the film also simplifies the ambiguity of the novel's ending.

**Gurganus, Allan. *Plays Well With Others* (1997) [Gay]**

Publishers Weekly: 'New York City in the 1980s is the setting of Gurganus's ... fierce, bleakly funny and resonant new novel. The twist here is that the narrator, Richard Hartley Mims Jr., and most of the other characters, are gay. In the heady years when it was chic to come out of the closet, a group of young, ambitious artists, musicians and writers descend on Manhattan from all parts of the country, possessed of talent, joie de vivre and the determination to succeed. They play the party scene, work at menial jobs to support themselves and enjoy the firm conviction that someday they will be famous. [There are some] hilarious scenes that verge on farce (30 dildoes fall out of a bag on the subway; two of Hartley's suitors meet in his closet and can't resist making love to each other). The specter of AIDs hovers over the novel, however, and gradually transforms the raunchy and pun-prone narrative into a

wrenching threnody to lost youth and talent cut down. When the pandemic strikes and Hartley becomes a caretaker to his dying friends, Gurganus's gallows humor and innate compassion transform this material into a wrenching elegy for an innocent time when, to the gay community, artistic fulfillment, fame, love and happiness seemed just within reach.'

**Hall, Radclyffe. *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) [Lesbian]**

Wikipedia: 'A lesbian novel ... [that] follows the life of Stephen Gordon, an Englishwoman from an upper-class family whose "sexual inversion" (homosexuality) is apparent from an early age. She finds love with Mary Llewellyn, whom she meets while serving as an ambulance driver in World War I, but their happiness together is marred by social isolation and rejection, which Hall depicts as typically suffered by "inverts", with predictably debilitating effects. The novel portrays "inversion" as a natural, God-given state and makes an explicit plea: "Give us also the right to our existence". The novel became the target of a campaign by James Douglas, editor of the *Sunday Express*, who wrote, "I would rather give a healthy boy or a healthy girl a phial of prussic acid than this novel." Although its only sexual reference consists of the words "and that night, they were not divided", a British court judged it obscene because it defended "unnatural practices between women". In the United States the book survived legal challenges in New York state and in Customs Court.

Publicity over *The Well of Loneliness's* legal battles increased the visibility of lesbians in British and American culture. For decades it was the best-known lesbian novel in English, and often the first source of information about lesbianism that young people could find. Some readers have valued it, while others have criticised it for Stephen's expressions of self-hatred, and viewed it as inspiring shame. Its role in promoting images of lesbians as "mannish" or cross-dressed women has also been controversial. Although critics differ as to the value of *The Well of Loneliness* as a work of literature, its treatment of sexuality and gender continues to inspire study and debate.'

**Hansen, Joseph. *Fade Out* (1970) [Gay: Detective]**

Goodreads: ‘*Fadeout* is the first of Joseph Hansen’s twelve classic mysteries featuring rugged Dave Brandstetter, an insurance investigator who is contentedly gay. When entertainer Fox Olson’s car plunges off a bridge in a storm, a death claim is filed, but where is Olson’s body? As Brandstetter questions family, fans, and detractors, he grows certain Olson is still alive and that Dave must find him before the would-be killer does. Suspenseful and wry, shrewd and deeply felt, *Fadeout* remains as fresh today as when it startled readers more than thirty years ago.’

**Hansen, Joseph. *The Man Everybody was Afraid Of* (1981) [Gay: Detective]**

Amazon: ‘In the small town of La Caleta, Dave Brandstetter [the gay insurance investigator] investigates the murder of a very unpopular cop. When Ben Orton’s head is found bludgeoned by a heavy flower pot, the people of La Caleta are stunned—not because their police chief has been murdered, but because no one thought to do it sooner. A bruising, violent man, Ben had a commitment to order that did not always take the law into account. But as insurance investigator Dave Brandstetter is about to find out, the corruption in Ben’s police force did not die with him. By the time Dave arrives in the fading fishing town, a young activist has already been arrested for the murder. Only Dave seems to care that the evidence against the accused is laughably thin. As the people of La Caleta try their best to thwart his investigation, Dave must do whatever it takes to catch Ben’s killer. *The Man Everybody Was Afraid Of* is book four in the Dave Brandstetter Mystery series.’

**Hardy, Mark. *Nothing Pink* (2008) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Kirkus Reviews: ‘In 1979, 14-year-old Vincent Harris moves to a new town with his mother and father, who’s a preacher. Vincent has spent years praying to God to take away his feelings of attraction to other boys, but so far God has not seen fit to do so. Vincent knows with certainty that he’s gay and fears he’s bound for Hell. Then he meets Robert Ingle and falls in love, and Vincent becomes certain that God *has* answered his prayers—just not in the way he had always expected He would. In his debut, Hardy does an admirable job juggling a number of very delicate issues



while telling a compelling story. This short, gentle romance manages to be sensual while remaining age-appropriate. It challenges received interpretations of the Judeo-Christian God's teachings on homosexuality without approaching preachiness.'

**Hart, Ellen. *Robber's Wine: A Jane Lawless Mystery* (1996) [Lesbian: Detective]**

Goodreads: 'The first of the dead is wealthy Belle Dumont, who vanished from her home in the Minnesota woods only hours before she was to reveal startling news to her three grown children. The kids and Belle's lover deny any knowledge of this mysterious bombshell, but amateur sleuth Jane Lawless, Belle's old friend, suspects these charming folk of being less than forthright. In fact, Jane suspects coldhearted murder.... Winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Mystery.'

**Hart, Ellen. *The Merchant of Venus: A Jane Lawless Mystery* (2001) [Lesbian: Detective]**

Publishers Weekly: 'Minneapolis-based restaurateur-sleuth Jane Lawless ... accompanies her best friend, Cordelia Thorn, to an isolated mansion on the Connecticut coast to attend the hastily arranged marriage of Cordelia's younger sister, Octavia, a Broadway actress, to 83-year-old Roland Lester, a reclusive millionaire movie director. Among the handful of friends and relatives in attendance is documentary filmmaker Ellie Saks, who is at work on a profile of the great director himself—one that threatens to reveal Hollywood secrets of yesteryear. When Roland collapses during the ceremony and dies shortly after of poisoning, suspicion falls on a number of the guests—not least Octavia. Jane's sympathetic nature invites the confidences of others, and her understanding of human nature makes her good at putting the pieces of a mystery together. ... What sets this book apart is the candor with which key characters deal with homosexuality and face the ugly ways they've behaved under the pressure of McCarthyism and the strict moral codes of the past.'

**Hartinger, Brent. *Geography Club* (2003) [Gay: Young Adult]**

School Library Journal: ‘Russel Middlebrook is a sophomore at Goodkind High School. He has a secret crush on a baseball jock, Kevin Land, and soon discovers that Kevin is also gay. The boys become friendly outside of school and set up the “Geography Club” with three other gay students, one of whom is Russel’s closest friend, Min. The club members relish the opportunity to discuss their lives and to relate to one another openly and honestly. Eventually, however, intense peer pressure and insecurity take their toll. Russel’s relationship with Kevin ends, but the “Geography Club” becomes the “Goodkind High School Gay-Straight-Bisexual Alliance,” and the protagonist gains new insight into himself and his place in the world. Hartinger has written a compelling look at the high school scene and the serious consequences of being “different”.’ The novel was made into a film in 2013.

**Hartinger, Brent. *The Order of the Poison Oak* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Smashwords: ‘Russel Middlebrook is back, in a stand-alone sequel to the 2003 teen classic *Geography Club* ... and he’s off to work as a summer camp counselor with his best friends Min and Gunnar. He’s sick and tired of being openly gay in high school, and a peaceful summer at Camp Serenity is just what he needs to relieve the stress that comes from being an “out” teenager. But he doesn’t count on sudden new rivalries with Min and Gunnar, or having to chase after a cabin full of unruly campers. And he especially doesn’t count on a fellow counselor as hunky as Web Bastion. Things do happen at Camp Serenity, especially at night. Brent Hartinger’s third novel is a story about Indian legends, skinny-dipping in moonlit coves, and the mysteries of a secret society called the Order of the Poison Oak. But more than anything, this witty page-turner is about bravery in the face of unexpected danger, the passion of a sizzling summer romance, and, most of all, the courage to be yourself.’

**Heim, Scott. *Mysterious Skin* (1995) [Gay]**

Google Books: ‘Opening in a small town in Kansas in 1981—and at a seemingly innocent Little League baseball game—this haunting debut novel explores the ways

people choose to interpret memory. At the age of eight Brian Lackey is found bleeding under the crawl space of his house, having endured something so traumatic that he cannot remember an entire five-hour period of time. During the following years he begins to recall details of that night, but these fragments of memory are not enough to explain what happened to him. When he meets a woman who claims to have been abducted by a UFO he begins to believe that he, too, has been the victim of an alien encounter. Neil McCormick is fully aware of the events of that summer of 1981. Wise beyond his years, curious about his developing sexuality, Neil found what he perceived to be love and guidance from his baseball coach. Now, ten years later, he has become the town's pariah: a teenage hustler, a terrorist of sorts, unaware of the dangerous path his life is taking. His recklessness is governed by idealized memories of his coach, memories that unexpectedly change when Brian, searching for the missing time in his past, comes to Neil for help and, ultimately, the truth. Strange, beautiful, and of enormous imaginative scope, *Mysterious Skin* is about forgetfulness and loss, love and desire, danger and risk, and the ways we struggle to form an identity in a world that is often alien to us.' The novel was made into a film in 2004.

**Hollinghurst, Alan. *The Swimming Pool Library* (1988) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: 'In 1983 London, the privileged, gay, and sexually irresistible 25-year-old protagonist Will saves the life of an elderly aristocrat having a heart-attack in a public lavatory. This chance meeting sets in process a chain of events that will ultimately require the highly intelligent but essentially carefree Will to substantially re-evaluate his sense of the past and of his family's history.'

**Hollinghurst, Alan. *The Folding Star* (1994) [Gay]**

Amazon: 'Edward Manners—thirty-three, disaffected, in search of a new life—has come to an ancient Flemish city to teach English. Almost at once he falls in love with one of his pupils, the seventeen-year-old Luc Altidore, recently expelled from school for some mysterious offense. Condemned to a mounting but incommunicable

obsession with the boy, Edward becomes involved in affairs with two other men: one a heartless but seductive fraud, the other a young drifter with a deeply possessive streak. Then Edward is introduced to the world of the enigmatic and reclusive Symbolist painter Edgard Orst. Gradually he is drawn toward an understanding of the artist's own obsession with a famous actress, drowned off Ostend at the turn of the century, and of the ambiguous circumstances of Orst's own death under Nazi occupation. The events of *The Folding Star* are played out amid the silent streets and canals of a city that seems locked in the past, and across the northern landscape of out-of-season resorts and abandoned houses that lies beyond. But in the central panel of the novel's triptych Edward returns home for a funeral and is caught up in memories of his own late adolescence and his first love affair: an English pastoral already threatened by the experience of betrayal and loss.'

**Hollinghurst, Alan. *The Line of Beauty* (2004) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: 'The novel is set in Britain in three parts, taking place in 1983, 1986 and 1987. The story surrounds the young gay protagonist, Nick Guest. Nick is middle-class and from the fictional market town of Barwick in Northamptonshire; he has graduated from Worcester College, Oxford with a First in English and is to begin postgraduate studies at University College London. Many of the significant characters in the novel are Nick's male contemporaries from Oxford. The book explores the tension between Nick's intimate relationship with the Fedden family, in whose parties and holidays he participates, and the realities of his sexuality and gay life, which the Feddens accept only to the extent of never mentioning it. It explores themes of hypocrisy, homosexuality, madness and privilege, with the emerging AIDS crisis forming a backdrop to the book's conclusion.... The book touches upon the emergence of HIV/AIDS, as well as the relationship between politics and homosexuality, its ambivalent acceptance within the 1980s Conservative Party and mainstream society. The book also considers heterosexual hypocrisy regarding homosexual promiscuity. Finally, an underlying theme is the nature of beauty. Nick is attracted to physical beauty in art and in men. However, he pays a price for his choices: his beautiful lover Wani is a self-hating homosexual, and the Feddens' home (in which Nick Guest remains a guest) is filled with both exquisite art and vile

hypocrisy. The novel also deals with the “coming out” experience of Nick and of gay men in general. The novel explores the question of whether a gay man can remain apolitical in a homophobic society.’ The novel was made into a TV miniseries in 2006.

