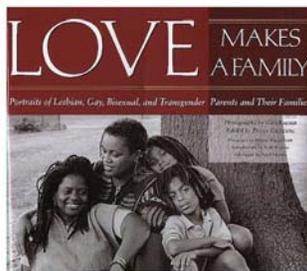


RECOMMENDED LGBT-POSITIVE TITLES FOR BC SCHOOLS

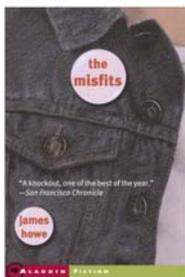
Here is a list of recommended books and resources addressing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender issues that schools are encouraged to have in their collection. All of these are suitable for classroom and library use to address the prescribed learning outcomes in *Personal Planning K-7, Language Arts, Social Studies, Health & Career Education K-7 and 8-9, Planning 10-* or any effort to make your school a affirming space for all students, staff, and families.
Glen Hansman, VSB Antihomophobia & Diversity Consultant

ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL TITLES



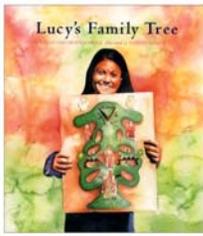
LOVE MAKES A FAMILY
Gigi Kaeser / Peggy Gillespie
ISBN: 1558491619 / All grades

This collection of informal family portraits and interviews with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and their children grew out of a photo exhibit created by photographer Kaeser. Myriad family configurations are presented: gay and lesbian couples, divorced lesbians coparenting, single parents, transgendered parents, and stepparents and their children. From text accompanying the photographs, we learn who these people consider family and why as they speak about their feelings and experiences as part of an LGBT family. The interviews reveal many of the same joys and struggles as found in other families in addition to the challenges of being an LGBT family in a predominantly heterosexual world. Most enlightening are the children's words; some tell of teasing and hostility directed toward them because of their family, while others simply state that they have two moms or two dads and a family is the people who love you.



THE MISFITS
James Howe
ISBN: 0689839561 / Grades 6-8

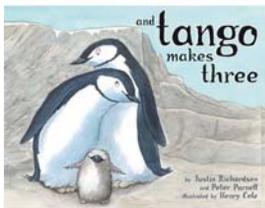
What do a 12-year-old student who moonlights as a tie salesman, a tall, outspoken girl, a gay middle-schooler and a kid branded as a hooligan have in common? Best friends for years, they've all been the target of cruel name-calling and now that they're in seventh grade, they're not about to take it any more. In this hilarious and poignant novel, Howe (*Bunnacula; The Watcher*) focuses on the quietest of the bunch, overweight Bobby Goodspeed (the tie salesman), showing how he evolves from nerd to hero when he starts speaking his mind. Addie (the outspoken girl) decides that the four of them should run against more popular peers in the upcoming student council election. But her lofty ideals and rabble-rousing speeches make the wrong kind of waves, offending fellow classmates, teachers and the principal. It is not until softer-spoken Bobby says what's in his heart about nicknames and taunts that people begin to listen and take notice, granting their respect for the boy they used to call "Lardo" and "Fluff." The four "misfits" are slightly larger than life wiser than their years, worldlier than the smalltown setting would suggest, and remarkably well-adjusted but there remains much authenticity in the story's message about preadolescent stereotyping and the devastating effects of degrading labels. An upbeat, reassuring novel that encourages preteens and teens to celebrate their individuality.



LUCY'S FAMILY TREE

Karen Halvorsen Schreck and Stephen Glassler
ISBN: 0884482251 / Intermediate

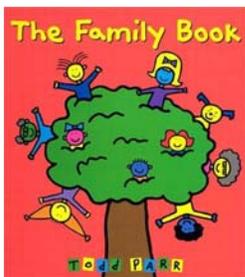
When Lucy comes home from school with a family tree assignment, she asks her parents to write her a note to excuse her from the task. Lucy's adoption from Mexico makes her feel as though her family is too "different," but her parents gently and wisely challenge Lucy to think some more about it and to find three families that are the "same." As Lucy ponders her list of school and family friends who are "normal," she comes to realize that there are many different kinds of families. Her best friend Lucinda has a stay-at-home dad and a working mom. The twins next door look alike and their family matches perfectly, but she discovers that they feel different in their neighborhood because they are Jewish. Her friend Robert has two "moms" who both cheer him on at soccer games, and the parent who attends all of Dora's and Seth's school events is their stepfather. Although her friends the Malones certainly look like an "normal family," Lucy knows they've suffered a loss that doesn't always show on the outside. Lucy wins her bet with her parents in a surprising way and ends up creating a family tree that celebrates both her past and present.



