

LGBTQIA+ YA Readers' Advisory – Inclusion for an Elusive Patron Population

Jenny Fry, Amanda Wilk, Robert Bittner
OLA Super Conference
January 29, 2016

The background is a vibrant rainbow spectrum of colors radiating from the top center. The colors transition from green on the left, through yellow and orange, to red and purple on the right. A white rounded rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the main title text.

LGBTQ+ Folks & Public Libraries

Libraries Change Lives

Equality of Service

**Where are we
coming from?**

The research (so far)

Libraries

WERE: #1 source of information

Internet is NOW #1

NOW: #1 for free anonymous internet
access to find information

The Basics

- First words
- Body language
- Approachability
- Knowing good search terms
- Age appropriateness
- That crucial concluding statement
- Objectivity

The Basics

- Know the issues
- Language
- Reaction
- Policies



GLAAD Media Reference Guide - Terms To Avoid

Offensive: "homosexual" (n. or adj.)

Preferred: "gay" (adj.); "gay man" or "lesbian" (n.); "gay person/people"

Please use gay or lesbian to describe people attracted to members of the same sex. Because of the clinical history of the word "homosexual," it is aggressively used by anti-gay extremists to suggest that gay people are somehow diseased or psychologically/emotionally disordered – notions discredited by the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association in the 1970s. Please avoid using "homosexual" except in direct quotes. Please also avoid using "homosexual" as a style variation simply to avoid repeated use of the word "gay." The Associated Press, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* restrict use of the term "homosexual" (*see AP & New York Times Style*).

Offensive: "homosexual relations/relationship," "homosexual couple," "homosexual sex," etc.

Preferred: "relationship," "couple" (or, if necessary, "gay couple"), "sex," etc.

Identifying a same-sex couple as "a homosexual couple," characterizing their relationship as "a homosexual relationship," or identifying their intimacy as "homosexual sex" is extremely offensive and should be avoided. These constructions are frequently used by anti-gay extremists to denigrate gay people, couples and relationships.

As a rule, try to avoid labeling an activity, emotion or relationship gay, lesbian, or bisexual unless you would call the same activity, emotion or relationship "straight" if engaged in by someone of another orientation. In most cases, your readers, viewers or listeners will be able to discern people's sexes and/or orientations through the names of the parties involved, your depictions of their relationships, and your use of pronouns.



103



533



The Basics

- Biases
- Mirror self-descriptors & self-chosen pronouns
- Cisgender

The Basics

- Read widely
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, intellectual freedom, and censorship
- Displays
- Booklists
- Staff training

COMPLETE LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lambda Literary Award (Lammy) Finalists and Winners

[2015 – 27th LLA](#)[2014 – 26th LLA](#)[2013 – 25th LLA](#)[2012 – 24th LLA](#)[2012 – 24th LLA](#)[2011 – 23rd LLA](#)[2010 – 22nd LLA](#)[2009 – 21st LLA](#)[2008 – 20th LLA](#)[2007 – 19th LLA](#)[2006 – 18th LLA](#)[2005 – 17th LLA](#)[2004 – 16th LLA](#)[2003 – 15th LLA](#)[2002 – 14th LLA](#)[2001 – 13rd LLA](#)[2000 – 12nd LLA](#)[1999 – 11st LLA](#)[1998 – 10th LLA](#)[1997 – 9th LLA](#)[1996 – 8th LLA](#)[1995 – 7th LLA](#)[1994 – 6th LLA](#)[1993 – 5th LLA](#)[1992 – 4th LLA](#)[1991 – 3rd LLA](#)[1990 – 2nd LLA](#)[1989 – 1st LLA](#)

Pioneer Award Recipients

- 2015- Rita Mae Brown
- 2014 – Kate Bornstein
- 2013 – Cherrie Moraga
- 2012 – Armistead Maupin and Kate Millett

For Extra Credit

- Visibility
- Pride display
- Connect



For Extra Credit

- Participate
- Programming
- Resource lists

For Extra Credit

- Outreach
- Events
- RA tools
- Gay/Straight Alliances (GSAs)

For Your Consideration: RA Tools

- Bibliocommons booklists
- Printed booklists
- Bookmarks
- Engaging staff
 - Staff SRC
 - Staff blog
 - Regular branded intranet posts

For Your Consideration: Library Policies

- Board policies
- Collection access
- Web access
- Community development
- Library access

For Your Consideration: Library Policies

- Community advocacy
- Selection criteria
- Promotion and marketing
- Professional development
- Reconsideration of materials

To-Do List: Cataloguing & Collections

306.76 – Sexual orientation

306.762 – Asexuality

306.764 – Heterosexuality

306.765 – Bisexuality

306.766 – Homosexuality

306.7662 – Male homosexuality (gay men)

306.7663 – Lesbianism

306.768 – Transgenderism

306.7681 – Transsexualism

To-Do List:

