



A LOOK AT LGBTQ+ HISTORY AND PROMINENT LGBTQ+ PEOPLE

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL: 3 – 6

LENGTH OF TIME: three or four 40-minute sessions

GOALS

- + To learn about events in American history that are often omitted from textbooks.
- + To learn about prominent LGBTQ+ people and about historical events that were part of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement.

OBJECTIVES (varies by grade level)

- + Students will listen to or read non-fiction texts for understanding.
- + Students will design a poster with key information on a prominent LGBTQ+ person or historical event.
- + Students will make a short presentation for the class based on their research.
- + Students will write a short essay on a key moment in LGBTQ+ history or about a famous LGBTQ+ person.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7: Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.9: Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. Also, RI.4.9
- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.6: Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.
- + CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

EDUCATORS' NOTES

June 2019 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, a significant moment in the history of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement. Since that time, people have held events in June to call for equal rights and respect, increase the visibility of LGBTQ+ people and celebrate successes in the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ+ civil rights. Pride events are held across the United States and around the [world](#).

This is a flexible lesson plan for use in grades 3 – 6. The main project in this lesson plan is a short biography or history poster about an LGBTQ+ person or an event in LGBTQ+ history. Students could work individually or in pairs to do this with the attached flag template.

Included in this lesson plan are a list of books for students on LGBTQ+ history, a list of diverse LGBTQ+ people and a list of children's book biographies that feature LGBTQ+ people. These lists could be used for identifying read-alouds for a shorter lesson.

The lesson could also be extended by having students write a short essay about a key LGBTQ+ historical event or prominent LGBTQ+ individual. The attached listings could also help you incorporate LGBTQ+ people into a biography lesson that you may already have planned for your students.

In addition to threading LGBTQ+ people and history throughout your school year, you can use this lesson in May or June for Pride and/or during [LGBTQ+ History Month](#) in October. During that month, an LGBTQ+ icon is featured [online](#) with a video, bio, downloadable images and other resources.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- + Access to a book(s) about LGBTQ+ history or people (See attached list for children's books on LGBTQ+ history and children's book biographies on LGBTQ+ people.)
- + Access to the internet if you would like your students to do internet research for the project
- + The flag template for students to use to summarize and present information (Attached—scroll all the way down to see it—plus an example below that.)
- + Optional: Welcoming Schools handout [Defining LGBTQ+ Words for Elementary Students](#)

- + Optional: [Announcing the Stonewall Monument by the National Park Service](#) (3:41 minutes)
- + Optional: [How the Stonewall Riots Sparked a Movement](#) by History.com Rated PG (3:47 minutes)

FIRST SESSION:

INTRODUCE THE PROJECT TO THE CLASS

- + If you have not discussed LGBTQ+ topics or people in your classroom, you may need to begin by defining what the acronym LGBTQ+ stands for. (See below for definitions of each of the words.)
- + Let students know that in this project they will be choosing an important event in LGBTQ+ history or an LGBTQ+ individual to research.
- + They will then create a flag poster to highlight some of the information they found on that person or event.
- + Remind students to be respectful during your class discussions.

THE STONEWALL MONUMENT: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION (OPTIONAL)

- + If your students are not familiar with LGBTQ+ history or the history of Stonewall, you may want to show [Announcing the Stonewall Monument](#), produced by the National Park Service, about when the Stonewall Inn was made a historic landmark. Or, if you are allowed to show short films rated PG, you could show [How the Stonewall Riots Sparked a Movement](#).

IDENTIFYING LGBTQ PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- + Ask students to name any historical events in LGBTQ+ history they might know about. (For example, the Stonewall Riots or the Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality.)

- + Ask students if they know of anyone in the past or present who is LGBTQ+. (See the attached list of LGBTQ+ people.)
- + On the whiteboard or on large paper, write down the names and events as they are said.
- + After students have had a chance to respond, you can add some additional people and events that are included on the attached list. As you do this, ensure that there is a diversity of people represented.
- + Ask students to pick a person or event they are interested in learning more about.
- + Students may work individually or in pairs to research a person or event.
- + You can choose six to ten ideas for your students to include on their flag posters, generate a list of choices with your class of information they could include on their poster or use the attached note-taking template that includes some of following questions.
- + These are some ideas to include on the flag poster.
 - > Name of person or key event
 - > When did this person live (either dates or time period) or when did the event happen?
 - > What is something the person accomplished or what was important about this event in history?
 - > An interesting fact about the person or event
 - > What inspires you about this person or event?
 - > What did you learn about this person's family or community?
 - > 2 – 3 words/qualities that describe the person
 - > Something that you learned from this person or event
 - > A picture of the person or event

- + Work with your students to identify sources for information. This could be books you have in your classroom or in your school or community library. Also, there are ideas for sources of online information below.

