



June is **PRIDE** Month

“It is absolutely imperative that every human being's freedom and human rights are respected, all over the world” -Johanna Siguroadottir
(former Icelandic Prime Minister and first openly gay head of state)

Pride Month is federally recognized as the month of June. It is a time for members of the LGBTQ+ community, along with allies, to come together for support and celebration of loving and living with freedom.

A Little History

- On June 28, 1969 New York police raided the [Stonewall Inn](#), a gay club in Greenwich Village. The protests that followed were a catalyst for the gay rights movement. Prior to the Stonewall Uprising, it was common practice for police to raid known gay bars and make arrests because at that point homosexuality and transgenderism were illegal.
- Two trans-gendered women of color, [Marsha P. Johnson](#) and [Sylvia Rivera](#) pushed the movement forward. They organized protests, sit-ins and formed the Street Transvestite (now Transgendered) Action Revolutionaries or [STAR](#), an activist organization that also provided support and housing to homeless youth.
- [Brenda Howard](#), known as “The Mother of Pride”, coordinated the first pride march in 1970 as well as week-long events leading up to the march.
- In the year 2000 President Bill Clinton declared June as the official Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. The name was officially changed to “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Pride Month” in 2009 by President Barak Obama.

Supporting LGBTQ Students

In a recent [CDC Study](#), LGBTQ students were 33% more likely to have been bullied at school and 48% more likely to have seriously considered suicide than their heterosexual peers. As parents, nothing is more important than the safety and well-being of our children. It’s crucial to keep in mind we all want what’s best for our children as we work to ensure all students are supported appropriately and equitably in District 95. To find out more on ways to support our students click [here](#).

Events

- 2020 would have marked the 50th anniversary of the first pride parade known as the [Christopher Street Liberation Day](#) but was canceled due to the pandemic.
- This year, there are plans to hold in-person parades and events. You can find more information on what Pride events are scheduled in Chicago [here](#).
- One of the most well known ways to show your support for the LGBTQ+ community is by displaying a [Rainbow Flag](#), the official symbol of Pride.



Terms to Know

(click the link for more information on terms)

LGBTQ+ recognizes a multitude of identities and is meant to be inclusive of all genders, identities and sexual orientations. It's important to be familiar with the terms members of the community use to self-identify. This not only affirms and recognizes individuals who self-identify within a community but improves visibility and connects people to a greater community.

- **Lesbian** - A woman who is primarily attracted to other women
- **Gay** - A person attracted primarily to the same gender. Often used to refer to men, however can be used for women as well
- **Bisexual**- A person who is attracted to both genders
- **Transgender**- A person whose gender identity differs from the one assigned at birth
- **Queer**- An overarching term sometimes used to refer to the LGBT community as a whole
- **Questioning** - The Q can also be used to refer to someone who is exploring their own sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- **+ (plus)** - The plus is used to signify all other gender identities and sexual orientations.

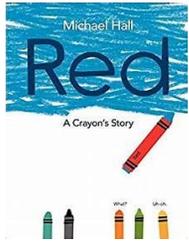
Sometimes you will see **I2-S** added to the end of **LGBTQ (LGBTQI2-S)**

- **Intersex**- A person born with a variation of sex characteristics that do not fit binary male and female characteristics
- **2-S (Two-Spirited)** - Refers to a person within Indigenous North American Tribes as having both male and female genders. To learn more about this celebrated identity within the Native American Community click [here](#).

Books for Early Childhood

Red: A Crayon's Story

By Michael Hall



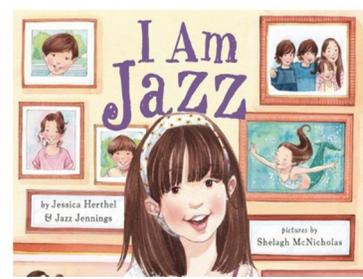
Love Makes a Family

By: Sophie Beer



I Am Jazz

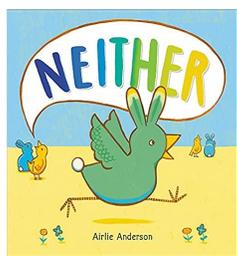
By: Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings



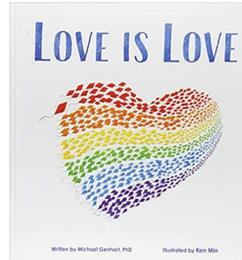
Neither

My Two Moms and Me

By: Airlie Anderson



By: Micheal Genhart



Love Is Love

By: Micheal Joosten

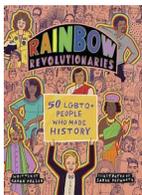


Books for Middle Readers



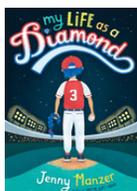
King and the Dragonflies

By: Kacen Callender



Rainbow Revolutionaries: Fifty LGBTQ+ People Who Made History

By: Sarah Prager, Illustrated by: Sarah Papworth



My Life as a Diamond

By: Jenny Manzer

Notable LGBTQ Figures

[Bayard Rustin](#) (1912-1987)

A close friend and advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. He played an integral role in the civil rights movement. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013 by former President Barack Obama.



[Frida Kahlo](#) (1907-1954)

The world renowned Mexican artist is well known for her many self-portraits and works inspired by nature. Although she was married to fellow artist, Diego Rivera both had extramarital affairs. Frida was openly bisexual and had several romantic female relationships.



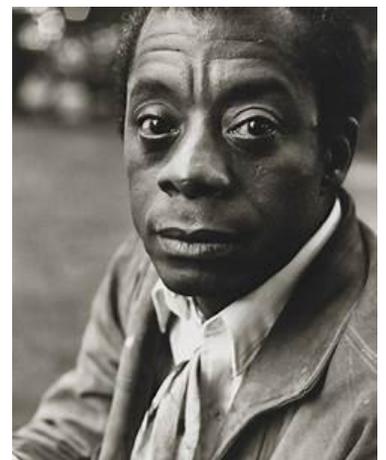
[Ifti Nasim](#) (1946-2011)

A poet born in Pakistan, he immigrated to the United States in the hopes of finding less homosexual persecution. His most famous work entitled, "Narman" is an award-winning collection of poems written in Urdu. It is said to be the first expression of "gay" longings written in that language. Nasim was very active in supporting Chicago's gay and lesbian community. He co-founded Sangat/Chicago, a support and education organization aimed towards South Asian.



[James Baldwin](#) (1924-1987)

A prolific essayist, playwright, novelist and voice of the American civil rights movement. His work gave voice to the oppression felt by being both Black and gay in America. He brought to light the challenges and complexities that black and LGBTQ people had to face at the time. He was awarded a writing fellowship, which he used to move to Paris where he felt more free to write. His novel, *Giovanni's Room*, was one of the first novels to directly speak to the homosexual experience and culture in America. His works were extremely influential during the civil rights movement. You can find a his mini biography [here](#)



Additional Resources

[Resources for Families of LGBTQ Youth](#)

[GLAAD](#)

[LGBTQ Books for Children, Teens and Young Adults](#)

[59 Children's Books That Celebrate Pride - LGBTQ Book Lists for Kids](#)

[LAMBDA Literary](#)

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT

BOOK CLUB

Hosted by the BPC's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity Committee

Wednesday, June 16th
7:30 PM
Via Zoom
Email BPCdiversityequityinclusivity@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

this is how it always is

LAURIE FRANKEL

"A lively and fascinating story of a thoroughly modern family."
— MARIA SEMPLE

"This is a novel everyone should read. It's brilliant."
— ELIZABETH GEORGE

"One of those very rare, special novels."
— RUTH OZEKI

"Made me laugh, made me cry, made me think."
— LIANE MORIARTY

REESE'S BOOK CLUB

The poster features a silhouette of a person with wings against a starry night sky. A circular logo for 'REESE'S BOOK CLUB' is in the bottom right corner of the book cover image.

Questions? Do you have a topic you would like to see covered in the Diversity Spotlight? Would you like to contribute to the Diversity Spotlight?

Email the BPC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity committee at bpcdiversityequityinclusivity@gmail.com