AND TANGO MAKES THREE

Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell, and Henry Cole
ISBN: 0689878451 / Primary

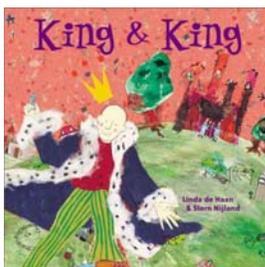
This tale based on a true story about a charming penguin family living in New York City's Central Park Zoo will capture the hearts of penguin lovers everywhere. Roy and Silo, two male penguins, are "a little bit different." They cuddle and share a nest like the other penguin couples, and when all the others start hatching eggs, they want to be parents, too. Determined and hopeful, they bring an egg-shaped rock back to their nest and proceed to start caring for it. They have little luck, until a watchful zookeeper decides they deserve a chance at having their own family and gives them an egg in need of nurturing. The dedicated and enthusiastic fathers do a great job of hatching their funny and adorable daughter, and the three can still be seen at the zoo today.



THE FAMILY BOOK

Todd Parr
ISBN: 0316155632 / K-Grade 3

As he did in *The Mommy Book* and *The Daddy Book*, Todd Parr introduces children to an array of families. Whimsical illustrations featuring neon colors and figures outlined in black show big ones and small ones, and families that look alike and relatives who look just like their pets. Some families include stepmoms, stepdads, stepsisters, or stepbrothers; some adopt children. Other families have two moms or two dads, while some children have only one parent. This concept book celebrating the diversity of family groups is distinguished by its sense of fun.

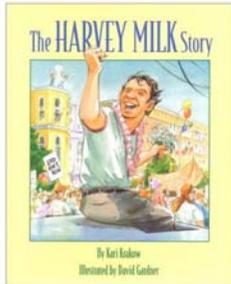


KING AND KING

Linda De Haan and Stern Nijland
ISBN: 1582460612 / Grades 3 and up

In this postmodern fractured fairy tale, a worn-out and badly beleaguered Queen is ready for retirement. After many hours of nagging, the crown prince, who "never cared much for princesses,"

finally caves in and agrees to wed in order to ascend the throne. Their search for a suitable bride extends far and wide, but none of the eligible princesses strikes the Prince's fancy, until Princess Madeleine shows up. The Prince is immediately smitten - with her brother, Prince Lee. The wedding is "very special," the Queen settles down on a chaise lounge in the sun, and everyone lives happily ever after. A joyful celebration that firmly challenges the assumptions established and perpetuated by the entire canon of children's picture books.



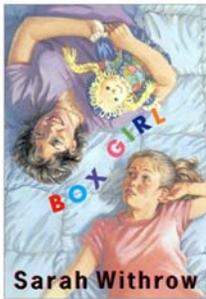
THE HARVEY MILK STORY

Kari Krakow

ISBN: 096744683X / Intermediate

"On a rainy day in January, on the steps of San Francisco's City Hall, Harvey Milk was sworn into office, the first openly gay elected city official in the United States of America. Harvey Milk had made history." In making history that day, Minnie Milk's intelligent, energetic and courageous son "showed the world that by not being afraid to be yourself, you can give others the courage to be proud of who they

are." Harvey's legacy is everywhere today in the hundreds of openly gay elected officials in every level of government, including the United States Congress.



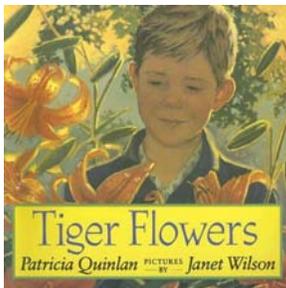
BOX GIRL

Sarah Withrow

ISBN: 0888994079 / Grades 6-8

Gwen is a normal, bright, and independent eighth grader laden down with an unusually self-absorbed family. When her mother, who left five years ago, begins to send her postcards from Europe, the girl begins to invent rituals to cast a spell over them to summon her mother home. Meanwhile, she must endure her school days. Her ex-best friend has moved away. Before she left, Gwen confided to her that life with her father includes Leon, his significant other. Her friend reacted with

homophobic revulsion, and Gwen is determined to shield herself from future friendships. What she hasn't bargained on is a socially clueless and irritatingly persistent classmate dead set on becoming her new friend. The doggedly chipper Clara isn't at all fazed by Gwen's obvious cold shoulder. As the girls' relationship becomes a roller coaster of revealing moments, Gwen finds out that Clara has some complex issues of her own. At this point the girls are able to lay their secrets aside and begin a genuine friendship. Gwen and Clara are believable characters, and Gwen's first-person narrative gives the novel credible perspective. Readers meet a girl treading choppy adolescent waters, complicated further by the discomfort of her home life.



