

Escape. Connect. Relate.

Equalities & Diversity

- LGBT+

Lesbian - A woman who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women. Some non-binary people may also identify with this term.

Gay - A man who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men. Also a generic term for lesbian and gay sexuality - some women define themselves as gay rather than lesbian. Some non-binary people may also identify with this term.

Bi - An umbrella term used to describe romantic and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender. Bi people may describe themselves using a variety of terms, including bisexual, pan, and queer.

Trans - An umbrella term to describe people whose gender does not align with the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans people may describe themselves using a variety of terms, including transgender, gender-queer (GQ), gender-fluid, non-binary, trans man, trans woman, trans masculine, trans feminine and neutrois.

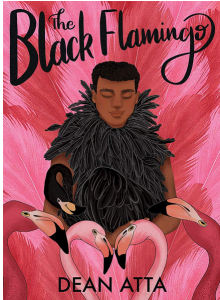


Stonewall UK



ECR Suggested Reads

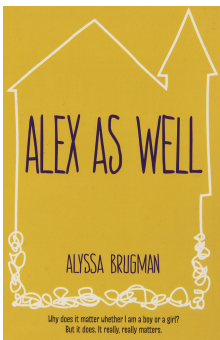
Many of our suggested reads are available from your school library and from [Edinburgh Libraries](#). Some books may contain triggering or upsetting content. Please use the age ratings as guidance and ask your school librarian for help.



The Black Flamingo, by Dean Atta

A boy comes to terms with his identity as a mixed-race gay teen - then at university he finds his wings as a drag artist, The Black Flamingo. A story about the power of embracing your uniqueness. Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers - to show ourselves to the world in bold colour.

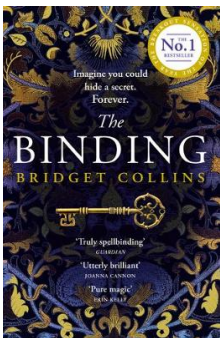
S3+, Verse Novel



Alex As Well, by Alyssa Brugman

What do you do when everybody says you're someone you're not? Alex wants change. More radical than you could imagine. Her mother is not happy, in fact she's imploding. Her dad walked out. Alex has turned vegetarian, enrolled in new school, thrown out her clothes. And created a new identity. An identity that changes her world. And Alex—the other Alex—has a lot to say about it.

S3+



The Binding, by Bridget Collins

After suffering a mental collapse, Emmett is sent to a book binder to live and work as her apprentice. Emmett slowly regains his health while learning the binding trade. He is forbidden to enter the locked room where books are stored, but is curious about the people who visit the binder. The arrival of the lordly Lucian Darnay, with whom he senses a connection, changes everything.

Senior



Proud, compiled by Juno Dawson

A stirring, bold and moving anthology of stories and poetry by top LGBTQ+ YA authors and new talent, giving their unique responses to the broad theme of pride. Each story has an illustration by an artist identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community. A celebration of LGBTQ+ talent, PROUD is a thought-provoking, funny, emotional read.

Contributors include Dean Atta, Fox Benwell, Alex Bertie, David Levithan, Alice Oseman, and many more.

S3+, Short Stories/Poetry



"Full of wonder, hope and the importance of getting to be who you are meant to be"
DAVID LEVITHAN, author of EVERY DAY
and editor of GEORGE

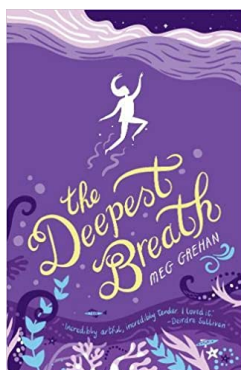
GEORGE

ALEX GINO

George, by Alex Gino

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy - she knows she's a girl. When her teacher announces that the class play is going to be Charlotte's Web, George really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't try out... because she's a boy. With her best friend's help, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte, but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

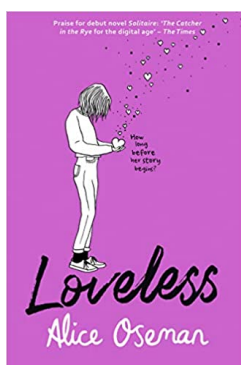
S1+



The Deepest Breath, by Meg Grehan

Stevie is eleven and loves reading and sea-creatures. She's been best friends with Andrew since forever. Stevie's mum teases her that someday they'll get married, but Stevie knows that won't ever happen. There's a girl at school that she likes more. A lot more. Actually, she's a bit confused about how much she likes her. It's nothing like the way she likes Andrew. It makes her fizz inside, and she doesn't understand. Stevie needs to find out if girls can like girls - love them, even.

