

LGBT Children's Literature: Collected by Andrew Waldron

1. Bergman, S. Bear, writer. *The Adventures of Tulip, Birthday Wish Fairy*. Illustrated by Suzy Malik. Toronto: Flamingo Rampant, 2012.

The story tells the story of a gender-queer wish fairy and challenges notions of the masculine feminine binary. It also opens up the dialogue about boy roles and girl roles.

2. Brannen, Sarah S. *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*. New York: The Penguin Group, 2008.

This piece, told through a family of hamsters, explores the concerns of a little girl who is afraid she will lose her favorite uncle when he marries another man. It explores the bond of friendship, family love, and same-sex marriage.

3. Bunnell, Jacinta, writer. *Sometimes the Spoon Runs Away with Another Spoon Coloring Book*. Illustrated by Nathaniel Kusnitz. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2010.

This drawing and activity book explores different types of families through adapting Mother Goose rhymes.

4. Bryan, Jennifer, writer. *The Different Dragon*. Illustrated by Danamarie Hosler. Lexington, KY: Two Lives Publishing, 2006.

A young boy gets ready for bed and goes on an imaginary adventure, narrated by one of his two moms. The story not only presents a same-sex family but also challenges stereotypes of what people, or dragons in this case, need to act.

5. De Haan, Linda, and Stern Nijland. *King and King and Family*. Berkley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2004.

This book takes the characters from the next text and travels to South America where they explore the idea of adopting a child. Not only do the characters explore the rain forest, but also end up adding to their family.

6. De Haan, Linda, and Stern Nijland. *King and King*. Berkley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2000.

Challenging the traditional notions of a prince and princess falling in love, this story has a nervous prince and an overbearing queen finding love in an unexpected place. In the end, the two princes decide to marry, creating a same-sex couple in children's literature.

7. DePaola, Tomie. *Oliver Button is a Sissy*. Orlando: Harcourt, Inc, 1979.

Written in the late 1970s, this book challenges the notions of what is appropriate for little boys to do and what little girls are supposed to do. The piece is told through the eyes of a little boy who wants to tap dance at the school talent show and faces ridicule from his peers, finally leading to acceptance by staying true to himself.

8. Ewert, Marcus, writer. *10,000 Dresses*. Illustrated by Rex Ray. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2008.

Exploring the issues of transgendered youth, the main character identifies as a girl but who presents as a boy. She decides to create amazing dresses to express her identity and challenge the preconceived notions from the community.

9. Fierstein, Harvey, writer. *The Sissy Duckling*. Illustrated by Henry Cole. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2002.

A family of ducks get ready to hibernate south for the winter when an unsupportive dad duck gets shot by a hunter. His son, the gender-queer protagonist, stays behind and uses his previously maligned skills of cooking, cleaning, and care-giving, to keep his father alive.

10. Newman, Leslea, writer. *Daddy, Papa, and Me*. Illustrated by Carol Thompson. New York: Tricycle Press, 2009.

This board book, created for toddlers, explores a family of one child with two gay parents. It presents daily life, fun activities, and the love that binds them together.

11. Newman, Leslea, writer. *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Illustrated by Diana Souza. New York: Alyson Books, 2009.

As one of the foundational texts for LGBT children's books, this reprint tells the story of two women raising a child as a same-sex family.

12. Newman, Leslea, writer. *Mommy, Mama, and Me*. Illustrated by Carol Thompson. New York: Tricycle Press, 2009.

This board book is quite similar to item #10, but presents a family with two lesbian parents. While presenting a great view of a family, when viewed in comparison to the book about two fathers, it highlights the stereotypes that even the writer has about gay men and lesbian women as caregivers.

13. Newman, Leslea, writer. *The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*. Illustrated by Peter Ferguson.
Berkley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2004.

This book tells the story of a young man who loves the word “fabulous”. As his favorite adjective, he runs around town describing the fabulousness of stores, pets, clothes, and trees. His parents bar him from the word and he shows the wide variety of synonyms available to describe his environment.

14. Oelschlager, Vanita, writer. *A Tale of Two Daddies*. Illustrated by Kristin Blackwood and Mike Blanc: Vanita Press, LLC, 2010.

Created entirely through digital drawing technology like Adobe Photoshop, this book not only changed how books were illustrated, it also presents the daily life of a same-sex family, through dialogue between two young children. The back and forth conversation shows that having two dads or a dad and a mom both create similar outcomes.

15. Oelschlager, Vanita, writer. *A Tale of Two Mommies*. Illustrated by Mike Blanc: Vanita Press, LLC, 2011.

Similar to item #14, the book explores a family headed by a same-sex couple through the eyes of a young boy.

16. Richardson, Justin, and Peter Parnell, writers. *And Tango Makes Three*. Illustrated by Henry Cole. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005.

One of the most banned books in the past five years, this piece presents the true story of two penguins at the New York City Zoo that become a same-sex bonded couple. The zookeeper decides to place a cast-off egg in the males' nest, creating a same-sex family in the animal world.

17. Valentine, Johnny, writer. *The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans and Other Stories*. Illustrated by Lynette Schmidt. Los Angeles: Alyson Wonderland, 2004.

This collection of fables, each exploring a different angle of gender identity, presents interweaving stories of young people trying to make their marks in the world and stand up to injustice.

18. Vigna, Judith. *My Two Uncles*. Morton Grove, IL: Alberth Whitman and Company, 1995. Told through the eyes of a young girl, the piece explores her two uncles, their relationship, and how the family interacts with each other.

19. Willhoite, Michael. *Daddy's Roommate*. New York: Alyson Books, 1990.

As one of the foundational texts in the LGBT children's literature, this book presents a child of divorced parents having fun with his father and his father's boyfriend. While it is coded in the context of a roommate, the pair are clearly a couple raising a child together.

Wish List

Below is a list of texts that would enrich my collection and create a more well-rounded view of LGBT families. First on the list and worthy of note is the first children's book that presents a same-sex family. Filled with pictures of a real family, it marks the first foray into this type of storytelling. The rest of the stories explore different kinds of family and a variety of gender role.

1. Bösche, Susanne. *Jenny Lives with Eric and Martin*. London: The Gay Men's Press, 1983.
2. Bergman, S. Bear, writer. *Backwards Day*. Illustrated by KD Diamond. Toronto: Flamingo Rampant, 2012.
3. Combs, Bobby, writer. *ABC, A Family Alphabet Book*. Illustrated by Desiree Rappa and Bryan Rappa. Lexington, KY: Two Lives Publishing, 2001.
4. Newman, Leslea, writer. *Felicia's Favorite Story*. Illustrated by Adriana Romo. Lexington, KY: Two Lives Publishing, 2002.
5. Parr, Todd. *It's Okay to be Different*. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2001.
6. Parr, Todd. *The Family Book*. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2003.
7. Harris, Robie H, writer. *Who's in My Family? All About our Families*. Illustrated by Nadine Bernard Wescott. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2012.
8. Skutch, Robert, writer. *Who's in a Family?* Illustrated by Laura Nienhaus. Berkley, CA: Tricycle Press, 1997.