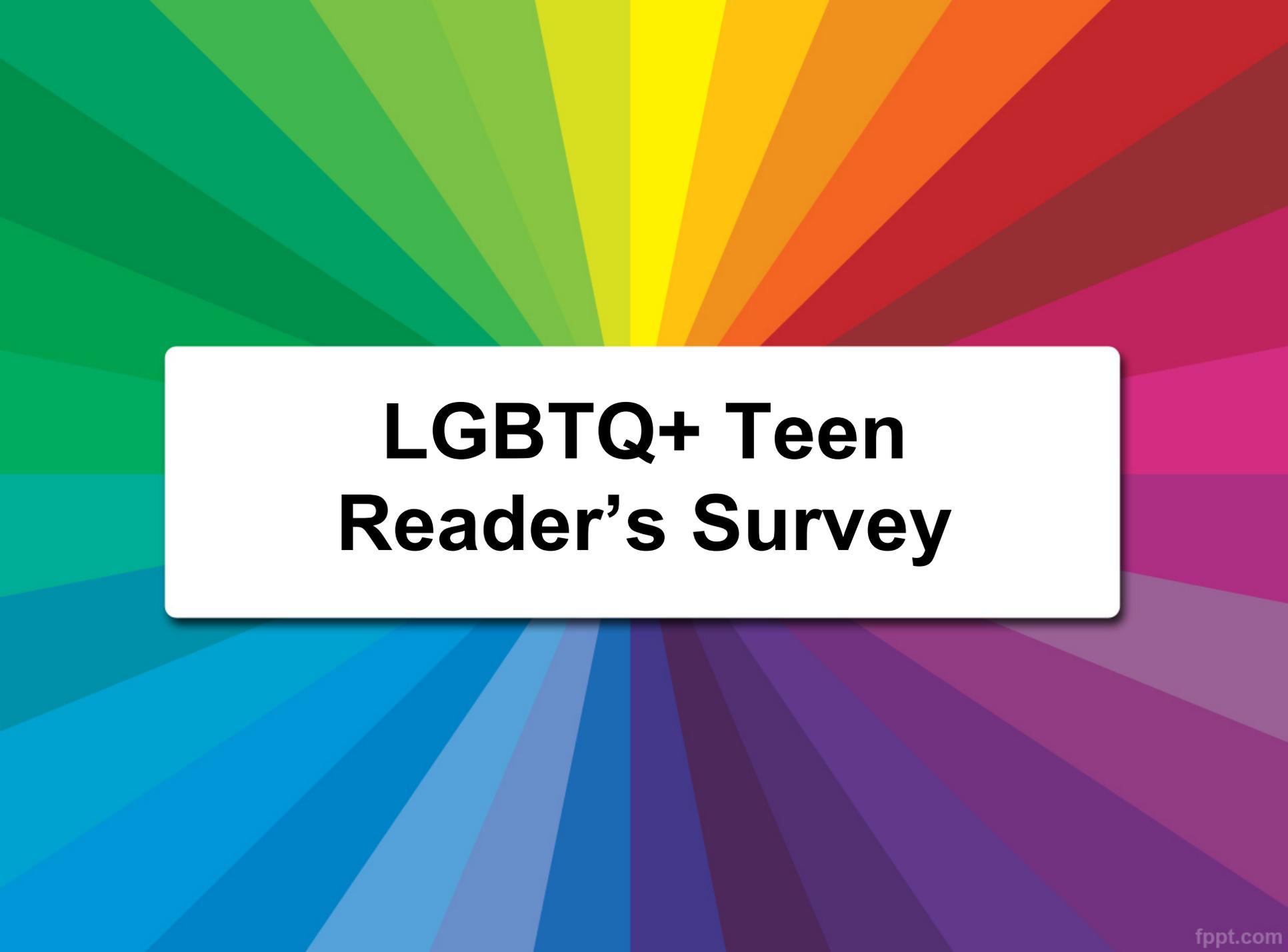
- Access
- Ask
- Appoint an in-house LGBTQ+ Champion!





Libraries Change Lives

Thank you.

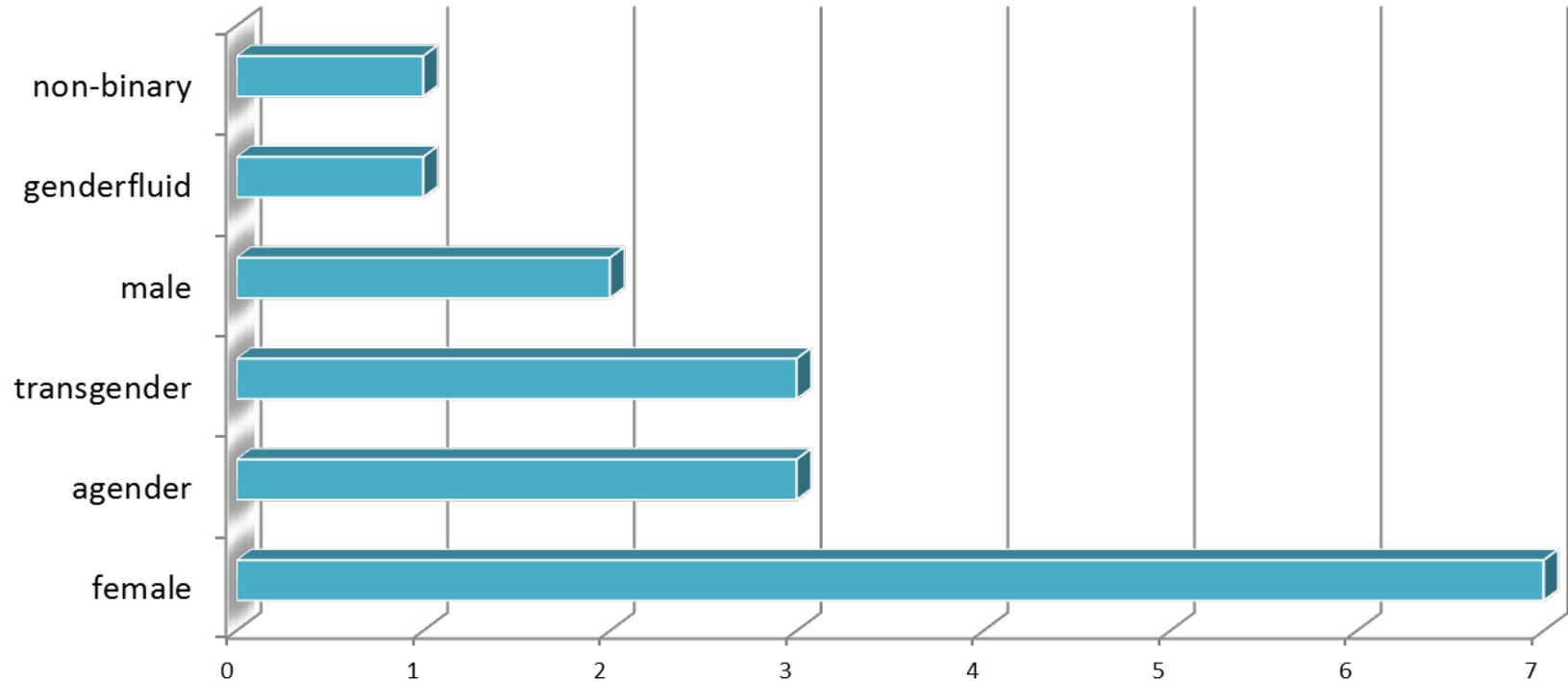
A vibrant background featuring a rainbow sunburst pattern. The colors transition from green on the left, through yellow and orange in the center, to red and purple on the right. The rays of the sunburst are composed of multiple overlapping, semi-transparent bands of color.

