



Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers

GeMS Annotated Bibliography Fall 2022

Picture books for youngest readers

***Neither*, by Arlie Anderson** (*Little, Brown, 2018*). In a world of blue bunnies and yellow birds, a baby watches and wonders... what happens to those who don't fit in either?

***Not Every Princess* by Jeffrey and Lisa Bone** (*Magination, 2014*). A poetic book that explains how assumptions about one's identity might not always be true and that this is okay. The illustrations beautifully include all types of diversity.

***Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall** (*HarperCollins Children's, 2015*). A crayon has a red wrapper around it, and the other crayons assume that it's a red crayon, but it's actually a blue crayon! This crayon struggles to draw red things, until finally asked to draw something blue. At last it is accepted as a blue crayon, and enjoys drawing blue pictures with the other crayons.

***Jacob's New Dress* by Sarah and Ian Hoffman** (*Whitman, 2014*). Jacob wants nothing more than his own dress. While his parents and peers initially don't accept his love for dresses, his mom helps him sew a dress of his own, and wearing it to school his peers come to understand that it's okay for someone labeled a boy to wear dresses.

***My Princess Boy* by Cheryl Kilodavis** (*New York: Aladdin, 2010*). Dyson likes to wear dresses and tiaras, but his peers make fun of him because they don't believe he should dress that way. Dyson's parents nurture his spirit and encourage him to be his true self. This book does a good job prompting readers to begin a discussion about how they would act in situations similar to the book, and these discussions would be especially helpful towards decreasing bullying.

***The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf, drawings by Robert Lawson** (*Viking, 1936*). Ferdinand is a young bull who lives in Spain. While all the other bulls enjoy fighting, he prefers smelling flowers and relaxing under his favorite tree. When chosen for a bull fight, Ferdinand only wants to appreciate the beautiful flowers on the spectator's hats, not fight the men trying to provoke him. After refusing to fight he returns to his favorite tree and happily continues being himself, smelling flowers and lounging in the sunshine.

***Bunnybear* by Andre J. Loney and Carmen Saldana** (*INDPB 2017*). What does it feel like to be born a bear but feel like a bunny? *Bunnybear* gently explores how to feel good about one's own identity.

***Sparkle Boy* by Lesléa Newman** (*Lee & Low Books, 2017*). A children's picture book that explores the gender identity and expression of a boy who likes to dress in "girl's" clothes with his sibling

***Introducing Teddy* by Jess Walton and illustrated by Dougal MacPherson (Bloomsbury USA, 2016).** *Introducing Teddy* seeks to help young readers understand gender and what it means to transition. When Thomas, Errol's teddy, builds up the courage to tell Errol, "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," Errol responds with love and acceptance and together they teach about being your true self.

Non-fiction for youngest readers

***My Own Way: Celebrating Gender Freedom for Kids* by Joana Estrella (Wide Eyed Editions, 2022).** A colorful picture book breaking gender stereotypes, while encouraging readers to explore their identity without fear or shame.

***They She He Me: Free to Be!* by Maya Gonzales and Matthew SG (Reflection Press, 2017).** This children's book explains the complicated reality of gender identity in a way for kids to understand and encourages them to begin thinking about their own through useful and heartwarming information.

***It's Okay to be Different* by Todd Parr (New York: Hachette Book Group, 2001).** This vibrantly colored book features many examples of things that might make us unique or different from one another. While it doesn't address gender nonconformity directly, the author encourages readers to be themselves even if they might be considered "different" and nearly every kid will be able to find a page they can relate to themselves.

***Pink is for Boys*, by Robb Pearlman (Running Press Kids, 2018).** A beautiful picture book which reframes gender binary color myths and encourages children to express themselves in 'every color of the rainbow'.

***It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book about Gender Identity* by Theresa Thorn (Holt, 2019).** Engaging and clear discussion of gender expression and identity for the youngest children with appealing illustrations.

Fiction, picture books for kindergarten and elementary school readers

***47,000 Beads*, by Koja Adeyoha, Angel Adeyoha and Holly McGinnis (Flamingo Rampant Press, 2017).** Beautifully presents First Nation, Two-Spirit exploration in the context of a child's dancing at annual Pow Wow and great family support.

***Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino, illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant (Groundwood / House of Anansi, 2014).** Morris loves dressing up in a tangerine dress at school, though his peers make fun of him for wearing the dress and painting his fingernails pink and that boys can't wear dresses. Morris is initially discouraged by their comments, but as he returns to school full of self-confidence, and his classmates ultimately accept him for who he is.

***About Chris* by Nina Benedetto** (*CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015*). *About Chris* is a story about a transgender boy determined to find his self-worth. As Chris works to express his true self, those around him, including his teacher, learn lessons of their own.

***Allie's Basketball Dream* by Barbara E. Barber** (*Lee & Low, 1996*). Allie dreams of becoming a professional basketball player, and can't wait to practice after her father buys her a basketball. At the park a group of boys and Allie's friends tell her that basketball is only for boys, but she insists that she loves it regardless. The reader sees her skill grow as she perseveres throughout the book, and she proves that basketball isn't just for boys.

***The Adventures of Tulip, Birthday Wish Fairy* by S. Bear Bergman** (*Flamingo Rampant, 2012*). Tulip is a fairy who is never stumped when granting birthday wishes, but when he receives a wish from a child named Daniel who wants to be a girl named Daniela, he doesn't know what to do. Tulip learns about the things he can do to help this child, while introducing the reader to the idea of being transgender to kids, and how others can support them.

***Henry Holton Takes the Ice* by Sandra Bradley with pictures by Sara Palacios** (*Dial for Young Readers, 2015*). Everyone in Henry's family plays hockey, but it never felt *right* to Henry after seeing an ice dancing show. Henry's grandma finally brings him figure skates, and he at once feels comfortable and happy on the ice. Henry's family ultimately embraces his love of figure skating.

***Annie's Plaid Shirt* by Stacey B. Davids** (*Upswing Books, 2015*). Annie loves her plaid shirt and dressing as she pleases, but has to be creative about a wedding to which she is 'supposed' to wear a fancy dress.

***10,000 Dresses* by Marcus Ewert and Illustrated by Rex Ray** (*Seven Stories, 2008*). Bailey dreams every night of extravagant dresses but her family members tell her that she is a boy and can't have dresses. Bailey is confused and upset because she knows that she is a girl. She ultimately finds an older girl to sew with, and happily refers to Bailey as a girl.

***The Sissy Duckling* by Harvey Fierstein & Illustrated by Henry Cole** (*Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2002*). Elmer is a duckling who loves to paint pictures, decorate cookies, and put on theater productions. Other (male) ducklings make fun of Elmer because he doesn't want to play sports. Even his father makes fun of his son, calling him a "sissy". When Elmer's father is injured as they begin migrating for the winter, Elmer is the only duck who stays behind to take care of him. Elmer is praised for his uniqueness, and finds that he isn't an outsider after all.

***Phoenix Goes to School* by Michelle Finch and Phoenix Finch** (*Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018*). Phoenix is worried that she will be bullied because of her gender identity when starting school. But with encouraging words from her mom, she goes in confident and finds that teachers and peers are happy to learn from her.

***Calvin* by J.R. Ford** (*G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2021*). Calvin has always known he was a boy. So in preparation for the first day of school, he announces to his family

who he really is and is met with undying support. The reader follows his journey as he prepares to show his true self at school.

***Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch** (*Dial for Young Readers, 1991*). Grace wants to audition for the role of Peter Pan in a play at school, but her classmates say that she cannot play this part because she is African American and a girl. Grace's mother and grandmother explain to her that she can be anything she wants to be, her race and gender shouldn't stand in her way. Grace puts on a stunning audition for the role of Peter Pan, and her class voted to give her the part!

***My Sister, Daisy* by Adria Karlsson** (*Capstone Editions, 2021*). Daisy's older brother and best buddy learns to accept his sibling's gender when she affirms her true identity.

***But I'm Not A Boy* by Katie Leone and illustrated by Alison Pfeifer** (*Doppler Press, 2014*). Sarah is a transgender girl, but everyone thinks she is a boy named David. Feeling lonely and confused, Sarah longs for the courage to tell her parents about her secret. Written from Sarah's perspective, *But I'm Not a Boy* is a story about a child's gender exploration, a desire for acceptance, and all of the emotions that comes with it.

***What Are Your Words?* by Katherine Locke** (*Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021*). This children's book follows Ari's journey through their neighborhood trying on different words to open up the conversation about pronouns to younger audiences.