**Howe, James. *Totally Joe* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘The novel’s innovative format reveals the “alphabiography” of 13-year-old Joe Bunch, the gay member of the seventh-grade misfits. In this alphabetical survey, assigned by his English teacher, he shares his heartfelt, snappy reflections. For “A is for Addie,” he recalls his earlier years, when he liked to dress up and play with Barbie dolls (a pastime that bonded him to Addie...). He confesses that in fifth grade he wanted to be a “guy-guy” so badly that he asked his friend to teach him how (“Oh. My. God. It was pathetic”). Joe has a crush on “totally cool, smart” Colin (the “C” entry), a jock who returns his affection but is not ready to go public with their relationship and eventually calls it off. Encouraged by his insightful aunt, Joe takes a major leap when he comes out to his supportive family. Howe deals with weighty issues, but uses Joe’s affable personality to interject ample humor, and the hero ends each segment with a “Life Lesson,” many presenting principles appropriate to any kid (e.g., “Just be who you are, okay?”). This narrator is anything but an average Joe: he’s candid, memorable and—though he might find this hard to believe—totally charismatic.’

**Hughes, Holly. *Clit Notes* (1996) [Lesbian]**

A collection of performance art pieces written and performed during the 80s and 90s, with background notes on their contexts. Google Books: ‘Holly Hughes is one of the most popular and controversial out-there-and-in-your-face writer-performers around, and in this collection of some of her greatest hits she describes her career as an “escape” artist: how she escaped her conservative upbringing in a part of the country “where silence was the first language” to become an Obie award-winning performance artist and playwright as well as a central figure in America’s culture wars.’

**Isherwood, Christopher. *A Single Man* (1964) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘George, an English professor, is unable to cope with the despondent, bereaved nature of his existence after the sudden death of his partner, Jim. Throughout the day, he has various encounters with different people that color his senses and illuminate the possibilities of being alive and human in the world.’ The novel was made into a film in 2009.

**Jarman, Derek. *At Your Own Risk: A Saint’s Testament* (1992) [Gay: Biography]**

Google Books: ‘Spanning his entire life and divided into decades from the forties to the nineties, this book brings together Jarman’s poetry, prose, memoirs, photographs and film transcripts and includes newspaper extracts on aspects of gay culture. The result is a rounded portrait of homosexuality through the twentieth century seen through a fiercely personal perspective. *At Your Own Risk* is angry, entertaining and humane, both a powerful argument against homophobia and a wild celebration of an individual’s sexuality and freedom.’

**Jones, Carrie. *Tips on Having a Gay (ex) Boyfriend* (2007) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘It isn’t every day that my high school boyfriend, Eastbrook High School’s Harvest King, tells me he’s gay. It’s not every day that the Harvest Queen is dumped in the middle of a road with the stars watching the humiliation and the dogs barking because they want to come help tear my heart out and leave it on the cold gray ground. It isn’t every day that my entire world falls apart. Belle believes that Dylan is her true love—maybe even her soulmate. Until one cold night when Dylan drops the ultimate bomb: he’s gay. Where, Belle wonders, does that leave her? Should she have somehow been able to tell? Is every guy that she loves going to turn out to be gay? This beautifully-written debut explores what happens when you are suddenly forced to see someone in a different light, and what that can teach you about yourself.’

**Katcher, Brian. *Almost Perfect* (2009) [Transgender: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘Logan Witherspoon recently discovered that his girlfriend of three years cheated on him. But things start to look up when a new student breezes through the halls of his small-town high school. Sage Hendricks befriends Logan at a time when he no longer trusts or believes in people. Sage has been homeschooled for a number of years and her parents have forbidden her to date anyone, but she won’t tell Logan why. One day, Logan acts on his growing feelings for Sage. Moments later, he wishes he never had. Sage finally discloses her big secret: she’s actually a boy. Enraged, frightened, and feeling betrayed, Logan lashes out at Sage and disowns her. But once Logan comes to terms with what happened, he reaches out to Sage in an attempt to understand her situation. But Logan has no idea how rocky the road back to friendship will be.’

**Koertge, Ron. *Boy Girl Boy* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘Larry, Teresa, and Elliot are so tight, there’s no room in their circle for more than three: boy, girl, boy. And when they graduate, they plan to move to California to start their *real* lives—together. But who are they fooling? Larry is gay and trying to come to terms with his sexuality. Teresa is tired of hanging out with boys she loves who don’t want to be her boyfriend. And Elliot is realizing that he may like himself more if he isn’t always in the shadow of his friends. This is a wry, surprising, and insightful story about three best friends who each learn how tough it is to be yourself.’

**Koertge, Ron. *The Arizona Kid* (1988) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘A trip out West to work at a racetrack—and a sojourn with a sophisticated gay uncle—bring unexpected discoveries in this quick-witted coming-of-age novel ... From the moment sixteen-year-old Billy steps off the train in Tucson, he knows this will be a summer unlike any he’s seen in small-town Bradleyville, Missouri. For starters, he’s staying with his cool gay uncle, who has managed to get

him a job at the racetrack caring for horses. Still, Billy doesn't expect the horseracing world to be quite as rough and tumble as this—toiling side by side with a macho survivalist and falling hard for the feisty, romance-shy “exercise girl” Cara Mae. With his trademark fast-paced dialogue filled with wit and compassion, Ron Koertge tells the tale of an insecure teen who discovers that gaining stature involves more than Stetsons and boots—and that lessons on love and manhood come from the places you least expect.’

**Koja, Kathe. *Talk* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Lambda Literary Review: ‘*Talk* is both the title of this novel and of a controversial play that the students at Faulkner High School put on. The novel is told in alternating stream-of-consciousness chapters between the two leads of the play: Kit Webster, a gay teen who discovers himself over the course of being in this play, and popular Lindsay Walsh, former Harvest Queen and unequivocal queen of Faulkner Drama (not to mention Drama Camp and many other theatrical activities in which she takes part and excels). In between these points of view are snippets from the play itself, where the lead characters, Reed and Lola, are respectively an interrogator and a detained member of the resistance, a freedom fighter in an unidentified but all-too-universal struggle. Koja inverts the stereotype of the theater-obsessed gay male while making a larger point about acting and gay identity; Kit has auditioned only as a dare from his best friend, Carma, the only friend to whom he has formally come out. But it turns out that he is a superb actor. When people are so surprised that he has no prior acting experience, Kit thinks to himself (but not yet aloud) that of course, he’s been acting every day of his life, acting as straight, still struggling with the closet and which side of the door he wants to be on, even as he admires and is infatuated with a fellow student, the openly-gay Pablo, a jazz musician who was the school’s Harvest King the year before.’

**LaCour, Nina & David Levithan. *You Know Me Well* (2016) [Gay, Lesbian: Young Adult]**



Google Books: ‘Who knows you well? Your best friend? Your boyfriend or girlfriend? A stranger you meet on a crazy night? No one, really? Mark and Kate have sat next to each other for an entire year, but have never spoken. For whatever reason, their paths outside of class have never crossed. That is until Kate spots Mark miles away from home, out in the city for a wild, unexpected night. Kate is lost, having just run away from a chance to finally meet the girl she has been in love with from afar. Mark, meanwhile, is in love with his best friend Ryan, who may or may not feel the same way. When Kate and Mark meet up, little do they know how important they will become to each other—and how, in a very short time, they will know each other better than any of the people who are supposed to know them more. Told in alternating points of view by Nina LaCour and David Levithan ... *You Know Me Well* is a deeply honest story about navigating the joys and heartaches of first love, one truth at a time.’

**Law, Benjamin. *The Family Law* (2010) [Gay]**

The Monthly: ‘Tolstoy was wrong: not all happy families are alike. As portrayed in this very funny collection of personal essays by Benjamin Law, the family Law has found a truly original and unusual brand of happiness. It’s one that—more or less cheerfully—allows for divorce, financial problems, warring siblings, cockroach infestations and a mother who is an uninhibited emotional exhibitionist. We witness the author’s agony in coming out as a gay Chinese-Australian teen in a small town on the Sunshine Coast, as well as the lonely death of a grandmother in a Hong Kong nursing home. The Laws, when not busy hating, ignoring or being embarrassed by one another, share much love, and that’s what counts.’

**Leavitt, David. *The Lost Language of Cranes* (1986) [Gay]**

Amazon: ‘Set in the 1980s against the backdrop of a swiftly gentrifying Manhattan, *The Lost Language of Cranes* tells the story of twenty-five-year-old Philip

Benjamin, who realizes he must come out to his parents after falling in love for the first time with a man. Philip's parents are facing their own problems: pressure from developers and the loss of their longtime home. But the real threat to the family is Philip's father's own struggle with his suppressed homosexuality, realized only in Sunday afternoon visits to gay porn theaters. Philip's revelation to his parents leads his father to a point of crisis and provokes changes that forever alter the landscape of the family's lives.' A *New York Times* reviewer comments on the title: 'In a psychological case history discovered by a lesbian friend of Philip's, a boy named Michel who was neglected as a baby is found to have identified with the cranes he saw working outside his nursery window. "He moved like a crane, made the noises of a crane, and although the doctors showed him many pictures and toys, he only responded to the pictures of cranes, only played with the toy cranes. Only cranes made him happy. He came to be known as the 'crane-child'." As Philip's friend muses: "How wondrous, how grand those cranes must have seemed to Michel, compared to the small and clumsy creatures who surrounded him. For each, in his own way, she believed, finds what it is he must love, and loves it; the window becomes a mirror; whatever it is that we love, that is who we are".' The novel was made into a film in 1991.

**Leavitt, David & M. Mitchell. (ed.) *Penguin Book of Gay Short Stories* (1994) [Gay]**

Publishers Weekly: 'In this provocative, wonderfully varied anthology, a formidable array of talents—gay and straight, men and women—investigate the experience of love between men, the individualistic complexity of gay male identity and gay men's relationships with lovers, friends and family. Highlights include Graham Greene's story about a newly wed but secretly gay man on a Mediterranean honeymoon with his wife, William Trevor's tale of hypocrisy at an English boys' school and works by Larry Kramer, Edmund White, Christopher Coe, Allan Gurganus, Ann Beattie, Edna O'Brien, D.H. Lawrence, Noel Coward, Sherwood Anderson and E.M. Forster. A third of the 39 selections appear here for the first time, alongside familiar pieces such as J.R. Ackerley's unsparingly candid account of his sex life and John Cheever's portrayal of love in prison from the novel *Falconer*. Several pieces may startle or

provoke, such as Stephen Greco's raw, defiant dream-memory of the gay scene before AIDS; A.M. Homes's graphically explicit romp involving two schoolmates in a bathtub; and James Kirkup's story of an American college teacher in Japan who goes to bed with one of his students. The tragedy of AIDS and its emotional and social impact are movingly depicted in stories by Peter Wells, Michael Cunningham, co-editor Leavitt and, one of its victims, the late Allen Barnett.'

**Leddick, David. *My Worst Date* (1996) [Gay]**

Google Books: 'In Miami, where the sun always shines and the people are always fabulous, sixteen-year-old Hugo is ready for something more than school and hanging out. When he meets Glenn Elliot Paul, he thinks that, maybe, he had found something to look forward to. Hugo gets more than he bargained for, however, when he realizes that the man of his dreams is also dating his mother. *My Worst Date* is a humorous and insightful novel—an innovative take on the traditional coming-of-age novel.'

**Le Guin, Ursula. *The Left Hand of Darkness* (1969) [GenderQueer: Fantasy]**

Wikipedia: 'A science fiction novel ... The novel follows the story of Genly Ai, a native of Terra, who is sent to the planet of Gethen as an envoy of the Ekumen, a loose confederation of planets. Ai's mission is to persuade the nations of Gethen to join the Ekumen, but he is stymied by his lack of understanding of Gethenian culture. Individuals on Gethen are "ambisexual", with no fixed sex. This fact has a strong influence on the culture of the planet, and creates a barrier of understanding for Ai. *Left Hand* was among the first books published in the feminist science fiction genre and is the most famous examination of androgyny in science fiction. A major theme of the novel is the effect of sex and gender on culture and society, explored in particular through the relationship between Ai and Estraven, a Gethenian politician who trusts and helps him... The theme of gender also touched off a feminist debate when it was first published, over depictions of the ambisexual Gethenians.'

**Le Guin, Ursula. *The Telling* (2000) [Lesbian: Fantasy]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘In this virtually flawless new tale set in her Hainish universe, Le Guin ... sends a young woman from Earth on her first mission, to the planet Aka as an Observer for the Ekumen. Although well prepared for her role, Suttu has been horribly scarred by her past. She grew up gay in a North America badly damaged by ecological stupidity and the excesses of a fundamentalist state religion called Unism. Traveling to Aka, she expected (and had been trained) to deal with a peaceful, essentially static culture based on an ancient, all-encompassing belief system akin to Taoism and known as the Telling. When she arrived, however, she discovered that during the decades it took her to reach the planet, Aka's culture has been radically transformed. The Telling has been all but banned, replaced by a soulless form of corporate communism. It becomes Suttu's task to take a harrowing journey into the high mountains, searching for the last, priceless depository of Akan traditional culture before it can be destroyed. As Le Guin notes in her preface, similarities to China during the Great Leap Forward are not entirely coincidental.’

