

Recommended Books — Ages 12 to 15 (Years 7 to 10)

Late Primary & Year 7

Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU. – Cory Silverberg
2015. 159pp. Seven Stories, \$AUS42.95 (9781609806064). Years 5–7.

For children with questions about bodies, gender, touch, sex, and love, this all-inclusive book guides conversation between children and trusted adults in an accessible graphic format. Stonewall Book Awards Honor Book.

Can I Tell You About Gender Diversity? – C.J. Atkinson
2017. 64pp. Jessica Kingsley, \$17.99 (9781785921056). Years 5–8.

Illustrated throughout, this is a great way to start conversations about gender diversity. In simple language told from the perspective of a 12-year-old, the book explains what it is like to transition and how his friends, family and teachers can help through talking, listening and being proactive.

The Hidden Oracle (The Trials of Apollo #1) – Rick Riordan
2017. 376pp. Disney, \$AUS19.99 (9780141363929). Years 5–8.

Apollo is in trouble with Zeus and has been banished to Earth as a mortal with none of his godly powers, so he makes his way to Camp Half-Blood before finding out about an all-new threat to Camp Half-Blood and the world.

Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Hammer of Thor – Rick Riordan
2016. 471pp. Disney, \$AUS22.99 (9780141342559). Years 5–8.

Stonewall Book Awards Honor Book. In Magnus's second adventure, Rick Riordan introduces readers to Alex Fierro, a gender-fluid teen who has 'startling eyes, an impressive sweater-vest, and a tendency to hit people'. Alex represents expansive possibilities of gender for future generations.

Secondary Young Adult Fiction

**The Sidekicks* – Will Kostakis
2016. 256pp. Penguin, \$24.99 (9780143309031). Years 8+.

Ryan, Harley and Miles knew each other but all they had in common was Isaac — best friend to each of them. When Isaac dies they must begin to trust each other and share their secrets. The book perfectly depicts the pain and pleasure of this teenage world, piecing together three points of view with intricate splendour.

**Ida* – Alison Evans
2017. 245p. Echo. \$19.99 (9781760404383). Years 8+.

An intelligent, diverse and entertaining novel that explores gender identity, love, loss and longing, and speaks to the condition of having an array of overwhelming, and often illusory, choices.

Love, Simon (originally *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*) — Becky Albertalli
2017. 336pp. Penguin. \$17.99 (9780241330135)

Straight people should have to come out too. And the more awkward it is, the better. Simon Spier is 16 and trying to work out who he is and what he's looking for. But when one of his emails to the very distracting Blue falls into the wrong hands, things get all kinds of complicated.

Leah on the Off Beat — Becky Albertalli
2018. 350pp. Penguin. \$17.99 (9780241331057)

#1 New York Times bestseller! In this sequel to the acclaimed *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* — now a major motion picture, *Love, Simon* — we follow Simon's BFF Leah as she grapples with changing friendships, first love, and senior year angst.

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Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit – Jaye Robin Brown

2016. 419pp. HarperTeen. \$34.95 (9780062270986) Years 10+.

When out and proud Jo is forced to move to small-town Georgia, she grants her father's request to protect his ministry and new marriage by returning to the closet. But who will she meet in the closet?

The Great American Whatever – Tim Federle

2017 (May). 278pp. Simon & Schuster. \$17.99 (9781481404105). Years 9+.

After spending six months alone grieving over the loss of his sister, Quinn's best friend forces him out to a party where he meets and falls for the older and more experienced Amir.

Girl Mans Up – M.E. Girard

2016. 373pp. HarperCollins Children's Books, \$34.99 (9780062404176). Years 9+

Between her parent's need for her to wear dresses and her best friend's need for her to be one of the guys, Pen slowly loses herself. Will she man up?

**Clancy of the Undertow* – Christopher Currie

2016. 288pp. Text Publishing. \$19.95. (9781925240405). Years 9+

Set in a small Australian country town, Clancy is a 16-year-old girl with a crush on the local hot girl. She feels like a freak with a capital F, but a new friendship might just save her from loneliness and turn her life around.

You Know Me Well – David Levithan and Nina LaCour

2016. 250pp. Text Publishing. \$19.99 (9781925355529). Years 9+.

Mark's boyfriend ditches him to flirt with older guys, and Kate runs away from meeting the girl of her dreams. Instead of finding themselves alone, they find each other for the kick-off of San Francisco's Pride Week.

Juliet Takes a Breath – Gabby Rivera

2016. 266pp. Riverdale Ave. Books, \$AUS26.95 (9781626012516). Years 10+.

Juliet, a kick-ass Puerto Rican lesbian from the Bronx, heads to Portland, Oregon, for an internship with a bona fide lesbian author. Through her experiences, she questions and unlocks the various intersectionalities that divide and bind.

Boy Meets Boy – David Levithan

2013. 256pp. HarperCollins. \$14.95. (9780007533039). Years 8+.

Paul has been gay his whole life and he's confident about almost everything. He doesn't have to hide his feelings like best friend Tony or even cope with loving the wrong guy like his other best friend Joni. But heartbreak can happen to anyone. Falling in love changes everything. Other bestsellers by David Levithan include *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*; and *Two Boys Kissing*.

**Release* – by Patrick Ness

2017. 288pp. Walker Books Australia. \$24.99. (9781406331172). Years 9+.

A startling and tender novel about how to let yourself love and set yourself free. Today will change Adam Thorn's life. Between his religious family, unpleasant boss and his ex-boyfriend, the bindings of his world are coming undone. And way across town, a ghost has risen from the lake.

Annie on My Mind – Nancy Garden

2007. 265pp. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. \$19.95. (9780374400118). Years 8+.

This groundbreaking book, first published in 1982, 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. It features a full-length interview with the author, who answers such revealing questions as how she knew she was gay, why she wrote the book, censorship and the book's impact on readers then and now.