***Julian is a Mermaid*, by Jessica Love** (*Candlewick, 2018*). Julian is obsessed with mermaids, and with his beloved abuela, attends a festival where everyone looks like a favorite mermaid and he shines. Beautifully illustrated!

***When Aidan Became A Brother* by Kyle Lukoff** (*Lee & Low, 2019*). Aidan is a transgender boy who lives with both of his parents. When they announce to Aidan that he will soon become a big brother, he embarks on a personal journey of honesty, communication, and undeniable love.

***Call Me Max* by Kyle Lukoff** (*Reycraft Books, 2019*). When starting school, Max lets everyone know what name he wants to be called, a boy's name, even though it's different from what's written down. The story follows how Max makes friends and embraces his identity in this introduction of what it's like to be transgender for children.

***The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch and illustrated by Michael Martchenko** (*Annick, 1980*). Elizabeth is a beautiful princess planning to marry Prince Ronald and when he is captured by a dragon, Elizabeth goes to rescue him. After she outsmarts the dragon during which her clothes are destroyed Ronald refuses to talk to her until she "looks like a princess", so she decides not to marry him. Elizabeth skips off into the sunset, leaving us with the message that you don't need to be "feminine" to be a princess.

***Peanut Goes for the Gold*, by Jonathan Van Ness** (HarperCollins 2020). Follow the adventures of a gender non-binary guinea pig as he sets out to win a rhythmic gymnastics competition.

***The Boy and the Bindi*, by Vivek Shraya (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016).** A young boy wants a bindi (the red forehead dot commonly worn by Hindu women) of his own and is encouraged to learn the power of ‘making sure I don’t hide/ Everything I am inside’.

***Jack (Not Jackie)* by Erica Silverman (Little Bee Books, 2018).** A big sister comes to the realization that her little sister, Jackie, doesn’t act like most. She wants to be called Jack and doesn’t fit into labels that have been given to her. This book shows change and acceptance of someone you love and the beautiful journey they can embark on.

***My Shadow is Pink* by Scott Stuart (Larrikin House, 2020).** This story follows a young child growing up liking “girl” things, even though they were born as a boy. With the role of a supportive parent, the child learns that everyone has a shadow that they might be afraid to show. The story emphasizes self-acceptance and exploring gender identity without fear.

***My Shadow is Purple* by Scott Stuart (Larrikin House, 2022).** Everyone has a shadow that reflects their inner self, the 2 choices being pink for girls, and blue for boys. But when the main character has a different color shadow, they show the reader that they can be either those choices, or neither! This book looks past the gender binary and encourages youth to discover their inner self.

Non-fiction for kindergarten and elementary school readers

***I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings (New York: Dial for Young Readers, 2014).** Based off the true story of Jazz Jennings, this book takes readers through her childhood life as she realized she is a girl despite the fact she was labeled a boy at birth. A good book for explaining transgender identities to children, as it provides them a character at their age with which they can relate.

***Who Are You?: The Kid’s Guide to Gender Identity* by Brook Pessin-Whedbee (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2016).** An interactive wheel is used to help children explore a wide range of diverse gender identities and expressions.

***All I Want To Be Is Me* by Phyllis Rothblatt MFT (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011).** *All I Want to Be Is Me* depicts the wide range of ways in which children experience and express gender, offers language for those who don't fit gender stereotypes, who want feel accepted and feel free to be themselves.

***What Makes a Baby*, by Cory Silverburg and Fiona Smyth (Trifalger Square, 2013).** A fully inclusive, modern picture book about conception, gestation and birth.

Fiction for middle school readers

***The Ship We Built* by Lexie Bean (Dial Books, 2020).** Rowan doesn’t fit into the categories of “right kind” of boy or “right kind” of girl, so he finds himself bullied at school and completely not loved at home. Through his struggles, he finds comfort in writing letters and attaching them

to balloons, hoping someone in the universe will read them. His self-discovery journey continues as the reader empathizes and learns with him.

***call me him* by River Braun** (*Independently Published, 2020*). 14 year old Wylie Masterson is a typical skater-punk teenager struggling with family, school, society, puberty, and authority. What sets him aside from others, though, is that he was born in the wrong body of a female, and he lives in a world where he isn't seen as his true self. This novel touches on the topics and struggles of Wylie's life, while showing how he grows and learns from them.