LGBTQ+ Teen Reader's Survey

Data Collection

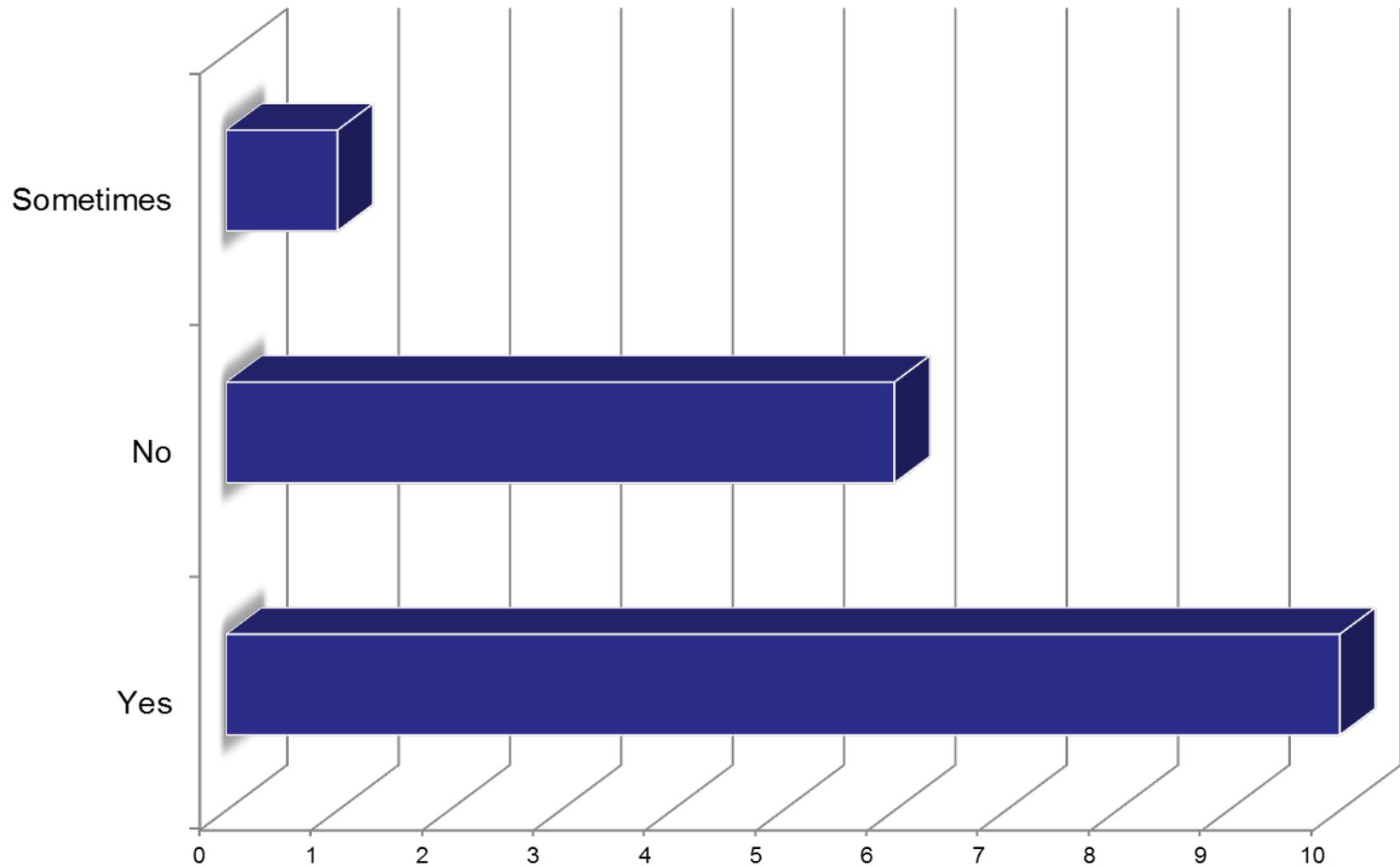
- Collected April 8th to Dec 14th 2015
- Librarians
- GSA.ca
- Youth group outreach
- 35 respondents

How do you identify your gender?