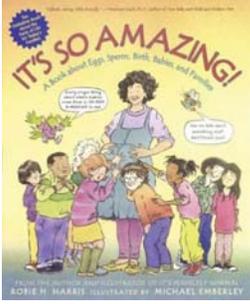
TIGER FLOWERS

Patricia Quinlan and Janet Wilson

ISBN: 1550051393 / Grades 1 - 4

A sensitive look at a young boy's adjustment to the recent loss of his beloved uncle, who died of AIDS. Joel attempts to explain Michael's absence to his three-year-old sister, Tara, and finds solace in looking back over the happy times they shared-building a tree house, planting tiger lilies in the garden, going to baseball games. The text deals in simple terms with the basic realities of the disease, but the

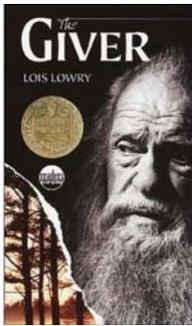
emphasis here placed on the boy's relationship with his uncle. Wilson's illustrations are beautifully done, primarily in apple greens, yellows, and oranges; they are full of sunshine and hope, and underline the family's love and closeness. A compassionate book.



IT'S SO AMAZING

Robbie Harris and Michael Emberley
ISBN: 0763613215 / Intermediate

Perfect for Personal Planning at the intermediate grades. This oversized, attractive guide on reproduction and birth answers common questions such as "Exactly what is sex?" and "Where does the baby actually come out?" The familiar enthusiastic bird and reluctant bee narrate the comic cartoon panels, eventually deciding that the miracles of birth, families, and love are just "so amazing." Readers will appreciate the life-size illustration of a full-term fetus, and adults will be grateful for the many different ways Emberley portrays situations not always easy to explain to children. People are represented with a variety of body shapes and ethnicity, and Harris discusses sexual preferences and alternative family situations. While the illustrations are engaging and often hilarious, factual information is effectively presented in a clear, nonjudgmental tone that will inform and assure readers. Includes LGBT-friendly content.



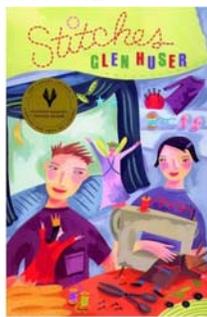
THE GIVER

Lois Lowry
ISBN: 0440237688 / Grade 6 and up

In the "ideal" world into which Jonas was born, everybody has sensibly agreed that well-matched married couples will raise exactly two offspring, one boy and one girl. These children's adolescent sexual impulses ("stirrings") will be stifled with specially prescribed drugs; at age 12 they will receive an appropriate career assignment, sensibly chosen by the community's Elders. This is a world in which the old live in group homes and are "released"--to great celebration--at the proper time; the few infants who do not develop according to schedule are also "released," but with no fanfare. Lowry's development of this civilization is so deft that her readers, like the community's citizens, will be easily seduced by the chimera of this ordered, pain-free society. Until the time that Jonas begins training for his job assignment--the rigorous and prestigious position of Receiver of Memory--he, too, is a complacent model citizen. But as his near-mystical training progresses, and he is weighed down and enriched with society's collective memories of a world as stimulating as it was flawed, Jonas grows increasingly aware of the hypocrisy that rules his world.

