

# LGBTQ2+ TEXT GUIDE

By Christine Bacon, Brennan McConnell and Marie McGlynn, April 2018

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Text Type	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Whole class	Literature Circle	Class Library	Comment
Gay	Novel	8-9	<i>HERO</i> , Perry Moore	A superhero story, set in a modern times. Teenage boy, son of a disgraced superhero, wrestles with demons of his father's past and the secrets of his present. He struggles with developing a relationship with his distant father and with coming out.	√	√	√	The superhero plotline is a mirror to the gay teen plotline. The main character is hiding both from his father. Students who might not be gay themselves could relate to this aspect too. Fast-paced, a great read. Fully developed characters with multiple plot lines. Empowering.
Transgender Female --> Male	Novel	6-7	<i>The Pants Project</i> , Cat Clarke	About an 11 year old girl who is starting middle school. She is transgender and identifies as a boy, however, hasn't told her two moms yet or her best friend. Adapting to the new school isn't easy as they have a strict uniform dress code that requires girls to wear skirts – which is traumatic for her. She decides to stand up and get the rule changed. She's fiercely bullied by mean girls in her school and her best friend ditches her for the blonde posse.	√	√	√	A great and inspirational read. There are many nice moments of love and joy, with a happy ending. Fun and light.  Would make an excellent Grade 7-8 whole class novel study.
Lesbian	Novel	9-10	<i>Girl Mans Up</i> , M-E Girard	A story of a Toronto girl trying to come terms with her sexuality and coming out to her traditional, immigrant and dated parents. She is exploring her gender identity while wrestling		√	√	Powerful and empowering. Teenagers will love it.

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				with her friend's and family's expectations.				
Gay	Novel	9-10	<i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> , Benjamin Alire Sáenz	A story of discovery and friendship. Two Hispanic teenagers who struggle to fit in forge a friendship and explore their sexuality amidst the backdrop of coming-of-age challenges.	√	√	√	Eloquent, artful, and yet accessible. Uplifting, realistic and down to earth. Features subthemes of bullying, violence, isolation, and growing up.
Gay	Novel	8-9	<i>Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda</i> , Becky Albertalli	Young teenage boy is an anonymous email relationship with a fellow male student. They leave each other clues about their identity through their letters to each other. The big reveal at the end has a happy ending.		√	√	Light, straightforward teen love story. Very successful with Grade 9s. Now a major motion film, <i>Love, Simon</i> .
Lesbian	Novel	10-11	<i>Unbecoming</i> , Jenny Downham	A British teen wrestles with discovering her own sexuality in the context of her grandmother's surprise-return to the family fold and her own process of self-discovery through the increasing shroud of dementia. Grandmother, mother, and daughter each navigate their own minefields of secrets and shame while trying to support one another.		√	√	A mature read that challenges readers with shifting perspectives between grandmother and granddaughter, from the 1950s to the present day. Some unfamiliar diction (set in England).
Straight	Novel	9-10	<i>Winger</i> , Andrew Smith	Heterosexual male falls in love with and pursues girl. Side-plot: develops friendships with his rugby playing teammates, including one who is gay.				Gratuitous and unjustified murder of a friend-character that is underdeveloped, and is merely used as plot device. We do not recommend it for the classroom.

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Transgender	A series of connected short stories.	10-11	<i>One in Every Crowd</i> , Ivan E. Coyote	A series of connected but independent stories about being transgender, as he travels through different Canadian communities. He includes stories from his life as a transgender kid, as a public speaker and a writer.		√	√	Focus on individual stories and is geared towards teens. Mostly engaging, but without a linear thread it is difficult to get attached at times.
Various	Short Stories	10,11	<i>Barrelling Forward</i> , Eva Crocker	A compilation of short stories. Some have a LGBTQ2+ focus. Most notably, "The Lodge" and "Dead Skin."			√	A look into the harsh realities of life in Newfoundland.
Gay	Comedic Memoire	11	<i>Theft By Finding</i> , David Sedaris	A comedic memoire from a successful gay author. They are his actual personal diaries spanning from 1970s to 2002.		√	√	Lighthearted read on many topics, not exclusively a look into the homosexual experience.
Gay	Novel	11	<i>The Paying Guests</i> , Sarah Waters	The protagonist mother runs a boarding home, through that the daughter discovers love.		√	√	Heavy, reflective historical fiction. Charles Dickensien.
Intersex	Novel	10, 11	<i>Annabel</i> , Kathleen Winter	Coming of age story about an intersex child in rural Labrador.		√	√	A good read that should interest students getting ready for independence.
Gay	Auto-biography	10,11	<i>Choose Your Own Autobiography</i> , Neil Patrick Harris	The life story of a gay actor and his journey through being a child star to self-acceptance as an Out adult celebrity.		√	√	Humorous and thoughtful look into his life.
Intersex	Novel	11	<i>Middlesex</i> , Jeffrey Eugenides	A contemporary intersex story. Extremely complex storyline. An intersex character who explores gender.			√	A novel that is an extremely, detailed and thoughtful piece of literature.
Gay	Novel	10,11	<i>Will Grayson Will Grayson</i> , John Green & David Levithan	A gay male and a straight male with the same name cross paths in Chicago. Both points of view are told through the first person.		√	√	Good, but graphic language.

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				Culminates in a high school musical production.				
Two-Spirit	Poetry	11	<i>Indigiqueer</i> , Joshua Whitehead	Joshua Whitehead's book of poems. Poems that refer to great poets, literature of the past combined with present pop culture representatives. He doesn't use punctuation and plays with form and bends convention.			√	Fascinating and academic.
Lesbian	Novel	11	<i>The Paying Guest</i> , Sarah Waters	Historical lesbian fiction set in an English boarding house during the Victorian era.			√	Journey of love and discovery. A real reflection of what life was like for Lesbians during this era.
Lesbian	Novel	11	<i>Fingersmith</i> , Sarah Waters	Historical lesbian fiction and a crime novel set in England during the Victorian era.			√	Journey of love and discovery. A real reflection of what life was like for Lesbians during this era.
Lesbian	Novel	11	<i>Tipping the Velvet</i> , Sarah Waters	Historical lesbian fiction set in England during the Victorian era.			√	Long journey of love and discovery. A real reflection of what life was like for Lesbians during this era.
Gay	Novel	9	<i>Carry On</i> , Rainbow Rowell	Of the Harry Potter Genre, except in this case the main character is gay. He is comfortable with his sexuality.		√	√	Well written, fun, adventure story.
Transgender Male -->Female	Novel	9-11	<i>If I Was Your Girl</i> , Meredith Russo	The story of a girl starting at a new school, in a new town. She is trying to live the life of a Cis gender female.		√	√	Soap opera type story, many dramatic events. Extremely engaging. Written by a transgendered author.
Transgender Female --> Male	Memoire	10	<i>Some Assembly Required</i> , Arin Andrews	A Southern American girl's account of coming to terms with being transgender and transitioning to a male. Initially, her religious family is not supportive, but as the memoire		√	√	Quick and easy read. Engaging, but lacking depth at times. Very successful with Grade 10.

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				progresses his family comes around.				