Reading Recommendations for Parents

Always my child: A Parent’s Guide to Understanding Your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, or Questioning Son or Daughter
by Kevin Jennings
Offers advice and support for parents with adolescents dealing with sexual identity, personal confusion, bigotry, tension, and other challenges of being GLBTQ.

Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue
by Nicholas M. Teich
Written by a social worker, popular educator, and member of the transgender community, this book explains how transgender individuals handle their gender identity, how others view it within the context of nontransgender society, and how the transitioning of genders is made possible.

Boy Erased: A Memoir
by Garrard Conley
The son of a Baptist pastor and deeply embedded in church life in small-town Arkansas, Garrard was terrified and conflicted about his sexuality as a young man. By examining and excavating his buried past and the burden of a life lived in shadow, the author traces the complex relationships among family, faith, and community.

Brought To You By

Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth
http://mass.gov/cgly
The state agency that issues policy recommendations, conducts trainings in schools and other places where youth need help, and links youth to resources like school Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs). Contact us for support.

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
https://mblc.state.ma.us
The state agency that organizes, develops, coordinates, and improves library services throughout the Commonwealth.

More Resources
MA LGBTQ Resource Map
http://ma-lgbtq.org

GLSEN
https://www.glsen.org/

Trans Student Educational Resources
http://transstudent.org/

Stonewall Book Awards
http://www.ala.org/rt/glbtq Award Stonewall

Search for Books Statewide
https://commonwealthcatalog.org/mvc/
Reading Recommendations for Elementary School Level

I am Jazz
by Jessica Hershel
From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl’s brain in a boy’s body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn’t feel like herself in boys’ clothing. Based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings.

Call Me Tree/Llámame árbol
by Maya Christina Gonzalez
A bilingual poetic tale that follows one child/tree from the depths of Mami/Earth to the heights of the sky, telling a story about being free to grow and be who we are meant to be and honoring our relationship with the natural world.

The Seven Chinese Sisters
by Kathy Tucker
When a dragon snatches the youngest of seven talented Chinese sisters, the other six come to her rescue.

Reading Recommendations for Middle School Level

Brown Girl Dreaming
by Jacqueline Woodson
Tells the moving story of Woodson’s childhood in mesmerizing verse. She shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

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. George thinks she’ll have to keep this a secret forever. With the help of her best friend, George comes up with a plan so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

Reading Recommendations for High School Level

The letter Q: Queer Writers’ Notes to their Younger Selves
by Sarah Moon
Collects letters from such famous contributors as Brian Selznick, Michael Cunningham, and Amy Bloom to offer hope and support in the face of prejudice.

Fat Angie: Rebel Girl Revolution
by E. E. Charlton-Trujillo
Specifically bullied for being fat, mentally ill, and out and queer in a small, conservative town in Ohio, Angie handles high school with grace and dignity.

LGBTQ+ Athletes Claim the Field
by Kirstin Cronn-Mills
Today, LGBTQ+ athletes are everywhere. But it hasn’t always been this way. Social attitudes, institutional policies, and laws have been slow to change, but now LGBTQ+ athletes are finding opportunity and success.