SECONDARY SCHOOL TITLES

STITCHES



Glen Huser
ISBN: 0888995784 / Grade 8 and up

Winner of the Governor-General's Literary Award. This dramatic novel, set in a western Canadian town, deals with some tough yet relevant issues, including bullying, spousal abuse, disabilities, and death. Travis's difficult life is examined over a period of three years, beginning in seventh grade. The only real constant in his life is Chantelle, a disfigured girl with a debilitating disease. Picked on unmercifully for no apparent reason by three bullies, Travis finds some balance through artistic expression (designing puppets and performing as a puppeteer), his encouraging teachers, some genuine friendships, and the support of his aunt with whom he lives. Plot development is mapped out well, but the characters are the strongest point here. Readers will empathize with Travis and Chantelle, and the mood of terror

is caught very well. What begins as taunts of "girlie," "fruit fly," and "fag face" escalates quickly. Quotes from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and rich descriptions of Travis's creations help to provide some much-needed contrasting beauty in the story. The dominant theme is obvious-people who are different are made to pay for it in awful ways. Sometimes, the differences can be a pay-off, if you are lucky. Students reading this book will be grateful that Travis is one of the lucky ones.



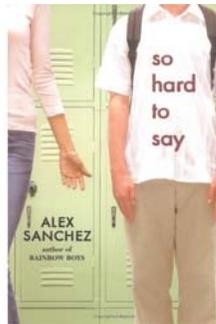
TOUGH LOVE: HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Abby Denson

ISBN: 1933149086 / Grades 8 and up

Inspired by *shounen-ai manga*-melodramatic Japanese comics by girls about gay boys-*Tough Love* is a teen romance and coming-out story about a shy boy named Brian. More realistic than Japanese manga, this story centers on the relationships Brian develops with the boy he likes, Chris, and Julie, the girl who befriends him. Serious issues like gay bashing, suicide, and coming to terms with one's own sexual identity are depicted with an honest, gentle touch. Socially relevant, fun,

immediately accessible, and a bit of a soap opera, *Tough Love* helps gay teenagers to be more comfortable with themselves and less troubled, especially when they're feeling alone and misunderstood.



SO HARD TO SAY

Alex Sanchez

ISBN: 1416911898 / Grade 8-10

Thirteen-year-old Latina chocoholic-chatterbox Xio can't keep her eyes off blond-haired, steel-eyed Frederick, the intriguing transfer student just in from Wisconsin. At first, the soft-spoken newcomer, unsure of his new Southern California junior high and maybe his own sexuality, doesn't know what to make of her pursuits. Slowly and surely, Xio charms her way into his life and soon absorbs him into her group of fabulous girlfriends whom she dubs the "Sexies." Content with this new

niche, and his position on a pick-up soccer team, Frederick gradually becomes aware of Xio's real agenda: to make him her first boyfriend. All the while he finds he can't keep his eyes off Victor, his soccer buddy. Frederick's sexual confusion escalates, as do his dodging techniques when it comes to Xio's advances. However, when she gets him in a closet with her and at last gives him a smooch, things boil up to crises. Adventurous, multifaceted, funny, and unpredictably insightful, Sanchez's novel drops melodramatic pretense and gets well-rounded characterizations with the universal excitement of first love. The action is described through chapters that alternate between Frederick and Xio's points of view, and both voices ring true. The author deftly presents portraits of a boy teetering on the brink of reinvention who must grapple against his own fears that he might be gay and the girl-a high-spirited character whom readers definitely won't forget-who wants him.

BETWEEN MOM AND JO

Julie Anne Peters

ISBN: 0316067105 / Grades 8 and up



Nicholas Nathaniel Thomas Tyler has four first names and two mothers. As the only child in his class with gay parents, he endures the taunts and prejudices of classmates and adults over the years as best he can, drawing reassurance and strength from his parents. Challenges nearly overwhelm him, though, when their relationship ends; Jo moves out, and Nick, now a teenager, is left with Erin, his birth mother. Peters captures

the voice of an adolescent sorting through the memories of his childhood in poignant prose that rings with truth. As Nick develops from a boy to a young man, he must address his own sexuality, his ties to his family, and his need to assert his individuality. This novel is a timely exploration of the struggles faced by same-sex couples and their children, and while the issues are significant, the story is never overwhelmed by them. Because Jo lacks biological or legal relationship to Nick, he can be cut off from her with no recourse, which makes his experience slightly different from that of other children of divorcing parents. This coming-of-age novel powerfully portrays the universal pain of a family breakup. It also portrays what is still a weird situation to many people (as reflected in the behavior of Nick's babysitter) as totally normal from one young man's point of view.