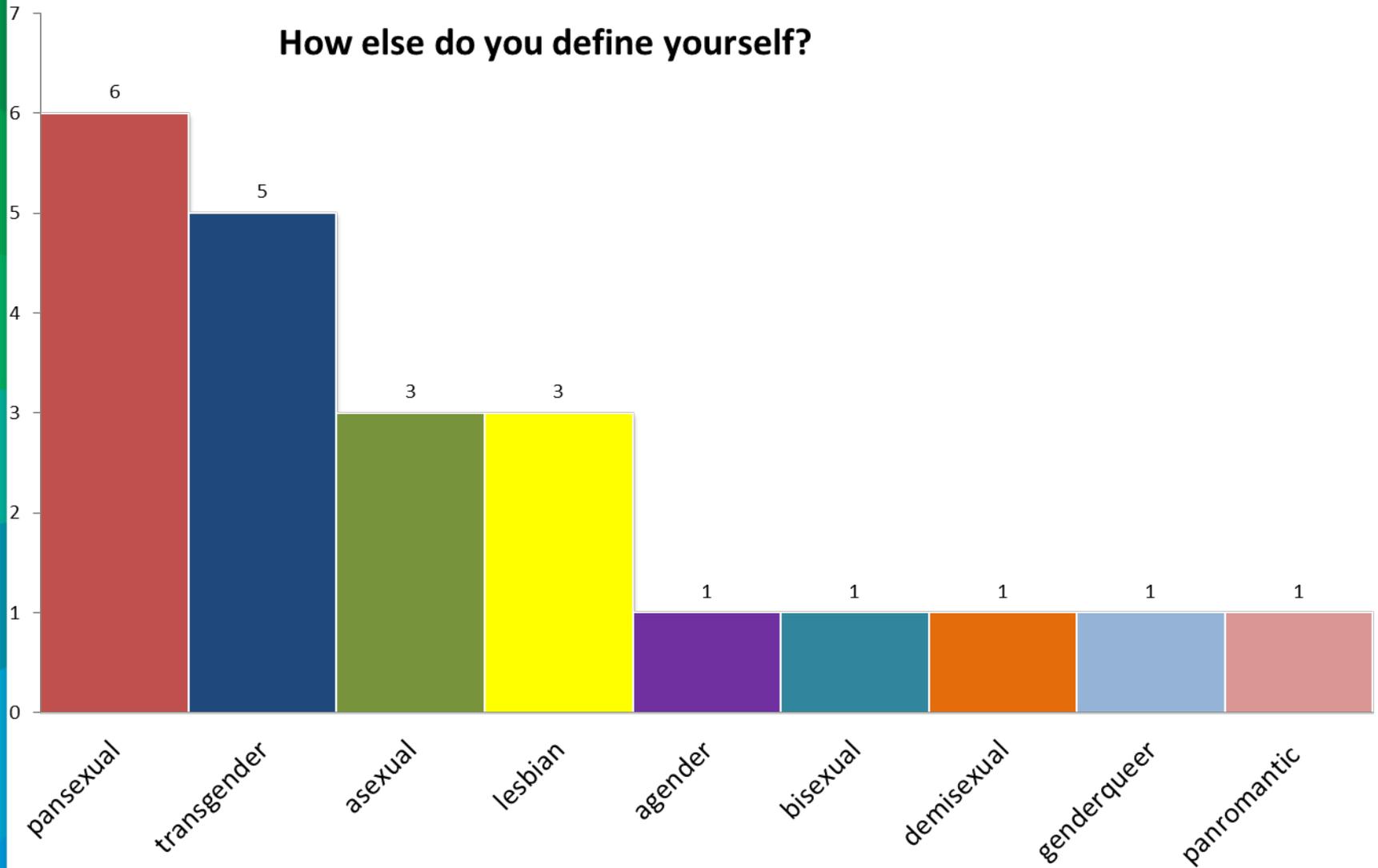


“I am slowly informing others about my chosen gender, on social media I go by my male name but at home (since my family doesn't really react positively) I go by my female and given name.”

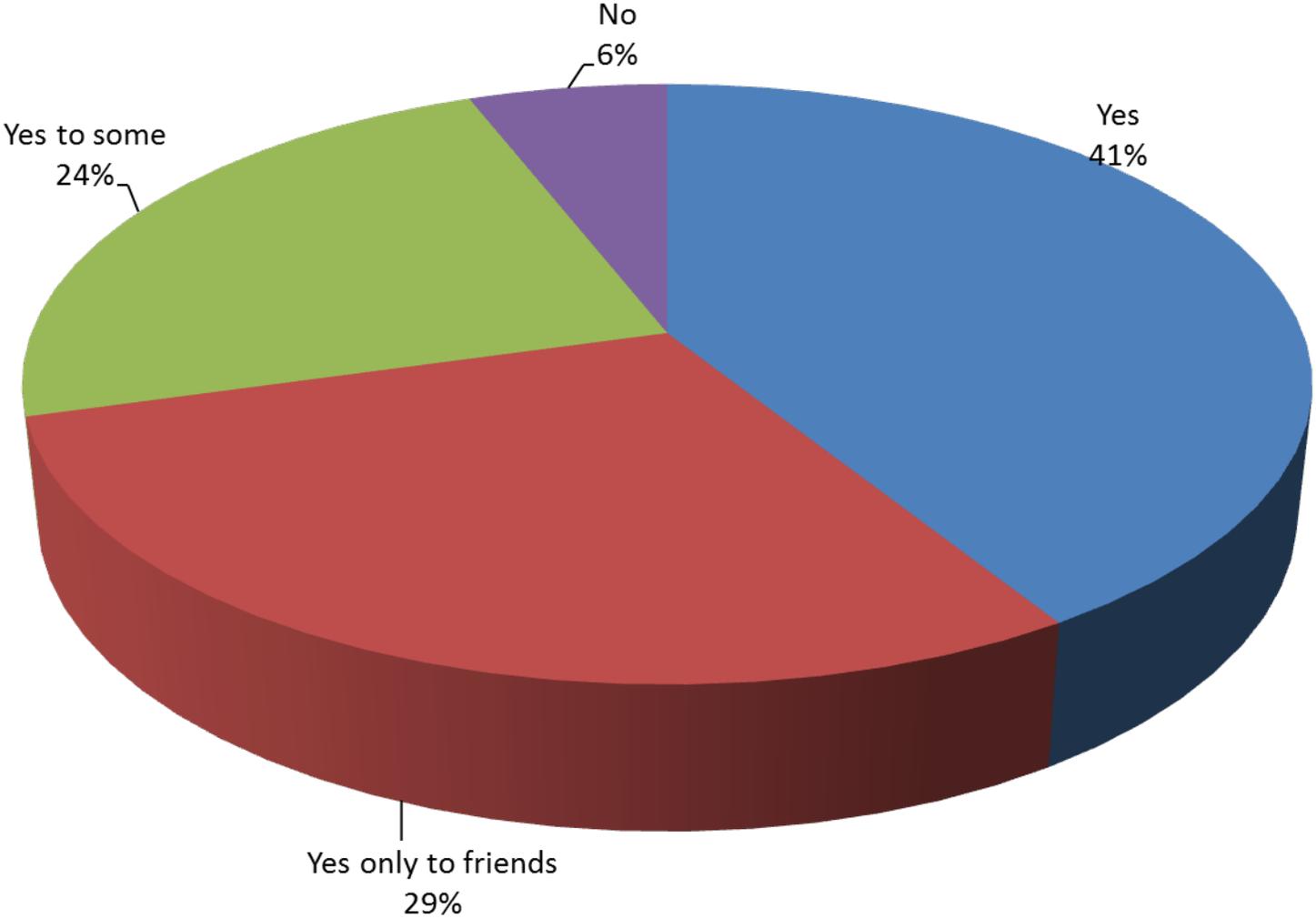
Do you present your gender to the world in the same way that you personally identify?



