

Resources that positively reflect LGBTQ people in the curriculum

Recommended primary books:

Combs, B.; **ABC—A Family Alphabet Book**; 2000; ISBN 0-967-4468-1-3. Have fun with the kids, moms, dads, and pets in this delightful book that celebrates all kinds of families as it teaches young children the alphabet. Depicts same-gender families doing everyday activities. (Kindergarten)

De Haan, L. and S. Nijland; **King & King**; 2004; ISBN 1-58246-061-2. A delightful departure from traditional fairy tales. Find out what happens when the queen decries that it is time for the prince to marry! Princesses come from far and wide hoping to catch his eye. Will the prince be charmed by one of them or simply follow his heart? This book has an unexpected ending that will be a great conversation starter with your students on topics of love and marriage. (Kindergarten to Grade 3)

Fierstein, H.; **The Sissy Duckling** 2005; ISBN 978-1416903130. Elmer is a sissy boy duckling who likes to bake cakes, build forts, and put on puppet shows. This book teaches us to embrace our differences and celebrate special identities and talents. (Kindergarten to Grade 3)

Valentine, J.; **One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads**; 2004; ISBN 13: 978-155583-848-5. A Dr. Seuss-like exploration of same gender families to examine how a child can have two dads that are blue! One character asks silly questions as the author uses mirthful text to dispel stereotypes. Delightful! (Kindergarten to Grade 2)

Simon, N.; **All Families are Special**; 2003; ISBN 0-8075-2175-2. Depicts a diverse array of families doing every day things. One or two pages about same-gender families. Gently covers a range of issues including adoption, single parenting, divorce, living in extended families, same-gender families, moving between families, having stepparents, etc. (Kindergarten to Grade 3)

Settingington, K.; **Mom and Mum are Getting Married!** 2004; ISBN 1-896764-84-3. When Rosie finds out that her two mothers are planning to get married, she has only one worry—will she get to be a flower girl? A joyful celebration of love and family in a changing world. (Kindergarten to Grade 2)

Skutch, R.; **Who's In a Family?** 1995; ISBN 1-8883672-66-X. This delightful story compares human and animal families, with excellent representations of a diverse range of families: traditional, only child, single-parent, same-gender, extended, childless, stepparent and inter-racial families. It concludes with: "Who's in a family? The people who love you the most." Good depictions of racially diverse families. (Kindergarten and Grade 1)

Richardson, J and Parnell, P; **And Tango Makes Three**; 2005; ISBN 0-689-87845-1. The book is based on the true story of Roy and Silo, two male penguins in New York's Central Park Zoo who raise a baby chick, named Tango, from an egg that needed to be cared for. Beautiful illustrations and storyline make this a great story for young students to explore the question "What makes a family?" (Kindergarten to Grade 3)

Recommended intermediate books:

Greenberg, K. E. **Zack's Story** (2002) ISBN 0-8225-2581-X This is a true story of 11-year-old Zack who lives with his two mothers and has a loving relationship with his father as well. Zack deals assertively with homophobic name-calling at school and tells about life in a lesbian family, helping to debunk myths and stereotypes for students meeting a same-sex family for the first time. Grades 4-7

Howe, J. **The Misfits** (2003) ISBN: 978-0689839566. Four best friend “misfits,” one of whom is called a “fairy,” decide to change life at their school by starting a campaign against namecalling. An excellent book to explore gender stereotypes and nonconformity. Grades 4-8

Howe, J. **Totally Joe** (2007) ISBN: 978-0689839580. In 13-year-old Joe’s alphabiography assignment – the story of his life from A to Z – he bares his soul and comes out to his parents, teachers, friends and family. This sequel to *The Misfits* is a thoroughly engaging and heart-felt read. An excellent novel that can be used to open up classroom discussions surrounding sexual identity in upper elementary and junior high schools. Grades 5-8

Harter, B. **Geography Club** (2004) ISBN: 978-0060012236 A group of gay and lesbian teenagers find mutual support when they form a clandestine Gay-Straight Alliance school club by calling it the “Geography Club.” The novel offers possibilities for discussion on changing social attitudes towards queer youth as well as the issue of integrity vs. popularity. Grades 7 and up.