**Levithan, David. *Boy Meets Boy* (2003) [Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Etc.: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Boy Meets Boy* ... is set in a gay-friendly small town in America, and describes a few weeks in the lives of a group of high school students. As the title suggests, the central story follows the standard romantic plotline usually known as “boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl” except that the main characters are both boys, the narrator Paul and newcomer Noah.... Openly gay sophomore Paul lives in a gay-friendly small town in New Jersey, where homosexuality, bisexuality, and being transgender is accepted and embraced.’

**Levithan, David & B. Merrell. *The Full Spectrum: a new generation of writing about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and other identities* (2006) [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Etc.: Young Adult]**

David Levithan website: ‘Teens are more aware of sexuality and identity than ever, and they’re looking for answers and insights, as well as a community of others. In

order to help create that community, YA authors David Levithan and Billy Merrell have collected original poems, essays, and stories by young adults in their teens and early 20s. *The Full Spectrum* includes a variety of writers—gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, transitioning, and questioning—on a variety of subjects: coming out, family, friendship, religion/faith, first kisses, break-ups, and many others.’

**Levithan, David. *Two Boys Kissing* (2013) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘David Levithan tells the based-on-true-events story of Harry and Craig, two 17-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record—all of which is narrated by a Greek Chorus of the generation of gay men lost to AIDS. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teen boys dealing with languishing long-term relationships, coming out, navigating gender identity, and falling deeper into the digital rabbit hole of gay hookup sites—all while the kissing former couple tries to figure out their own feelings for each other.’

**Lo, Malinda. *Ash* (2009) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘A reworking of the Cinderella fairy tale that reimagines the title character, Ash, as a lesbian teenager. The novel centers around the familiar story of Cinderella, her father recently remarried, and lamenting the misery of her new life with stepsisters and a step mother. The twist arrives when Ash falls in love with the King's respected Huntress Kaisa, after she has made a commitment to dark fairy prince Sidhean.’

***Love Speaks its Name* – see McClatchy**

**Lucashenko, Melissa. *Killing Darcy* (1998) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Amazon: ‘When sixteen-year-old Filomena spends the summer with her father in New South Wales, Australia, she becomes involved in a murder from her family's

past and as well as the prejudices experienced by Darcy, a gay Aboriginal who works for Fil's father'.

**Luker, Trish & Neal Drinnan. *Fruit Salad: A Compote of Contemporary Gay & Lesbian Writing* (1997) [Gay, Lesbian]**

This is an anthology of Australian LGBT writing published by the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras committee in 1997.

**Mac, Carrie. *Crush* (2006) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Google Books: 'Because of a moment of indiscretion, Hope's parents send her to New York to spend the summer with her hipster sister while they travel to Thailand. Miserable, Hope ends up meeting Nat, and developing a powerful crush. The only problem is that Nat is a girl. Hope is pretty sure she isn't gay. Or is she? Struggling with new feelings, fitting in and a strange city far from home, Hope finds that love—and acceptance—comes in many different forms.'

**Mars-Jones, Adam & Edmund White. *The Darker Proof: Stories from a Crisis* (1987) [Gay]**

Amazon: 'An anthology of stories about suffering with the HIV virus.'

**Mastbaum, Blair. *Clay's Way* (2004) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Goodreads: 'Set against the dazzling backdrop of Hawaii's Oahu and Kauai islands, *Clay's Way* seethes with energy and hormonally charged nihilism. For 15-year-old Sam, a wanna-be punk rocker who writes bad haiku poetry, his middle-class suburban life feels like a prison. Mistaking lust for fate, Sam becomes obsessed with Clay, a 17-year-old surfer, outwardly cool but equally adrift. The violence and tumult of Clay's search for identity propels him, with desperately confused Sam in his wake, through the hardest decisions and obstacles of their young lives.'

**May, Pamela. *Easy Come Easy Go* (1990) [Lesbian]**

Google Books: ‘A humorous novel set in contemporary Melbourne that concerns the private and working lives of a group of gay women and their friends.’

**McClatchy, J.D. (ed.) *Love Speaks its Name: Gay and Lesbian Love Poems* (2001) [Gay, Lesbian]**

Goodreads: ‘From Sappho to Shakespeare to Cole Porter—a marvelous and wide-ranging collection of classic gay and lesbian love poetry. The poets represented here include Walt Whitman, Hart Crane, Gertrude Stein, Federico García Lorca, Djuna Barnes, Constantine Cavafy, Elizabeth Bishop, W. H. Auden, and James Merrill. Their poems of love are among the most perceptive, the most passionate, the wittiest, and the most moving we have.’

**McNab, Claire. *The Wombat Strategy* (2004) [Lesbian: Detective]**

Amazon: ‘Best-selling mystery novelist Claire McNab ... launches her newest series with a bang. Running a pub in the tiny Australian outback town of Wollegudgerie doesn’t offer much fun or future to knockabout Aussie dyke Kylie Kendall. So when the father she never knew dies and leaves her 51 percent of his Los Angeles-based private detective agency, it’s bright lights, big city for America-bound Kylie. Not so happy about her arrival is her father’s former (and Kylie’s new) business partner, the beautiful, enigmatic Arianna Creeling, who wants to buy out Kylie and gives her a decidedly chilly reception in sunny Southern California. But the two women soon have other matters besides their bickering to attend to. Dr. Deer, psychiatrist to the stars whose “slap, slap, get on with it” approach has made him a celebrity, hires them to investigate the theft of records and subsequent suicide of a successful but almost universally reviled film director. Concerned for his reputation, Dr. Deer would much

prefer that the death of his former client be revealed to be a murder. As the sparks between Arianna and Kylie fly, the City of Angels has turned out to be much more difficult and dangerous than Kylie had imagined. Transplanted Australian Claire McNab has written 18 best-selling mystery novels... She lives in Los Angeles.'

**McNab, Claire. *Double Bluff* (1995) [Lesbian: Detective]**

Publisher's blurb: 'The 7th Detective Inspector Carol Ashton Mystery. It is not unusual for the beautiful Madeleine Shipley to want to see Detective Inspector Carol Ashton—but this time it is to report that she is being haunted by a stalker. A stalker who has graduated from sending flowers to sending hate mail. Carol puts the investigation in the hands of local police so she can concentrate on the death of media mogul Tala Orlando, who has apparently committed suicide. But there are too many people who benefit from her death to set Carol's mind at ease. And too many unanswered questions. However, they pale into insignificance when Madeline's car has acid poured over it. The stalker is getting closer and the psychiatrists warn that next time it will be Madeline herself who is attacked... A gripping thriller from the best selling Claire McNab, who is fast becoming the number one lesbian detective writer.' See also the entry for her *The Wombat Strategy* above.

**Maupin, Armistead. *Tales of the City* (1978) [Gay, Etc.]**

Wikipedia: '*Tales of the City* (1978) is the first book in the *Tales of the City* series by American novelist Armistead Maupin... The series opens with the arrival of Mary Ann Singleton, a naive young woman from Cleveland, Ohio, who is visiting San Francisco on vacation when she impulsively decides to stay. She finds an apartment at 28 Barbary Lane, the domain of the eccentric, marijuana-growing landlady Anna Madrigal. Mary Ann becomes friends with other tenants of the building: the hippyish, bisexual Mona Ramsey; heterosexual lothario Brian Hawkins; the sinister and cagey roof tenant Norman Neal Williams; and Michael Tolliver, a sweet and personable gay man known to friends as Mouse (as in Mickey Mouse)... In 1993 the first book was



made into a television miniseries, produced by Channel 4 in the UK and screened by PBS in the U.S. the next year. The second and third titles in the series made their television debuts in 1998 and 2001.’

**Miller, Madeline. *Song of Achilles* (2011) [Gay]**

Google Books: ‘Greece in the age of heroes. Patroclus, an awkward young prince, has been exiled to the court of King Peleus and his perfect son Achilles. Despite their differences, the boys develop a tender friendship, a bond which blossoms into something deeper [i.e. also sexual] as they grow into young men. But when Helen of Sparta is kidnapped, Achilles is dispatched to distant Troy to fulfil his destiny. Torn between love and fear for his friend, Patroclus follows, little knowing that the years that follow will test everything they hold dear.’

**Mishima, Yukio. *Confessions of a Mask* (1949) [Gay]**

Amazon: ‘The story of a man coming to terms with his homosexuality in traditional Japanese society has become a modern classic. *Confessions of a Mask* tells the story of Kochan, an adolescent boy tormented by his burgeoning attraction to men: he wants to be “normal”. Kochan is meek-bodied, and unable to participate in the more athletic activities of his classmates. He begins to notice his growing attraction to some of the boys in his class, particularly the pubescent body of his friend Omi. To hide his homosexuality, he courts a woman, Sonoko, but this exacerbates his feelings for men. As news of the War reaches Tokyo, Kochan considers the fate of Japan and his place within its deeply rooted propriety. *Confessions of a Mask* reflects Mishima’s own coming of age in post-war Japan. Its publication in English—praised by Gore Vidal, James Baldwin, and Christopher Isherwood—propelled the young Yukio Mishima to international fame.’

**Mitchell, Susan. *Kerryn & Jackie: The Shared Life of Kerryn Phelps and Jackie Stricker* (2002) [Lesbian: Biography]**

Google Books: ‘This is the story of Kerryn Phelps, head of the Australian Medical Association, and her remarkable and very public marriage to Jackie Stricker.’

**Monette, Paul. *Borrowed Time* (1988) [Gay]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘Wrenching in its detail, this account of the author’s final two years with his companion and “beloved friend” Roger Horwitz, who died of AIDS in 1986, personalizes the epidemic’s appalling statistics with heartbreaking clarity. Poet and novelist Monette ... applies admirable candor and control to the task of chronicling the suffering endured in the months between the diagnosis and death of the man with whom he had spent over 10 years. Monette brings to the narrative a poet’s eye for the telling image or metaphor, and makes this far more than a simple compendium of medical disasters: the memoir transcends the particulars of the AIDS epidemic to stand as an eloquent testimonial to the power of love and the devastation of loss, the courage of the ill and the anger, fear and dedication of their loved ones.’

**Monette, Paul. *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story* (1992) [Gay]**

Amazon: ‘Paul Monette’s National Book Award–winning memoir hailed as a classic coming-out story. Paul Monette grew up all-American, Catholic, overachieving . . . and closeted. As a child of the 1950s, a time when a kid suspected of being a “homo” would routinely be beaten up, Monette kept his secret throughout his adolescence. He wrestled with his sexuality for the first thirty years of his life, priding himself on his ability to “pass” for straight. The story of his journey to adulthood and to self-acceptance with grace and honesty, this intimate portrait of a young man’s struggle with his own desires is witty, humorous, and deeply felt. Before his death of complications from AIDS in 1995, Monette was an outspoken activist crusading for gay rights. *Becoming a Man* shows his courageous path to stand up for his own right to love and be loved.’

**Nava, Michael. *How Town* (1990) [Gay: Detective]**

Goodreads: ‘Michael Nava is the author of a groundbreaking series of seven novels featuring a gay, Latino criminal defense lawyer Henry Rios. Nava is a six-time recipient of the Lambda Literary Award in the mystery category... A controversial case brings lawyer Henry Rios back home to Oakland—and into the sights of a stone-cold killer. It’s been almost a decade since Henry Rios has seen his sister, Elena. A troubled family history has left them both with unhappy memories. But his visit with his sister isn’t the reunion he imagined. She’s asking him to defend Paul Windsor, someone they had grown up with—who has a history of pedophilia and has just been charged with murder after his fingerprints were found at a crime scene. The victim, who peddled child pornography, was tortured before he was bludgeoned to death in a motel room. The investigation takes Rios back to his old neighborhood and down a twisting trail of blackmail, jealousy, and tainted love. Forced to confront his demons, he’ll face off with some hard truths about himself—and with a merciless killer.’

**Nestle, Joan & Naomi Holoch. *Women on Women: An Anthology of American Lesbian Short Fiction* (1990) [Lesbian]**

Google Books: ‘Women on Women reflects the emotional, political, and literary issues of the lesbian community. Cherry Muhanji, Rebecca Brown, Michell Cliff, Nisa Donnelly, and others cover topics ranging from love and sex to sexual abuse and AIDS.’