SECOND SESSION (OR FOR HOMEWORK)

- + Ask students to identify six points to feature on their flag poster.
- + They can use the attached note-taking template to help them organize their research.
- + Before writing directly on the flag template, students can write down the wording they want to include on each stripe of their flag.
- + Write the points on the flag poster template. Students may want to write in pencil first and then trace over with pen or marker when they are ready.
- + Optional: Have students decorate the flag poster for a creative presentation.

THIRD SESSION: METHODS FOR SHARING STUDENT WORK

- + Have each student make a short presentation to the class about the person or event they researched. (This may take two sessions.) Then, post their flag posters on a wall in your classroom or in the hallway.
- + Alternatively, post the flag posters on the wall and have students walk around in groups of two or three to look at the posters and discuss. Have only one group of students at a poster at a time.

EXTENSIONS

- + Have students write a short essay about the event or the person.
- + Have students create a digital slide presentation.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- + Can students identify some key events or significant individuals in LGBTQ+ history?
- + Do they understand why some of the key events occurred?
- + Do students understand that there is a diverse range of people who are LGBTQ+?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM WELCOMING SCHOOLS

- + [Lesson Plans to Support LGBTQ+ Inclusive Classrooms and Schools](#)
- + [Great Diverse LGBTQ+ Inclusive Picture and Middle Grade Books](#)
- + [Resources for an LGBTQ+ and Gender Inclusive School](#)
- + [Welcoming Schools Professional Development Trainings](#)
- + Welcoming Schools Lesson Plan: [Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Women of Color: The Stonewall Inn and the Modern LGBTQ+ Movement](#) (Grades 5 - 8)

LGBTQ+ – LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS

Lesbian: People who love people of the same gender. Two women. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of the same gender.]

Gay: People who love people of the same gender. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of the same gender.]

Bisexual: People who love people of two genders. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of two genders.]

Transgender or Trans: When your gender identity (how you feel) is different than what doctors/midwives assigned to you when you were born (girl/boy or sex assigned at birth).

Queer: People use this word as a way to identify with and celebrate people of all gender identities and all the ways people love each other. When used in a mean way, it is a word that hurts.

Plus (+): Plus includes community members who use different language to describe identity.

For additional definitions see: Welcoming Schools handbook [Defining LGBTQ+ Words for Elementary Students](#)

A SAMPLE OF ONLINE RESOURCES WITH INFORMATION ON LGBTQ+ HISTORY

- + History.com
- + [Brainpop – Harvey Milk](#)
- + [CNN: LGBTQ Rights Milestones Fast Facts](#)

Research about _____

When did this person live (either dates or time period) or when did the event happen?

What is something the person accomplished or what was important about this event?

An interesting fact about the person or event.