LUNA

Julie Anne Peters

ISBN: 0316011274 / Grade 9 and up

Regan has always been there for her transgender brother, Liam, sacrificing her needs for his, but when he announces that he is ready to transition into Luna permanently, Regan is not sure she can handle the consequences. She has been his confidant all her life, letting Luna dress in her room, buying underwear for her when Liam couldn't, and giving support. However, when the attractive new guy in chemistry class shows

an interest in Regan, she wishes her sibling would just go away and give her a chance to live her own life. Liam realizes that in order for his sister to be free, he, too, must free himself to become the woman who lives inside him. Told from Regan's point of view in the present and in flashback, this novel breaks new ground in YA literature with a sensitive and poignant portrayal of a young man's determination to live his true identity and his family's struggle to accept Luna for who she really is.



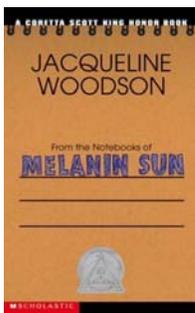
THE CENTRE OF THE WORLD

Andreas Steinhofel

ISBN: 038572943X / Grades 10 and up

Growing up on the edge of a small provincial German town, Phil, 17, knows he is gay, and that his free-spirited mother totally accepts him. All his life he has dreamed of finding the American father who walked out on Mom. Phil loves the gorgeous athlete Nicholas, but Nicholas is afraid to come out in their conservative community, which regards Phil's mother in a negative light and Phil and his twin sister as the "witch's children." Then

Phil makes a shocking discovery that helps him grow up and confront truth and lies about family, friends, and lovers. Weaving together Phil's past and present, this long novel, a prizewinner in Germany, is aching first-person narrative will keep many teens enthralled with the story about secrets and betrayal. Always leaving space for what is not said, tension builds to the very last page.



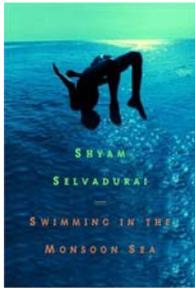
FROM THE NOOTBOOKS OF MELANIN SUN

Jacqueline Woodson

ISBN: 0590458817 / Grades 8 and up

Woodson's perceptively wrought novel imaginatively tackles such weighty issues as racism and sexuality. At age 13, Melanin Sun, an African American boy growing up in Brooklyn with his single mother, sometimes longs for the days when life was as "simple as chocolate cakes and Lego sets." Instead, his feelings grow more complicated after his mother explains that she is gay and in love with Kristin, the white woman whom she has recently invited home. "You're a dyke! A dyke!" he screams at her, enraged. His shock and sense of

alienation are quickly exacerbated when the neighbors begin to gossip and he becomes the object of cruel taunts. Through Melanin's voice, Woodson frankly expresses the resentment and confusion of an adolescent desperately struggling to reestablish normalcy. She shatters stereotypes even as she evokes the tenderness of a mother/son relationship. Offering no easy answers, Woodson teaches the reader that love can lead to acceptance of all manner of differences. A 1996 Coretta Scott King Honor Book, winner of the Jane Addams Peace Award, 1996 Lambda Award, and ALA Best Book for Young Adults.



SWIMMING IN THE MONSOON SEA

Shyam Selvadurai
ISBN: 0887767354 / Grades 9 and up

As lush and languid as its Sri Lanka setting, this novel tells the story of 13-year-old Amrith, whose complicated life becomes even more so with the appearance of his Canadian cousin, Niresch. Amrith lives with his adoring godmother and her supportive family in 1980 Colombo. But although he lives in luxury, he is poverty-stricken when it comes to knowing his own family.

There is mystery surrounding the death of his beloved mother and alcoholic father, and because of the circumstances of his parents' marriage, his extended family shuns him. So when Niresch turns up with his father, who has come to sell off family property, Amrith is anxious to make a connection. Eventually, he realizes his feelings for Niresch go beyond friendship, which finally makes him aware of his sexual identity. What captures readers is the way the story rolls in waves, mimicking how Amrith looks at himself, then looks away. The luxuriant language, with details of architecture and verdant gardens, doesn't call attention to itself, but refreshes like a breeze.

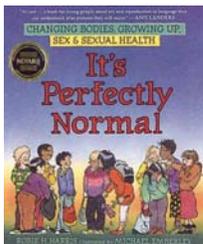


KEEPING YOU A SECRET

Julia Anne Peters
ISBN: 0316009857 / Grades 9 and up

Holland Jaeger goes steady with a good-looking boy and contemplates attending an Ivy League college in the fall. Then she meets "out-and-proud" lesbian Cece Goddard, and her life changes. Within a matter of weeks, the two begin an affair that eventually leads to a committed relationship.