**Oates, Joyce Carol. *Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang* (1993) [Lesbian]**

Goodreads: ‘The time is the 1950s. The place is a blue-collar town in upstate New York, where five high school girls are joined in a gang dedicated to pride, power, and vengeance on a world they never made—a world that seems made to denigrate and destroy them. *Foxfire* is Joyce Carol Oates’ strongest and most unsparing novel yet ... an often engrossing, often shocking evocation of female rage, gallantry, and grit. Here, then, are the Foxfire chronicles—the secret history of a sisterhood of blood, a haven from a world of lechers and oppressors, marked by a liberating fury that burns

too hot to last. ... The story moves over the years from the first eruption of adolescent anger at sexual abuse to a shared life financed by luring predatory men into traps baited with sex. But then the gang's very success leads to disaster—as Foxfire makes a last tragic stand against a society intent on swallowing it up. Yet amid scenes of violence, sexual abuse, exploitation, and vengeance lies this novel's greatest power: the exquisite, astonishing rendering of the bonds that link the girls of Foxfire together—especially that between Maddy, the teller of the tale, and Legs, whose quintessential strength and bedrock bravery make her one of the most vivid and vital heroines in modern fiction.' The novel was made into a film in 1996.

**O'Leary, Ann. *Julia's Song* (1998) [Lesbian]**

Google Books: 'Australian music reviewer Julia Moran is assigned to profile American rock singer Samantha Knight. Renowned for her velvety voice, flawless body, and rich, honey-blond hair, Samantha is one of the few openly lesbian singers to make it to stardom. When Julia signs on to cover the band's entire Australian tour, Samantha finds her reaction to the beautiful reporter exciting... and disturbing.'

**Pallotta-Chiarolli, Maria. *Someone You Know: A Friend's Farewell* (1991) [Gay]**

Amazon: 'Maria Palotta-Chiarolli's biography of Jon, who is living with AIDS, and the story of their extraordinary friendship. Maria and Jon teach each other, hold common views, they also share secrets. The threads and entanglements of their lives come together at Jon's final gathering. *Someone You Know* covers the issues that AIDS makes us confront and will help all who are involved in AIDS education, research and care.'

**Papademetriou & Chris Tebbetts. *M or F?* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Amazon Books: 'Frannie is desperate to get the attention of her crush, Jeffrey, but too shy to make a move. Frannie's gay best friend, Marcus, advises her to get the ball rolling by chatting with Jeffrey online, but Frannie won't type a word. Marcus takes

over at the keyboard, and soon his plan is a success! But the more he chats, the more it seems Jeffrey is falling for Marcus, not Frannie. Whose romance is this, anyway?'

**Patrick, John. *Boy Toy: The Sensual Adventures of a Young Stud* (1993)**

Patrick has written numerous works of gay erotica. This is one of them!

**Pausacker, Jenny. *What Are Ya?* (1987) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Jenny Pausacker, an Australian writer, says on her website: '*What Are Ya?* was the first Australian novel with a gay main character. It was also a deliberate subversion of the current American model, in which the writer focused on a single protagonist, who usually told their own story in the first person, explaining what it meant to be gay or wonder whether they were gay. Instead, *What Are Ya?* takes you into a world where some people are gay already, some people are working out that they're gay, some people are working out that they're not gay and some people take it for granted that they're straight. And most of these people are in their final year of school, so they're having to make all sorts of choices about all sorts of other things, as well as their sexual preference. *What Are Ya?* gives you a chance to follow a bunch of kids around, get to know them and see how they change themselves and each other.' See <http://jennypausacker.com/>

***Penguin Book of Gay Short Stories* – see Leavitt**

***Penguin Book of Homosexual Verse* – see Coote**

**Peters, Julie Anne. *Keeping you a Secret* (2003) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: 'It is about a young girl (Holland, aged 17) discovering her sexuality and what it is like to experience homophobia. What starts out as a confusing "girl crush" becomes a discovery of Holland's true feelings and coping with the concept

of attraction to a member of her own sex. Other characters in the novel discover her crush and employ various means of physical and emotional abuse and violence, displaying strong homophobic behaviors.’

**Peters, Julie Anne. *Luna* (2004) [Transgender: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Luna* follows the life of sixteen-year-old Regan as she keeps the secret of her older sister Luna’s transgender identity. During the day, Luna pretends to be an average senior boy named Liam. But at night, Luna is allowed to be her true self: Lia Marie, a girl. Later, she changes her female name to Luna, which means “moon“, to reflect that her true identity could only be seen at night. After years of “transforming” only at night, Luna confides in her sister that she wants to transition into a full-time female. Luna asks Regan to help her with her transitioning and, although she agrees, she finds herself worried about Luna and her safety. The novel follows Regan as she makes sense of her sister’s decision.’

**Peters, Julie Anne. *Far from Xanadu* (2005) [Lesbian, Gay: Young Adult]**

Teenreads: ‘Mighty Mike Szabo is a softball champion growing up in a small Kansas town. Mike works for the feed store, drives a truck, lifts weights, and when the beautiful and exotic Xanadu moves into town, Mike falls in love with her. The only problem is that Mike is a girl and Xanadu likes boys.... Contrary to the popular portrayal of small towns in the Midwest, Mike’s neighbors have no problem with her sexual identity. They are a highly supportive, if somewhat traditional, community who are deeply committed to Mike and her future. It is Mike, herself, who struggles with what it means to be the only lesbian in town and in love with a girl who does not return her feelings.... While Mike’s sexual identity is a big part of the story, it is not the book’s exclusive focus. The best parts of the novel feature Mike’s friendships with her flamboyantly gay best friend Jamie, and with the devastating Xanadu. Instead of dwelling exclusively on the external pressures Mike faces, Peters writes about Mike’s internal battle for self-acceptance. As Mike says, “I just wanted to get past wishing I’d been born different, to accepting that I was. Finding the joy in that”.’

**Phelps, Kerryn:** see **Mitchell, Susan.** *Kerryn & Jackie: The Shared Life of Kerryn Phelps and Jackie Stricker*

**Phillips, John (ed.)** *Violet to Vita: The Letters of Violet Trefusis to Vita Sackville-West, 1910-1921* (1991) [Lesbian]

Goodreads: ‘The passionate love affair between Violet Trefusis and Vita Sackville-West ended in 1921 with their forced separation and return to their respective husbands and families. This collection of Violet’s letters explores her part in the affair and provides details of the other principals involved.’

Wikipedia: ‘Virginia Woolf described this [relationship] by analogy in her novel *Orlando*. In this romanticized biography of Vita, Trefusis is represented by the Russian princess Sasha.’

**Poole, Blair R.** *Breathe* (2005) [Gay]

Goodreads: ‘*Breathe* is the story of a teenage boy’s struggle to keep his sexuality a secret from his devout religious family and homophobic friends. *Breathe* ... is set against the backdrop of contemporary city life and hip-hop culture... A realistic portrayal of the isolation, angst, and mental turmoil of a young African-American male coping with his sexuality.’

**Powell, Neil (ed.)** *Gay Love Poetry* (1997) [Gay]

Amazon: ‘This wide-ranging and superbly entertaining anthology of poetry stretches from Catullus and Ovid through Marlowe and Michelangelo, on to Walt Whitman and Oscar Wilde, and finally to such moderns as Thom Gunn, J.R. Ackerley, Francis King, and C.F. Cavafy. This one-of-a-kind collection makes a convincing case for the central place of gay poetry in our literary culture.’

**Powell, V. K. *To Protect and Serve* (2008) [Lesbian: Detective]**

Amazon Books: ‘To protect or serve—a choice no detective should ever be forced to make. Lieutenant Alex Troy is caught in the paradox of her life—to hold steadfast to her professional oath or to protect the woman she loves. Assigned to the Vice/Narcotics Division, Alex is given the dangerous but career-building mission of catching notorious and elusive drug lord Sonny Davis. She has to assemble the perfect team of officers to pursue the man suspected of killing numerous coeds—and a friend of Alex’s—with the poison he peddles. Keri Morgan is young, enthusiastic, and alive in ways that Alex can barely remember, and Keri has a reason of her own to want Sonny Davis dead. Before justice can be served, Alex and Keri are caught in a web of love, duty, vengeance, and desire that will change both their lives.’

**Proulx, Annie. *Brokeback Mountain* (1997) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘It was originally published in *The New Yorker* on October 13, 1997, for which it won the National Magazine Award for Fiction in 1998. Proulx won a third place O. Henry Award for the story in 1998. A slightly expanded version of the story was published in Proulx’s 1999 collection of short stories, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories*. The collection was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction... In 1963, two young men, Ennis del Mar and Jack Twist, are hired for the summer to look after sheep at a seasonal grazing range on the fictional Brokeback Mountain in Wyoming. Unexpectedly, they form an intense emotional and sexual attachment, but have to part ways at the end of the summer. Over the next twenty years, as their separate lives play out with marriages, children, and jobs, they continue reuniting for brief liaisons on camping trips in remote settings.’ The short story was made into a film in 2005.

**Puig, Manuel. *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1976) Trans. T. Colchie. [Gay]**



Wikipedia: ‘It depicts the daily conversations between two cellmates in an Argentine prison, Molina and Valentín, and the intimate bond they form in the process... The novel’s form is unusual in that there is no traditional narrative voice, one of the primary features of fiction. It is written in large part as dialogue, without any indication of who is speaking, except for a dash (-) to show a change of speaker... The conversations between the characters, when not focused on the moment at hand, are recountings of films that Molina has seen, which act as a form of escape from their environment. Thus there are a main plot, several subplots, and five additional stories that comprise the novel... The author includes a long series of footnotes on the psychoanalytic theory of homosexuality. The footnotes act largely as a representation of Puig’s political intention in writing the novel: to present an objective view of homosexuality. The footnotes include both factual information and that given by the fictional Anelli Taub. The footnotes tend to appear at moments of misunderstanding between Molina and Valentín. The extended notes deepen the novel’s experimental nature while clarifying the book’s challenge to traditional psychoanalytic views of homosexuality.’ The novel was made into a film in 1985.

**Quan, Andy. *Calendar Boy* (2001) [Gay]**

Goodreads: ‘On the edge of adulthood, self-discovery, coming out; in university towns, Europe, Vancouver, Toronto, Sydney, the protagonists of *Calendar Boy* unravel cultural heritage, community, identity on the road to—they hope—love, happiness, and self-acceptance. Set around the globe, sixteen adventurous stories weave fiction with real-life smarts, guts and oomph underpinning them. Quan shifts gears effortlessly from street-smart colloquial voice to rapid-fire monologue to bemused, exhilarated tone of immigrants new to Canada or to gay male culture. With one foot in urban Canadian life and the other in the global village, *Calendar Boy* will hit home even as it makes you see the world in new ways.’

**Quinn, Jay. *Metes and Bounds* (2001) [Gay]**

Google Books: ‘Surf, Sand and Sex Meet the Macho World of Construction Workers in this Debut Novel; In language immediate and haunting, this vivid and unique tale ... tells the coming-of-age story of a young man claiming his place as a surfer and coming out gay. Set against the broad skies and beaches of North Carolina’s Outer Banks, Matt’s story of growing up, moving on and coming out is vivid and unique in its candour, subject and small-town setting. Amidst the small and large worlds of construction sites, fishing piers and surf breaks, readers will be inspired by the courage Matt exhibits to find erotic and emotional maturity in the familiar—and at times frightening—place he knows as home.’

**Radclyffe. *Against Doctor’s Orders* (2014) [Lesbian]**

Amazon: ‘There’d been a Rivers at the helm of Argyle Community Hospital for six generations, and Harper Rivers was set to take her father’s place whenever he decided to hang up his shingle. Unfortunately, the board of directors had other ideas—they accepted a buyout offer from a health care conglomerate with plans to close the hospital’s doors to the community that depended on it. And Presley Worth, a high-powered corporate financier, came to town to oversee the closure. Funny thing was, no one asked Harper, and she had no intentions of following anyone’s orders but her own—no matter how beautiful, smart, or commanding the new boss might be.’

**Radclyffe. *Taking Fire* (2014) [Lesbian]**

Goodreads: ‘After two years and too many lost troops, Navy medic Max de Milles is ready to go home. Her last tour is up in four days and she will soon be catching a transport to the States. Life is looking good until she gets detailed to evacuate a humanitarian group in south Somalia. Rachel Winslow and her Red Cross team are caught in the crossfire during a vicious civil uprising, but she refuses to abandon her team members as the rebels close in on their camp. By the time Max and the Black Hawk arrive, it may already be too late. Hunted by extremists, Max and Rachel are forced to work together if they are to survive, and in the process, discover something far more lasting.’

**Rechy, John. *City of Night* (1963) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘Set in the 1960s, the book follows the travels of a young man (Rechy uses the term ‘youngman’ when referring to hustlers) across the country while working as a hustler. The book focuses chapters on locations that the boy visits and certain personages he meets there, from New York City, to Los Angeles, San Francisco and New Orleans. Throughout the novel, the unnamed narrator has trysts with various peculiar characters, including another hustler, an older man, an S&M enthusiast and a bed-ridden old man. All of these relationships range in the extent of their emotional and sexual nature, as well as in their peculiarity.’

