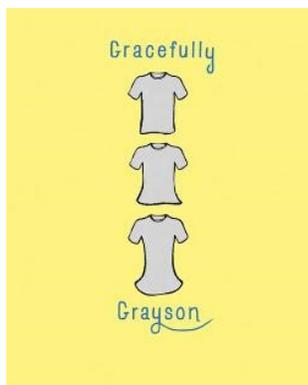


# Gender Identity (Intermediate)

Compiled by Joan Pearce from ERAC, SOGI 123 & Reviews

**Novels**

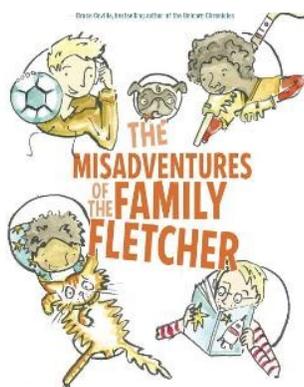
IL from publishers, then reviewers



## **Gracefully Grayson**

by Ami Polonsky, c2016 (IL: 3-6, 5-8, 6 up, RL: 4.6)

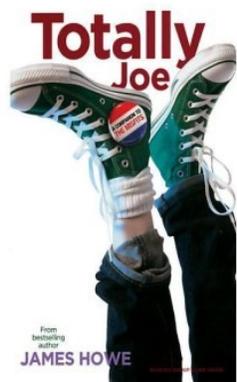
"Grayson, born male but identifying as female, hides her true identity until she tries out for the school play as the female lead. She struggles with the fall-out, including bullying at school and at home, until she accepts herself and lives according to her true gender identity." - ERAC



## **Misadventures of the Family Fletcher**

by Dana Levy, c2015 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, RL: 4.8)

"This novel follows the escapades of the Fletcher family - a family of two dads and adopted siblings of differing race. The focus is not on the gay parents or the interracial family but rather on the lessons learned from the misadventures." - ERAC (Gr. 4-8)



## **Totally Joe** by James Howe, c2005

(IL: 5-8, 6-9, RL: 4.8)

"Joe's teacher asks his seventh-grade class to write an alphabiography throughout the year, presenting themselves and their lives in entries from A to Z. Joe's resulting autobiography gives the reader insight into what it is like to be a 12 year old boy coming to terms with his sexuality." - ERAC (G. 6-8)



## **The Misfits** by James Howe, c2001 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.5)

"This novel examines social issues of current society. A group of small town students who are considered misfits because of perceived differences (sexual preference, weight, height and ethnicity) overcome adversity. In doing so, they change attitudes at their school. The book deals with difficult topics with sensitivity and humour, and provides an excellent tool for classroom discussion and a way to safely explore difficult topics." - ERAC (Gr. 7-9)

# Gender Identity (Intermediate)

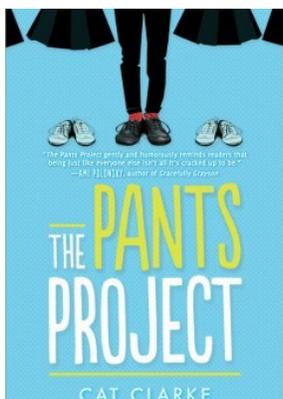
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*Novels*



## George

by Alex Gino, c2015 (IL: 3-6, 4-6, RL: 5.0)

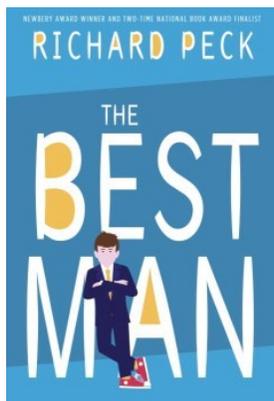
"George has a secret: he was born as a boy but identifies as a girl. When the class puts on a play of Charlotte's Web, George dreams of playing Charlotte, but isn't allowed to audition for the part as a boy can't play a girl's role. George and her best friend develop a plan for opening night that lets George be Charlotte and lets everyone finally learn who she really is. This engaging and honest novel introduces gender identity struggles and gender stereotypes in a way that intermediate students can understand." - ERAC (Gr. 4-7)



## The Pants Project

by Cat Clarke, c2017 (IL: 5-8, 4-7, RL: 4.7)

