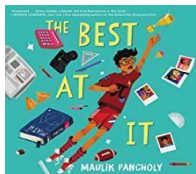


# LGBTQ+ Inclusive Schools Booklist for Middle School



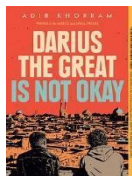
**The Best at It.** Maulik Pancholy. Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: *Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.* Rahul is ready to crush this challenge... But what if he discovers he isn't the best at anything?



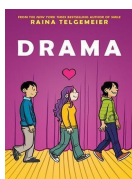
**Camp.** L.C. Rosen. Randy Kapplehoff loves spending the summer at a camp for queer teens. It's there where he falls for Hudson Aaronson-Lim, who is only into straight-acting guys. This year, Randy reinvents himself as "Del" - buff, masculine and on the market, giving up everything that is true to who he really is. As he and Hudson grow closer, Randy questions how much he is willing to change for love.



**Cemetery Boys.** Aiden Thomas. Yadriel has summoned a ghost, and now he can't get rid of him. When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his true gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. **Spanish Edition: Los chicos del cementerio**



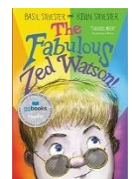
**Darius the Great Is Not Okay.** Adib Khorram. Darius Kellner is a Persian American who has always felt out of place. He travels to Iran for the first time to visit family he formerly only knew through his computer screen. As he deals with clinical depression and his family, Darius meets Sohrab, a neighbor who turns best friend, and learns how to be himself.



**Drama.** Raina Telgemeier. Through drama—a play—and drama between characters, this graphic novel explores middle school feelings between boyfriends and girlfriends and boyfriends and boyfriends. **Spanish Edition: Drama**



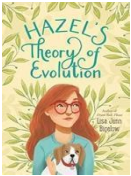
**Elatsoe.** Darcie Little Badger. Elatsoe can raise the spirits of dead animals and of her beloved cousin whose ghost tells her that he was murdered. With the help of her family, her best friend and the memory of her great, great, great, great, great grandmother, Elatsoe must track down the killer and unravel the town's dark past. But will the townsfolk and a mysterious doctor stop her before she gets started?



**The Fabulous Zed Watson!** Kevin Sylvester & Basil Sylvester. The literary scavenger hunt of a lifetime, starring an endlessly endearing non-binary tween. Zed Watson loves a few things: their name (which they chose themselves!), their big rambunctious family, and—oh yeah—monsters.



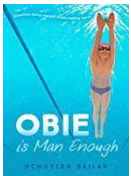
**Frankie & Bug.** Gayle Forman. Bug's not too excited about hanging out with a kid she's never met, but they soon find some common ground. And as the summer unfolds, they find themselves learning some important lessons about each other, and the world. Like what it means to be your true self and how to be a good ally for others.



**Hazel's Theory of Evolution.** Lisa Jenn Bigelow. As Hazel enters eighth grade she wonders: Will she be teased again about her two moms and their goat farm? Her friends, Carina who is a transgender girl and Yosh who has a disability, help her navigate all the changes.



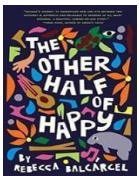
**The Magic Fish.** Trung Le Nguyen. In this graphic novel, Tien and his mother may come from different cultures—she's an immigrant from Vietnam still struggling with English; he's been raised in America—but through the fairy tales he checks out from the local library, those differences are erased. However, there's one conversation that still eludes him—how to come out to her and his father.



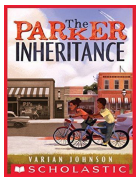
**Obie is Man Enough.** Schuyler Bailar. Obie knew his transition would have ripple effects. He must leave his swim coach, his pool and his best friends. But it's time for Obie to find where he truly belongs. Obie is ready to prove he can be one of the fastest boys in the water—to his coach, his critics and his biggest competition: himself.



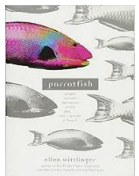
**The Other Boy.** M.G. Hennessey. Damian is the new kid at school, and he has a foolproof plan to avoid the bullying that's plagued him his whole childhood: he's going to stop talking. Starting on the first day of seventh grade, he won't utter a word. If he keeps his mouth shut, the bullies will have nothing to tease him about—right?