Holland loses old friends, encounters vicious discrimination, and is thrown out of the house by her hysterical mother. She finds help at the local Gay Resource Center, however, and begins to look forward to attending a local college after high school, with Cece by her side. Peters knows how to tell an intriguing story. However, while both teens are likable, believable characters, the confidence with which Cece proudly proclaims her sexual orientation at school strains credibility. This aside, the antigay slurs, viciousness, and prejudice the girls endure certainly leave an indelible impression.



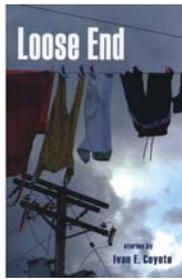
IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL

Robbie Harris and Michael Emberley
ISBN: 0763624330 / Grades 7 and up

In this intelligent, amiable and carefully researched book, Harris frankly explains the physical, psychological, emotional and social changes that occur during puberty--and the implications of these changes. Taking a conversational, relaxed tone, Harris also discusses such subjects as sexual orientation, sexual reproduction, pregnancy, birth control, sexually

transmitted diseases and sexual abuse. Alternately playful and realistic, Emberley's watercolor-and-pencil art reinforces Harris's message that bodies come in all sizes, shapes and colors--and that each variation is "perfectly normal." Cartoon panels illustrate various complicated processes (e.g., menstruation, the fertilization of an egg, childbirth). Appearing on each

spread are two characters--an easy-going bird and an apprehensive bee--whose comments add levity to this solid volume.

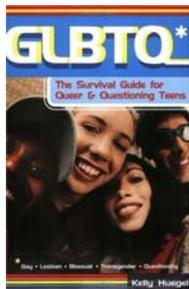


LOOSE END

Ivan E. Coyote

ISBN: 155152192X / Grades 11 and up

Ivan E. Coyote has developed a reputation as one of North America's most disarming storytellers; her tales of life on the roads and trails of the North as well as rural America are rich in their plainspoken, honest truths. In *Loose End*, her third story collection, Ivan focuses her attention on the city: urban life, specifically in the East End of Vancouver, a diverse neighborhood of all types - old, young, gay, straight, white, black, Asian - communing at local coffee bars over hot rods, the art of skinny-dipping, and changes in the weather. Ivan presides over this circus of activities with her cool gaze, whether it's trying to impress the woman with the hot tub next door, or showing her mother how to use a cordless drill. Ivan's world is the world of being out and open and unafraid; it's also a world in which no ghettos - racial, cultural, or defined by sexuality or gender - exist. With the calm, observant eye of a master storyteller, Ivan E. Coyote shows us how to break free of the rigors of authority and be true to ourselves, warts and all.



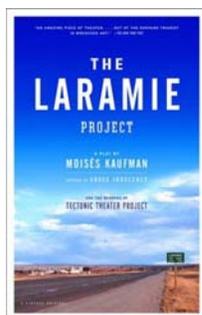
GLBTO:

The Survival Guide for Queer and Questioning Teens

Kelley Huegel

ISBN: 1575421267 / Grades 9 and up

Huegel has written an indispensable guide for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teens, as well as for their straight peers and parents. In 11 candid, fact-filled, nonjudgmental chapters, she covers every aspect of being GLBTO-- from coming out to homophobia, from religion and culture to sex and sexuality. She devotes an entire chapter to transgender teens, a group that is often ignored or misunderstood. The tone is always supportive and matter-of-fact, Huegel's recommendations are sensible and practical, and apposite quotations from young people who have "been there" enrich the text. The book, designed for browsing, also contains an extraordinary number of references to additional resources--many of them online--as well as a glossary and a bibliography. One of the best one-volume sources of information available about being GLBTO.



THE LARAMIE PROJECT

Moises Kaufman

ISBN: 0375727191 / Grades 9 and up

This remarkable play takes the form of a series of juxtaposed monologues, culled from hundreds of interviews that the authors conducted with residents of Laramie, WY, after the fatal beating of Matthew Shepard in 1998. Additional speeches are taken from journals the authors kept while they were involved in this project. From these fragments, a powerful whole is created, giving readers and audiences a full and shimmering picture of a quiet town suddenly thrust into the media spotlight and hastily branded as "backward." Shepard's friends are heard from, as are the friends of his convicted killers. Masterfully woven together to breathtaking effect are statements from Laramie's religious leaders--some of whom condemn the murder, others of whom condemn the victim. A thoughtful and moving theatrical tour de force.