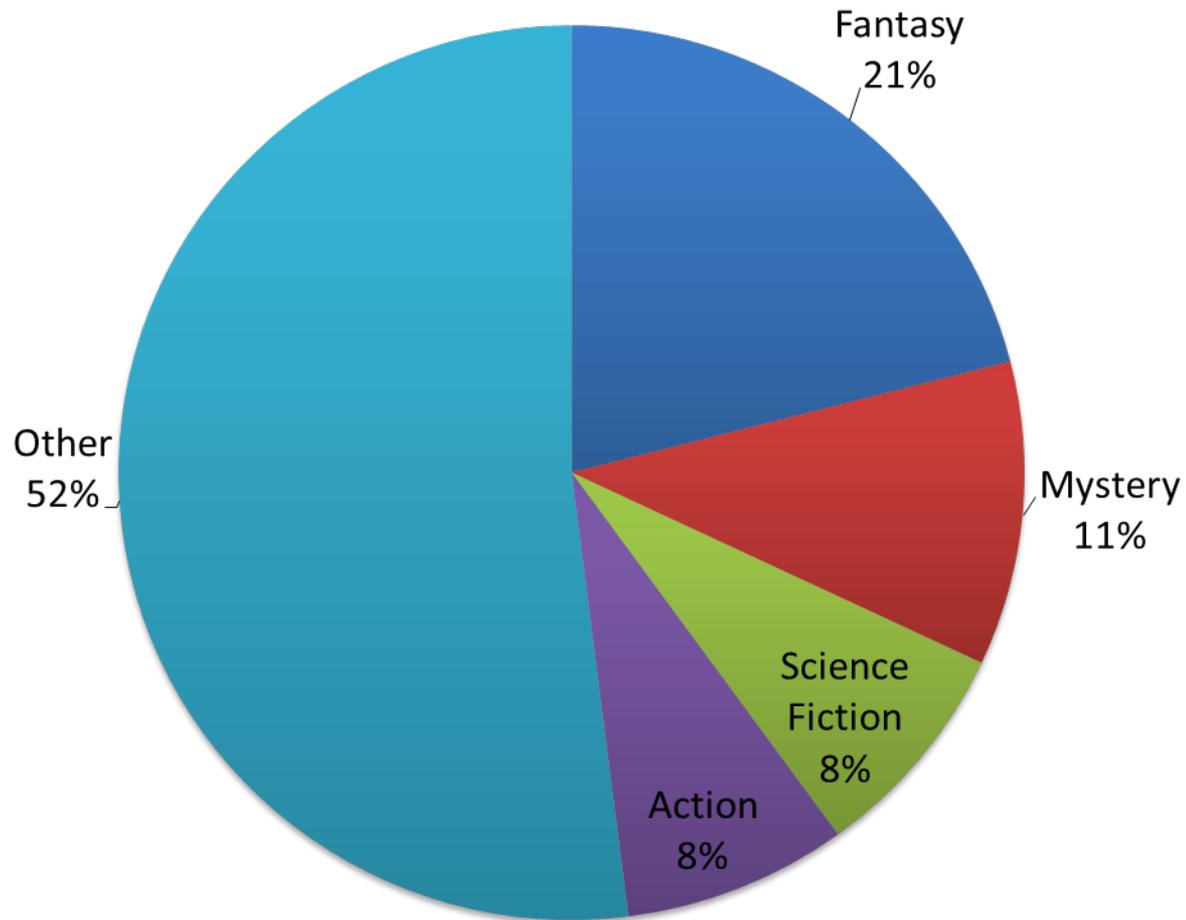
How else do you define yourself?



Do you define yourself the same way in public?

