

## Gender 2.0: RESOURCES

GENDER DIVERSITY/LGBTQ+ Reading  
(4-8)

### *Julian is a Mermaid*

by Jessica Love

Beautiful book about a young boy with mermaid aspirations. Love's gorgeous illustrations provide endless opportunities for discussion and discovery. Wonderful "point of entry" text to examine gender roles and expectations with young children.

**Tags: gender, gender nonconforming, identity, transgender, self-confidence, courage, culture, empowerment**

### *Neither*

by Airlie Anderson

This charming book challenges young readers to see beyond the binary by framing the main character's struggle - born into the Land of This and That, but not quite fitting into either "this" or "that" - in a way that encourages empathy and discovery. Great read-aloud.

### *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*

by Christine Baldacchino

A simple and realistic portrayal of a gender expansive character's struggle at school.

### *Sparkle Boy*

by Leslea Newman\*

The author of the well-known *Heather Has Two Mommies*, Leslea Newman has several books about LGBTQ families. This one takes a somewhat heavy-handed and obvious approach about a gender expansive character, but the book's clear, unwavering messages of support and acceptance are heartening.

### *I Am Jazz*

by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings

About the early journey of a transgender MTF (male-to-female) child. This version is meant for young children and handles her story with care, in an age-appropriate, accessible way.

\*It's easy to find audio and visual interviews with Jazz, too, which brings her to life and has the potential to elicit real empathy and thoughtful discussion.

Big Bob, Little Bob

This one comes highly recommended by my own kid, who read it for the first time in school. Charming story about two boys who struggle to find overlap. One happily enacts traditional gender norms, the other doesn't. They muddle through together, ultimately arriving at friendship with a twist ending.

***Who Are You?***

*The Kid's Guide to Gender Identity*

Brook Pessin-Whedbee

An exploration of gender identities and expressions, with a fun colored gender wheel at the back that kids love to manipulate.

**Gender/Identity/LGBTQ+ Reading: 9+**

(Screening more important here, as some are better-suited for a middle school audience, while some are totally appropriate for 4th/5th graders. I have read many but not all, as - happily - some are more recent!)

***George***

Alex Gino

By now already familiar and beloved to many of our upper-grade students, this short but impactful novel tells the story of a transgender 4th grader grappling with her true identity.

*The Witch Boy/ The Hidden Witch*

By Molly Osterag

Captivating graphic novels in which the male protagonist struggles against his culture's gender role limitations. He wants to be a witch, but he's told he can't because he's a boy.

***The Prince and the Dressmaker***

Jen Wang

Another graphic novel. My own kid has read this about five times. At first I wished the ending weren't so heteronormative, but I've reconsidered. Wang created a male-identified character who is gender non-conforming but didn't make him gay. It both defies a stereotype (that boys with feminine gender-expression are always gay) and clarifies a distinction (that gender identity and sexual identity are not the same).

### ***Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard (Book 2)***

Rick Riordan

Any upper grade teacher will likely have witnessed firsthand the cult-like worship of Rick Riordan and his popular Percy Jackson series. Magnus Chase is a separate series with a similar vibe.

Note: This is not a stand-alone book, but it's one worth mentioning. There is a gender-fluid character folded within the larger narrative, who is not the whole point, just an added dimension to an already rich plot. AND this series, in my experience, has cross-gender appeal.

### ***The Witch Boy***

Molly Osterag

It's the standard feminist setup, flipped. A boy in a matriarchal society wishes to train as a witch, which of course he is forbidden from doing because of his gender. The sequel, *The Hidden Witch*, is also wonderful!