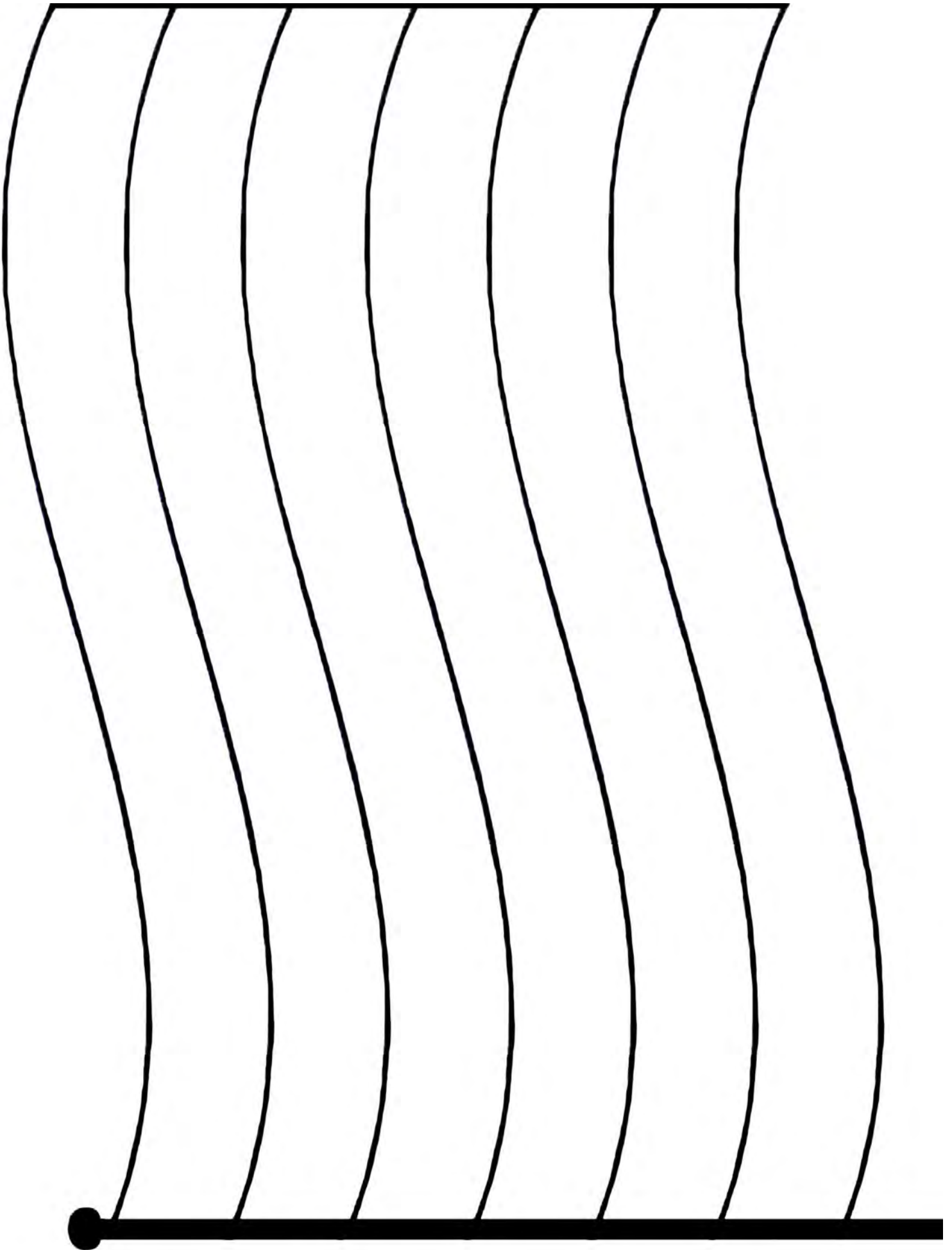
What inspires you about this person or event?

What did you learn about this person's family or community?

2 – 3 words or qualities that describe the person.

Something that you learned from this person or event.