**Rees, David. *The Milkman’s on his Way* (1982) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘Growing up gay, beginning as a teenager to realize what you are... Just when everyone else is becoming involved with the opposite sex, you’re alone in having to hide your feelings. It’s impossible to talk to anyone. It’s not something you want to blurt out to your parents, your teachers—or the boy you fancy. The only salvation is to find people like yourself. And that’s a big step. A very big step’. In the early 1980s, this best-selling coming-out novel broke new ground as a positive image of growing up gay.’

**Rees, David. *The Hunger* (1986) [Gay]**

Amazon: ‘Ireland in the 1840s, where the beleaguered population fell victim to massive famine following the spread of an uncontrollable potato blight. Against this harsh background of turmoil, starvation and disease, an English landowner and an Irish peasant struggle to keep alive not only themselves and those around them, but the love they feel for one another in a society and era that violently condemn it.’

**Renault, Mary. *The Persian Boy* (1972) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘A historical novel ... narrated by Bagoas, a young Persian from an aristocratic family who is captured by his father’s enemies, castrated, and sold as a slave to the king Darius III, who makes him his favorite. Eventually he becomes the lover and most faithful servant of Alexander the Great, who overthrew Darius and captured the Persian Empire. Bagoas’ narration provides both a Persian view of the conquest and an intimate look at the personality of the conqueror. In Renault’s view, Alexander’s love for Bagoas influenced his desire to unite the Greek and Persian peoples. Renault also posits the notion that Alexander’s relentless drive to conquer the world stemmed in part from his troubled relationship with his domineering mother, and his desire to “escape” from her influence by leading his army ever eastward.’

**Renault, Mary. *The Charioteer* (1953) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘*The Charioteer* is significant because it features a prominent gay theme at an early date and quickly became a bestseller within the gay community. This romance novel is set in the period of World War II at a military hospital during nightly bomb raids and blackouts. The story’s protagonist, Laurie “Spud” Odell, is a young soldier wounded at Dunkirk ... who must decide if his affections lie with a conscientious objector or a naval officer. The conscientious objector, Andrew Raynes, is a young Quaker, as yet unaware of his own homosexuality, who is working as an orderly at the military hospital where Laurie is being treated. Ralph Lanyon, who commanded the Merchant Navy ship which brought Laurie back from Dunkirk, was Laurie’s boyhood hero at school, but he was expelled for an incident with another boy. He is sexually experienced and an established member of the homosexual sub-culture of the nearby city. Laurie must come to terms with his own nature as well as the two different aspects of love characterised by Andrew and Ralph: the “pure”, asexual nature of his love for Andrew; and the sexual satisfaction of his love for Ralph.’

**Reynolds, M. (ed.). *Penguin Book of Lesbian Short Stories* (1993)**

[Lesbian]

Publishers Weekly: ‘Showing the full range of fictional expression, this adventurous anthology opens with Sarah Orne Jewett’s 1897 story, “Martha’s Lady,” a delicate yet impassioned evocation of a furtive lesbian love and closes with Jeanette Winterson’s lyrical, uninhibited “The Poetics of Sex” (1993). Its 32 selections trace a historical pattern in lesbian experience as it moves from invisibility and ambivalence to greater self-acceptance. Many of the pieces are experimental, such as Kathy Acker’s sardonic dream vision of heterosexual marriage, and Canadian Nicole Brossard’s incantatory monologue meant to close the distance between the speaker, her mother, her daughter and her lover. Among the authors—lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual—are Margaret Atwood, Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein, Radclyffe Hall, Katherine Mansfield, Colette, Anais Nin, Isak Dinesen, Monique Wittig, Sara Maitland and Pat Califia.’

**Reynolds, Robert & Shirleene Robinson. *Gay & Lesbian, Then & Now: Australian Stories from a Social Revolution* (2016) [Gay, Lesbian]**

Amazon: ‘Drawing on in-depth interviews, it tells the intimate life stories of thirteen gay and lesbian Australians, ranging in age from twenties to eighties. From the underground beats of 1950s Brisbane and illicit relationships in the armed services, to Grindr, foster parenting and weddings in the twenty-first century, *Gay & Lesbian, Then & Now* reveals the remarkable social shifts from one generation to the next. Where once gay and lesbian Australians were treated as criminals, sinners or sick, today they are increasingly accepted as equal. The majority of Australians support same-sex marriage. This rapid transformation in attitudes has opened the way for lesbians and gays to “become ordinary”—to experience freedoms that were once barely imaginable. *Gay & Lesbian, Then & Now* reveals the legacies of homophobia, the personal struggles and triumphs involved in coming out, and the many different ways of being gay or lesbian in Australia—then and now. It is a moving account of a quiet revolution.’

**Sackville-West, Vita:** see **Phillips, John (ed.)** *Violet to Vita: The Letters of Violet Trefusis to Vita Sackville-West, 1910-1921*

**Sáenz, Benjamin Alire.** *Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club* (2012) [Gay]

Wikipedia: ‘The book compiles seven short stories, all set in the Hispanic/Latino community in El Paso, Texas in the United States and its neighbouring city of Juárez, Chihuahua in Mexico. The Kentucky Club, a real-life bar a few blocks south of the border crossing in Juárez, appears in all seven stories as a linking motif. In addition, all seven stories touch in some way on themes of survival, of trying to live through pain, grief and loss and of the struggle to find and maintain love, both within the protagonists' birth families and in their sexual or romantic relationships. Several also touch on the outbreak of violent crime that engulfed Juárez in the 1990s, and the ways in which that fractured the interrelated cross-border culture of the two cities. The book won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction in 2013 ... also won a Lambda Literary Award in the Gay Fiction category at the 2013 Lambda Literary Awards.’

**Sáenz, Benjamin Alire.** *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (2012) [Gay: Young Adult]

Publishers Weekly: ‘Fifteen-year-old Aristotle (Ari) has always felt lonely and distant from people until he meets Dante, a boy from another school who teaches him how to swim. As trust grows between the boys and they become friends (a first for Ari), Ari’s world opens up while they discuss life, art, literature, and their Mexican-American roots. Additionally, the influence of Dante’s warm, open family (they even have a “no secrets” rule) is shaping Ari’s relationship with his parents, particularly in regard to a family secret; Ari has an older brother in prison, who no one ever mentions. In a poetic coming-of-age story written in concise first-person narrative, Sáenz crystallizes significant turning points in the boys’ relationship, especially as Ari comes to understand that Dante’s feelings for him extend beyond friendship. The story swells to a dramatic climax as Ari’s loyalties are tested, and he confronts his most deeply buried fears and desires. It’s a tender, honest exploration of identity and sexuality, and

a passionate reminder that love—whether romantic or familial—should be open, free, and without shame.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *Rainbow Boys* (2001) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Rainbow Boys* is the first novel in a trilogy by Alex Sánchez, focusing on the issues gay and questioning youth face as they come of age. This book is followed by *Rainbow High* and *Rainbow Road*. The story follows the overlapping lives of three high school seniors, with the chapters alternating between their different points of view. Jason Carrillo, the popular jock, finds himself questioning his sexuality and decides to attend a meeting for gay youth. He does not expect to see his classmates Kyle Meeks and Nelson Glassman at the meeting. Afterwards, Kyle, the mostly-closeted swimmer, decides to help tutor Jason in math. It is revealed that Kyle has had a crush on Jason for the past three years of high school. They bond over their shared feelings towards coming out and their families, which leads them to become more than friends. Nelson, the flamboyant class clown, has conflicting feelings towards Kyle and their relationship. He’s very close to his mother who claims to have always known about his homosexuality, but rarely sees his father. After getting into an argument with Kyle, he decides to hook up with an online stranger named Brick. He has sex for the first time, and fears he has contracted HIV since Brick didn’t use a condom. He becomes friends with HIV-positive Jeremy, and they begin a relationship.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *Rainbow High* (2003) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Rainbow High* is the second novel in a trilogy by Alex Sanchez, focusing on the issues gay and questioning youth face as they come of age. This book is the sequel to *Rainbow Boys* and followed by *Rainbow Road*. It is the final semester of Jason Carillo’s, Kyle Meeks’s, and Nelson Glassman’s senior year of high school. In the beginning they write letters expressing their past experiences and their current issues. They face the issues of coming out to the public, deciding which college to go to, and the ever-present threat of HIV/AIDS.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *Rainbow Road* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Wikipedia: ‘*Rainbow Road* is the third in a trilogy by Alex Sánchez; the first two books are *Rainbow Boys* and *Rainbow High* respectively. The three main characters Nelson, Kyle, and Jason, are on a road trip told from the point of view from each one of them the summer after they graduate from high school. It is the last time they will see each other before going off to college. They travel across the country so Jason can speak at a high school about coming out to his town and team on TV. They find a lot on the way, from a transgender Britney Spears look-alike to a gay seven-year-old named Esau.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *So Hard to Say* (2004) [Gay: Young Adult]**

School Library Journal: ‘Thirteen-year-old Latina chocoholic-chatterbox Xio can’t keep her eyes off blond-haired, steel-eyed Frederick, the intriguing transfer student just in from Wisconsin. At first, the soft-spoken newcomer, unsure of his new Southern California junior high and maybe his own sexuality, doesn’t know what to make of her pursuits. Slowly and surely, Xio charms her way into his life and soon absorbs him into her group of fabulous girlfriends whom she dubs the “Sexies.” Content with this new niche, and his position on a pick-up soccer team, Frederick gradually becomes aware of Xio’s real agenda: to make him her first boyfriend. All the while he finds he can’t keep his eyes off Victor, his soccer buddy. Frederick’s sexual confusion escalates, as do his dodging techniques when it comes to Xio’s advances. However, when she gets him in a closet with her and at last gives him a smooch, things boil up to crises.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *Getting It* (2006) [Gay: Young Adult]**

School Library Journal: ‘Carlos Amoroso, 15, loves video games, junk food, and hanging out with his buddies. The only thing he can’t do is get a date with sexy, popular Roxy Rodriguez. After watching *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, he approaches a gay classmate, Sal, for a makeover. Sal agrees but insists that Carlos help him start a Gay-Straight Alliance at their predominantly Hispanic Texas high school. Carlos is conflicted—what if his friends think he’s gay, too? In the process,



the teen learns how to clean, dress, clear zits, and talk to girls. He also learns how to be honest with himself, and how to tell people, including his macho father and homophobic buddies, how he really feels.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *The God Box* (2007) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Guys Lit Wire: ‘Paul has lived his entire life being taught that homosexuality is wrong and a sin, and trying to keep his own secret feelings towards guys to himself while attempting to change them. Then one day, Manuel, a new transfer student, comes into his school and turns Paul’s world upside down. Manuel is openly gay and Christian, and it leaves Paul wondering how the two can co-exist. Through a series of events, Paul is finally able to reconcile his confused feelings of balancing his spirituality and sexuality.’

**Sánchez, Alex. *Boyfriends with Girlfriends* (2010) [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual: Young Adult]**

Amazon: ‘Four teens explore the fluidity of love, sexuality, and identity in this acclaimed novel ... Sergio is bisexual, but his only real relationship was with a girl. Lance has always known he was gay, but he’s never had a real boyfriend. When the two of them meet, they have an instant connection—but will it be enough to overcome their differences? Allie’s been in a relationship with a guy for the last two years—but when she meets Kimiko, she can’t get her out of her mind. Does this mean she’s gay? Or bi? Kimiko, falling hard for Allie, is willing to stick around and help Allie figure it out. *Boyfriends with Girlfriends* is Alex Sanchez at his best, writing with a sensitive hand to portray four very real teens striving to find their places in the world—and with each other.’

**Sappho. *Poems and Fragments*, trans. S. Lombardo (2002) [Lesbian]**

Amazon: ‘Little remains today of the writings of the archaic Greek poet Sappho (fl. late 7th and early 6th centuries B.C.E.), whose work is said to have filled nine

papyrus rolls in the great library at Alexandria some 500 years after her death. The surviving texts consist of a lamentably small and fragmented body of lyric poetry—among them, poems of invocation, desire, spite, celebration, resignation, and remembrance—that nevertheless enables us to hear the living voice of the poet Plato called the tenth Muse. Stanley Lombardo’s translations give us a virtuoso embodiment of Sappho’s voice, whose telltale charm, authority, immediacy, directness, intensity, and sudden changes of tone are among the hallmarks of his masterly translation. Pamela Gordon introduces us to the world of Sappho, discusses questions surrounding the transmission of her manuscripts, offers advice on reading these texts, and concludes with an enlightening discussion of same-sex desire in Sappho.’