***Alex As Well* by Alyssa Brugman.** (*Square Fish, 2016*). *Alex As Well* is a story about being intersex; exploring gender, sexuality and friendships; and seeking a sense of belonging. While everyone thinks Alex is a boy, gender feels more complex. As Alex works to better understand herself, she is also faced with learning how to navigate relationships with friends and family- all while transferring to a new school

***Zenobia July*, by Lisa Bunker** (*Viking Books for Young Readers, 2019*). Finally able to live life as the girl she knows herself to be, Zenobia uses her well-earned hacking and coding skills to solve the mystery of hateful, anonymous posts on her new school's website.

***The Pants Project* by Cat Clarke** (*Sourcebook Jabberwocky, 2017*). Liv is a transgender boy who is forced to wear skirts every day because of his school's dress code. Liv creates Operation: Pants Project in an effort to change his school's policy while also finding himself in the process.

***When Kayla Was Kyle* by Amy Fabrikant** (*Avid Readers Group, 2013*). "Kyle doesn't understand why the other kids at school call him names. He looks like other boys, but doesn't feel like them. Can Kyle find the words to share his feelings about his gender - and can his parents help him to transition into the girl he was born to be?"

***The Passing Playbook* by Isaac Fitzsimmons** (*Dial, 2021*). Spencer Harris is your average teenage nerd. He seems to have it all - a supportive atmosphere, great friends and teammates with a pretty good shot at a starting position on the boys' varsity soccer team. The issue is, no one knows Spencer is trans, and when his coach sees the "F" on his birth certificate, he's forced to be benched. He needs to make a choice - cheer on his team from the side lines or publicly fight for his right to play, but that means outing himself to his classmates and even the boy he has a crush on.

***Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart** (*Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2016*). Lily Jo is a transgender girl navigating her way through eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, once known as Norbert Dorfman, new to the school has been hiding a big secret on top of managing his bipolar disorder. But when Lily Jo meets Dunkin Dorfman, their lives are forever changed.

***George* by Alex Gino** (*Scholastic, 2015*). George is 10 years old, and while everyone refers to her as a boy, she knows that she is a girl. The author uses female pronouns when referring to George, enforcing to readers that she is in fact a girl. Throughout the story George comes out to her friends, family, and peers at school as transgender, and this conversation starts as she auditions for the role of Charlotte in her schools production of "Charlotte's Web".

***The Other Boy* by M. G. Hennessey** (*HarperCollins, 2016*). Twelve-year-old Shane Woods is known to his friends and family as a regular boy. While Shane enjoys pitching for his baseball team, writing his graphic novel, and hanging with his best friend, Josh, he has a secret that could change everything. His world is turned upside down when Shane's classmate threatens to uncover his secret. With great courage, and surprising allies, Shane stands up to hate and shows everyone that he's still the same person as he always was.

***Too Bright to See* by Kyle Lukoff** (*Dial Books, 2021*). During the summer before the first year of middle school, Bug takes their best friend Moira to a vacation house in Vermont. They spend the summer together, but when they're convinced a ghost is haunting them in the rural, old house. The truth comes out that Bug is transgender in this novel about identity, growing up, and grief.

***Both Can Be True* by Jules Machias** (*Quill Tree Books, 2021*). Two kids work together to save a dog from being euthanized. Through this process, they find out more about each other, especially the things that set them aside from the social and gender binary. With all this new information, will their friendship stay strong as they learn to embrace the differences of other people's lives?

***Identity: A Story of Transitioning* by Corey Maison, Zukier Anthony (With)** (*Zukier Press, 2020*). This graphic novel shows the story of a middle school girl named Corey, who happens to be trapped in a boy's body. Corey shares her transition story with readers to open up the conversation of identity for transgender youth, while explaining topics like gender dysphoria in an understanding way.

***Gracefully Grayson* by Ami Polonsky** (*Disney-Hyperion, 2014*). Grayson is a transgender girl in the sixth grade. Grayson often feels socially left out at school, but one day bravely auditions for the role of Persephone in the school play. Grayson's playing the role of the female character ultimately helps her realize that she in fact identifies as a girl, and the support from other students in the play aid in her self exploration and discovery.

***Riding Freedom* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, pictures by Brian Selznick** (*Scholastic, 1998*). The story begins in the 1860s, as Charlotte, a girl who has always played with the boys at the orphanage, decides she must run away to forge a life of her own. Since then it was unacceptable for girls to travel alone, Charlotte cuts her hair, dresses in boy's clothes and passes as Charley. Charley ultimately gets jobs at various stables doing what she loves but is always hired under the assumption that she is a boy. Charley is successful in life and gains the respect of people across the country for her amazing work with horses.