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What We Left Behind — Robin Talley

2015. 384pp. Harlequin Teen. \$17.99. (9781743694275). Years 10+.

Toni and Gretchen have been a couple since school. When Toni identifies as genderqueer and develops friendships with a trans group at her university, challenges arise for the couple. Also available: *Lies We Tell Ourselves*.

**Welcome to Orphancorp* — Marlee Jane Ward

2016. 130pp. Seizure. \$14.99. (9781921134586). Years 10+

Winner of the 2015 Seizure Viva La Novella Prize and the 2016 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Young Adult, this is a sharp-edged semi-futuristic riff about a rebellious teenager's last week at an industrial orphanage. This is a compelling and brilliant novella which is soon to have its sequel.

**Psynode* — Marlee Jane Ward

2017. 180pp. Seizure. \$14.99. (9781925143928). Years 10+

Age range 12 to 18. Having barely made it out of Orphancorp alive, Mirii is on a mission to find the most important babe in her life, Vu. Vu has been taken to 'Psynode', a secret facility operated by the megacorp Allnode. The sequel to *Welcome to Orphancorp*, *Psynode* confirms Marlee Jane Ward as one of Australia's best YA authors. 'Mirii is no chosen one - she's the one who does the choosing, exuding her own personal brand of optimism and radical survivalist future vision.

I am J — Chris Beam

2011. 336pp. Little Brown. \$21.99. (9780316053600). Years 9+.

The story of a trans male teen faced with the choice of hiding his true self or fearlessly embracing his gender identity.

Vanilla — Billy Merrell

2017. 320pp. Scholastic Press, NY. \$24.95. Hbk. (9781338100921) Years 9+

The moving, honest story of two boys who have been in love for a long time but who must also face the truth that they want different things from life and from one another.

Young Adult Non-Fiction

**Finding Nevo* — Nevo Zisin

2017. 224pp. Walker Books Australia. \$18.99. (9781925381184). Years 8+.

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.

Saving Alex: When I Was Fifteen I Told My Mormon Parents I Was Gay, and That's When My Nightmare Began — Alex Cooper

2016. 248p. HarperCollins/HarperOne, \$AUS29.99 (9780062467393). Years 9+

Alex Cooper tells the true story of her time in an unlicensed conversion program and the fight to live openly gay in her conservative surroundings.

Being Jazz: My life as a (Transgender) Teen — Jazz Jennings

2016. 265p. Random House/Crown, \$AUS27.99 (9780399554643). Years 7+.

Jazz Jennings recounts growing up trans, becoming a national spokesperson and role model.

The Gender Quest Workbook: A Guide for Teens & Young Adults Exploring Gender Identity — Rylan J. Testa, Deborah Coolhart, Jayme Peta.

2015. 169p. New Harbinger/Instant Help, \$AUS33.95 (9781626252974). Years 9+.

This is a workbook designed to help young adults explore gender identity and its intersectionalities.

*Australian title

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Branded by the Pink Triangle – Ken Setterington

2013. 155p. Second Story Press, \$AUS32.95 (9781926920962). Years 7+.

2014 Stonewall Children's & Young Adult Literature Honor Book. In Nazi Germany, the pink triangle on prison uniforms became the symbol of the persecution of homosexuals. A mix of historical research, first-person accounts and individual stories brings this time to life for young readers.

The Letter Q: Queer Writers' Notes to their Younger Selves – Sarah Moon (Editor)

2014. 288p. Scholastic Inc. \$AUS23.95 (9780545399333). Years 7+.

Life-saving letters from top authors. In this anthology, 63 award-winning authors such as Michael Cunningham, Amy Bloom, Jacqueline Woodson, Gregory Maguire, David Levithan, and Armistead Maupin make imaginative journeys into their pasts, telling their younger selves what they would have liked to know then about their lives as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender people.

Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen – Arin Andrews

2015. 272p. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, AUS\$17.99 (9781481416764). Years 7+.

Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning first-of-its-kind memoir. It is a reminder that self-acceptance does not come ready made with a manual and spare parts. Rather, some assembly is always required. Now with a reading group guide and an all-new afterword from the author!

Rethinking Normal – Katie Rain Hill

2015. 272p. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, AUS\$17.99 (9781481418249). Years 7+.

In her unique, generous and affecting voice, 19-year-old Katie Rain Hill shares her personal journey of undergoing gender reassignment. A coming-of-age story about transcending physical appearances and redefining the parameters of "normalcy" to embody one's true self. Now with a reading group guide!

**Closets are For Clothes: A History of Queer Australia* – Rachel Cook

2009. 192pp. Black Dog Books, \$18.99 (9781742031040). Years 7+.

Some of the very first Australians were gay and lesbian: they arrived on convict ships or as free settlers and forged their own colourful and intriguing history. At times shunned from society, they fought to be treated as equals. From mollies to queers, gays and lesbians have contributed to Australian history in a most unique way.

Queer There and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World – Sarah Prager

2017. 259pp. Harper. \$34.99. Hbk. (9780062474315) Years 8+

World history has been made by countless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer individual. Some are famous, some are less well-known. They all changed history.

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls #1 – Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls #2 – Elena Favilli & Francesca Cavallo

#1: 2016. 224pp; \$32.99. Hbk. (9780141986005)

#2: 2017. 212pp; \$44.95. Hbk. (9780997895827)

These two collections are packed with 200 bedtime stories about the lives of extraordinary women from the past and present, from Elizabeth I to Beyoncé. Painters, scientists, dancers, chefs, astronauts, jazz singers, pharaohs, boxers, writers, political leaders ... from every corner of the globe! These two books proved instant bestsellers, filling a gap in the history of awesome women.