**Saul, Jack. *The Sins of the Cities of the Plain* (1881) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘*The Sins of the Cities of the Plain; or, The Recollections of a Mary-Ann, with Short Essays on Sodomy and Tribadism*, by the pseudonymous “Jack Saul”, is one of the first exclusively homosexual works of pornographic literature published in English. It has been suggested that it was largely written by James Campbell Reddie and the painter Simeon Solomon, who had been convicted of public indecency in 1873 and disgraced. Reddie died several years before its publication, and was ill with poor eyesight prior to that, which makes his connection less likely. The book was first published in 1881 by William Lazenby, who printed 250 copies. A second edition was published by Leonard Smithers in 1902. It sold for an expensive four guineas. *The Sins of the Cities of the Plain* purports to be the memoirs of Jack Saul, a young rentboy or “Mary-Ann”. In the book Saul is picked up on the street by a Mr. Cambon. After they have dinner, Chambon invites Saul to recount his life story. While some have accepted it as a genuine account, it is more likely to be an early form of the non-fiction novel. John Saul was an actual male prostitute of Irish birth, known as “Dublin Jack”, who was involved in a homosexual scandal at Dublin castle in 1884, and later in the Cleveland Street scandal. The book is clearly inspired by him, and it is possible he shared his experiences with the anonymous author/s. Factual details suggest the book could be based on an authentic rentboy’s account, but one that has been elaborated. There are consistencies with the real life Saul, but also discrepancies.’

**Selvadurai, Shyam. *Funny Boy* (1995) [Gay]**

Amazon: ‘An evocative coming-of-age novel about growing up gay in Sri Lanka during the Tamil-Sinhalese conflict—one of the country’s most turbulent and deadly periods. Arjie is “funny.” The second son of a privileged family in Sri Lanka, he prefers staging make-believe wedding pageants with his female cousins to battling balls with the other boys. When his parents discover his innocent pastime, Arjie is forced to abandon his idyllic childhood games and adopt the rigid rules of an adult world. Bewildered by his incipient sexual awakening, mortified by the bloody Tamil-Sinhalese conflicts that threaten to tear apart his homeland, Arjie painfully grows toward manhood and an understanding of his own “different” identity. Refreshing, raw, and poignant, *Funny Boy* is an exquisitely written, compassionate tale of a boy’s coming-of-age that quietly confounds expectations of love, family, and country as it delivers the powerful message of staying true to one’s self no matter the obstacles.’

**Shyer, Marlene Fanta. *The Rainbow Kite* (2002) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘We hear that it’s okay to be different, but how okay is it if others equate being different with being peculiar? How really okay is it if being different means being miserable? Fifteen-year-old Bennett is facing the harsh reality of a world that doesn’t practice what it preaches. Acknowledging his homosexuality—both to himself and his family—he strives to fit in, mostly by opting out! As seen through the eyes of his little brother, Bennett’s increasing isolation, his withdrawal from sports and the stamp club and eventually even from speaking, proves one thing. Bennett has failed to recognize how much he is accepted and loved for simply being Bennett. Though hard-hitting and sometimes disturbing, the book is relieved by the tongue-in-cheek observations of Matthew, a likable and perceptive sixth-grader.’

**Sloan, Brian. *A Really Nice Prom Mess* (2005) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘In his first novel for young adults, filmmaker Sloan creates a bold, sassy comedy of errors starring Cameron Hayes, a gay high-school senior in

Washington, D.C., who makes the mistake of trying to play “straight” man on the night of his high-school prom. Plans for the evening are simple in principle: Cameron and his boyfriend, Shane, will take two “fake” dates to the dance and meet up afterwards. However, little goes as planned. Cameron’s date turns out to be a hot-tempered lush, who is none too pleased to discover her escort’s sexual preference, and Cameron makes a pass at Shane’s date, which brings the males to blows. Both guys get in trouble with the vice principal and Cameron narrowly escapes punishment by making a daring getaway with a drug dealer he meets in the restroom. Any prom disasters readers may have experienced will pale in comparison to the fiascos recorded here. The remainder of Cameron’s evening is a thrilling but unsettling roller-coaster ride as he speeds from one location to another, linking up with some unlikely companions, including a deaf male stripper, a burly football player and a gay cop who eventually rescues Cameron from his nightmare. In a mere 12 hours, Cameron’s world has turned completely upside-down but somewhere along the way he gains some insight into his doomed relationship with Shane and into himself.’

**Stein, Gertrude, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* (1933) [Lesbian: Biography]**

Wikipedia: ‘A book by Gertrude Stein, written in the guise of an autobiography authored by Alice B. Toklas, her life partner. In 1998, Modern Library ranked it as one of the 20 greatest English-language nonfiction books of the 20th century.’

**Stenhofel, Andreas. *The Center of the World* (1998) [Gay]**

Translated from the German *Die Mitte der Welt*. Wikipedia: ‘*Phil* is seventeen years old, has a twin sister (*Dianne*), a best friend (*Kat*), a slightly crazy mother (*Glass*) with constantly changing male relationships and is in love—with Nicholas. The story does not primarily treat Phil’s homosexuality, but rather stresses the difficulties he has to cope with in everyday life. With his mother and his sister, Phil lives in a huge mansion called “Visible” which is located slightly remote from

their city. The city's inhabitants barely have contact with this weird family. The main exception to this is Phil's best friend Kat, the daughter of their school's principal, who repeatedly violates her parents' interdiction of visiting Phil. Another important person is the lawyer Tereza, who is friends with the family and acts as a kind of mentor to Phil. The story depicts the past of the family through emotional anecdotes, particularly through stories about the no longer existent father, an uncle as a compensating father figure and childhood memories of Phil and Dianne.' The novel was made into a film in 2016.

**Stern, Milton. *On Tuesdays, They Played Mah Jongg* (2005) [Gay]**

Google Books: 'For two decades, Michael Bern, a gay television writer in Hollywood, has stared at an unfinished screenplay sitting on his desk. After attending a friend's funeral in his hometown of Newport News, Virginia, Michael returns to Hollywood and finds there is more than a screenplay that is unfinished in his life. He finally confronts what the screenplay represents—memories and stories of the sometimes sad, often hilarious characters of his past, especially his mother and her four closest friends. Florence, Hannah, Rona, Arlene and Doreen—five more fascinating, menopausal, Jewish women one would never meet. They were friends for more than forty years and saw each other through life's triumphs, tragedies and multiple spouses. Yet, there was only one constant in their lives. On Tuesdays, they played Mah Jongg.'

**Stevenson, Richard. *Death Trick: A Murder Mystery* (1981) [Gay: Detective]**

Google Books: 'Don Strachey isn't exactly the most sought-after private eye in Albany, New York. In fact, this gay P.I. has gotten to the point of having to write checks to pay his tab at the cheapest lunch counter in town. And he isn't sure that the latest one, for the grand total of two dollars and ninety-three cents, is going to clear. Then the phone rings. Billy Blount, the gay heir to one of Saratoga Springs' upper-crust families, has disappeared, and his parents want him back. On top of that, Billy, a

young and outspoken gay activist, is wanted for the grizzly murder of the man he slept with on his last night in Albany—a man he'd never met before that night!... With his faithful companion (and unfaithful lover) Timmy, plus a cast of characters that includes drag queens, ex-jock gay bar owners, homophobic cops, male hustlers, and wealthy suburbanites, Strachey begins a chase that leads him to seedy gay bars, posh suburban homes, and pricey mental institutions where they use electric shock to destroy “sick” gay tendencies.’

**St. James, James. *Freak Show*** (2007) [Gay: Young Adult]

Amazon: ‘Being gay and a drag queen, Billy Bloom finds fitting in to his new conservative high school in Florida a challenge like none he’s ever faced before and now must decide whether to adjust to the masses and fit in or stand-out and be true to himself despite the hardships he knows he will have to endure.’ The novel was made into a film in 2017.

**Stoehr, Shelley. *Tomorrow Wendy: A Love Story*** (1998) [Lesbian: Young Adult]

Kirkus Reviews: ‘A Long Island teenager develops a crush on her boyfriend’s twin sister in this steamy tale of emergent sexuality... Cary stands out at the aptly named Babylon High School both for her carefully maintained Audrey Hepburn look, and for her hot bedmate Danny, a generous source of pot, alcohol, Ecstasy, nameless mushrooms, and extra-curricular sex. What Danny doesn’t know, though, is that Cary is obsessed by his permanently stoned, bad-apple sister Wendy—no secret at all to what Cary considers the school’s “Lesbian Collective”. Nor is it a secret to Raven, a new friend who is openly out of the closet and on the rebound. Beneath Cary’s dissolute exterior beats a good—if tortured—heart that manifests itself as Rad, an imaginary companion who speaks only in song lyrics. Cary finds more substantial friends—Raven in particular—after she seduces a drunker-than-usual Wendy (who promptly disappears) and confesses to Danny (who breaks off with her in a rage).’

**Summer, Jane (ed.) *Not the Only One: Lesbian & Gay Fiction for Teens*** (2004) [Lesbian, Gay: Young Adult]

Goodreads: ‘This revised edition of [a] groundbreaking anthology for gay and lesbian teens features new original fiction which reflect both the tension and relief of being true to oneself. Contributors include Gregory Maguire (*Wicked*), Brent Hartinger (*The Geography Club*), Claire McNab (*The Wombat Strategy*), Michael Thomas Ford (*Last Summer*) and Bonnie Shimko (*Letters in the Attic*). These stories provide hope and inspiration to gay and lesbian teenagers as they take the first exciting, often difficult steps toward accepting their sexuality and emerging from the shadows as open and proud individuals.’

**Szubanski, Magda. *Reckoning: A Memoir* (2015) [Lesbian]**

Google Books: ‘Heartbreaking, joyous, traumatic, intimate and revelatory, *Reckoning* is the book where Magda Szubanski, one of Australia’s most beloved performers, tells her story. In this extraordinary memoir, Magda describes her journey of self-discovery from a suburban childhood, haunted by the demons of her father’s espionage activities in wartime Poland and by her secret awareness of her sexuality, to the complex dramas of adulthood and her need to find out the truth about herself and her family. With courage and compassion she addresses her own frailties and fears, and asks the big questions about life, about the shadows we inherit and the gifts we pass on.’

**Taylor, William. *The Blue Lawn* (1994) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Google Books: ‘David is 15 and the star player of his school’s rugby team. Sixteen-year-old Theo is an outsider, not altogether likable, and not particularly interested in making friends. Initial hostility turns to an unlikely friendship, masking a growing attraction neither boy understands. A powerful novel of relationships, set against the backdrop of a small New Zealand town, exploring the complicated emotions of two young men who don’t yet understand what they are feeling and have nowhere to turn for help.’

**Tea, Michelle. *Valencia* (2000) [Lesbian]**

Goodreads: ‘Valencia is the fast-paced account of one girl’s search for love and high times in the drama-filled dyke world of San Francisco’s Mission District. Through a string of narrative moments, Tea records a year lived in a world of girls: there’s knife-wielding Marta, who introduces Michelle to a new world of radical sex; Willa, Michelle’s tormented poet-girlfriend; Iris, the beautiful boy-dyke who ran away from the South in a dust cloud of drama; and Iris’s ex, Magdalena Squalor, to whom Michelle turns when Iris breaks her heart. Valencia conveys a blend of youthful urgency and apocalyptic apathy.’

**Toder, Nancy. *Choices* (1980) [Lesbian]**

Amazon: ‘Can you ever really forget your first lover? Sandy and Jenny are college roommates and best friends, and only gradually do they realize their growing attraction to one another. They become secret, but passionate lovers, yet after graduation they drift apart. When they meet up again years later by chance, the two women must confront the choices they’ve made in life. Was theirs just a schoolgirl crush or the romance of a lifetime—about to be rekindled?’

**Tsiolkas, Christos. *Loaded* (1995) [Gay]**

Amazon: ‘Ari is nineteen, Greek, gay, unemployed, looking for something—anything—to take him away from his aimless existence in suburban Melbourne. Torn between the traditional Greek world of his parents and friends and the alluring, destructive world of clubs and drugs and anonymous sex, all Ari can do is ease his pain in the only way he knows how.’ The novel was made into a film titled *Head On* in 1998.

**Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple* (1982) [Lesbian]**



Goodreads: ‘Set in the deep American South between the wars, it is the tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Raped repeatedly by the man she calls “father”, she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage. But then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker—a woman who has taken charge of her own destiny. Gradually, Celie discovers the power and joy of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting her with those she loves.’

The novel was made into a film by Stephen Spielberg in 1985. It has been suggested (M. Frias in *Barcelona English Language and Literature Studies*, 1998) that Spielberg ‘blurs the homoerotic relationship between Shug and Celie’ and thereby ‘ostracizes and minimizes the voices of an already triply marginalized group—that of black lesbian women.’

