Read, Kirk.  
*How I Learned to Snap: A Small-Town Coming-Out and Coming-of-Age Story.*  
This very humorous and bold autobiographical recounting of a male teen’s coming out is contemporary and refreshing, thanks in equal part to the author’s self-acceptance, precociousness, compassion, attention to detail, and honed journalistic prowess.
FICTION

Books With Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Characters

Francesca Lia Block
Baby Be-Bop.
Part of the Weetzie Bat series.
“Dirk had known since he could remember”…that he was gay. Living with his Grandma and going to high school, Dirk falls in love with his closest friend, Pup, who loves him back but “can’t handle it.” When Dirk is beaten up by a gang of gaybashers, the healing words of his grandmother reassure him that “there was love waiting…”

Burchill, Julie
Sugar Rush.
When 16-year-old Kim has to leave her posh private school after her parents’ divorce and attend a tough public school, she falls in love with outrageous and beautiful Maria Sweet, “Sugar”, Queen of the ravers. Sugar Rush has been adapted as a T.V. series in England.

De Oliveira, Eddie.
Lucky.
Scholastic, 2004.
Star soccer player Sam is gentle, but his team doesn’t know that he’s attracted to both boys and girls. This brilliant novel questions life, love, and labels.

Ferris, Jean.
Eight Seconds.
John, a teenage rodeo cowboy, experiences a summer of self discovery when he learns a new friend is gay. A sensitive “coming out” story with honest, believable characters.

Freymann-Weyr, Garret.
My Heartbeat.
14-year-old Ellen faces her strong feelings for James, her older brother Linc’s best friend, even though James has told them he is gay.

NON FICTION

Bornstein, Kate.
My Gender Workbook: How to Become a Real Man, a Real Woman, the Real You, or Something Else Entirely.
Kate Bornstein helps readers to challenge and explore notions of gender through quizzes and exercises in this fun and insightful workbook.

Connections!: A Resource Guide for Lesbian, Gay, Intersex, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Transgender, Questioning, and Queer Youth in B.C.
2004
In this small booklet locally relevant resource information is accompanied by art and writing of queer youth.

Feinberg, Leslie.
Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul.
Beacon Press, 1996.
Leslie Feinberg has put together a powerful history of transgender people which focuses on strength and integrity in the face of oppression.

Huegel, Kelly.
A frank resource for any gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning teen facing the many peer and social challenges of coming out. A must have, it is chock full of strategies and practical advice for happy, healthy, and safe choices suggested by people who are comfortable with themselves and their gender and remember what it was like.

Nestle, Joan.
GenderQueer: Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary.
Individuals provide first person narrative around being genderqueer and/or loving people who are.
Kissing Kate.
Myracle, Lauren.
Kate and Lissa have been best friends since they were twelve. When they kiss at a party, everything changes. Kate pretends Lissa doesn’t exist. Lissa takes a good look at her life, relationships, and her sexual orientation. Author Myracle provides a humorous, realistic, and quirky look at high school through the eyes of a likable young woman finding her way through the coming out process.

Keeping You a Secret.
Peters, Julie Anne.
Holland is popular, smart and a leader at her high school, but when she falls in love with Cece, who is an out, loud, and proud lesbian, Holland’s life changes dramatically. It’s fast-paced and slightly melodramatic, but the loveable, feisty characters make it a keeper.

Empress of the World.
Ryan, Sara.
15-year-old Nic finds herself romantically drawn to another girl for the first time while they are both attending a summer art institute.

Rainbow High.
Sanchez, Alex.
First introduced in Rainbow Boys, Nelson, Jason, and Kyle are gay high school seniors. Nelson and Kyle are best friends, Jason and Kyle are boyfriends, and each one of them is facing tough decisions. Rainbow High wears its heart on its sleeve and has a frankness that teens will appreciate.

Swimming in the Monsoon Sea.
Selvadurai, Shyam.
Tundra, 2005.
Amrith’s life is well-ordered and uneventful, but all this changes when Amrith falls in love with his cousin who is visiting from Canada. This beautifully written book, set in Sri Lanka in 1980, explores the emotional turmoil of first love.

The Center of the World.
Steinhöfel, Andreas.
Delacorte, 2005.
This eloquently written novel follows the life of Phil in a small town in Germany as he learns about love, infatuation, and living in a complicated world.

Books with Transgendered Characters

Choir Boy.
Anders, Charlie.
12-year-old Barry’s decision to transition initially stems more from his desire to remain a choir boy that to live as another gender. Through the course of the book his desire to live a life that is understood as being contrary to his biology helps him to explore different ways of existing in the world.

Loose End: Stories.
Coyote, Ivan E.
This collection of short stories focuses on the author’s experiences of living in East Vancouver. Within this context, the stories reflect a diversity that makes this book a rich and satisfying read.

Mosh Pit.
Dunnion, Kristyn.
Although Charlotta, the transgendered character in this book, is a secondary character, she is a strong and intelligent individual and provides needed guidance and insight throughout the book.

Luna.
Peters, Julie Anne.
Luna’s experience of making the decision to live publicly as a transgender person are recounted through the eyes of her sister.
Saint-Clair, C.C.  
*Morgan in the Mirror.*  
Set in Australia, this novel follows the story of Morgan, a transman who has a passion for rock climbing. Though he has been able to pass as male for most of his life, he makes the decision to transition and develops new relationships with himself, his body and the people around him.

Trope, Zoe.  
*Please Don't Kill the Freshman.*  
Zoe relays stories of her life, written in her early teens, that include how having her new girlfriend transition and become her new boyfriend affect her new found queer identity.

Hartinger, Brent.  
*Geography Club.*  
When Min finds out that her good friend Russel is gay and Russel finds out that Min is bisexual they decide to form a group at their school to talk about queer issues. In order to protect their club from homophobic classmates they decide to call it the Geography Club because they think that no one would want to join unless they knew what it was really all about.

Hartinger, Brent  
*The Order of the Poison Oak.*  
Sixteen-year-old Russel Middlebrook, who has just formed the first gay-straight-bisexual alliance at his high school, decides to escape town for the summer to be a camp counselor. Things get complicated however when he is assigned to a group of 11-year-old burn victims and his bisexual friend, Min falls in love with the same guy.

Koja, Kathe.  
*Talk.*  
Kit needs to escape his life for a while, so he gets a part in the controversial play his high school’s putting on. Kit struggles with coming out, and other crises in his life. Talk is a fast-paced book which explores issues of self-identity from multiple points of view.

Levithan, David.  
*Boy Meets Boy.*  
Paul has been out his whole life and life is good. That is, until he falls for Noah, the guy of his dreams. Now, Paul’s life has been turned upside down and he’s taking his friends along for the ride. This book presents a refreshing spin on high school romance.

Manning, Sarra.  
*Pretty Things.*  
Dutton, 2005.  
Four English teenagers experience a summer of "girl loves boy loves boy loves girl loves who knows?" in this engaging look at the often blurry lines that define our relationships.