

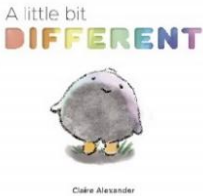

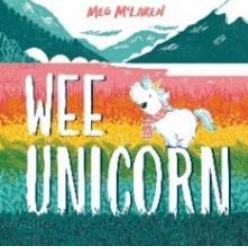
Celebrate LGBTQ+ stories

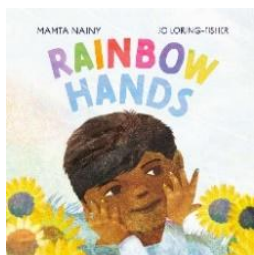


Queer stories deserve to be celebrated all year round, but June presents an opportunity to focus on them especially, as it marks LGBTQ+ Pride Month. This is a UK-wide celebration that honours the 1969 Stonewall riots, and works to promote the affirmation, dignity, equality and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer identities and communities.

We've put together a list of some of our favourite children's books that celebrate LGBTQ+ identities, narratives and experiences. You can also find a collation of [these titles on Browns Books](#).

Key Stage 1 (Reading age 5–7)

 <p>A little bit DIFFERENT</p> <p>Claire Alexander</p>	<p><i>A Little Bit Different</i> by Claire Alexander</p> <p>The ploofers have been practicing something special. But when one little ploofer goes against the usual flow of things, the rest of them turn their backs on him. All it takes is for one person to recognise the beauty in being different, to spark a change in attitude from everyone.</p> <p>Reading age: 4+</p> <p>Interest age: 2–3</p>
 <p>OUT of the BLUE</p> <p>Robert Tregoney</p>	<p><i>Out of the Blue</i> by Robert Tregoney</p> <p>ONLY BLUE ALLOWED, by Blue Government demand. Anything that isn't blue is banned. In a very blue house on a very blue street, sits a little boy who feels as blue as the world around him. For this little boy has a BIG secret: he loves the colour yellow.</p> <p>Reading age: 3+</p> <p>Interest age: 4–5</p>
 <p>WEE UNICORN</p> <p>MEG MCLAREN</p>	<p><i>Wee Unicorn</i> by Meg McLaren</p> <p>Far away in the north, lives a little unicorn. Wee Unicorn is small and loud...but she's not magic (and everyone knows unicorns are supposed to be magic!). How can Wee Unicorn fit in, when she feels so different?</p> <p>Reading age: 3+</p> <p>Interest age: 3–5</p>

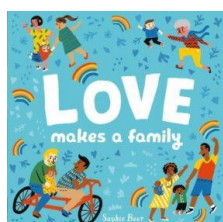


Rainbow Hands by Mamta Nainy

As the long, Indian summer days stretch ahead of him, a young boy looks forward to his favourite time – painting-your-nails-time. His Papa frowns and says, "What have you done to your nails?" But the little boy knows that painting his nails, makes his hands look beautiful

Reading age: 3+

Interest age: 2-8

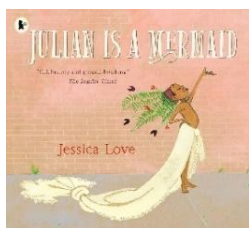


Love Makes a Family by Sophie Beer

Love manifests itself in families of all shapes, sizes and ethnicities. From an early morning serenade to stories at bedtime, it's not just the hugs and kisses that shine through. What about the love that always knows where things are? Or makes a very special birthday cake, or finds the biggest puddles to splash in then helps to clean up the mess afterwards? The love that chases away monsters and claps enthusiastically just when it's needed?

Reading age: 4+

Interest age: 2-5

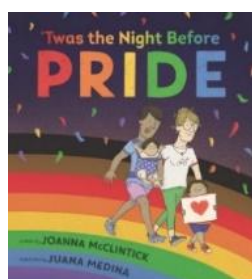


Julian Is A Mermaid by Jessica Love

While riding the subway with his Nana, Julian notices three women, spectacularly dressed up. When Julian gets home, all he can think about is dressing up like those ladies and making his own fabulous, mermaid costume.

