

## BOOKS ABOUT DIVERSE FAMILIES

### PICTURE BOOKS WITH ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES

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*All Families Are Special*, Norma Simon. (2 – 3 ).

Goes beyond other books in portraying different kinds of families and shows both what can be hard in a family, as well as what is good. Includes two-mom, blended and international families.

*Families*, Susan Kuklin. (4 – 5).

Combining interviews and engaging color photos, this shows the diversity of families in America. Includes mixed-race, immigrant, two-dad, two-mom and single-parent families and families for whom religion is a focal point.

*The Family Book*, Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K).

All kinds of families are celebrated in a funny, silly and reassuring way. Includes adoptive families, stepfamilies, single-parent families, two-mom and two-dad families and families with a mom and a dad. Quirky humor and bright, childlike illustrations.

*Who's in a Family?*, Robert Skutch. (Pre-K – 1).

A picture book showing multicultural contemporary family units, including those with single parents, two moms or two dads, mixed-race couples, grandparents and divorced parents.

*Material World: A Global Family Portrait*, Peter Menzel. (4 and up).

Visual portrait of life in 30 nations. Photographs of families from around the world, outside of their homes with all of their belongings.

*We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past*, Jacqueline Woodson. (K – 2).

Join Teeka's sprawling, urban African-American family for their annual picnic in the park and experience an extended family gathering that brims with love and acceptance.

*When Lightning Comes in a Jar*, Patricia Polacco. (K-2).

Soon all the relatives will arrive, dozens of aunts and uncles and cousins. And the fun will begin! Every year, the family rituals are the same. But this year, Grandma has promised something new.

## PICTURE BOOKS WITH GAY FAMILY MEMBERS

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*And Tango Makes Three*, Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell. (1-3).

Penguins Roy and Silo at New York's Central Park Zoo, keep putting a rock in their nest and try to hatch it. The zookeeper gives them a real egg that needs care. The penguins take turns sitting on it until it hatches, and Tango is born.

*Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio*, Rigoberto Gonzales. (1 – 4).

As Mother's Day approaches, Antonio must choose whether — or how — to express his connection and love for his mother and her partner, Leslie.

*The Different Dragon*, Jennifer Bryan. (K – 1).

Shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his two moms, can lead to magical places with a dragon who is tired of being tough.

*In Our Mothers' House*, Patricia Polacco. (3 – 5).

Marmee, Meema, and their kids cook, laugh, and dance together. But some families don't accept them, saying they are different. Yet Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. They teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong. Good if issues have come up in class.

*A Tale of Two Daddies*, Vanita Oelschlager. (Pre-K – 1).

A young girl answers a friend's questions about what it is like to have two fathers. The boy asks straightforward questions: "Which dad would build your home in a tree? And which dad helps when you skin your knee?" The story ends with simply, "Who is your dad when you're sad and need some love?" Both, of course.

*Uncle Bobby's Wedding*, Sarah S. Brannen. (K – 3).

Looks at the fears that a young girl has of losing her favorite uncle when he plans to get married. Everyone in the family is happy, but her. Finally, she sees that she is not losing an uncle but gaining another uncle.

## CHAPTER BOOKS WITH GAY FAMILY MEMBERS OR CHARACTERS

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*The Manny Files*, Christian Burch. (3 – 6).

Shy Keats Dalinger learns from his unconventional male “nanny” to be more self-confident and outgoing while the “manny” becomes more and more a part of the family.

*Hit the Road, Manny: A Manny Files Novel*, Christian Burch. (4 – 6).

In a sequel to *The Manny Files*, the family heads off on a road trip with Mom, Dad, four kids and their male nanny or “manny.” Looks directly at gay put-downs, parental acceptance, celebrating commitment and pride.

*Holly’s Secret*, Nancy Garden, Farrar. (4 – 7).

Holly plans to create a new self to hide that she has two moms from schoolmates in her new hometown. But trying to hide something so big proves to be daunting. The novel can be humorous but also tackles prejudice and reinforces the old saw: Honesty is the best policy.



