

Contemporary Gay and Lesbian Young Adult Fiction

7 Days at the Hot Corner by Terry Trueman (Harper Collins, 2007)

Summary: When Scott Latimer discovers that his best friend is gay, he must come to terms with his own fears and prejudices.

Reviews: Booklist, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, VOYA

Absolutely Positively Not by David LaRochelle (Scholastic, 2005)

Summary: Steve is a 16 year old with two things on his mind: sex and getting his driving license. However, he's not thinking about girls when he's thinking about sex. Could he be gay?

Reviews: Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal

Alt Ed by Catherine Atkins (Penguin Putnam Books, 2003)

Summary: Participating in a special after-school counseling class with other troubled students, including a sensitive gay classmate, helps Susan, an overweight tenth grader, develop a better sense of herself.

Reviews: Children's Literature, Kliatt, Publishers Weekly, VOYA

Annie on My Mind by Nancy Garden (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982)

Summary: The story of two high school girls whose friendship evolves into something more as they fall in love with each other.

Reviews: Booklist, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, SLJ, VOYA

Ash by Malinda Lo (Little, Brown and Company, 2009)

Summary: A new telling of the Cinderella story, Ash is left with her wicked stepmother and absorbed in grief over her father's death. The king's huntress takes the place of prince charming.

Reviews: Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal

Between Mom and Jo by Julie Anne Peters (Little Brown & Co., 2006)

Summary: Nick's life spins into turmoil when his mother and her wife announce that they are separating.

Reviews: Booklist, Horn, Kirkus, School Library Journal, VOYA

Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003)

Summary: Follows the story of Paul, a sophomore, who meets a boy, falls in love, loses love, and tries to get it back. The novel is set in a place unlike any other.

Reviews: Children's Literature, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, VOYA

Coffee Will Make You Black by April Sinclair (Avon Book Division, 1994)

Summary: Tells the story of Jean Stevenson's high school years on the south side of Chicago during the turbulent 1960s.

Reviews: Booklist, Kirkus, Publishers Weekly

Empress of the World by Sara Ryan (Viking, 2001)

Summary: While attending a summer institute, fifteen-year-old Nic meets another girl named Battle, falls in love with her, and finds the relationship to be difficult and confusing.

Reviews: Book Magazine, Children's Literature, Publishers Weekly, VOYA

Fade to Black by Alex Flinn (HarperCollins, 2005)

Summary: Alex Crusan faces harassment and prejudice when it is discovered that he is HIV-positive.

Reviews: Booklist, Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, SLJ, VOYA

The Geography Club by Brent Hartinger (HarperTempest, 2003)

Summary: A group of gay and lesbian teenagers finds mutual support when they form the "Geography Club" at their high school.

Reviews: Horn Book, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, VOYA

Getting It by Alex Sanchez (Simon & Schuster, 2006)

Summary: Carlos asks Sal to give him a make-over so that he can get the girl of his dreams. Sal asks him for help in return with a problem, but Carl is not sure he can keep his side of the bargain.

Reviews: Booklist, Horn Book, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, VOYA

The God Box by Alex Sanchez (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

Summary: High school senior Paul's faith in God is sorely tested when a new student moves to his school and says he is gay.

Reviews: Children's Literature, Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal, VOYA

Hard Love by Ellen Wittlinger (Simon & Schuster, 1999)

Summary: John's family life has him very upset. He turns to his new friend Marisol, a lesbian, for comfort and escape. He develops feelings for her, and must deal with a love that cannot be reciprocated.

Reviews: Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, Horn Book, Publishers Weekly, SLJ, VOYA

Heart on My Sleeve by Ellen Wittlinger (Simon & Schuster, 2004)

Summary: Chloe breaks up with her boyfriend when she meets a new boy on a college visit. As the two of them correspond long-distance during their senior year, she finds her life changing.

Reviews: BCCB, Horn Book, Publishers Weekly, SLJ, VOYA

Jack by A. M. Holmes (Random House, 1989)

Summary: When his father reveals that he is gay, Jack must face his own homophobia and rebuild his relationship with his father.

Reviews: Booklist, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly

Keeping You a Secret by Julie Anne Peters (Little, Brown & Co, 2003)

Summary: As she begins a very tough last semester of high school, Holland finds herself puzzled about her future and intrigued by a transfer student who wants to start a Lesbiganay club at school.

Reviews: Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, VOYA

Luna by Julie Anne Peters (Little, Brown & Company, 2004)

Summary: Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by telling her that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

Reviews: Children's Lit., Kliatt, Publishers Weekly, SLJ, VOYA

Parrotfish by Ellen Wittlinger (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

Summary: Angela's attraction to girls leads her to believe she is a lesbian. As she explores her feelings she realizes she is a boy trapped in a girl's body. She begins to transition to male, and must face the prejudice and fears of others.

Reviews: Booklist, Horn Book

Rainbow Boys by Alex Sanchez (Simon & Schuster, 2001)

Summary: Follows three high school seniors as they struggle with issues of coming out, safe sex, homophobia, being in love, and college choices.

Reviews: Book Magazine, Children's Literature, Publishers Weekly, VOYA

So Hard to Say by Alex Sanchez (Simon & Schuster, 2004)

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Xio, a Mexican American girl, and Frederick, who has just moved to California from Wisconsin, quickly become close friends, but when Xio starts thinking of Frederick as her boyfriend, he must confront his feelings of confusion and face the fear that he might be gay.

Reviews: Children's Literature, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Jnl

Talk by Kathe Koja (Frances Foster Books, 2005)

Summary: Hoping to escape from himself for a while, Kit auditions for a controversial school play and discovers his talent for acting, struggles with coming out, and both he and his costar face crises in their view of themselves and in their close relationships. Told from two points of view.

Reviews: Booklist, Horn Book, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, School Library Jnl

Totally Joe by James Howe (Athenium Books for Young Readers, 2005)

Summary: As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alphiography, and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.

Reviews: Kirkus, Kliatt, Publishers Weekly

Truth, Dare or Promises by Paula Boock (Graphia/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1997)

Summary: Two girls, Willa and Louie, come to share a strong bond, despite their differences. Their growing relationship causes them to rethink all the other parts of their lives.

Reviews: Horn Book, Library Journal, and Publishers Weekl

What if Someone I Know is Gay by Eric Marcus (Simon Pulse, 2007)

Summary: A non-fiction book of commonly-asked questions by teens about homosexuality, with simple, direct answers, for a middle and high school aged audience.

Reviews: Booklist, SLJ, VOYA

Wide Awake by David Levithan (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006)

Summary: When the election of a gay Jewish man to the Presidency of the United States is challenged by the conservative governor of a Midwestern state, gay teen Duncan and his boyfriend Jim decide to get involved in the political protests it triggers.

Reviews: Booklist, Horn Book, Publishers Weekly, SLJ, VOYA

The Year They Burned the Books by Nancy Garden (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999)

Summary: When Jamie, editor of the school newspaper, supports a controversial sex education program in her school, she is confronted by pressure from several sides. As the conflict mounts, her homosexuality and that of her friend Terry become an issue.

Reviews: Booklist, Horn Book, Kirkus Reviews