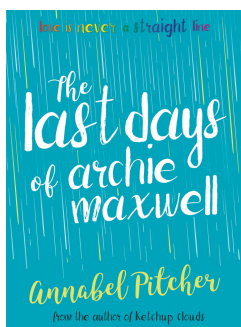
S1+, Verse Novel



Loveless, by Alice Oseman

Georgia has never been in love, never kissed anyone, never had a crush - but as a fanfic-obsessed romantic she's sure she'll find her person one day. When her romance plans wreak havoc, Georgia starts to question why love seems so easy for other people but not for her. With new terms thrown at her - asexual, aromantic - Georgia is more uncertain than ever. Is she destined to remain loveless? Or has she been looking for the wrong thing all along?

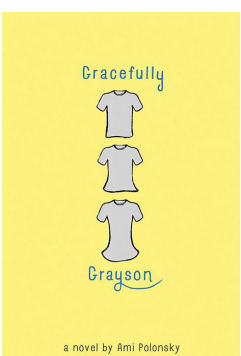
S3+



The Last Days of Archie Maxwell, by Annabel Pitcher

Dads leave home all the time. It's not that unusual, really. Jack's dad ran off with another woman. So did Mo's. But Archie's? That's a different story - a story Archie must keep to himself. If Tia found out, let alone his mates, his life would be over. But other people are guarding much deeper secrets of their own, secrets that will change the course of Archie's days for ever...

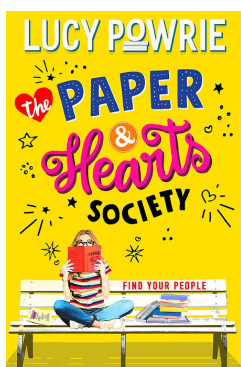
S3+, Dyslexia-Friendly



Gracefully Grayson, by Amy Polonsky

At home, twelve-year-old Grayson glows, immersed in beautiful thoughts and dreams. But at school, Grayson grasps at shadows, determined to fly under the radar. Because Grayson has been holding onto a secret: "he" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but she is afraid of ridicule, scorn, and rejection. Will Grayson find the tools to let her inner light shine?

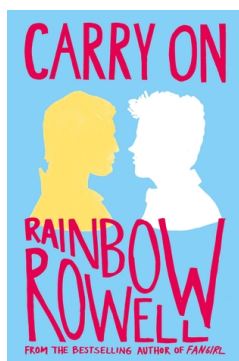
S1+



The Paper and Hearts Society, by Lucy Powrie

Tabby Brown is tired of trying to fit in. She doesn't want to go to parties – in fact, she would much rather snuggle up with a book. It's like she hasn't found her people... until she joins a club that promises to celebrate books. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING – especially when making new friends brings out an AWKWARD BUZZING feeling all over her body. Can Tabby let her weird out AND live THE BEST BOOKISH LIFE POSSIBLE?

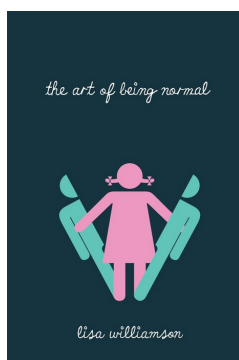
S1+, Series



Carry On, by Rainbow Rowell

Simon Snow is the worst Chosen One who's ever been chosen. That's what his roommate, Baz, says. And Baz might be evil and a vampire and a complete git, but he's probably right. Simon's mentor is avoiding him, his girlfriend broke up with him, and there's a magic-eating monster running around, wearing Simon's face. Baz would be having a field day with all this, if he were here, but Simon's infuriating nemesis didn't even bother to show up.

S3+, Series



The Art of Being Normal, by Lisa Williamson

David has always been an outsider. His parents think he's gay. The school bully thinks he's a freak. Only his best friends know the truth – David wants to be a girl. On the first day at his new school Leo has one goal – to be invisible. Attracting the attention of the most beautiful girl in year eleven is definitely not part of that plan. When Leo stands up for David in a fight, an unlikely friendship forms. But things are about to get messy. Because secrets have a habit of not staying secret for long.

S3+

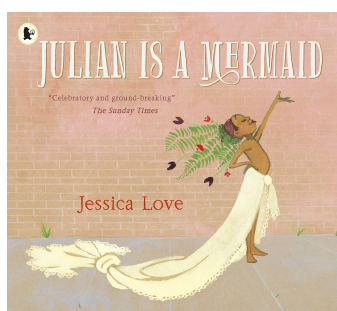
Picture Books and Graphic Novels



Red: A Crayon's Story, by Michael Hall

Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. His teacher tries to help him be red (let's draw strawberries!), his mother tries to help him by sending him out on a playdate with a yellow friend (go draw a nice orange!). But Red is miserable, no matter how hard he tries! Finally, a new friend offers a new perspective, and Red discovers what he has known all along. He's blue!