**Velasquez, Gloria. *Tommy Stands Alone* (1995) [Gay: Young Adult]**

School Library Journal: ‘Tommy, a Chicano teen, is uncomfortable with the attention girls shower on him and wants to avoid his friends. When Rudy and Tyrone find a note written to him from David the joto (queer), Tommy can’t take it anymore. He buys a bottle of vodka, steals some pills from his family’s medicine cabinet, and attempts to kill himself. Maya, his best friend, calls on Ms. Martinez, a counselor, to guide him through this crisis. Although Tommy needs assistance, he is reluctant to come to terms with the fact that he is gay. Maya finally confronts him and forces him to deal with the situation. Once he does, the knowledge that there is hope comes very slowly at first, for he needs to open up to his family and, more importantly, to himself.’

**Walker, Kate. *Peter* (1991) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘This initiation novel set in Australia convincingly describes a boy’s confusion about sexuality and manhood. In order to be accepted by his peers—including a group of rough bikers—Peter, an honor student interested in photography, hides his sensitivity and his reluctance to have sex with a girl he does not love. The

discomfort he feels playing the role of tough guy turns to panic when Peter finds himself drawn to David, a gay friend of his older brother. Matters become even more complicated when classmates start calling Peter a “poof” for refusing to break rules set by his mother. Many readers may be surprised by the chauvinistic attitude of Australian society as presented in this novel, and will have no trouble empathizing with Peter’s emotional turmoil and ultimate victimization. Walker remains notably objective in her depiction of homosexuality, stressing that each person’s attitudes and needs are different. At the end of this sensitively wrought book, Peter is still struggling with his identity; he has, however, learned to accept and respect himself as a growing individual.’

**Walton, Jessica. *Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story about Gender and Friendship* (2016) [Children]**

Bloomsbury: ‘Errol and his teddy, Thomas, are best friends who do everything together. Whether it’s riding a bike, playing in the tree house, having a tea party, or all of the above, every day holds something fun to do. One sunny day, Errol finds that Thomas is sad, even when they are playing in their favorite ways. Errol can’t figure out why, until Thomas finally tells Errol what the teddy has been afraid to say: “In my heart, I’ve always known that I’m a girl teddy, not a boy teddy. I wish my name was Tilly, not Thomas.” And Errol says, “I don’t care if you’re a girl teddy or a boy teddy! What matters is that you are my friend.” *Introducing Teddy* introduces the youngest readers to understanding gender identity and transition in an accessible and heart-warming story about being true to yourself and being a good friend.’ Jessica Walton is a Melbourne writer.

**Waters, Sarah. *Tipping the Velvet* (1998) [Lesbian]**

Wikipedia: ‘A historical novel .... Set in England during the 1890s, it tells a coming of age story about a young woman named Nan who falls in love with a male impersonator, follows her to London, and finds various ways to support herself as she journeys through the city. ... The novel has pervasive lesbian themes, concentrating on eroticism and self-discovery.’

**Waters, Sarah. *Affinity* (1999) [Lesbian]**

Wikipedia: ‘This novel, [like *Tipping the Velvet*] also set in the Victorian era, centres on the world of Victorian Spiritualism. While finishing her debut novel, Waters had been working on an academic paper on spiritualism. She combined her interests in spiritualism, prisons, and the Victorian era in *Affinity*, which tells the story of the relationship between an upper middle-class woman and an imprisoned spiritualist.’

**Waters, Sarah. *Fingersmith* (2002) [Lesbian]**

Amazon: ‘*Fingersmith* is the third slice of engrossing lesbian Victoriana from Sarah Waters. Although lighter and more melodramatic in tone than its predecessor *Affinity*, this hypnotic suspense novel is awash with all manner of gloomy Dickensian leitmotifs.’

Goodreads: ‘Sue Trinder is an orphan, left as an infant in the care of Mrs. Sucksby, a “baby farmer”, who raised her with unusual tenderness, as if Sue were her own. Mrs. Sucksby’s household, with its fussy babies calmed with doses of gin, also hosts a transient family of petty thieves—fingersmiths—for whom this house in the heart of a mean London slum is home. One day, the most beloved thief of all arrives—Gentleman, an elegant con man, who carries with him an enticing proposition for Sue: If she wins a position as the maid to Maud Lilly, a naïve gentlewoman, and aids Gentleman in her seduction, then they will all share in Maud’s vast inheritance. Once the inheritance is secured, Maud will be disposed of—passed off as mad, and made to live out the rest of her days in a lunatic asylum. With dreams of paying back the kindness of her adopted family, Sue agrees to the plan. Once in, however, Sue begins to pity her helpless mark and care for Maud Lilly in unexpected ways...But no one and nothing is as it seems in this Dickensian novel of thrills and reversals.’

**White, Edmund. *States of Desire: Travels in Gay America* (1980) [Gay]**

Kirkus Reviews: ‘A searching, sagacious look at the way homosexuals live now—from Los Angeles (hedonist) to Boston (radical intellectual)—is provided by the novelist and co-author of *The Joy of Gay Sex*. White’s ability to make people and their surroundings breathe is evident as he talks with homosexuals in city after city, not neglecting such medium-sized spots on the sexual map as Cincinnati, Salt Lake, and Memphis. ... For the heterosexual, White’s travels offer a privileged glimpse at a familiar yet strange America ruled by an absolute monarch: sexual desire... Along the way, White muses on such questions as why Southern Baptists dislike gay men? Is there a gay sensibility? Why the current adoration among homosexuals of machismo and sado-masochism? He also makes a spirited defense of the gay cause. As with most good travel writing, the landscape of the author’s mind—with its self-admitted interplay of underdog-sympathy and snobbism—is as interesting as the exterior world it surveys. In an epilogue, in which White confesses to some of the weaknesses of the book (ignoring lesbians and small-town or rural life, and scanting older, married and working-class men), he ends by saying, “I hope it will enable gays and straights to imagine other lives.” It does just that.’

**White, Edmund. *A Boy’s Own Story* (1982) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘*A Boy’s Own Story* is the first of a trilogy of novels, describing a boy’s coming of age and documenting a young man’s experience of homosexuality in the 1950s in Cincinnati, Chicago and Michigan. The trilogy continued with *The Beautiful Room Is Empty* (1988) and *The Farewell Symphony* (1997), which brought the setting up to the 1990s. Although all three share a number of themes and are frequently considered at least partly autobiographical, they do not tell a linear story in the manner of some trilogies, and can be read independently of one another.’

Goodreads: ‘*A Boy’s Own Story* became an instant classic for its pioneering portrayal of homosexuality. The book’s unnamed narrator, growing up during the 1950s, is beset by aloof parents, a cruel sister, and relentless mocking from his peers, compelling him to seek out works of art and literature as solace—and to uncover new relationships in the struggle to embrace his own sexuality.’

**Wieler, Diana. *Bad Boy* (1989) [Gay: Young Adult]**

Publishers Weekly: ‘Full of action and dramatic tension, this story set in Canada reveals the problems of a high school hockey player during his first year on a Triple A team. A.J. Brandiosa’s elation in making the Cyclones is undercut by the fear he will not measure up to the other players. The 17-year-old’s hot temper and aggressiveness in the game soon bring him the wrong kind of notoriety. Trying to dispel his reputation for being a “bad boy” on the ice is not the only challenge A.J. faces. Even more difficult is his struggle to accept that his best friend and teammate, Tully Brown, is gay. After A.J.’s initial shock over this news wears off, the boy begins to question his own sexuality. Besides relating the dynamics of amateur hockey, Wieler explores the psychology of a confused adolescent trying to prove his manhood. The topics of homosexuality and peer pressures are dealt with openly yet with delicacy; messages regarding tolerance and self-control are effectively conveyed.’

**Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891) [Gay]**

Wikipedia: ‘Dorian Gray is the subject of a full-length portrait in oil by Basil Hallward, an artist who is impressed and infatuated by Dorian’s beauty; he believes that Dorian’s beauty is responsible for the new mode in his art as a painter. Through Basil, Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, and he soon is enthralled by the aristocrat’s hedonistic worldview: that beauty and sensual fulfilment are the only things worth pursuing in life. Newly understanding that his beauty will fade, Dorian expresses the desire to sell his soul, to ensure that the picture, rather than he, will age and fade. The wish is granted, and Dorian pursues a libertine life of varied and amoral experiences, while staying young and beautiful; all the while his portrait ages and records every sin.’

Gay & Lesbian Review 2014: ‘The novel’s very coyness on the matter of same-sex desire, its not daring to name “the love”, is what prevents it from being a shoo-in as the first gay novel in English. Wilde is not to blame, of course (and notwithstanding

that a few of the most suggestive sentences were excised by his publisher): late Victorian society simply did not allow for a more explicit exploration of the love whose name could not be spoken, much less elevated to a central role in a novel. Thus Dorian's affairs are all with women, starting with the actress Sibyl Vane, for whom he professes his undying love—before it promptly dies; and on he moves to a series of affairs of increasingly short duration with decreasingly respectable women. And yet, there's something about Dorian. The way that his beauty is openly admired by Basil and Lord Harry in chapter one, the voluptuous adjectives by which it is described, Dorian's longing to remain forever young—our gaydar is never long at rest. Then there are all those vague references to corruption and sensualism and unspecified nighttime activities that eventually incur the condemnation of his erstwhile friends. (And what about those friends, whose arch conversations on art and manners, if not gay, are certainly high camp?) The character of Dorian may well have been as far “out” as any literary figure could be at the time, making Wilde's novel the gayest to date.’

**Winterson, Jeanette. *Gut Symmetries* (1997) [Lesbian, Bisexual]**

Wikipedia: ‘The book deals with a love triangle between Alice (a young British physicist), Jove (who is a male physicist at Princeton), and Jove's wife Stella; Alice has relationships with both of them. The title relates to the GUTs (grand unified theories) of quantum physics and cosmology, and the symmetries they involve.’

**Winterson, Jeanette. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* (1985) [Lesbian]**

Wikipedia: ‘It is a coming-of-age story about a lesbian girl who grows up in an English Pentecostal community. Key themes of the book include transition from youth to adulthood, complex family relationships, same sex relationships, and religion.’

**Wittlinger, Ellen. *Parrotfish* (2007; 2015) [Transgender: Young Adult]**

Amazon: ‘The groundbreaking novel from critically acclaimed author Ellen Wittlinger that tells the story of a transgender teen's search for identity and

acceptance... Angela Katz-McNair never felt quite right as a girl. So she cuts her hair short, purchases some men's clothes and chose a new name: Grady. While coming out as transgender feels right to Grady, he isn't prepared for the reactions of his friends and family. Why can't they accept that Grady is just being himself? Grady's life is miserable until he finds friends in unexpected places—the school geek, Sebastian, who tells Grady that there is a precedent for transgenders in the natural world [thus the title of the novel], and Kita, a senior, who might just be Grady's first love.'

In 2015 Wittlinger issued a revised edition of the book, worried by some of the language that was already sounded dated or incorrect. She explains her worries on her website, especially the use of *transgendered* rather than *transgender*, and a use of the term *tranny*. See: <https://www.hbook.com/2015/11/creating-books/parrotfish-needed-an-update-the-rapidly-changing-language-of-transgender-awareness>

The Diversity ACT Library has both versions of the book.

### **Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs Dalloway* (1925) [Lesbian, Gay]**

Goodreads: *Mrs. Dalloway* chronicles a June day in the life of Clarissa Dalloway—a day that is taken up with running minor errands in preparation for a party and that is punctuated, toward the end, by the suicide of a young man she has never met. In giving an apparently ordinary day such immense resonance and significance—infusing it with the elemental conflict between death and life—Virginia Woolf triumphantly discovers her distinctive style as a novelist.'

Wikipedia: Clarissa Dalloway is strongly attracted to Sally Seton at Bourton. Thirty-four years later, Clarissa still considers the kiss they shared to be the happiest moment of her life. She feels about Sally “as men feel”, but she does not recognise these feelings as signs of bisexuality. Similarly, Septimus is haunted by the image of his dear friend Evans. Evans, his commanding officer, is described as being “undemonstrative in the company of women”. The narrator describes Septimus and Evans behaving together like “two dogs playing on a hearth-rug” who, inseparable, “had to be together, share with each other, fight with each other, quarrel with each

other....” Jean E. Kennard notes that the word “share” could easily be read in a Forsterian manner, perhaps as in Forster’s *Maurice*, which shows the word’s use in this period to describe homosexual relations. Kennard is one to note Septimus’ “increasing revulsion at the idea of heterosexual sex”, abstaining from sex with Rezia and feeling that “the business of copulation was filth to him before the end”. The novel was made into a film in 1997.

**Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse* (1927) [Lesbian]**

Goodreads: ‘The serene and maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the tragic yet absurd Mr. Ramsay, and their children and assorted guests are on holiday on the Isle of Skye. From the seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Woolf constructs a remarkable, moving examination of the complex tensions and allegiances of family life and the conflict between men and women. As time winds its way through their lives, the Ramsays face, alone and simultaneously, the greatest of human challenges and its greatest triumph—the human capacity for change.’

