Gender 2.0:
RESOURCES

GENDER DIVERSITY/LGBTQ+ Reading (4-8)

Julian is a Mermaid
by Jessica Love
Beautiful book about a young boy with mermaid aspirations. Love's gorgeous illustrations provide endless opportunities for discussion and discovery. Wonderful "point of entry" text to examine gender roles and expectations with young children.
Tags: gender, gender nonconforming, identity, transgender, self-confidence, courage, culture, empowerment

Neither
by Airlie Anderson
This charming book challenges young readers to see beyond the binary by framing the main character's struggle - born into the Land of This and That, but not quite fitting into either “this” or “that” - in a way that encourages empathy and discovery. Great read-aloud.

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress
by Christine Baldacchino
A simple and realistic portrayal of a gender expansive character's struggle at school.

Sparkle Boy
by Leslea Newman*
The author of the well-known Heather Has Two Mommies, Leslea Newman has several books about LGBTQ families. This one takes a somewhat heavy-handed and obvious approach about a gender expansive character, but the book's clear, unwavering messages of support and acceptance are heartening.

I Am Jazz
by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings
About the early journey of a transgender MTF (male-to-female) child. This version is meant for young children and handles her story with care, in an age-appropriate, accessible way.

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*It’s easy to find audio and visual interviews with Jazz, too, which brings her to life and has the potential to elicit real empathy and thoughtful discussion.

Big Bob, Little Bob
This one comes highly recommended by my own kid, who read it for the first time in school. Charming story about two boys who struggle to find overlap. One happily enacts traditional gender norms, the other doesn’t. They muddle through together, ultimately arriving at friendship with a twist ending.

**Who Are You?**  
*The Kid’s Guide to Gender Identity*  
Brook Pessin-Whedbee  
An exploration of gender identities and expressions, with a fun colored gender wheel at the back that kids love to manipulate.

**Gender/Identity/LGBTQ+ Reading: 9+**

(Screening more important here, as some are better-suited for a middle school audience, while some are totally appropriate for 4th/5th graders. I have read many but not all, as - happily - some are more recent!)

**George**  
Alex Gino  
By now already familiar and beloved to many of our upper-grade students, this short but impactful novel tells the story of a transgender 4th grader grappling with her true identity.

*The Witch Boy/ The Hidden Witch*  
By Molly Osterag  
Captivating graphic novels in which the male protagonist struggles against his culture's gender role limitations. He wants to be a witch, but he’s told he can’t because he's a boy.

**The Prince and the Dressmaker**  
Jen Wang
Another graphic novel. My own kid has read this about five times. At first I wished the ending weren’t so heternormative, but I’ve reconsidered. Wang created a male-identified character who is gender non-conforming but didn’t make him gay. It both defies a stereotype (that boys with feminine gender-expression are always gay) and clarifies a distinction (that gender identity and sexual identity are not the same).

*Magnus Chase and the Gods of Adgard (Book 2)*

Rick Riordan

Any upper grade teacher will likely have witnessed firsthand the cult-like worship of Rick Riordan and his popular Percy Jackson series. Magnus Chase is a separate series with a similar vibe. Note: This is not a stand-alone book, but it’s one worth mentioning. There is a gender-fluid character folded within the larger narrative, who is not the whole point, just an added dimension to an already rich plot. AND this series, in my experience, has cross-gender appeal.

*The Witch Boy*

Molly Osterag

It’s the standard feminist setup, flipped. A boy in a matriarchal society wishes to train as a witch, which of course he is forbidden from doing because of his gender. The sequel, *The Hidden Witch*, is also wonderful!