Reading age: 4+

Interest age: 6+

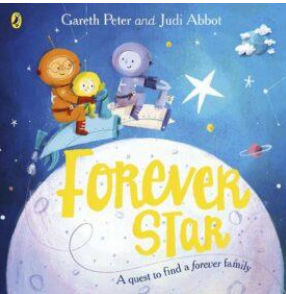
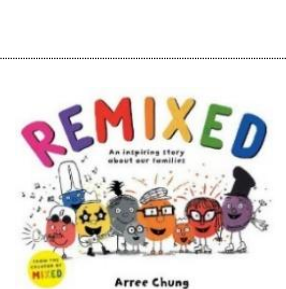
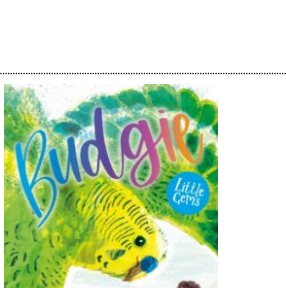
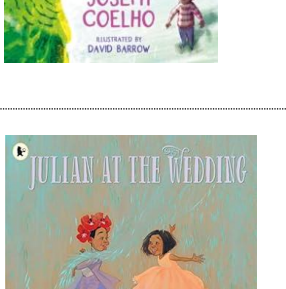



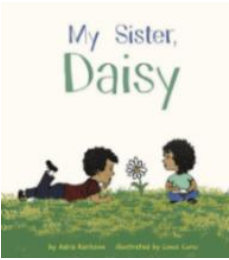
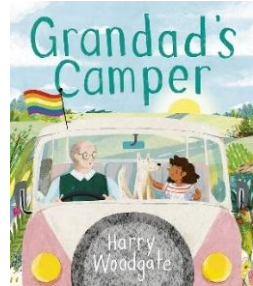
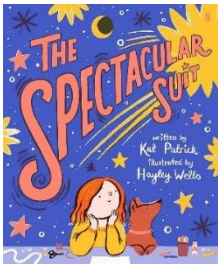
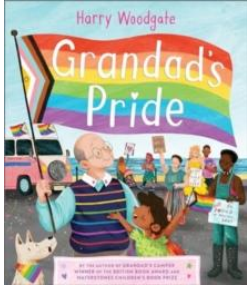

'Twas the Night Before Pride by Joanna McClintick

On the night before Pride, families everywhere are preparing to partake. As one family packs snacks and makes signs, an older sibling shares the importance of the parade, with the newest member of the family. The best thing about Pride is getting to be yourself.

Reading age: 4+

Interest age: 4-8

	<p>Forever Star by Gareth Peter and Judi Abbot</p> <p>On a planet somewhere in space, a community of Tims work away making their planet a lovely place. Yet two of the Tims are sad: they really want to have a child of their own, and have so much love to give. So, they visit the Space Queen who gives them her blessing and sends them off to search for their perfect child.</p> <p>Reading age: 4+</p> <p>Interest age: 3–5</p>
	<p><i>Remixed: An inspiring story about our families</i> by Arree Chung</p> <p>When colours of different kinds fall in love, they mix, creating families that come in every possible combination of colour, shape, and size. But sometimes, their feelings change and change in a family isn't always easy.</p> <p>Reading age: 6+</p> <p>Interest age: 4–7</p>
	<p>Budgie by Joesph Coelho</p> <p>Mr Buxton is always having a go at Miles and his friends, for climbing the trees outside their tower block. Miles thinks he's just a grumpy old man but when he finds a lost little budgie, Miles also discovers that he and Mr Buxton, have more in common than he could ever have imagined.</p> <p>Reading age: 5+</p> <p>Interest age: 6–8</p>
	<p><i>Julian At The Wedding</i> by Jessica Love</p> <p>Julian and his nana are attending a wedding. When the wedding duties are fulfilled, Julian and his cousin, Marisol take off to roam the venue. After all, it wouldn't be a wedding without fun, laughter and a little magical mischief</p> <p>Reading age: 5+</p> <p>Interest age: 3–8</p>
	<p><i>Peanut Goes For The Gold</i> by Jonathan Van Ness</p> <p>Peanut Goes for The Gold, is a charming, funny and heartfelt picture book, that follows the adventures of Peanut, a gender non-binary guinea pig, who does everything with their own, personal flare.</p> <p>Reading age: 5+</p> <p>Interest age: 4–8</p>