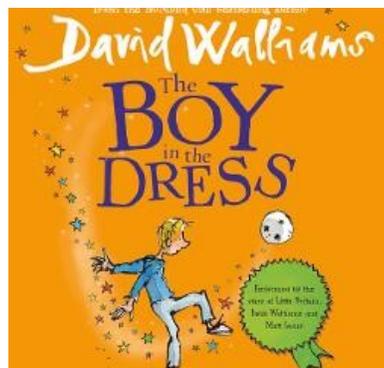
"Liv, who is struggling with gender identity and identifies as a boy, attends a school with a uniform policy that requires her to wear a skirt. She develops a series of plans to deal with the problem and recruits her friends to help have the uniform policy modified so she can finally wear pants. This realistic story about a student trying to change her situation to feel more authentic and comfortable would be useful as a class read-aloud, literature circle title, or for a classroom library for grades 6-8." - ERAC



## The Best Man

by Richard Peck, c2016 (IL: 3-6, 4-6, RL: 4.1)

"This is the coming-of-age story of Archer, who narrates events in his life from grades 1 to 6. He relates incidences of bullying, sexual orientation, gay marriage, family life, and his special relationships with his immediate family and grandparents, as he thinks about the kind of person he wants to become. Suitable for grades 5-9, the novel can be read, discussed, and reflected upon for a novel study, journal writing, literature circles, creative writing, and class discussions, and deals with themes of bullying, gender..." - ERAC



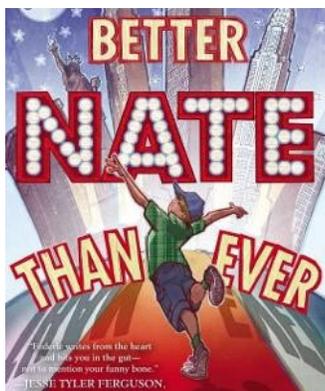
## The Boy in the Dress

by David Walliams, c2015 (IL: 3-6, 4-7)

"Twelve year old Dennis loves soccer and he also loves Vogue magazine. With the encouragement of his older friend, Lisa, who shares his love of fashion, he fulfills his desire to wear dresses in public... with unexpected consequences." - ERAC (Gr. 4-7)

# Gender Identity (Intermediate)

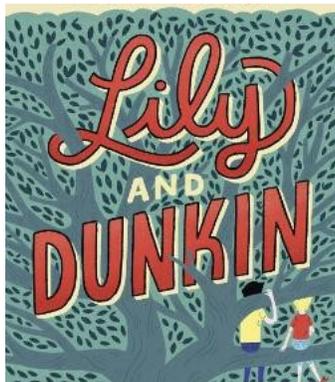
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## **Better Nate Than Ever**

by Tim Federle, c2013 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.9)

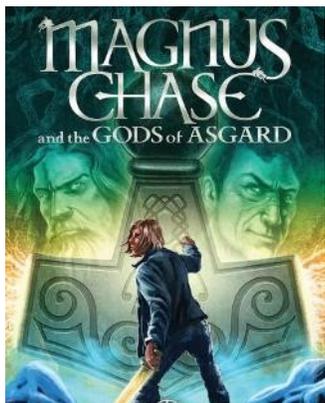
"The adventures of Nate, who has followed his dream of being a Broadway star and run off to New York, will provide a gentle and engaging introduction to the topic of gender identity for intermediate/middle school students." - ERAC (Gr. 6-8) \*Note: there are other titles in this series.



## **Lily and Dunkin**

by Donna Gephart, c2016 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.3)

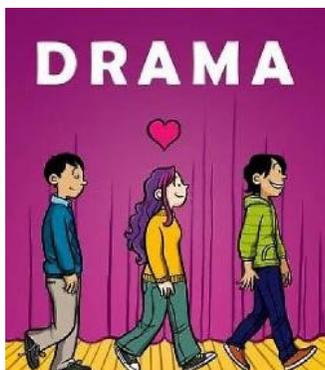
"Lily, born Tim and assigned "male" at birth, is bullied at school over her gender expression and perceived sexual orientation. She struggles to find acceptance and in the process befriends Dunkin, who is new to the community and is also searching for acceptance, while struggling with trauma in his life and ensuring his bipolar disorder doesn't interfere with his acceptance." - ERAC (Gr. 6-8)



## **Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard, Book Two: The hammer of Thor**

Rick Riordan, c2016 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.1)

"Thor's hammer is missing again. The thunder god has a disturbing habit of misplacing his weapon—the mightiest force in the Nine Worlds. But this time the hammer isn't just lost, it has fallen into enemy hands. If Magnus Chase and his friends can't retrieve the hammer quickly, the mortal worlds will be defenseless against an onslaught of giants." - Pub. (SOGI 123, Gr. 5-8)

