Great Books on LGBTQ+ History for Kids

**Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker**, Gayle Pitman, 2018. (K – 2) This book takes readers from Gilbert’s childhood in a small town in Kansas where he didn’t fit in to the creation of the rainbow flag and his historic artistic career in San Francisco.

**When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community**, Gayle E. Pitman. (K – 2) Phyllis and Del point out landmarks throughout the city that can be seen out their window. This clever tribute to a notable couple introduces children to untold stories in history.


**Be Amazing: A History of Pride**, Desmond Napoles. (K – 3) Twelve year old drag kid Desmond is Amazing walks you through LGBTQ+ history with courageous people like Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and RuPaul have paved the way for a safer, more inclusive society for LGBTQ+ individuals, and it's thanks to them that people just like Desmond can be free to be who they really are.


**The Gay Rights Movement**, Eric Braun, 2018. (3 – 6) What has changed throughout the history of the gay rights movement? Learn about the key people and events that have paved the way for the modern gay rights movement.
Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community, Robin Stevenson, 2016. (4 – 8) Pride events are an opportunity to honor the past, protest injustice and celebrate a diverse and vibrant community. How did Pride come to be? And what does Pride mean to the people who celebrate it? Includes extensive photos and descriptive text.

Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present! Arabelle Sicardi. 2019. (4 – 6) Discover the inspiring stories of a diverse selection of LGBTQ+ artists, writers, innovators, athletes, and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. Full-color portraits accompanied by short biographies.

The Stonewall Riots: The Fight for LGBT Rights, Tristan Poehlmann, 2016. (4 – 8) Discusses the 1969 Stonewall Riots, which are now commemorated each year with LGBTQ+ Pride. Looks at what led up to them, what happened at Stonewall, key people and how the riots launched the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. Well-researched, engaging read.

The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets, Gayle Pitman, 2019. (5 – 8) Learn about the Stonewall Riots by looking at the people, places, news clippings and artifacts from the time in short, readable chapters. It also covers events leading up to Stonewall, as well as the aftermath.

Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, Jerome Pohlen, 2015. (5 – 8) This book puts the historic struggle for LGBTQ+ equality into perspective. Given today’s news, it would be easy to get the impression that the campaign for LGBTQ+ equality is a recent development. This resource helps put recent events into context.

Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington, Jacqueline Houtman, 2019 (5 – 12) Bayard Rustin was one of the most influential activists of our time, who was an early advocate for African Americans and for gay rights. He was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., teaching him about the power of nonviolent direct action. A Best Book of 2019 by School Library Journal.

Transgender Role Models and Pioneers, Barbra Penne, 2017. (5 – 8) Profiles a host of accomplished transgender people who have made their names in a wide range of fields, including sports, politics, activism, entertainment and the arts.