	<p><i>My Sister, Daisy</i> by Adria Karlsson</p> <p>Daisy's older brother is thrilled, when he gets a baby brother. They are best buddies, who do everything together. But then, his younger brother realises she is a girl and wants to be called Daisy.</p> <p>Reading age: 5+</p> <p>Interest age: 5-7</p>
	<p><i>Grandad's Camper</i> by Harry Woodgate</p> <p>A long time ago, Grandad and Gramps travelled the world together in a camper van, now Gramps isn't around anymore, Grandad doesn't feel much like having adventures. As she listens to his wonderful stories, Grandad's granddaughter, has an idea to cheer him up...</p> <p>Reading age: 6+</p> <p>Interest age: 4-8</p>
	<p><i>The Spectacular Suit</i> by Kat Patrick</p> <p>It's almost Frankie's birthday and everything is ready, except for something to wear. What Frankie longs for, is a suit. A spectacular suit! Can Frankie find the outfit of her dreams?</p> <p>Reading age: 6+</p> <p>Interest age: 4-8</p>
	<p><i>Grandad's Pride</i> by Harry Woodgate</p> <p>Milly can't wait to spend a summer at Grandad's cottage by the sea and is even more excited, when she discovers Grandad and Gramps' Pride flag in the attic. Now Milly has an idea to get the local community together and bring Pride to Grandad.</p> <p>Reading age: 6+</p> <p>Interest age: 4-8</p>
	<p><i>Prince & Knight</i> by Daniel Haack and Steve Lewis</p> <p>Once upon a time, there lived a charming prince whose parents set wish was to find him a suitable bride. But it soon became clear, that none of the princesses were right for him. Then, the Prince meets a brave knight. Could this be the Prince's one true love?</p> <p>Reading age: 7+</p> <p>Interest age: 4-8</p>

Key Stage 2 (reading age 7–11)

	<p><i>Glitter Boy</i> by Ian Eagleton</p> <p>James' teacher, Mr Hamilton, is getting married to his boyfriend and it seems that James will be part of a surprise choir performance at the wedding. But James's father seems uncomfortable about the plan.</p> <p>Reading age: 8+</p> <p>Interest age: 9–11</p>
	<p><i>The Last Firefox</i> by Lee Newbury</p> <p>Between bullies at school and changes at home, Charlie Challinor finds life a bit scary. And when he's made guardian of a furry firefox cub called Cadno, things get a whole lot scarier. Charlie's going to need to find the bravery, to protect his flammable friend and save the last firefox...</p> <p>Reading age: 8+</p> <p>Interest age: 8–11</p>
	<p><i>The List of Things That Will Not Change</i> by Rebecca Stead</p> <p>When Bea's dad and his partner, Jesse, decide to marry, it looks as if Bea's finally going to have a sister. Bea knows, she and Sonia will be perfect sisters. But then Bea makes discoveries, leading her to a disastrous choice.</p> <p>Reading age: 8+</p> <p>Interest age: 8+</p>
	<p><i>Nothing Ever Happens Here</i> by Sarah Hagger-Holt</p> <p>Izzy's family is under the spotlight when her dad comes out as Danielle, a trans woman. Izzy is terrified her family will be torn apart. Will she lose her dad? Will her parents break up? And what will people at school say? Izzy's always been shy, but now all eyes are on her. Can she face her fears, find her voice and stand up for what's right?</p> <p>Reading age: 9+</p> <p>Interest age: 10–14</p>
	<p><i>Me, My Dad And The End Of The Rainbow</i> by Benjamin Dean</p> <p>Things aren't going great for Archie Albright. His dad's acting weird, his mum too. When Archie sees a colourful, crumpled flyer fall out of Dad's pocket, he may have found the answer.</p> <p>Reading age: 9+</p> <p>Interest age: 9–11</p>



