

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.

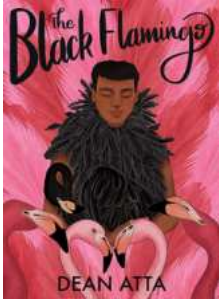


Stonewall UK



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. Books are listed in alphabetical order by author's surname.



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.

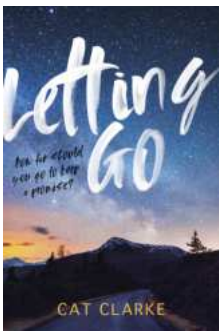
S3+, Verse Novel



Wranglestone, by Darren Charlton

A post-apocalyptic community survives in a park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay. But when winter comes, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice. Then Peter puts the camp in danger by allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community. Now he must help Cooper, the boy he's watched from afar, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past...

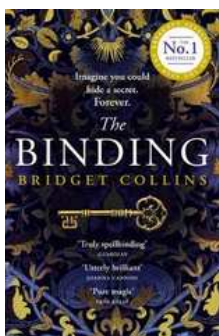
S3+



Letting Go, by Cat Clarke

When Agnes made a promise to her girlfriend, Ellie, she thought they would be together for ever. But when she has to keep that promise a year later, it puts Agnes in a situation she could never have predicted - climbing a mountain in miserable weather, with Ellie and her new boyfriend, Steve. And when the weather takes a threatening turn, Agnes will have to push herself further than she ever thought was possible ...

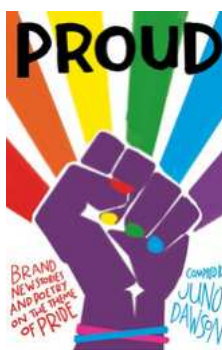
S1+, Dyslexia Friendly



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.

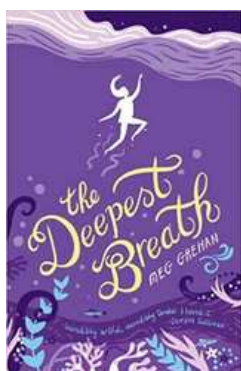
S3+, Short Stories/Poetry



Rick, by Alex Gino

Rick's starting to think his best friend Jeff isn't really his friend. He makes fun of Rick, he picks on other kids, and he makes lewd comments about the girls. Rick goes along with it to stay in Jeff's good books but he feels terrible. So when Rick discovers an after school club for LGBTQIAP+ kids he realises there's people out there who might actually understand him. With the help of his Grandpa Ray and his new friends, Rick might just find the strength he needs to ditch a bully once and for all.

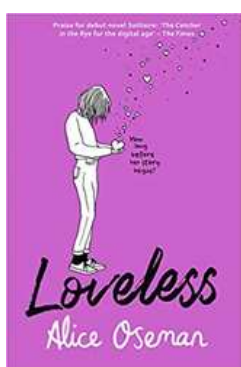
S1+



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?

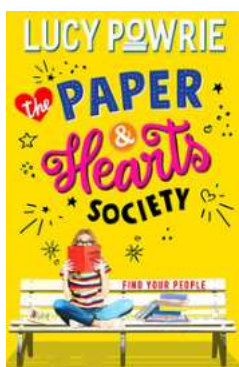
S3+



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...

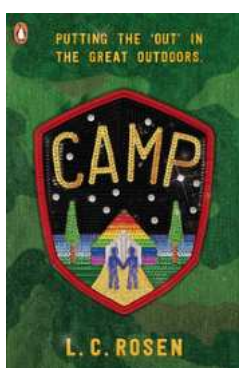
S3+, Dyslexia-Friendly



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



Camp, by L.C. Rosen

Randy loves Camp Outland for queer teens. It's where he met his friends, where he sings onstage and where he fell for Hudson - who's only into straight-acting guys and barely knows Randy exists. This year, though, Randy has reinvented himself - even if it means giving up show tunes and nail polish, he's determined to get Hudson. But as he and Hudson grow closer, Randy asks himself how much is he willing to change. Is it really love, if Hudson doesn't know who he truly is?