Kay, V. **Rough, Tough Charley** (2007) ISBN: 1582461848 Stunning illustrations and poetic verse document the exciting true story of Charley Parkhurst, an orphan living in California in the mid-1800s who became a famous stagecoach driver, joined the Odd Fellow's Club, voted in Presidential elections and was revealed, after death, to be a woman. (Great for lessons on gender and sexism). Grades 4-7

LaRochelle, D. **Absolutely, Positively Not** (2005) ISBN: 978-0439591096 Even though the good-natured humour does cloud the book's overall sense of reality at times, Larochelle's eye-opening and accurate portrayal of Steven's coming out will ring optimistically true for many teens and their friends who are struggling with sexuality issues. And it's the delivery of his outing, coated in a healthy dose of hilarity, that makes *Absolutely, Positively Not* a fast-paced, funny, and frivolously frank read. Grades 6-9

Woodson, J. **From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun** (1995) ISBN 0-590-45881-7 Melanin Sun, a teenager, must deal with his own internal fears and prejudices of sexism, racism and homophobia if he wants to have a meaningful relationship with his mama, who is coming out to him. Grades 6-11

Elementary Video resources:

These can be borrowed for up to three weeks from the BCTF Information Services Department and mailed to your school if you are a BCTF member. To borrow any of these resources, e-mail video@bctf.ca, or call Lesley Harrington at 604-871-2241.

It's Elementary (78 or 38 min) (Professional, Parent)

Described as “funny, touching and fascinating,” this ground-breaking, award-winning production presents a powerful case for making antigay prejudice an educational issue. Featuring work by elementary and middle school (up to Grade 9) students and interviews with teachers, it demonstrates how elementary schools can successfully address this sensitive area of teaching respect for all. It models excellent teaching about family diversity, name-calling, stereotypes, community building and more. A 24-page viewing guide is included. A shorter version adapted especially for the classroom is also available.

That's a Family! (35 min) (Grades 3 to 7)

This video helps elementary children see and understand the many different shapes of today's families. With courage and humour, the children take viewers on a tour through their lives as they speak candidly about what it's like to grow up in a family with parents of different races or religions, divorced parents, a single parent, gay or lesbian parents, adoptive parents, or grandparents as guardians. It comes with an extensive discussion and teaching guide with lesson plans, suggestions for facilitating classroom discussion at different grade levels, and additional resources for teachers, families, and children.

Sticks and Stones (17 min) (Grades 3 to 7)

This documentary, shot in a Vancouver school, looks at the lives of children aged 5 to 12, from various backgrounds, using their own words to show how homophobic language affects their lives. The two main topics in the video are family and name-calling. Children of gay and lesbian parents share their sense of isolation, their fear of discovery, and their struggle with making choices and facing intimidation. Animation sequences are added to illustrate simple concepts and the history of homophobic slang words. Family photos of differing families are included. Information for teachers on the video liner provides background, discussion points, and activities. (Secondary students could use this as a discussion starter.) Recommended by BC's Ministry of Education, November 2001.

Websites for more resources:

BC Ministry of Education: Making Space: Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice throughout the K–12 Curriculum. www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/program_delivery/ss.htm

Pride Education Network: LGBTQ lesson plans, teaching handbooks, resource lists, and links to websites with resources for teachers. www.pridenet.ca

BC Teachers' Federation: (downloadable posters, lesson plans, book and video resource lists, websites, district policies, and more). Click on “Social Justice” on the home page; then go to “Issues” on the drop-down menu and click on “LGBTQ issues in schools” to access a variety of resources for teachers. www.bctf.ca

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