Other information



PROMINENT LGBTQ+ PEOPLE

- > **Abby Wambach:** Olympic soccer player
- > **Adam Rippon:** Olympic figure skater
- > **Alan Turing:** Computer scientist and enemy code breaker
- > **Alexander the Great:** Military leader
- > **Alice Walker:** Author
- > **Alvin Ailey:** Dancer
- > **Amandla Stenberg:** Actor
- > **Amelio Robles:** Officer in the Mexican Revolution
- > **Angie Craig:** First lesbian mom in Congress
- > **Ann Bancroft:** Polar explorer
- > **Barbara Jordan:** Former Congresswoman from Texas
- > **Baron Friedrich von Steuben:** Military commander in the Revolutionary War
- > **Bayard Rustin:** Civil rights organizer with Martin Luther King, Jr.
- > **Bill T. Jones:** Dancer
- > **Billie Jean King:** Tennis champion
- > **Billy Porter:** Musician, actor
- > **Charley Parkhurst:** Stagecoach driver in 1800s
- > **Chely Wright:** Country singer
- > **Dan Choi:** Officer, served in Iraq, challenged “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy
- > **David Kopay:** Former NFL player, first pro team sport athlete to come out, 1975
- > **Deray Mckesson:** Black Lives Matter activist and organizer
- > **Ellen DeGeneres:** TV talk show host, actress
- > **Elton John:** Musician
- > **Emma Gonzalez:** Gun rights activist
- > **Esera Tuaolo:** Former NFL player
- > **Frida Kahlo:** Artist
- > **Freddie Mercury:** Lead vocalist of Queen
- > **Gavin Grimm:** Transgender student
- > **Geena Rocero:** International model, transgender
- > **George Takei:** Actor, comedian
- > **George Washington Carver:** Inventor
- > **Gertrude Stein:** Author
- > **Gilbert Baker:** Designer of the Rainbow Flag
- > **Glenn Burke:** First MLB player to come out while in the majors
- > **Greg Louganis:** Olympic diver
- > **Hadrian:** Roman Emperor
- > **Han Wu Di:** Chinese Emperor
- > **Hans Christian Andersen:** Author
- > **Harvey Milk:** Former San Francisco City Councilor and LGBTQ activist
- > **Ian McKellen:** Actor
- > **Jacqueline Woodson:** Author
- > **James Baldwin:** Author
- > **Jane Addams:** Nobel Peace Prize winner
- > **Janelle Monáe:** Musician, actress, producer

- > **Janet Mock:** Writer, television host, director, producer and transgender rights activist
- > **Jared Polis:** Governor of Colorado
- > **Jason Collins:** Former NBA player
- > **Jason Wu:** Fashion Designer
- > **Jazz Jennings:** LGBTQ activist and reality TV star
- > **Jean-Michel Basquiat:** Artist
- > **John Amaechi:** Former NBA player
- > **Josephine Baker:** Performer and civil rights activist
- > **Katherine Lee Bates:** Poet, educator. Wrote the song “America the Beautiful”
- > **Keith Haring:** Artist
- > **Kim Coco Iwamoto:** Hawaii politician, transgender
- > **Lady Gaga:** Singer
- > **Langston Hughes:** Author
- > **Laverne Cox:** Actress, producer and transgender advocate
- > **Lily Tomlin:** Actress, voice of Ms. Frizzle on *The Magic School Bus*
- > **Lori Lightfoot:** Chicago’s first openly LGBTQ and Black female mayor
- > **Lorraine Hansberry:** Author
- > **Lupe Valdez:** Former Sheriff Dallas County
- > **Margaret Cho:** Comedian, actor
- > **Mark Bingham:** Helped stop the terrorists onboard Flight 93 on 9/11.
- > **Mark Takano:** First openly LGBTQ Asian American in Congress, 2012
- > **Marsha P. Johnson:** Stonewall activist and transgender community leader
- > **Mary Fields,** Stagecoach driver
- > **Michael Sam:** Former NFL football player
- > **Miss Major Griffin-Gracy:** Stonewall activist and transgender community leader
- > **Neil Patrick Harris:** Actor, author
- > **Octavia Butler:** Author
- > **Orlando Cruz:** Champion boxer
- > **Pete Buttigieg:** Mayor of South Bend, Indiana and 2020 presidential candidate
- > **Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin:** Founders of the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955
- > **Queen Latifah:** Rapper, producer
- > **Ricky Martin:** Musician
- > **RuPaul:** International model
- > **Sally Ride:** Astronaut, first American women in space
- > **Sharice Davids:** First Native American LGBTQ Congressperson, 2018
- > **Sylvia Rivera:** Stonewall activist and transgender community leader
- > **Tadd Fujikawa:** Professional golfer
- > **Tammy Baldwin:** Congressperson from Wisconsin
- > **Tim Cook:** Apple CEO
- > **Tomie dePaola:** Author
- > **Wade Davis:** Former NFL player
- > **Walt Whitman:** Author
- > **Wanda Sykes:** stand-up comedian and actress
- > **We’Wha: Zuni Ihamana,** Visited the White House in 1886
- > **Zachary Quinto:** Actor
- > **Zora Neal Hurston:** Author