***The Moon Within*, by Aida Salazar** (*Arthur A Levine Books, 2019*). An *International Latino Book Award* winner, *The Moon Within* follows 11 year old Celi Rivera and her best friend as they navigate young adolescence, first love and gender identity, with gentle and sensitive parental understanding and support.

***Wandering Son*, by Shimura Takako** (*Fantagraphics Books, 2015*). One in a series of *Japanese Manga comics* for LGBTQ youth, *Wandering Son* follows the exploration and adventures of two young adolescents journeying toward affirming their gender identities.

***A Boy Like Me* by Jennie Wood** (*215 Ink, 2014*). While beginning the process of affirming as male, Peyton develops an unexpected crush. This coming-of-age novel details his struggles and triumphs with his crush, their parents and their school with clarity, wisdom and wit.

Non-fiction and memoirs for middle school readers

***Gender Euphoria* by Laura Kate Dale** (*Unbound, 2021*). Switching up the narrative, 19 gender diverse teens share their experiences with experiencing gender euphoria, the feeling of such happiness in relation to gender identity.

***Trans Teen Survival Guide* by Owl Fisher and Fox Fisher** (*Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018*). Written in a humorous, but informational way, this book serves as an incredible resource to introduce topics such as medical transitioning, gender euphoria, and tips to keep teens empowered and feeling confident.

***Being Jazz: My Life as a (transgender) Teen* by Jazz Jennings** (*Listening Library, 2016*). In this memoir, Jazz Jennings shares her stories, struggles, successes, and everything in between with growing up as a transgender female. Written in her teens, it's an educational resource to all who are questioning or wanting to learn about diverse identities.

Fiction for high school and young adult readers

***Some Assembly Required* by Arin Andrews** (Simon & Schuster, 2014) This honest and captivating memoir details the author's journey through gender affirmation during middle and high school with honesty and humor.

***The Lives of Merfolk* by Chelsea Mason Basiliere** (*Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, 2015*). Hayden, the protagonist, has a fresh voice and confident self-awareness which sustains him as he moves slowly but surely to a full, gender affirming transition with the help of a new friend and his mother.

***I Am J* by Cris Beam** (*Little, Brown, 2011*). This story follows J, a transgender teen boy who wants nothing more than to be accepted by his male peers. J maneuvers the obstacles placed before him while he transitions, and his strength is tested through tension with his family and friends.

***Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender** (*Balzer + Bay, 2020*). Transgender teen, Felix Love doesn't understand why his identity makes it harder for him to find love. After an anonymous student posts threatening messages online, Felix makes a plan of revenge, but while doing this, finds out more about himself and his identity. After posing as a catfish, he finds himself in a completely unexpected love triangle, where he needs to navigate his complicated feelings.

***Jess, Chunk, and the Road Trip to Infinity* by Kristin Elizabeth Clark Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016).** After graduating high school, Jess finds herself on a cross-country journey with her best friend, “Chunk” to surprise her father, who is marrying her mother’s ex-best friend. However, Jess has not seen her father since before she came out as a girl. As Jess and Chunk make their way across the country, they discover more about themselves, each other, and their evolving relationship.

***Beautiful Music For Ugly Children* by Kirsten Cronn-Mills (Woodbury: Flux 2012).** Gabe is a young transgender teen who was assigned female at birth, but is in the process of transitioning . While bullied at school, he develops his own radio show and freely identify and be accepted as Gabe, and he enjoys this leisure. Tension grows as radio listeners out Gabe as “Liz” (the name he was assigned at birth) at school, and Gabe’s strength and will are tested.

***I Wish You All the Best* by Mason Deaver. (Push, 2019).** When Ben comes out as non-binary to his family he faces unexpected challenges from family and school, and unexpected resilience, support and romance.

***If You Could Be Mine* by Sara Farizan (Algonquin Young Readers, 2013).** “Frank, funny and bittersweet” (New York Times), this award-winning novel poignantly chronicles the love story of relationship between two teens in contemporary Iran.