*The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World*, E. L. Konigsburg. (5 – 7).

Two boys find themselves caught up in a story based on things they find at an estate sale — a story that links a sketch, a young boy’s life, an old man’s reminiscence, and a painful secret dating back to the outrages of Nazi Germany. Includes revelations about the victimization of artists and gays during the Holocaust.

*No Castles Here*, A.C.E. Bauer. (5 – 7).

Augie knows how to get by – be invisible. Then, a book of fairy tales, participation in a school chorus, and a gay Big Brother combine to give 11-year-old Augie the confidence he needs to handle bullies and become an activist.

***The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang***, Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6).

Two fifth-grade best friends are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the “cool” girls. Notebook format with a lot of illustrations. Julie has two dads who do typical parent things like take too many pictures of her.

***The Popularity Papers: Book Two: The Long-Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang***, Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6).

Julie and Lydia are ready to put their hard-earned lessons to use in junior high. But then, Lydia’s mom gets a job in London. They learn to keep in touch and stand on their own. Each girl in her own way deals with bullying behavior. Julie has two dads. Notebook/graphic format.

***The Revealers***, Doug Wilhelm. (5 – 7).

At Parkland Middle School, three bullied seventh graders start an unofficial e-mail forum in which they publicize their experiences. Unexpectedly, lots of other kids come forward to confess their similar troubles, and it becomes clear that the problem at their school is bigger than anyone knew. In one email, a student tells his troubles of being called gay.

***Riding Freedom***, Pam Muñoz Ryan. (4 – 6).

A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, drove stagecoaches and continued to pass as a man her whole life.

***The Trouble with Babies***, Martha Freeman. (2 – 4).

Holly has just moved to San Francisco. Her new friend Xavier, who lives with his two dads, has a crush on Annie, who is Jewish and Chinese. Xavier hopes to win Annie over by putting her “yucky” baby sister in his de-yuckification machine.

***The Van Gogh Café***, Cynthia Rylant. (3 – 7).

Seven vignettes of life at the Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas. The café is run by a father and his 10-year-old daughter. Something magical or special happens in each chapter. In “The Star” an elderly film star comes to the Van Gogh Café to wait for his true love, a young man he met many years ago.

## BOOKS LOOKING AT GENDER

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*Amazing Grace*, Mary Hoffman. (K – 1).

Although classmates say that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she's black and a girl, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to.

*The Different Dragon*, Jennifer Bryan. (K – 1).

Shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his two moms, can lead to magical places with a dragon who is tired of being tough.



*Drum, Chavi, Drum! / ¡Toca, Chavi, Toca!*, Mayra L. Dole. (K – 2).

Plucky Chavi is determined to play the drums on the school float during a parade. The only problem is that everyone is convinced that because she is a girl, she cannot possibly be good enough. Chavi knows differently.

*Dumpy La Rue*, Elizabeth Winthrop. (Pre-K – 1).

Piggy Dumpy La Rue wants to dance, but pigs are born for other things. But Dumpy takes no notice, and before long he has the whole barnyard crew happily hoofin'.

*Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*, Mildred Pitts Walter. (2 – 3).

His beloved grandfather helps ten-year-old Justin realize that cleaning and keeping house are not only women's work.

*Kate and the Beanstalk*, Mary Pope Osborne. (1 – 2).

In this version, a girl climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk, where she uses her quick wits to outsmart a giant and make a fortune for herself and her mother.

*Looking Like Me*, Walter Dean Myers. (K – 2).

An African American boy celebrates all of who is, including a dancer, an artist and a writer. Colorful collage illustrations and catchy rhymes.

***Pinky and Rex***, James Howe. (1 – 2).

The adventures of two best friends: a boy who loves the color pink and a girl who loves dinosaurs.

***Rickshaw Girl***, Mitali Perkins. (4 – 6).

In her Bangladesh village, Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, To help her impoverished family she thinks she will have to be a boy – or disguise herself as one.

***Riding Freedom***, Pam Muñoz Ryan. (3 – 5).

A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and drove stagecoaches.