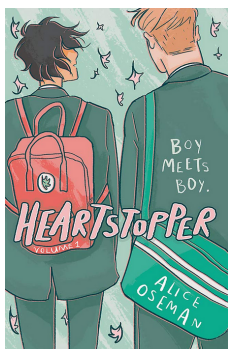
Junior, Picture Book



Julián Is A Mermaid, by Jessica Love

Julián sees three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows and their dresses end in fishtails. All Julián can think about is dressing up in his own fabulous mermaid costume. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes—and what will she think about how Julián sees himself?

Junior, Picture Book, Series

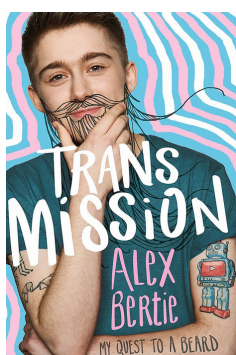


Heartstopper, by Alice Oseman

The past year hasn't been great for Charlie, but at least he's not being bullied anymore. Nick has heard a little about Charlie, but he's never had the opportunity to talk to him. They become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and sometimes good things are waiting just around the corner...

S3+, Graphic Novel, Series

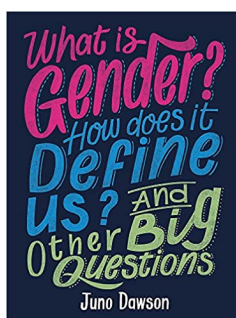
Information Books



Trans Mission: My Quest To A Beard, by Alex Bertie

Alex is an ordinary teenager: he likes pugs, donuts, retro video games and he sleeps with his socks on. He's also transgender, and was born female. He's been living as a male for the past few years and he has recently started his physical transition. Throughout this book, Alex will share what it means to be in his shoes, as well as his personal advice to other trans teens. Above all, he will show you that every step in his transition is another step towards happiness.

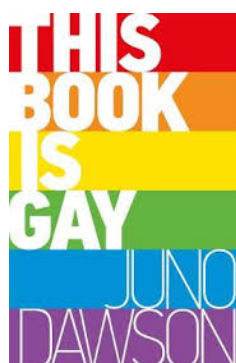
S3+



What is Gender? How Does It Define Us? And Other Big Questions, by Juno Dawson

What's the difference between sex and gender? What does it mean to be defined by your gender? Are there only two genders? This informative book explores these questions and more, explaining that there are differences of opinion and that answers are not always straightforward. The book includes a range of views from different people.

S1+, Series



This Book Is Gay, by Juno Dawson

Lesbian. Bisexual. Queer. Transgender. Straight. Curious. This book is for everyone, regardless of gender or sexual preference. Inside this book you'll find the answers to all the questions you ever wanted to ask: from sex to politics, hooking up to stereotypes, coming out and more. This candid, funny, and uncensored exploration of sexuality and what it's like to grow up LGBT+ also includes real stories from people across the gender and sexual spectrums, not to mention hilarious illustrations.

S3+



What's The T?, by Juno Dawson

Discover what it means to be a young transgender or non-binary person today in this frank and funny guide for 14+ teens. Juno Dawson defines a myriad of labels and identities and offers uncensored advice on coming out, sex and relationships. She has included contributions from her trans and non-binary friends to ensure this book reflects as many experiences as possible. This book tackles the complex realities of growing up trans with honesty and humour.

S3+



Resources

Disclaimer: the ECR team does not take credit for these links, which are all offered and maintained by external providers

LGBT Youth Scotland

Scotland's national charity for LGBTI young people, working with 13-25 years olds across Scotland.

<https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/>

Stonewall Scotland

Campaigns for the equality of lesbian, gay, bi, and trans people across Britain.

<https://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/>

Mermaids

Provides support to gender-diverse children, young people, and their families.

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

Scottish Trans Alliance

Working to improve gender identity and gender reassignment equality, rights, and inclusion in Scotland.

<https://www.scottishtrans.org/>

NHS Gender Identity Development Service

Health clinic specialising in working with children with gender identity issues.

<https://gids.nhs.uk/>

Gendered Intelligence

Seeks to increase understanding of gender diversity and improve trans people's quality of life

<http://genderedintelligence.co.uk/>

GIRES - Gender Identity Research and Education Society

UK wide organisation working to improve the lives of trans and gender-diverse people of all ages

<https://www.gires.org.uk/>