**Woolf, Virginia. *Orlando: A Biography* (1928) [Lesbian, Transgender, GenderQueer, Etc.]**

Wikipedia: ‘A high-spirited romp inspired by the tumultuous family history of Woolf’s lover and close friend, the aristocratic poet and novelist Vita Sackville-West, it is arguably one of Woolf’s most popular novels: a history of English literature in satiric form. The book describes the adventures of a poet who changes sex from man to woman and lives for centuries, meeting the key figures of English literary history. Considered a feminist classic, the book has been written about extensively by scholars of women’s writing and gender and transgender studies.’

**Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. *Orpheus Proud* (2004) [Lesbian: Young Adult]**

Kirkus Reviews: ‘In one long onstage monologue with a smattering of recited poems, 17-year-old Orpheus tells lyrically yet directly of the love and pain her life has held. Her beloved mother’s early death leaves Orpheus seeing everything in gray until



fellow ten-year-old Lissa brings color and warmth back into the world. The two intertwine their lives until, at age 16, they acknowledge having fallen in love. One wonderful night together is smashed by Orpheus's bigoted brother/guardian, who beats up Orpheus and chases Lissa from the house—possibly contributing to Lissa's immediate, fatal car crash. Devastated, deposited at her great-aunts' house in the Virginia mountains, Orpheus meets her 14-year-old white cousin Ray, who paints a mural of Lissa for her. The cathartic stage performance happens the following summer, in Queens, at a warehouse-turned-nightclub owned by adult friends: Orpheus recites while Ray paints a mural behind her that only the audience can see. The unusual format, along with young-adult literature's dearth of gay African-American characters, make this piece notable, but it's Orpheus's passionate and poetic voice that makes it special.'

**Zisin, Nevo. *Finding Nevo: How I Confused Everyone* (2017)**  
[Transgender: Biography]

Google Books: 'Meet Nevo: girl, boy, he, she, him, her, they, them, daughter, son, teacher, student, friend, gay, bi, lesbian, trans, homo, Jew, dyke, masculine, feminine, androgynous, queer. Nevo was not born in the wrong body. Nevo just wants everyone to catch up with all that Nevo is. Personal, political and passionate, *Finding Nevo* is an autobiography about gender and everything that comes with it..... Nevo Zisin [from Melbourne] is a young activist, student, writer and public speaker with a particular focus on issues surrounding gender, sex and sexuality. Assigned female at birth, Nevo has had a complex relationship with gender, transitioning to present as male at the age of 17, undergoing different medical interventions and now identifying outside of a female/male gender binary. They work particularly with children as a youth leader and through running programs and workshops in schools. They are also a contact point in the Jewish community for other children and families confronting issues of gender and sexuality in their own lives.'

## **Part Two: NON-FICTION**

**Alpert, Harriet. *We are Everywhere: Writings by & about Lesbian Parents* (1988)**

Amazon: ‘The voices of Black, White, Hispanic, and Asian Women from all walks of life and every region of the country [i.e. of the US] join together in creating a vibrant, joyous, and true account of the daily experiences of Lesbian parents.’

**Altman, Dennis. *Homosexual Oppression and Liberation* (1971)**

Amazon: ‘*When Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation* was first published in 1971, *The New York Review of Books*, hailed it as the only work that bears comparison...with the best to appear from Women's Liberation. *Time* wrote that, among the whole tumble of homosexuals who have “come out of the closet”, perhaps best among these accounts is a book by [Australian writer] Dennis Altman.... Altman examines the different positions promoting gay liberation, and recognizes the healthy diversity in these divisions. Elaborating on the writers of the emergent movement—James Baldwin, Allen Ginsberg, Christopher Isherwood, Herbert Marcuse, Kate Millett, and others—*Homosexual* suggests that we can nurture a common, progressive movement out of our shared sexuality and experience of a heterosexist society’.

**Bain, Jerald. *So Your Child Is Gay* (2000)**

Google Book: ‘Jane's parents have just inadvertently discovered she is gay. Shocked and uncomprehending, they can't believe their bright, beautiful nineteen-year-old daughter is having a sexual relationship with another woman. Like many parents who find themselves in this situation, they don't know what to do. What do they say to their daughter? Was it something they did (or didn't do) while she was growing up? How do they tell their family and friends? These are just a few of the issues presented in Dr. Jerald Bain's *So Your Child Is Gay*, an empathetic book written for parents, siblings, friends, medical professionals, and gay people themselves. This is the first Canadian guide to help families cope with their fears and concerns, offering well-researched, up-to-date information, advice, comfort and hope. Filled with personal anecdotes, *So Your Child Is Gay* discusses male/female homosexuality in a family

context. It explodes the myths and misconceptions surrounding the subject and deals clearly and compassionately with the real, everyday issues gays and their families face.'

**Berzon, Betty. *Positively Gay: New Approaches to Gay and Lesbian Life* (1979)**

Google Books: 'With a list of contributors from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and approaches, this important resource, compiled by Dr. Betty Berzon, spotlights significant but often overlooked topics such as building successful same-sex partnerships, reconciling religious dilemmas, coming out to one's family, creating gay families, using voting power to effect change, dealing with legal and financial issues, and living as a gay person of color.'

**Bono, Chastity & Billie Fitzpatrick. *Family Outing: A Guide to the Coming Out Process for Gays, Lesbians, and Their Families* (1998)**

Publishers Weekly: 'By encouraging more than a dozen gay and lesbian young adults (and their parents) to tell their coming-out stories along with her own, Bono transforms what could have been a tell-all celebrity memoir into an essential coming-out guide. In 1990, Sonny and Cher's 20-year-old daughter, Chastity, was outed as a lesbian by the tabloids. Although she had been aware of her sexual orientation by age 13 (and out to her parents by 18—much to Cher's dismay, at first), this public outing sent her scurrying back into the closet for five years. A relationship with an older woman, whom Chastity nursed in a losing battle with cancer, strengthened her commitment to living her life out of the closet. She publicly came out on the cover of the gay newsweekly, the *Advocate*, in 1995 and began working in the political arena. Bono's own story is one of many oral histories woven by the authors into a tapestry of coming-out tales that range from positive to harrowing. Despite the differing backgrounds and experiences of the protagonists, all stories end with reconciled families feeling closer than before.'

**Burns, Kate. *Gay and Lesbian Families* (2005)**

Google Books: ‘Gay and lesbian families share many traits with other families, but unique differences merit special consideration. This anthology investigates key issues related to gay and lesbian families including gay parenting, marriage laws, gay children and teens, adoption policies, and religious viewpoints in the United States and Canada.’

**Burns, Kate. *Gay Marriage* (2005)**

Google Books: ‘Gay Marriage is one of the most visible controversies in the news today. Battles over gay marriage are being waged in courts, legislatures, board rooms, and grassroots campaigns across the United States and Canada. This volume examines the social, political, religious, and moral stakes at hand in current arguments for and against gay marriage.’

**Clarke, Jennie, Ruth Ford & Diana Nobbs. *Unfinished Business: Confronting Issues of Christianity, Sexuality, and Politics* (1985)**

**Clunis, D.M. & S.A. Green. *Lesbian Couples: A Guide to Creating Healthy Relationships* (1988)**

Google Books: ‘Two lesbian therapists give lesbian couples the tools they need to handle such issues as living arrangements, work, money, coming out, and conflict resolution. Included is new material on personal and community issues including monogamy, transgender identity, open relationships, S&M, and butch-femme roles.’

**Cook, Rachel. *Closets are for Clothes: A History of Queer Australia* (2010)**

Google Books: ‘A celebration and examination of the history of gay and lesbian culture in Australia. Some of the very first white Australians were gay and lesbian: they arrived on convict ships as free settlers and have a colourful and intriguing history. At times shunned from society, they fought long and hard to be seen as

equals. From mollies to queers, gays and lesbians have contributed to Australian history in a most unique way.'

**Haley-Banez, Lynn & Joanne Garrett. *Lesbians in Committed Relationships: Extraordinary Couples, Ordinary Lives* (2002)**

Google Books: 'Four lesbian couples celebrating long-term, monogamous relationships detail their lives together through a series of candid and emotional narratives that are at once heart-warming and heart-wrenching. Rather than a how-to guide to making relationships work, this is a rich, layered history of four loving, working relationships that cross racial, socio-economic, age and education boundaries, making it a must-read for lesbians, either single or involved, as well as their families and friends, and for counsellors and therapists who work with couples.'

**Haven, Lloyd. *Aussie Pink Inns and Outs: Gay And Lesbian Travellers' Guide For Australia And New Zealand* (1999)**

**Jay, Karla (ed.) *Dyke Life: From Growing Up to Growing Old: a Celebration of the Lesbian Experience* (1996)**

Google Books: 'A collection of 50 essays aiming to capture the diversity of lesbian life. Topics covered include coming out, health, identity and ageing.'

**Klauch, Dolores. *Woman Plus Woman* (1974)**

Goodreads: 'The classic overview of lesbian life and literature.'

**Kleindienst, K. *This is What Lesbians Look Like: Dyke Activists Take on the 21st Century* (1999)**

Amazon: 'Twenty-six lesbian grassroots activists—some of them household names nationally, others known only within their local communities—help us focus on the future of our lesbian lives as we move into the next century. Written with both heart and smarts, in language that speaks to the dailiness of personal experience and larger

political questions, *This Is What Lesbian Looks Like* is the kind of reading that helps to shape a movement. If any disenfranchised group is only as strong as its weakest members, how do we think about lesbians who are not white, able-bodied, and middle class? What is lost in the gap that exists between the first generation to age having lived their adult lives out of the closet and the young dykes for whom out feels like a been there/done that kind of thing? Where does fighting the Right fit into the rainbow rush toward assimilation? How will lesbian identity be defined within the multiplicity of gender expressions becoming increasingly visible?’

**Lewin, Ellen. *Lesbian Mothers: Accounts of Gender in American Culture* (1993)**

Google Books: ‘Within a society that long considered “lesbian motherhood” a contradiction in terms, what were the experiences of lesbian mothers at the end of the twentieth century? In this illuminating book, lesbian mothers tell their stories of how they became mothers; how they see their relationships with their children, relatives, lovers, and friends and with their children’s fathers and sperm donors; how they manage child-care arrangements and financial difficulties; and how they deal with threats to custody. Ellen Lewin’s unprecedented research on lesbian mothers in the San Francisco area captured a vivid portrait of the moment before gay and lesbian parenting moved into the mainstream of U.S. culture. Drawing on interviews with 135 women, Lewin provided her readers with a new understanding of the attitudes of individual women, the choices they made, and the texture of their daily lives.’

**Loulan, JoAnn & Mariah Nelson. *Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other* (1987)**

Powell’s: ‘Essays exploring a broad range of crucial issues affecting the way lesbians live their lives—and the way they want to live them.’

**Lynch, Lee & Akia Woods *Off the Rag: Lesbians Writing on Menopause* (1996)**

Google Books: ‘In this anthology, lesbian authors offer their own personal stories on experiencing the menopause. Contributions from Karla Jay, Joan Nestle, Sarah Dreher and Sally Gearhart are included.’

**McPherson, Jim. *AIDS and compassion : a Christian handbook for churches and schools* (1988)**

**Romesburg, Don. *Young, Gay & Proud*, 4th ed. (1995)**

The fourth edition of a book, originally published in 1980, ‘written for adolescents who are exploring a gay identity’ (Amazon Books).

**Spong, John Shelby. *Living in Sin: A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality* (1988)**

Amazon: ‘Is celibacy the only moral alternative to marriage? Should the widowed be allowed to form intimate relationships without remarrying? Should the church receive homosexuals into its community and support committed gay and lesbian relationships? Should congregations publicly and liturgically witness and affirm divorces? Should the church's moral standards continue to be set by patriarchal males? Should women be consecrated bishops? Bishop Spong proposes a pastoral response based on scripture and history to the changing realities of the modern world. He calls for a moral vision to empower the church with inclusive teaching about equal, loving, nonexploitative relationships.’

**Wells, Jess. *Lesbians Raising Sons* (2000)**

Amazon: ‘Lesbians are having babies left and right, and, as Jess Wells points out in her introduction, lesbians who conceive via donor insemination have a 65 percent chance of bearing a son. Times have changed from the radical lesbian separatist days of the ’70s and ’80s when male children were unwelcome at some lesbian events and communities. Still, raising a man-child in this culture is not an easy thing for lesbians to do. Wells, who has a son, has gathered a wide range of personal essays by lesbian

moms including Jenifer Levin, Robin Morgan, Lillian Faderman, and Merrill Mushroom that describe the rewards and problems of being a lesbian mom'.