



# Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Expansive Characters Recommended Book List

## Infant-Preschool

**Rosa Loves Cars-** Jessica Spanyol

Let's find out which toys Rosa and her friends are playing with today! An important series that celebrates inclusivity, promotes gender equality and embraces the uniqueness of every child. (Ages 1-3)

**Clive and His Babies-** Jessica Spanyol

Meet Clive - and his imagination! Clive loves his dolls. He enjoys playing with them, and sharing them with his friends. A gentle, affectionate book, celebrating diversity and challenging gender stereotypes. (Ages 1-3)

**Being You: A First Conversation About Gender-** Megan Madison

Based on the research that race, gender, consent, and body positivity should be discussed with toddlers on up, this read-aloud board book series offers adults the opportunity to begin important conversations with young children in an informed, safe, and supported way. (Ages 2-5)

**Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story About Gender and Friendship-** Jessica Walton

Introducing Teddy introduces the youngest readers to understanding gender identity and transition in an accessible and heart-warming story about being true to yourself and being a good friend. (Ages 3-6)

## Early Elementary

**It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity-** Theresa Thorn

This sweet, straightforward exploration of gender identity will give children a fuller understanding of themselves and others. With child-friendly language and vibrant art, *It Feels Good to Be Yourself* provides young readers and parents alike with the vocabulary to discuss this important topic with sensitivity. (Ages 4-8)

**What Are Your Words?: A Book About Pronouns-** Katherine Locke

Follow Ari through their neighborhood as they try to find their words in this sweet, accessible introduction to gender-inclusive pronouns that is perfect for readers of all ages. (Ages 4-8)

**Not Every Princess-** Jeffrey Bone PsyD and Lisa Bone PsyD

*Not Every Princess* takes readers on a poetic journey gently questioning the rigid construction of gender roles and inspiring readers to access their imaginations and challenge societal expectations. It intends to encourage all of those princesses and pirates who did not fall into a life of castles and boats that they too are no less than what they dream to be. (Ages 4-8)

**Pink Is for Boys-** Robb Pearlman

Pink is for boys . . . and girls . . . and everyone! This timely and beautiful picture book rethinks and reframes the stereotypical blue/pink gender binary and empowers kids-and their grown-ups-to express themselves in every color of the rainbow. Featuring a diverse group of relatable characters, *Pink Is for Boys* invites and encourages girls and boys to enjoy what they love to do, whether it's racing cars and playing baseball, or loving unicorns and dressing up. Vibrant illustrations help children learn and identify the myriad colors that surround them every day, from the orange of a popsicle, to the green of a grassy field, all the way up to the wonder of a multicolored rainbow. (Ages 4-8)

**My Maddy-** Gayle Pitman

Most mommies are girls. Most daddies are boys. But lots of parents are neither a boy nor a girl. Like my Maddy. My Maddy has hazel eyes which are not brown or green. And my Maddy likes sporks because they are not quite a spoon or a fork. Some of the best things in the world are not one thing or the other. They are something in between and entirely their own. (Ages 4-8)





## Early Elementary Continued

**When Aidan Became a Brother-** Kyle Lukoff

When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl. His parents gave him a pretty name, his room looked like a girl's room, and he wore clothes that other girls liked wearing. After he realized he was a trans boy, Aidan and his parents fixed the parts of his life that didn't fit anymore, and he settled happily into his new life. Then Mom and Dad announce that they're going to have another baby, and Aidan wants to do everything he can to make things right for his new sibling from the beginning--from choosing the perfect name to creating a beautiful room to picking out the cutest onesie. But what does "making things right" actually mean? And what happens if he messes up? With a little help, Aidan comes to understand that mistakes can be fixed with honesty and communication, and that he already knows the most important thing about being a big brother: how to love with his whole self. (Ages 5-8)

**Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope-** Jodie Patterson

Penelope knows that he's a boy. (And a ninja.) The problem is getting everyone else to realize it. In this exuberant companion to Jodie Patterson's adult memoir, *The Bold World*, Patterson shares her son Penelope's frustrations and triumphs on his journey to share himself with the world. Penelope's experiences show children that it always makes you stronger when you are true to yourself and who you really are. (Ages 5-9)

## Upper Elementary/Middle School

**Zenobia July-** Lisa Bunker

Zenobia July, an excellent coder and hacker, investigates a mystery while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and presenting her true gender for the first time. (Ages 10+)

**The Pants Project-** Cat Clarke

Eleven-year-old Liv fights to change the middle school dress code requiring girls to wear a skirt and, along the way, finds the courage to tell his moms he is meant to be a boy. (Ages 9-13)

**Gracefully Grayson-** Ami Polonsky

Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but sharing it would mean facing ridicule, scorn, rejection, or worse. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free. Will new strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher's wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit? (Ages 8-12)

**Rick-** Alex Gino

Eleven-year-old Rick Ramsey has generally gone along with everybody, just not making waves, even though he is increasingly uncomfortable with his father's jokes about girls, and his best friend's explicit talk about sex; but now in middle school he discovers the Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities can express themselves--and maybe among them he can find new friends and discover his own identity, which may just be to opt out of sex altogether. (Ages 8-12)

## Highschool

**Growing Up Trans: In Our Own Words-** Dr. Lindsay Herriot and Kate Fry

This illustrated nonfiction anthology is a collection of stories, essays, poetry and art by transgender youth. (Ages 12+)

**Like Other Girls-** Britta Lundin

After getting kicked off the basketball team for a fight that was absolutely totally not her fault (okay maybe a little her fault), Mara is dying to find a new sport to play to prove to her coach that she can be a team player. A lifelong football fan, Mara decides to hit the gridiron with her brother, Noah, and best friend, Quinn--and she turns out to be a natural. But joining the team sets off a chain of events in her small Oregon town--and within her family--that she never could have predicted. (Ages 14-18)

**All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto-** George M. Johnson

In a series of personal essays, prominent 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. (Ages 16-18)

**Gender Queer: A Memoir-** Maia Kobabe

This memoir by author and illustrator Maya Kababe begins with eir childhood in rural California with hippie parents, no electricity or running water, and very few gender expectations. As Kababe grows up, e confides about fumbling through high school, learning about other LGBTQ+ people, going to art school, and coming to know and understand emself as a genderqueer and asexual person. With humor, honesty, and a healthy smattering of pop culture references, e delves into topics such as sex and dating, gender dysphoria and gender euphoria, and coming out. (Ages 18+)