### **More reading recommended by librarians**

**(A.K.A. The-Most-Inclusive-Humans-On-Earth)**

<https://www.cbc.ca/parents/learning/view/librarians-recommend-ten-books-that-deal-with-gender-identity-or-sexuality>

### **Recs from Epic Reads:**

YA Books with LGBTQ Characters

<https://www.epicreads.com/blog/lgbtq-ya-books-pride/>

## **VIDEO LINKS**

Sex and Gender Identity: An Intro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ago78PhUofI>

Range of Gender Identities: From Amaze.org

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i83VQIaDIQw&t=100s>

Storycorps: Mom and transgender son

<https://storycorps.org/stories/jennifer-sumner-and-keyson-ford-181026/>

20/20 with Jazz Jennings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJw3s85EcxM>

12 year old's Ted Talk on Gender: Audrey Mason-Hayde

“Toilets, Bowties, Gender & Me”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCLoNwVJA-0>

Classroom Gender Experiment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3Aweo-74kY&t=3s>

Norway Gender Equality Commercial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nVWBo-YGtI>

<b>MORE RESOURCES TO EXPLORE: For Adults</b>
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**Parenting/Gender Spectrum Website**

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/explore-topics/parenting-and-family/>

**The Gender and Family Project (out of the Ackerman Institute)**

<https://genderandfamilyproject.org/>

Amazing organization right here in NYC with tons of support and services for gender diverse and trans kids and their families.

**An Educator's POV: How to Teach/Support Gender Variance with Young Students**

<https://rethinkingschools.org/articles/its-ok-to-be-neither-teaching-that-supports-gender-variant-children/>

**From Esther Perel: The Language of Gender: Beyond Boy and Girl**

<https://estherperel.com/blog/the-language-of-gender-beyond-boy-and-girl>

**More Esther: Breaking Free from Gender Expectations:**

<https://estherperel.com/blog/breaking-free-from-gender-expectations>

### ***Tomboy***

Lisa Selin Davis

A fascinating history of the word's evolution over time, sprinkled with profiles of folks whose gender expression defied/defies gender norms, and a well-researched argument that gender norms are not fixed, but ever-changing.

### **From Teaching Tolerance: "Supporting Nonbinary Colleagues":**

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/supporting-nonbinary-educators-in-the-workplace>

### **From Teaching Tolerance: "Teaching Kindness Isn't Enough": A 1st grade teacher explains**

[https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2019/teaching-kindness-isnt-enough?utm\\_source=Teaching+Tolerance&utm\\_campaign=fbb7bde5ae-Newsletter+9-17-2019&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_a8cea027c3-fbb7bde5ae-100323131](https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/fall-2019/teaching-kindness-isnt-enough?utm_source=Teaching+Tolerance&utm_campaign=fbb7bde5ae-Newsletter+9-17-2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a8cea027c3-fbb7bde5ae-100323131)

### ***Gender: Your Guide***

By Lee Airton

<https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1507210701?tag=simonsayscom>

### ***The Gender Creative Child***

[https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Creative-Child-Nurturing-Supporting/dp/1615193065/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=the+gender+creative+child&qid=1571654449&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Creative-Child-Nurturing-Supporting/dp/1615193065/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=the+gender+creative+child&qid=1571654449&sr=8-1)

### ***Gender Born, Gender Made***

[https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Born-Made-Gender-Nonconforming-Children/dp/1615190600/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1571654508&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Gender-Born-Made-Gender-Nonconforming-Children/dp/1615190600/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1571654508&sr=8-1)

### **5 Tips for Preventing/Reducing Gender Bias**

<https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/resources-for-families/5-tips-for-preventing-and-reducing-gender-bias>

### **Imagining a Better Boyhood**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/06/imagining-a-better-boyhood/562232/>

### **NY Times: Sweden's Approach: Gender Neutral Pre-Schools**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/24/world/europe/sweden-gender-neutral-preschools.html>

**We Must Teach Emotional Literacy to Boys - Lily Howard Scott (!!)**

**Washington Post Op-Ed**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/11/20/teacher-we-must-teach-emotional-literacy-boys-heres-what-happened-when-i-tried/?utm\\_term=.323302dc6aca](https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2018/11/20/teacher-we-must-teach-emotional-literacy-boys-heres-what-happened-when-i-tried/?utm_term=.323302dc6aca)

**NY Times: Talking to Boys the Way We Talk to Girls**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/15/well/family/talking-to-boys-the-way-we-talk-to-girls.html>

**NY Times: Do Men and Women Have Different Brains?**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/09/books/review/gender-and-our-brains-gina-rippon.html?auth=login-email&login=email>

**NY Times: Draw a Leader**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/16/health/women-leadership-workplace.html>