***Symptoms of Being Human* by Jeff Garvin (Balzer + Bray, 2016)** Riley Cavanaugh is a gender fluid teen who is not out to his world. Between the stress of a new school and having a congressman as a father, Riley starts an anonymous blog in search of some relief. After blogging about life as a gender fluid teenager, the blog goes viral, and his anonymity is threatened. Riley is faced with a life changing decision to delete the blog, his positive outlet, or come out to peers.

***Being Emily* by Rachel Gold (Bella Books, 2012).** Emily, born Christopher, is a 16 year old high school student who keeps waiting for “it to get better” in her small town high school and instead is challenged...until she meets an unlikely guide, a substitute teacher.

***Jumpstart the World* by Catherine Ryan Hyde (Alfred A. Knopf, 2010).** After being kicked out of her house at the request of her mother’s boyfriend, fifteen year old Elle rents an apartment next to a welcoming couple, Frank and Molly. Elle is immediately intrigued by Frank, and develops a crush on him. Elle never knew what “transgender” meant, but she quickly learns as she finds out that Frank is transgender. Elle grapples with her feelings and friendship with Frank as she tries to understand his identity.

***Almost Perfect* by Brian Katcher (Delacorte Books, 2010).** Logan Witherspoon befriends Sage Hendricks at a time when he no longer trusts or believes in people. Eventually Logan’s feelings for Sage grew strong until Sage finally discloses her big secret: she was born a boy. Once his anger has cooled, his regrets lead him to attempt to rekindle their friendship. But it’s hard to

replace something that's been broken—and it's even harder to find your way back to friendship when you began with love

***Man O' War* by Cory McCarthy** (*Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2022*). A coming of age novel, Arab American trans swimmer, River McIntyre meets a healthy queer person and embarks on a journey of their own to explore gender identity, affirming surgeries, true love, and coming out.

***When the Moon was Ours*, by Anna-Marie McLemore** (*Wednesday Books, 2018*). This *magical fiction* book is about two inseparable friends, with a culturally diverse and vibrant cast of characters, as they plot to remain true to themselves in the face of family and history.

***Act Cool* by Tobly McSmith** (*Quill Tree Books, 2021*). As an aspiring actor, August gets accepted into one of the most prestigious performing arts schools, but under one condition from his parents - he isn't allowed to transition from female to male. This novel breaks down what it's like to perform as your true self while facing challenges from people close to you.

***A + E 4ever* by Ilike Merrey** (*Maple Shade 2011*). This *graphic novel* depicts the relationship between Asher, a quiet androgynous boy, and Eulalie, a girl who presents with stronger masculine features. The two are brought together through their love for art, and a relationship exploring the boundaries of gender.

***Jaya and Rasa. A Love Story* by Sonia Patel** (*Cinco Puntos Press, 2017*). Before meeting on a mountain in Hawaii, seventeen-year-old Jaya Mehta and Rasa Santos had never felt love or the closeness of family. Jaya, a transgender teen struggling with mental health issues, and Rasa, a beautiful young woman being exploited through a violent relationship, discover an unlikely romantic connection and strength to put their stormy pasts behind and start a new life with one another.

***Luna* by Julie Anne Peters** (*Little, Brown, 2004*). In this novel Peters delves into the lives of Regan and her older (and transgender) sister Luna. Regan provided Luna with clothes and make-up at night, when during the day others referred to Luna as her name assigned at birth, "Liam". Tensions arise in their family Luna wants to be more public about her female identity. Luna is ultimately supported in her transition by her sister.

***Tomboy* by Liz Prince** (*Zest, 2014*) *Tomboy* is a *graphic novel* about gender stereotypes and refusing gender boundaries. Follow author and zine artist Liz Prince from early childhood into adulthood as she explores her evolving gender identity.

***If I Was Your Girl* by Meredith Russo** (*Flatiron Books, 2016*). As the new girl in school, Amanda Hardy just wants is to make friends and fit in. However, Amanda has a secret keeping her from getting too close to anyone. When Amanda begins developing feelings for Grant, she finds herself wanting to put her guard down and share an important piece of her identity- that Amanda was once known as Andrew.

***Lizard Radio* by Pat Schmatz** (*Candlewick, 2015*). A sci-fi, dystopian novel about a 15 year old non-binary, and species fluid teen finding their way in a gender rigid culture finding unexpected friendships and support.

***Drag Teen* by Jeffrey Self** (*PUSH (Scholastic Books), 2016*). JD, the book's protagonist, and his best friend go on a road trip from Florida to New York City in search of their dreams.