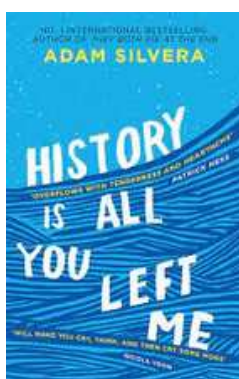
S3+



Birthday, by Meredith Russo

Meet Eric and Morgan. Born on the same day, in the same place. They've always shared this one day together, but as they grow up they begin to grow apart. Everyone expects Eric to get a football scholarship, but no one knows he's having second thoughts. Morgan feels utterly alone, as she wrestles with the difficult choice to live as her true self. Told on one day every year, over six years, this is a story about how change pulls people apart... and how love brings them back together.

S3+



History Is All You Left Me, by Adam Silvera

When Griffin's first love and ex-boyfriend, Theo, dies in a drowning accident, his universe implodes. The future he's been imagining for himself appears far off course. The only person who truly understands his heartache is Jackson. But no matter how much they open up to each other, the secrets he's been keeping are tearing him apart. Griffin's downward spiral continues, and he knows that if he is ever to rebuild his future he must first confront his past.

S3+



If You Still Recognise Me, by Cynthia So

Elsie has a crush on Ada, the only person in the world who truly understands her. Unfortunately, they've never met in real life and Ada lives an ocean away. But Elsie has decided it's now or never to tell Ada how she feels. That is, until her long-lost best friend Joan walks back into her life. In a summer of repairing broken connections and building surprising new ones, Elsie realises that she isn't nearly as alone as she thought. But now she has a choice to make...

S3+

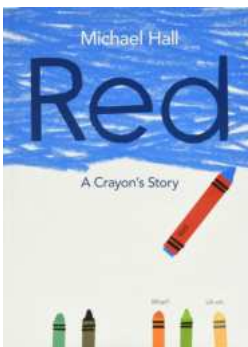
Picture Books and Graphic Novels



Cheer Up! Love and Pompoms, by Crystal Frasier

Annie is a smart, antisocial lesbian starting her senior year of high school who's under pressure to join the cheerleader squad. Her former friend BeeBee is a people-pleaser – a trans girl who must keep her parents happy with her grades to keep their support of her transition. Through squad training and amped up social pressures (not to mention micro aggressions), the two girls rekindle their friendship and discover there may be other, sweeter feelings springing up between them.

S3+, Graphic Novel



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!

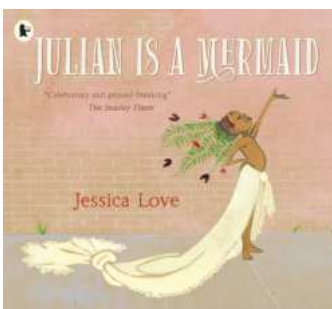
Junior, Picture Book



Welcome to St. Hell, by Lewis Hancox

Lewis has a few things to say to his younger teen self. He knows she hates her body. He knows she's confused about who to snog. He knows she's really a he and will ultimately realize this... But she's going to go through a whole lot of mess (some of it funny, some of it not funny at all) to get to that point. Lewis is trying to tell her this... but she's refusing to listen.

S3+, Graphic Memoir



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...

S1+, Graphic Novel, Series



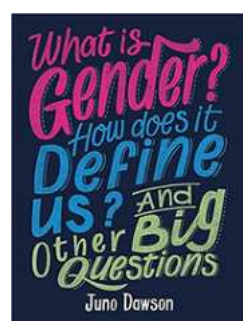
Information Books



Gender Euphoria, by Laura Kate Dale

Stories shared by trans people about their transitions often centre on gender dysphoria. However, for many trans people, it is gender euphoria which guides their transition. In this anthology, trans, non-binary, agender, gender-fluid and intersex writers share their experiences of gender euphoria. What they have in common is their feelings of elation, pride, and freedom as a direct result of coming out as non-cisgender.

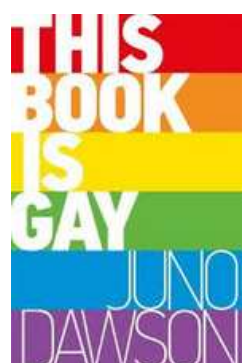
S3+



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+



All Boys Aren't Blue, by George M. Johnson

In a series of personal essays, journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

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/>