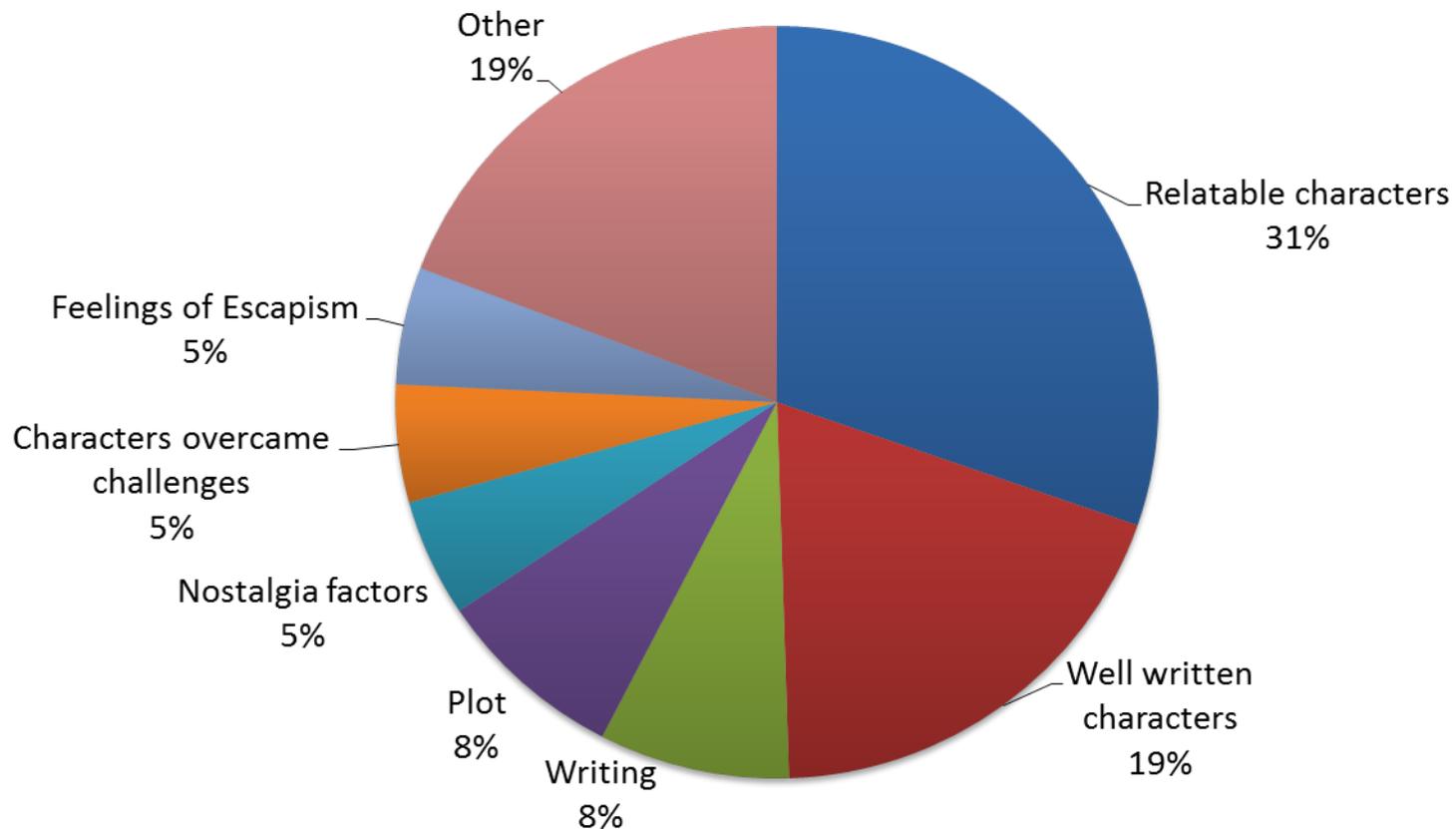


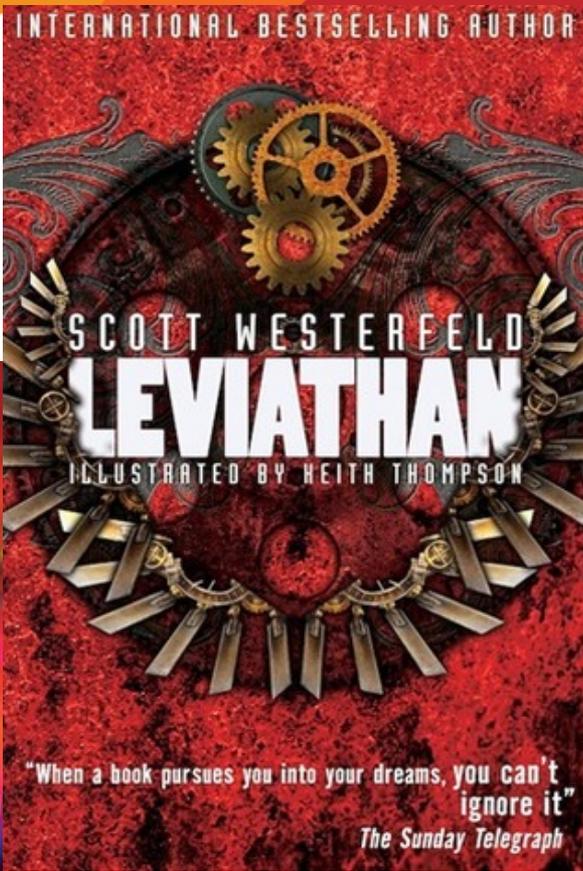
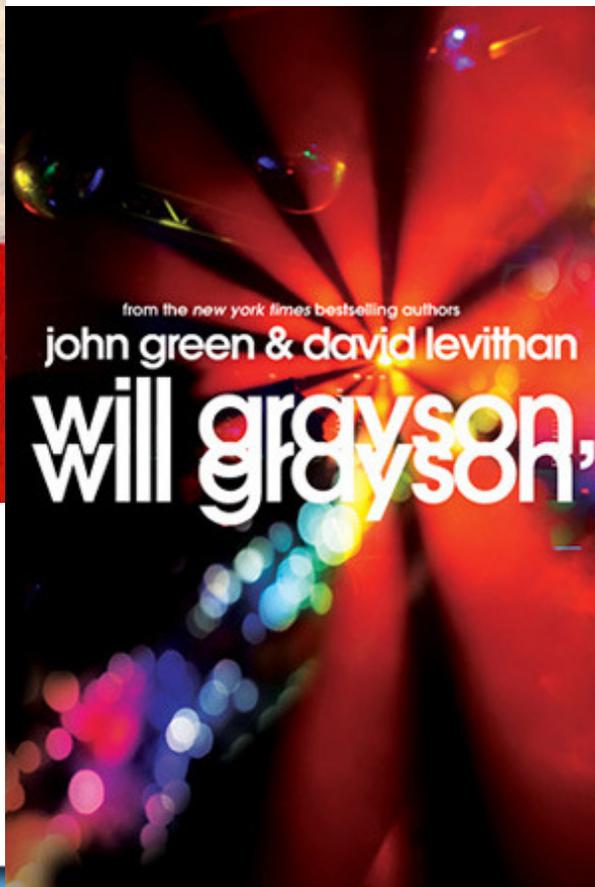
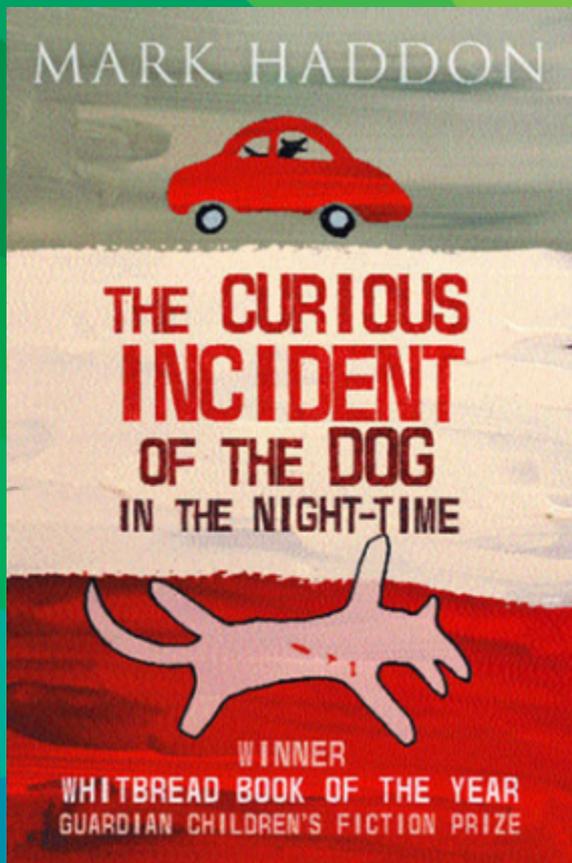
Favourite Genres