THE WARS
Timothy Findley
ISBN: various / Grade 10 and up

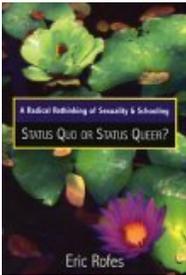
Timothy Findley's slim, dense novel *The Wars* offers nothing short of an explanation of human violence. However alien or mad Findley's World War I events become, war itself is repeatedly depicted as damnably quotidian. A front-line nurse confesses, "the passions involved were as ordinary as me and my sister fighting over who's going to cook the dinner. And who won't." Bringing Dostoyevsky's moral palette to the trenches of the Great War, *The Wars* seems compelled to reveal how the same men who save one another's lives will also torture trench rats or stray cats for sport. Informed, compassionate, and insightful, *The Wars* is uniquely sensitive to the causes of social division *and* union.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES



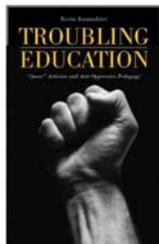
AGAINST COMMON SENSE:
Teaching and Learning Toward Social Justice
Kevin Kumashiro
ISBN: 0415948576

Drawing on his own experience teaching diverse grades and subjects, Kevin Kumashiro examines aspects of teaching and learning toward social justice, and suggests concrete implications for K-12 teachers and teacher educators. Full of original insights and cutting-edge ideas, *Against Common Sense* presents a compelling case and a clear moral vision for anti-oppressive education. Providing in-depth examples from different curricular areas, this book is essential for anyone interested in understanding what is entailed and what it means to teach for social justice.



A RADICAL RETHINKING OF SEXUALITY AND SCHOOLING:
Status Quo or Status Queer
Eric E. Rofes
ISBN: 0742541959

A Radical Rethinking of Sexuality and Schooling offers a startling and original critique of unexamined assumptions and liberal notions about sexuality and education in the United States. Tackling issues ranging from anti-gay harassment in school to children's literature on gay themes, gender performances of teachers to HIV education, graduate school programs in education to gay men's sexual cultures, Eric Rofes presents a compelling argument for the creation of a second generation of activism focused on queers, schools, and education.



TROUBLING EDUCATION:
Queer Activism and Anti-Oppressive Education
Kevin K. Kumashiro
ISBN: 0415933129

Today, teachers find themselves mandated to address social and cultural difference in their policies and classroom practices. Yet, the question of how to address difference is far from clear. *Troubling Education* offers a rare alternative to oversimplified, highly abstract, or technologizing approaches to this question. Kumashiro grapples with concrete questions of classroom practice in context--a task

informed throughout by his innovative take on theorizing difference and social change. While several books have discussed the need for anti-oppressive school environments, few have addressed actual research for teachers to turn to as resources for classroom practice. Kumashiro draws on interviews with queer activists as a starting point for discussion of different models of reading and challenging oppression. It is through these personal stories that the complex theory and methodology Kumashiro presents gains particular relevance for creating actual pedagogical practice.



THE NEW GAY TEENAGER

Ritch Savin-Williams

ISBN: 0674016734

In this lively and broadly researched book, Cornell University psychologist Savin-Williams reveals that the words gay teenagers use to describe their sexual preferences have changed radically over the past 30 years, and so have their attitudes towards same-sex relationships. In fact, many of them are reluctant to define their sexuality at all. "In some respects," Savin-Williams explains, "these teenagers might relate better to their pre-labeled, pre-identified grandparents than they do with their gay-liberated parents or their gay-resigned older cousins." "For them 'gay' carries too much baggage," and apparently they get along just fine without it. Much of the volume is devoted to Savin-Williams's detailed critique of the psychological models currently used to study gay adolescence, which were developed in the 1970s and have barely changed since. These old models, Savin-Williams argues, don't reflect the diversity of the current gay adolescent experience and should be replaced with a "differential developmental trajectories perspective." His book is an excellent resource for professional psychologists with gay patients, but it also contains enough invigorating, real-world case studies to interest general readers.

If you have any questions about these titles, or would like information about any others, please do not hesitate to contact Jody Polukoshko or Glen Hansman, the VSB's Antihomophobia & Diversity consultants, at pride@vsb.bc.ca