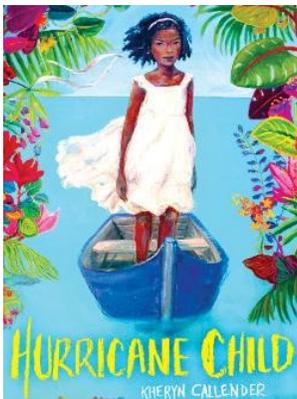


**Drama** by Raina Telgemeier, c2012 (IL: 3-6, RL: 2.3)

"Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of 'Moon over Mississippi' as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going."  
- Follett Gr. 5-8 (SOGI 123)

# Gender Identity (Intermediate)

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*Novels*

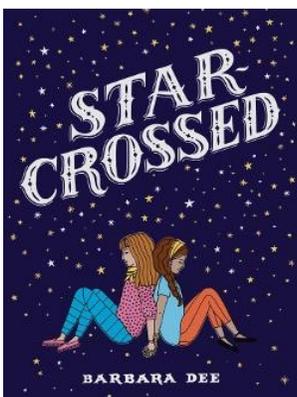


## Hurricane Child

by Kheryn Callender, c2018 (IL: 3-6, 4-7, RL: 5.3)

"Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, twelve-year-old Caroline falls in love with another girl and together they set out in a hurricane to find Caroline's missing mother."

- Pub. (SOGI 123, Gr. 4-7)



## Star-crossed

by Barbara Dee, c2017 (IL: 5-8, 4-6, RL: 4.7)

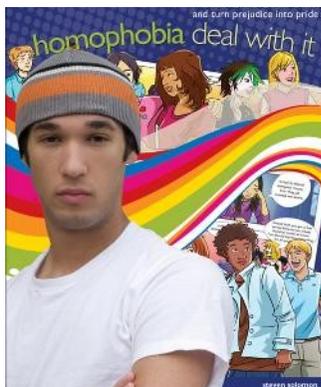
"Twelve-year-old Mattie wrestles with her crush on Gemma as they participate in their school production of *Romeo and Juliet* in what *School Library Journal* calls "a fine choice for middle school libraries in need of an accessible LGBTQ stories."

- Pub. (SOGI 123)

# Gender Identity (Intermediate)

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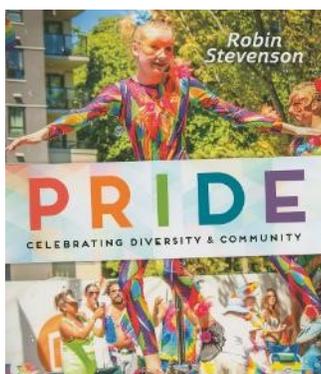
## Non-fiction



### Homophobia: Deal With It and Turn Prejudice into Pride

by Steve Solomon, c2013 (IL: 5-8, RL: 6.4)

"This interactive, highly visual and easily accessible book defines homophobia and leads readers to consider seriously their own actions and attitudes, and how they can learn to treat everyone with respect. It could be used to generate discussion about homophobia and its direct effect on the lives of middle school students." - ERAC (Gr. 5-8)

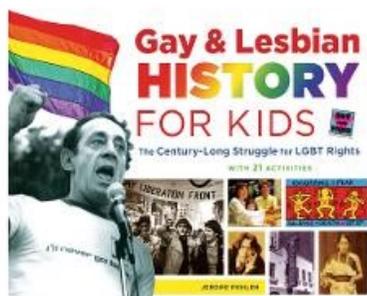


### Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community

by Robin Stevenson, c2016 (IL: YA, 7-10, RL: 7.2)

"Do you know anything about Pride beyond the fact that there's usually a parade? Do you know where it started or how many different ways it's celebrated around the globe? "ride is Robin Stevenson's contribution to an often-neglected discussion, especially among young people, but her book makes the subject accessible and relevant."

- SOGI 123, Gr. 7-10



### Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: the Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights

by Jerome Pohlen, c2016 (IL: 5-8, 7-10, RL: 7.9)

"From bayard Rustin to Alan Turing, from Harvey Milk to Dr. magnus Hirschfeld, Pohlen's text chronicles the incredible lives of LGBT individuals throughout history. Furthermore, Pohlen's book includes activities to get young readers thinking and allow them to find out more about LGBT people in significant events."

- SOGI 123, Gr. 7-10