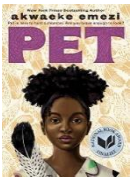
**The Other Half of Happy.** Rebecca Balcárcel. One-half Guatemalan, one-half American: One-half crush, one-half buddy: Quijana found a buddy in Jayden, but she can't help the growing feelings she has for him while he has growing feelings for Seth. Quijana must figure out which parts of her identities are most important and how they fit together.



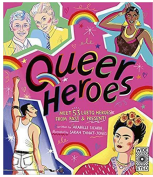
**The Parker Inheritance.** Varian Johnson. Candice discovers a mysterious old letter about an injustice from decades ago. With the help of Brandon, she begins to decipher the clues to a story that leads them deep into their South Carolina town's history—a history full of ugly deeds and forgotten heroes. Good historical detail and LGBTQ+ characters included.



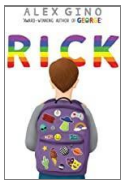
**Parrotfish.** Ellen Wittinger. Angela Katz-McNair never felt quite right as a girl. So, she cuts her hair short, purchases some men's clothes and chooses a new name: Grady. While coming out as transgender feels right to Grady, he isn't prepared for the reactions of his friends and family. Why can't they accept that Grady is just being himself?



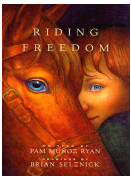
**Pet.** Akwaeke Emezi. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up being taught there are no monsters anymore. But then Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and answer the question--How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?



**Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present!** Arabelle Sicardi. Discover the inspiring stories of a diverse selection of LGBTQ+ artists, writers, innovators, athletes and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. Full-color portraits accompanied by short biographies.



**Rick.** Alex Gino. Rick's never questioned much. He's gone along with his best friend, Jeff, even when Jeff has acted like a bully and a jerk. But now Rick's moved up to middle school, and new doors are opening. One of them leads to the school's Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities congregate.



**Riding Freedom.** Pam Muñoz Ryan. A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst, who ran away from an orphanage, lived as a boy, moved to California, drove stagecoaches and continued to live as a man.

**Spanish Edition: Un caballo llamado Libertad.**



**The Stars Beneath Our Feet.** David Barclay Moore. Lolly tries to navigate a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos.

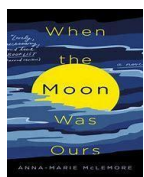
**Spanish Edition: Las estrellas bajo nuestros pies**



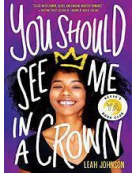
**Thanks a Lot, Universe.** Chad Lucas. Brian has always been anxious, whether at home, or in class, or on the basketball court. After he and his brother are placed in foster care, Brian starts having panic attacks and he doesn't know if things will ever be normal again. Ezra's friends with most of the kids on his basketball team, even Brian, who usually keeps to himself. Ezra wants to help, but he worries if he's too nice to Brian, his friends will realize that he has a crush on him. If Brian and Ezra can be brave, they might just find the best in themselves and each other.



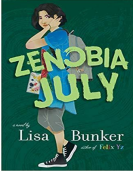
**Too Bright to See.** Kyle Lukoff. Moira has decided she and Bug need to prepare for middle school – figuring out the right clothes and makeup and deciding which boys are cute. But none of this appeals to Bug. There's something more important to worry about: A ghost is haunting Bug's old house...and maybe haunting Bug in particular. As Bug begins to untangle the mystery of the ghost an altogether different truth comes to light--Bug is transgender.



**When the Moon Was Ours.** Anna-Marie McLemore. Best friends Miel and Sam are as strange as they are inseparable. Roses grow out of Miel's wrist, and rumors say that she spilled out of a water tower when she was five. Sam is known for the moons he paints and hangs in the trees. But as odd as everyone considers Miel and Sam, even they stay away from the Bonner girls, four beautiful sisters rumored to be witches.



**You Should See Me in a Crown.** Leah Johnson. Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed midwestern town. Liz has a plan to attend the uber-elite Pennington College, play in their world-famous orchestra and become a doctor. When the financial aid she was counting on unexpectedly falls through, she's willing to do whatever it takes to get there, even winning the prom queen scholarship. The new girl in school, Mack, is smart, funny and also in the running for queen. Will falling for the competition keep Liz from her dreams . . . or make them come true?



**Zenobia July.** Lisa Bunker. Zenobia July is starting a new life in Maine with her aunts. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the hacking skills to solve the mystery.