Max Kowalski Didn't Mean It by Susie Day

Max wants to be just like his dad – fun, loud and strong. Instead, he always seems to be accidentally getting into fights and breaking things. But when his dad starts bringing home mysterious boxes, even more mysterious wads of cash start turning up. Then Dad disappears. And it's up to Max to look after his sisters until he comes home. When they run away to a remote village in Wales, he's convinced that no one will find them. He's Max Kowalski. Of course he can look after three kids with no grownups around.

Reading age: 9+

Interest age: 9–11



The Secret Sunshine Project by Benjamin Dean

When Bea's family visit London Pride together, they have the ultimate day out. But a year later, Dad has passed away, and Bea's big sister, Riley, is taking the news hard. So, The Secret Sunshine Project is formed – Bea's plan to bring Pride to the countryside and a smile back to Riley's face.

Reading age: 9+

Interest age: 9–12

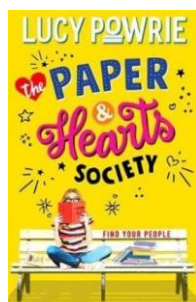


The Whispers by Greg Howard

Before she disappeared, Riley's mama used to tell him stories about the Whispers, mysterious creatures with the power to grant wishes. Riley wishes for lots of things. He wishes his secret crush Dylan liked him back. He wishes the bumbling detective would stop asking awkward questions. But most of all he wishes his mother would come home... Four months later, the police are no closer to finding out the truth – and Riley decides to take matters into his own hands.

Reading age: 9+

Interest age: 9–11


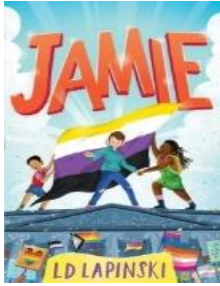
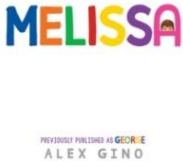
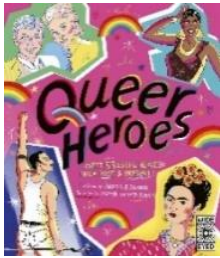
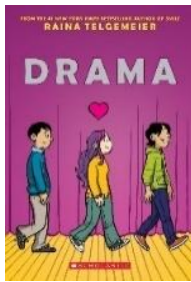


The Paper and Hearts Society by Lucy Powrie

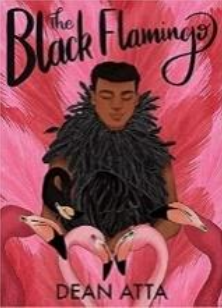
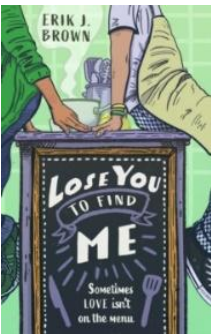
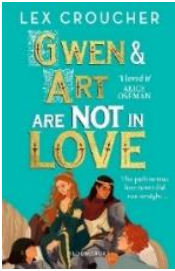

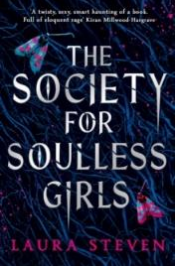
Tabby Brown is tired of trying to fit in. She doesn't want to go to parties – in fact, she would much rather snuggle up on the sofa with her favourite book. It's like she hasn't found her people... Then Tabby joins a club that promises to celebrate books. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING – especially when making new friends brings out an AWKWARD BUZZING feeling all over her body. But Olivia, Cassie, Henry and Ed have something that makes Tabby come back. Maybe it's the Austen-themed fancy-dress parties, or Ed's fluffy cat Mrs Simpkins, or could it be Henry himself...