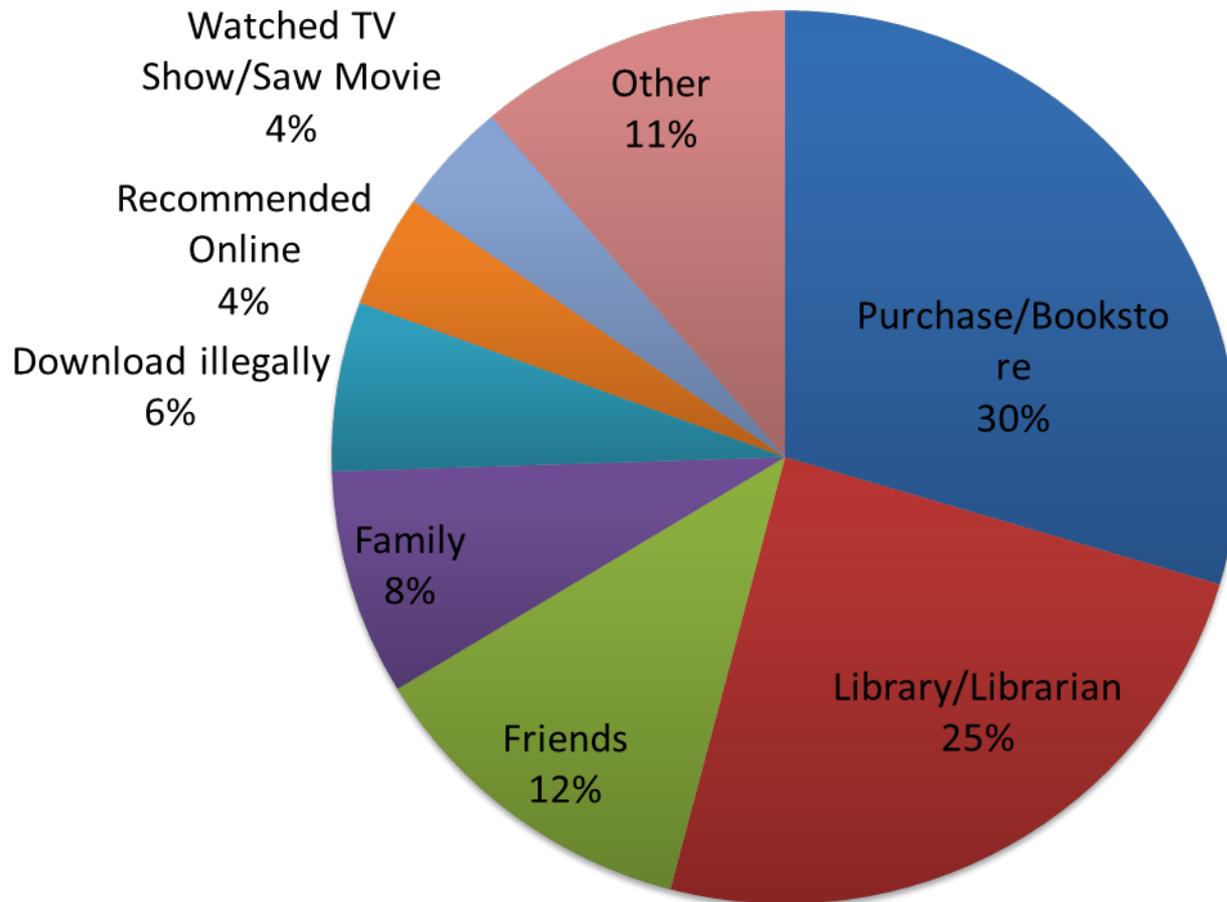
“#Relatable”

What made the book special to you?





How do you find books?



What do you like about how you find books?

Easy

Intimate

Customized

Social

Private

Serendipitous

Wide Selection

Best Case Scenarios for Finding Books

Person

- Kind
- Open minded
- Knowledgeable
- Experienced writer
- Myself
- Very descriptive
- Outgoing
- Who has read the book
- Someone who has read a lot and many genres
- Have similar life experiences to me
- Someone who likes to look through others eyes and think about things in a different light
- Intuitive
- Intersectional feminists

Place

- Alone
- Massive library/ Library with all the books in the world
- Old bookstore or library



Thing

- Online tool
- Online (it is easier)
- Computer program that has read the books
- Talking computer with emotions
- Blogs tailored to my tastes
- A Pokedex
- A Brain Scan
- A Psychological test
- Immediately Accessible in Brain
- Lists by genre

Charmander #004



The flame that burns at the tip of its tail is an indication of its emotions. The flame wavers when Charmander is enjoying itself. If the Pokémon becomes enraged, the flame burns fiercely.

Versions:  

Height	Category
2' 00"	Lizard
Weight	Abilities
18.7 lbs	Blaze 
Gender	
 	

Type

Fire

Weaknesses

Ground Rock Water

Stats

HP	Attack	Defense	Special Attack	Special Defense	Speed
69	85	65	85	75	100

Evolutions

Charmander #004 > Charmeleon #005 > Charizard #006

What would you ask?

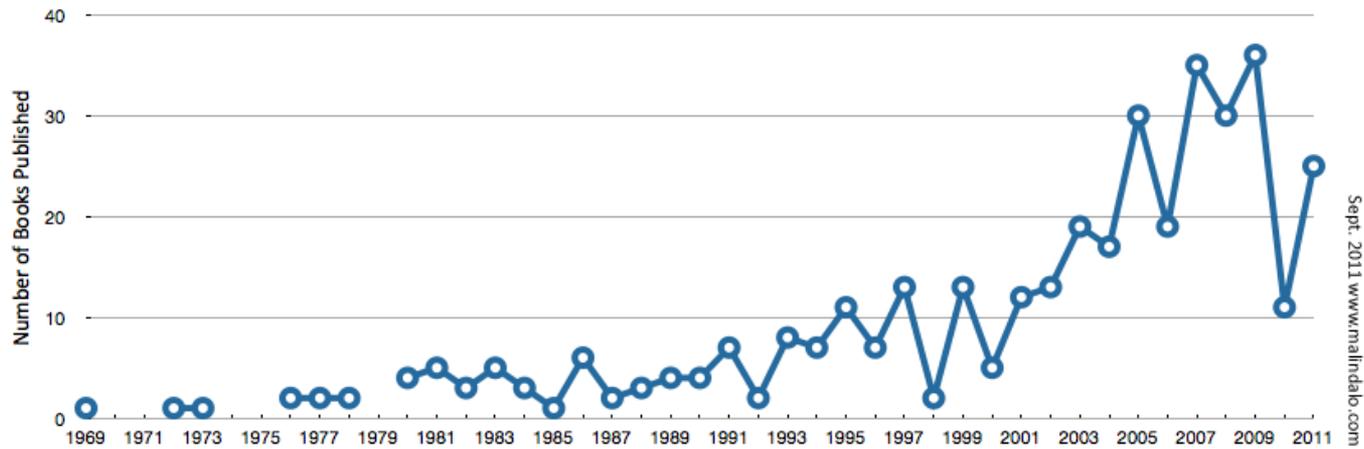
- Are the characters relatable?
- Give me something that will make me think
- For fantasy books with main LGBT characters which don't just focus on coming out
- What are good books for me?
- For a synopsis, the type of story and the type of ending it has

- Does this book have cissexism, gender roles, nb-erasure, homophobia, racism, ableism, sex-worker support, non-monogamous characters, people dealing with internalized misogyny/homophobia... etc.