***The Seven Chinese Sisters***, Kathy Tucker and Grace Lin. (K – 2).

Once there were seven Chinese sisters. Each one had a special talent. When Seventh Sister is snatched by a dragon, her sisters race to save her.

***The Sissy Duckling***, Harvey Fierstein. (1 – 2).

While other boy ducklings like to build forts, he loves to bake cakes. While they play baseball, he wants to put on the halftime show. Elmer is a great big sissy. But when his father is wounded by a hunter's shot, Elmer proves that the biggest sissy can also be the greatest hero.

***Tough Boris***, Mem Fox. (Pre-K – 1).

Boris is tough, but in the end, when his parrot companion dies, he, – like all pirates – cries.

***Tomboy Trouble***, Sharon Dennis Wyeth. (1 – 2).

The kids at her new school don't know what to make of her, she is repeatedly mistaken for a boy. With the help of a friend, she proves she's her own kind of girl!

***Wings***, Christopher Myers. (1 – 2).

Retells the myth of Icarus through the story of the new boy on the block, who can fly above the rooftops and over the crowd. "Every child has his own beauty, her own talents."

## BOOKS ON BIAS & BULLYING

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*Chrysanthemum*, Kevin Henkes. (K – 1).

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts school, where the other children make fun of it. With the help of her teacher, though, she learns to love it again.

*Crow Boy*, Taro Yashima. (2 – 4).

Chibi, an outcast at school, faces feelings of isolation and rejection, but a kind teacher appreciates his unique talents and helps him gain acceptance.



*The Hundred Dresses*, Eleanor Estes. (3 – 5).

While saying she has 100 dresses, Wanda wears the same old worn dress to school. Looks at the affects of being teased, the feelings of the tormentors and bystanders.

*Just Kidding* or *Sólo Bromeando*, Trudy Ludwig. (1 – 3 ).

D.J. progresses from feeling helpless to taking positive action, undermining the power of two seemingly harmless words.

*The Liberation of Gabriel King*, K. L. Going. (4 – 5).

In Georgia in 1976, Gabriel, a white boy, and Frita, an African American girl, overcome their fears of bullying and prejudice together as they enter 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

*Muskrat Will Be Swimming*, Cheryl Savageau. (2 – 4).

A Native American girl's feelings are hurt when schoolmates make fun of the children who live at the lake, but then her grampa tells her a Seneca folktale that reminds her how much she appreciates her home and her place in the world.

*My Name Is Bilal*, Asma Mobin-Uddin & Barbara Kiwak, Boyds. (3 – 5).

A brother and sister are the only Muslim students at their new school. When the sister is teased for wearing a head scarf, Bilal finds the courage to stand up to the bullies.

***The New Girl ... and Me***, Jacqui Robbins. (K – 2).

When the new girl, Shakeeta, introduces herself by telling the class, “I have an iguana,” Mia is intrigued, but shyness holds her back. When a bully bars them both from playing soccer, the pair strike up a conversation and become fast friends.

***One***, Kathryn Otoshi. (Pre-K – 1).

Blue is a quiet color. Red’s a hothead who likes to pick on Blue. Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple don’t like what they see, but what can they do? Until One comes along and shows all the colors how to stand up, stand together, and count.

***Say Something***, Peggy Moss. (K – 2).

A child who never says anything when other children are being teased or bullied finds herself in their position one day when jokes are made at her expense and no one speaks up.

***The Sissy Duckling***, Harvey Fierstein. (1 – 2).

While other boys like to build forts, Elmer loves to bake cakes. While other boys like to play baseball, Elmer wants to put on the halftime show. He’s a great big sissy. But when his father is wounded by a hunter, Elmer proves that the biggest sissy can also be the greatest hero.

***Teammates***, Peter Golenbock. (1 – 2).

The moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a major league baseball team and how on a fateful day in Cincinnati, PeeWee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate.

***Thank You, Mr. Falker***, Patricia Polacco. (1 – 2).

Fifth-grader Trisha can’t read, and a bully who ridicules her magnifies her shame, until a new teacher helps Trisha understand and overcome her problem.