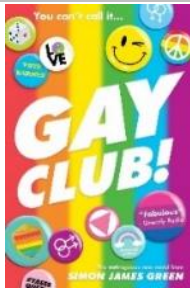
Reading age: 10+

Interest age: 13–16

	<p><i>Heartstopper</i> by Alice Oseman</p> <p>Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day, when they're made to sit together. Soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But love works in surprising ways, and Nick is more interested in Charlie, than either of them realised.</p> <p>Reading age: 10+ Interest age: 12-17</p>
	<p><i>Jamie</i> by L.D. Lapinski</p> <p>When Jamie Rambeau, a happy, 11-year-old, non-binary kid, finds out that their school will be separated into one school for boys and another for girls; they realise no one has thought about where they are going to go, so they take matters into their own hands.</p> <p>Reading age: 10+ Interest age: 10-12</p>
	<p><i>Melissa</i> by Alex Gino</p> <p>When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's a girl. When her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web, George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part...because she's a boy.</p> <p>Reading age: 10+ Interest age: 10+</p>
	<p><i>Queer Heroes</i> by Arabelle Sicardi and Sarah Tanat-Jones</p> <p>This beautiful, bold book celebrates the achievements of LGBTQ+ people through history and from around the world. With dynamic full-colour portraits, of a diverse selection of 53 inspirational role models.</p> <p>Reading age: 10+ Interest age: 10-15</p>
	<p><i>Drama</i> by Raina Telgemeier</p> <p>Callie loves theatre. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production, she's a terrible singer. Instead, she's the set designer, and is determined to create a Broadway worthy set.</p> <p>Reading age: 10+ Interest age: 10-14</p>

Key Stage 3 (Reading age 11–14)

	<p><i>The Black Flamingo</i> by Dean Atta</p> <p>Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels. One more step will see him illuminated by a spotlight. He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours ...Can he emerge as The Black Flamingo?</p> <p>Reading age: 12+</p> <p>Interest age: 12–15</p>
	<p><i>Lose You To Find Me</i> by Erik J. Brown</p> <p>Tommy Dees is in the weeds and overwhelmed. He's been working at Sunset Estates Retirement Community, where he must train new-hire Gabriel, who Tommy crushed on during summer camp at age ten and then never saw again. Unfortunately, Gabe doesn't remember Tommy at all. Can Tommy keep it all together, or is it a recipe for disaster?</p> <p>Reading age: 12+</p> <p>Interest age: 12–15</p>
	<p><i>Gwen & Art Are Not In Love</i> by Lex Croucher</p> <p>Gwen and Arthur have been betrothed since birth. Unfortunately, the only thing they can agree on, is that they hate each other. They pretend to fall for each other, but how long can they keep up the ruse?</p> <p>Reading age: 12+</p> <p>Interest age: 12–15</p>
	<p><i>Friday I'm In Love</i> by Camryn Garrett</p> <p>It's too late for Mahalia Harris' Sweet Sixteen, so what if she had a coming-out party? A celebration of queerness, on her own terms. Soon, Mahalia is doing all she can to prep for the coming out of her dreams.</p> <p>Reading age: 12+</p> <p>Interest age: 12–15</p>
	<p><i>The Society For Soulless Girls</i> by Laura Steven</p> <p>Ten years ago, four students lost their lives in the infamous North Tower murders, forcing Carvell College to close its doors. Now Carvell is reopening, and fearless student Lottie, is determined to find out what really happened.</p> <p>Reading age: 12+</p> <p>Interest age: 12–17</p>

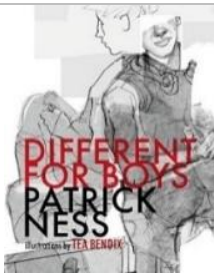


***Gay Club!* by Simon James Green**

Barney's a shoo-in for his school's LGBTQ+ Society President, but when the vote opens, the whole school pays attention. How low will the candidates go to win? Buckle up for shade, scandals and sleazy shenanigans.

Reading age: 13+

Interest age: 12-15



***Different For Boys* by Patrick Ness**

Ant Stevenson has many questions, like, when did he stop being a virgin? Are there degrees of virginity? And, is it different for boys? Especially for boys who like boys?

Reading age: 14+

Interest age: 14+