LGBTQ+ History Booklist for Elementary

**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 who have paved the way for a safer, more inclusive society for LGBTQ+ individuals. It's thanks to them that people just like Desmond can be free to be who they really are.

**Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights.** Jerome Pohlen. (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 readers put recent events into historical context.

**The Gay Rights Movement.** Eric Braun. (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.

**No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History.** Edited by Keila V. Dawson and Lindsay H. Metcalf. (1 – 3) Celebrates the young people who know how to be the change they seek including Jazz Jennings and Zach Wahls. Featuring poems by Lesléa Newman, Traci Sorell and Nikki Grimes. Additional text goes into detail about each youth activist’s life and how readers can get involved.

**People of Pride: 25 Great LGBTQ Americans.** Chase Clemesha. (4 – 7) Featuring people from a variety of occupations and backgrounds, this collection of 25 short biographies demonstrates the diversity, accomplishments and pride within the American LGBTQ+ community. Includes a full-page image and a page of text about each person.

**Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community.** Robin Stevenson. (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.

**PRIDE: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag.** Rob Sanders. (K – 5) Trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker, to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world. [Lesson Plan](#)

**Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present!** Arabelle Sicardi. (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.
Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker. Gayle Pitman. (K – 2) This book takes readers from Gilbert’s childhood in a small town in Kansas where he didn’t fit into his creation of the rainbow flag and his historic artistic career in San Francisco.

Stitch by Stitch: Cleve Jones and the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Rob Sanders. (K – 2) From the blanket that his great-grandmother made for him as a boy, to the friends he gathered in San Francisco as young man, Cleve Jones’ extraordinary life was pieced together, then stitched tightly into different types of quilts.


The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets. Gayle Pitman. (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.

This Little Rainbow. Joan Holub. (Toddler – Pre-K) Learn all about important leaders who represent, empower and support the LGBTQIA+ community. Highlighting ten memorable people who paved the way.

Transgender Role Models and Pioneers. Barbra Penne. (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.

Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America’s First Gay Wedding. Rob Sanders. (1 – 3) Jack Baker and Michael McConnell become the first legally married same-sex couple in America in September 1971. Learn about their struggle to obtain a marriage license and their subsequent appeals to the state and federal Supreme Courts in this under-told LGBTQ+ story.

We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin. Larry Dane Brimmer. (4 – 8) Rustin’s story is set against the history of segregation in his time and focuses on his leadership role, largely unacknowledged, in the struggle for civil rights. His gay identity is mentioned in the afterword.

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.