More reading recommended by librarians (A.K.A. The-Most-Inclusive-Humans-On-Earth)


*Recs from Epic Reads:*

YA Books with LGBTQ Characters

https://www.epicreads.com/blog/lgbtq-ya-books-pride/

**VIDEO LINKS**

Sex and Gender Identity: An Intro

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ago78PhUofI

Range of Gender Identities: From Amaze.org

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i83VQ1aDlQw&t=100s

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Storycorps: Mom and transgender son

20/20 with Jazz Jennings
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJw3s85EcXM

12 year old's Ted Talk on Gender: Audrey Mason-Hayde
“Toilets, Bowties, Gender & Me”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCLoNwVJA-0

Classroom Gender Experiment:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3Aweo-74kY&t=3s

Norway Gender Equality Commercial:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nVWBo-YGtI

MORE RESOURCES TO EXPLORE: For Adults

Parenting/Gender Spectrum Website
https://www.genderspectrum.org/explore-topics/parenting-and-family/

The Gender and Family Project (out of the Ackerman Institute)
https://genderandfamilyproject.org/
Amazing organization right here in NYC with tons of support and services for gender diverse and trans kids and their families.

An Educator's POV: How to Teach/Support Gender Variance with Young Students
https://rethinkingschools.org/articles/its-ok-to-be-neither-teaching-that-supports-gender-variant-children/

From Esther Perel: The Language of Gender: Beyond Boy and Girl

More Esther: Breaking Free from Gender Expectations:

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Tomboy
Lisa Selin Davis
A fascinating history of the word’s evolution over time, sprinkled with profiles of folks whose gender expression defied/defies gender norms, and a well-researched argument that gender norms are not fixed, but ever-changing.

From Teaching Tolerance: “Supporting Nonbinary Colleagues”:
https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/supporting-nonbinary-educators-in-the-workplace

From Teaching Tolerance: “Teaching Kindness Isn’t Enough”: A 1st grade teacher explains

Gender: Your Guide
By Lee Airton
https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1507210701?tag=simonsayscom

The Gender Creative Child
https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Creative-Child-Nurturing-Supporting/dp/1615193065/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=the+gender+creative+child&qid=1571654449&sr=8-1

Gender Born, Gender Made
https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Born-Made-Gender-Nonconforming-Children/dp/1615190600/ref=tmmpap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1571654508&sr=8-1

5 Tips for Preventing/Reducing Gender Bias
https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-families/5-tips-for-preventing-and-reducing-gender-bias

Imagining a Better Boyhood

NY Times: Sweden’s Approach: Gender Neutral Pre-Schools

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We Must Teach Emotional Literacy to Boys - Lily Howard Scott (!)
Washington Post Op-Ed

NY Times: Talking to Boys the Way We Talk to Girls

NY Times: Do Men and Women Have Different Brains?

NY Times: Draw a Leader
Julián Is a Mermaid book. Read 1,486 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. In an exuberant picture book, a glimpse of costumed mermaids... Å When Julián gets home, in an exuberant picture book, a glimpse of costumed mermaids leaves one boy flooded with wonder and ready to dazzle the world. While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a periwinkle curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his. Julian LOVES mermaids. â€œTravelling home on the subway train, Julian sees three spectacular ladies. Dressed for a parade in mermaid-like costumes their happiness is contagious. While abuela takes a shower Julian creates a mermaid outfit using yellow curtains and a fern plant. He imagines swimming with sea creatures and transforming into a mermaid. He proudly shows off his design to his abuela. She pauses and Julian wonders how she will react. She adds beads to finish the outfit and takes him to the parade, joining others in their fabulous costumes. Book Series. Julian is a Mermaid (2019), Julia… Julián Is a Mermaid is an American children's picture book by Jessica Love. It tells the story of a boy who wants to become a mermaid and participate in the Coney Island Mermaid Parade. Love first began writing the book in 2014 while she worked as an actress, and it was published in 2018 by Candlewick Press. The book received wide praise from critics, both for its emotional depth and the author's artistic decision to mix watercolor, gouache, and ink in her paintings, as well as for her usage of pastel. Julián is a Mermaid tells the story of a little boy, Julián, who spies three women on the subway one day and is entranced by their beautiful hair, their shimmering mermaid gowns and their confidence. When Julián gets home, he wants to become a mermaid himself. What follows is the most heartwarming response from Julián’s abuela (grandmother) and a lesson in being seen and loved exactly as you are. Wilkie is going through a phase right now (or perhaps itâ€™s not a phase â€“ I donâ€™t care either way!) where he wants to wear a cape at all times. Having this cape on gives him the confidence to dance and