***Wandering Son, Vol. 1* by Takako Shimura** (*Fantagraphics, 2011*). This graphic novel follows two elementary school students who meet at the beginning of that awkward stage of everyone's life - puberty. The two share a unique secret, though, Shuichi is a boy who knows she is a girl, and Yoshino is a girl who knows he is a boy. Together, they navigate this part of life and encourage self-acceptance.

***Beast* by Brie Spangler** (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016). *Beast* follows the journey of unhappy and bullied Dylan, who finds himself unexpectedly befriended and challenged by a new friend with a journey of her own.

***What We Left Behind* by Robin Talley** (*Harlequin Teen, 2015*). Toni and Gretchen were high school sweethearts and the kind of couple everyone was envious of. With Toni off to Harvard on a gender identity journey and Gretchen to NYU, their love is tested by the strain of a long distance relationship. Despite all the challenges they are faced with, will they continue to work together or eventually grow apart?

***The Complicated Geography of Alice* by Jules Vilmur** (*CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014*). *The Complicated Geography of Alice* is story of a transgender teenager told from the perspective of her mother, *The Complicated Geography of Alice* illustrates a family's struggle to support a daughter's transition while managing her mental health and substance use issues.

***The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang** (*First Second, 2018*). An engaging *graphic novel/fairy tale* about revealing and reveling on one's true identity

***The Art of Being Normal* by Lisa Williamson** (*David Fickling Books, 2016*). *The Art of Being Normal* follows the lives of two unlikely friends as they explore and understand their assumptions, differences and similarities. *An Amnesty International endorsed book.*

***Parrotfish* by Ellen Wittlinger** (*Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2007*). This novel takes readers on a journey with Grady as he comes out as transgender. Though he initially faces bullying and discrimination, he ultimately finds acceptance and friendship in this engaging book.

Non-fiction and memoirs for high school and young adult readers

***A Quick and Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns* by Archie Bongiovanni and Tristan Jimerson** (Limerance Press, 2018). A *non-fiction comic book* about two friends explaining the correct use of gender-neutral pronouns into their worlds.

The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing About Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Other Identities edited by David Levithan and Billy Merrell (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006). A thoughtful, witty, insightful and tender award-winning anthology of writing (essays, poems, memoirs) by young and diverse LGBTQ writers.

She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders by Jennifer Finney Boylan (Broadway Books 2013) An accessible, moving and witty well considered gender transition overtime and the impact on her family, friends and career.

Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin (Candlewick, 2015). This book consists of a collection of personal stories and photographs from various members of the gender nonconforming community. A few of the stories are from transgender individuals, but there are also stories from genderqueer and intersex folks.

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family by Amy Ellis Nutt (Random House, 2016) *Becoming Nicole*...is an eloquent and touching story of one family's journey to understand and support their child's gender transition.

Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe (Oni Press, 2019). Maia Kobabe shares an illustrated graphic novel memoir of what it was like growing up as a gender diverse person. This includes the journey of self-identity, friendships, sexuality, love life, and much more.

Before I Had the Words: On Being a Transgender Young Adult by Skylar Kergil (Skyhorse Publishing, 2017). As seventeen-year-old Skylar Kergil posts weekly videos to YouTube, documenting emotional and physical changes throughout his transition from female to male, Skylar's transparency and positive energy attracts thousands of viewers to follow him along his journey. Revealing the intimate details of his experience, Skylar's memoir provides a deeper look into the highs and lows of what it's like to transition from one gender to another.

Spectrums: Autistic Transgender People in Their Own Words by Maxfield Sparrow (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2020). Exclusively written by gender diverse individuals on the autism spectrum, this book shines light to voices typically not heard in the transgender experience. From healthcare to employment, it covers a multitude of topics for readers to learn more about and gain more confidence.

Trans Bodies, Trans Selves by Laura Erickson-Schroth (Oxford University Press, 2014). With included testimonials from transgender and non-binary individuals, this book educates the reader on challenges they may face along with added advice, useful information, and the positives commonly involved with being transgender.

Trans+ by Karen Rayne and Kathryn Gonzales (Magination Press, 2019). This book breaks down all the hard to ask questions gender diverse teens have in the back of their heads in an all inclusive and educational way. Covering topics such as relationships, mental and physical health, reproduction, and everything in between, it has all the information needed with real life stories and advice from other trans teens.