Children's Biography Books of LGBTQ+ People

Abby Wambach	<i>Forward: My Story Abby Wambach</i> , Abby Wambach, 2017.
Alan Turing	<i>Alan Turing: Master of Cracking Codes</i> , Ryan Nagelhout, 2016.
Alexander the Great	<i>Alexander the Great</i> , Demi, 2012.
Alice Walker	<i>Alice Walker: Author and Social Activist</i> , Stephanie Fitzgerald, 2008.
Alvin Ailey	<i>Alvin Ailey</i> , Andrea Pinkney, 1995.
Andy Warhol	<i>Uncle Andy's: A Faabbbulous Visit with Andy Warhol</i> , James Warhol, 2003.
Barbara Jordan	<i>What Do You Do with a Voice Like That? The Story of Extra-ordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan</i> , Chris Barton, 2018.
Baron Friedrich Von Steuben	<i>Baron Von Steuben: American General</i> , Bruce Adelson, 2002.
Bayard Rustin	<i>Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington</i> , Jacqueline Houtman, 2019.
Bill T. Jones	<i>Dance! With Bill T. Jones</i> , Bill T. Jones and Susan Kuklin, 1998.
Billie Holiday	<i>Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song</i> , Gary Golio, 2017.
Billie Jean King	<i>I am Billie Jean King</i> , Brad Meltzer, 2019.
Charley Parkhurst	<i>The Real Mountain Charley</i> , Ed Sams, 2014.
Ellen DeGeneres	<i>Ellen DeGeneres</i> , Tamra B. Orr, 2016.
Elton John	<i>Who Is Elton John? (Who Was?)</i> , Kirsten Anderson, 2016.

Frida Kahlo	<i>Frida</i> , Jonah Winter and Ana Juan, 2002. In English or Spanish
George Washington Carver	<i>National Geographic Readers: George Washington Carver</i> , Kitson Jazyuka, 2016.
Gilbert Baker	<i>Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker</i> , Gayle E. Pitman, 2018
Hadrian	<i>Hadrian: Emperor of Rome</i> , Beatriz Santillian and Julian Morgan, 2017
Han Wu Di	<i>Han Wu Di and Ancient China (Rulers and Their Times)</i> , Miriam Greenblatt, 2005.
Harvey Milk	<i>Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag</i> , Rob Sanders, 2018.
James Baldwin	<i>James Baldwin: Groundbreaking Author and Civil Rights Activist</i> , Susan Henneberg, 2015.
Jane Addams	<i>The House That Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams</i> , Tanya Lee Stone, 2015.
Jazz Jennings	<i>I Am Jazz</i> , Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, 2014.
Jean-Michel Basquiat	<i>Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat</i> , Javaka Steptoe, 2016.
Josephine Baker	<i>Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker</i> , Patricia Hruby Powell, 2014.
Katharine Lee Bates	<i>For Spacious Skies: Katharine Lee Bates and the Inspiration for "America the Beautiful"</i> (She Made History), Nancy Churnin, 2020.
Keith Haring	<i>Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing</i> , Kay Harding, 2017.
Langston Hughes	<i>Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes</i> , Floyd Cooper, 1998.
Leonardo da Vinci	<i>Leonardo da Vinci: The Genius Who Defined the Renaissance</i> , John Phillips, 2008.
Lorraine Hansberry	<i>Lorraine Hansberry: Playwright and Voice of Justice</i> , Catherine Scheader, 1998.
Mary Fields	<i>Fearless Mary: Mary Fields, American Stagecoach Driver</i> , Tami Charles, 2019.
Megan Rapinoe	<i>On the Field with...Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan, Carli Lloyd, and Mallory Pugh</i> , Matt Christopher, 2020.

Pete Buttigieg

Mayor Pete: The Story of Pete Buttigieg. Rob Sanders, 2020.

Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin

When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community, Gayle Pitman, 2017.

Queen Latifah

The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop, Carole Boston Weatherford, 2019.

Sally Ride

Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman Astronaut, Tam O'Shaughnessy, 2015.

Sheryl Swoopes

Modern Role Models Sheryl Swoopes, Karen Schweitzer, 2008.

Tomie dePaola

26 Fairmount Avenue, Tomie dePaola, 2001.

Zachary Quinto

Zachary Quinto: An Actor Reaching for the Stars, Monique Vescia, 2015.

Zora Neale Hurston

Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston. Alicia D. Williams. 2021.