The background of the slide is a vibrant rainbow spectrum of colors, transitioning from green on the left, through yellow and orange in the center, to red and purple on the right. A white rectangular box with rounded corners is centered on the slide, containing the main title text.

LGBTQ Reading Lists and Recommended Resources

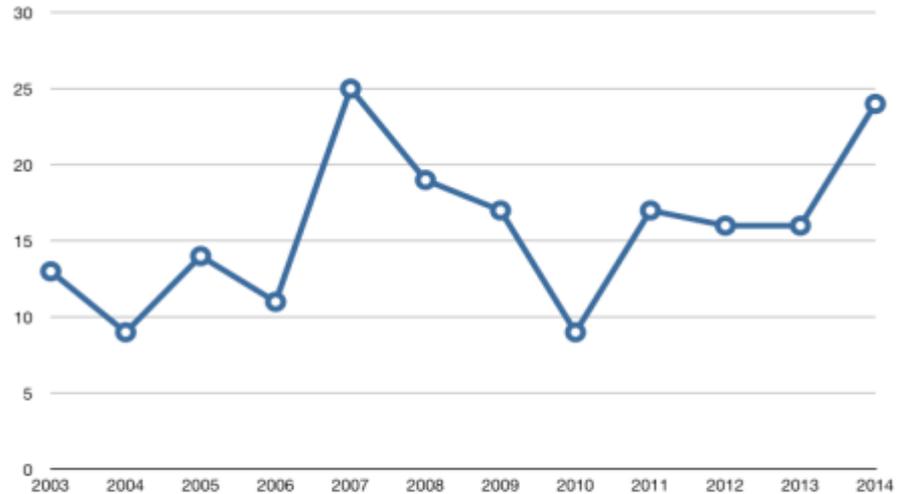
LGBT YA Novels, 1969-2011



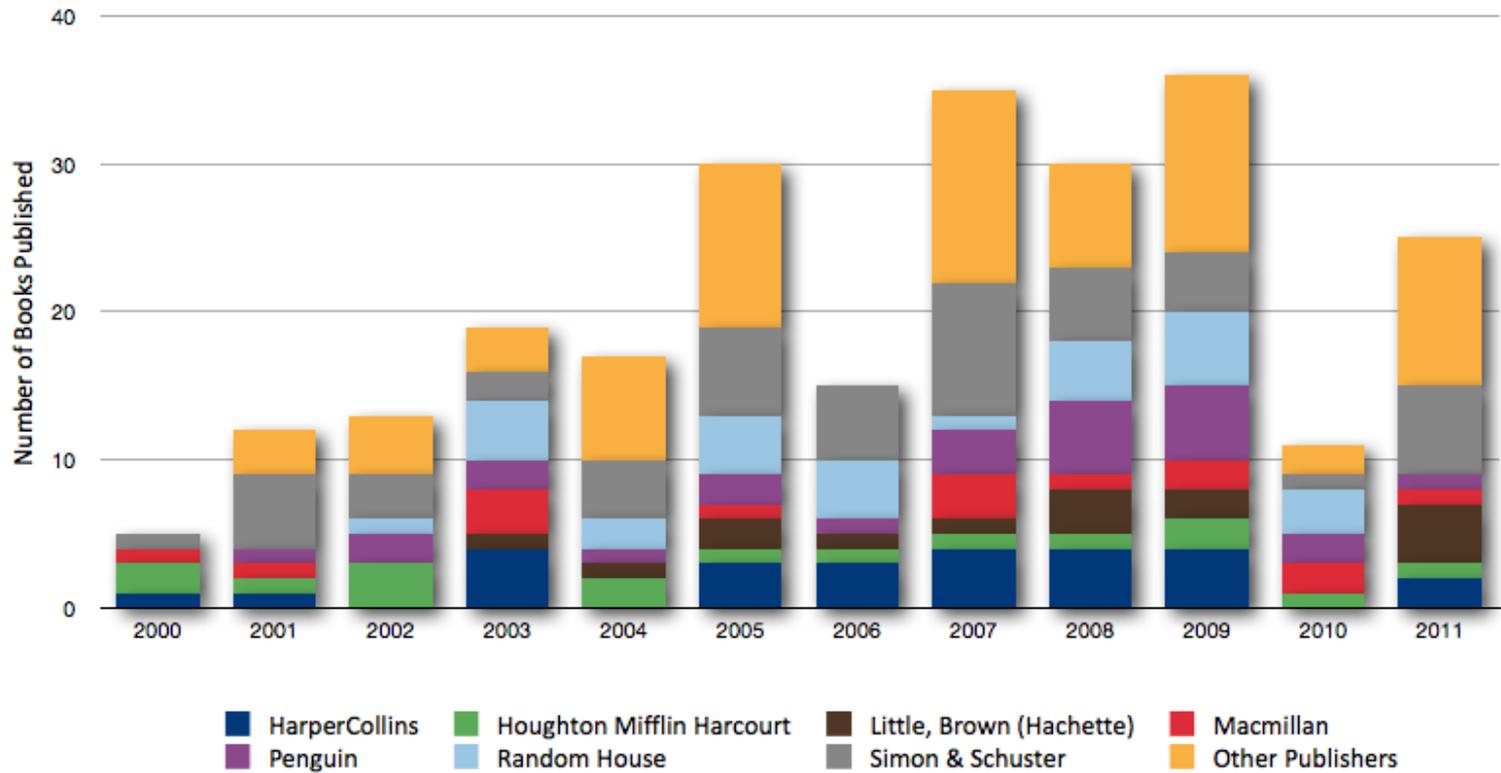
Sept. 2011 www.malindalo.com

<http://www.malindalo.com/2014/12/2014-lgbt-ya-by-the-numbers/>

LGBT YA Books Published by Major Publishers by Year

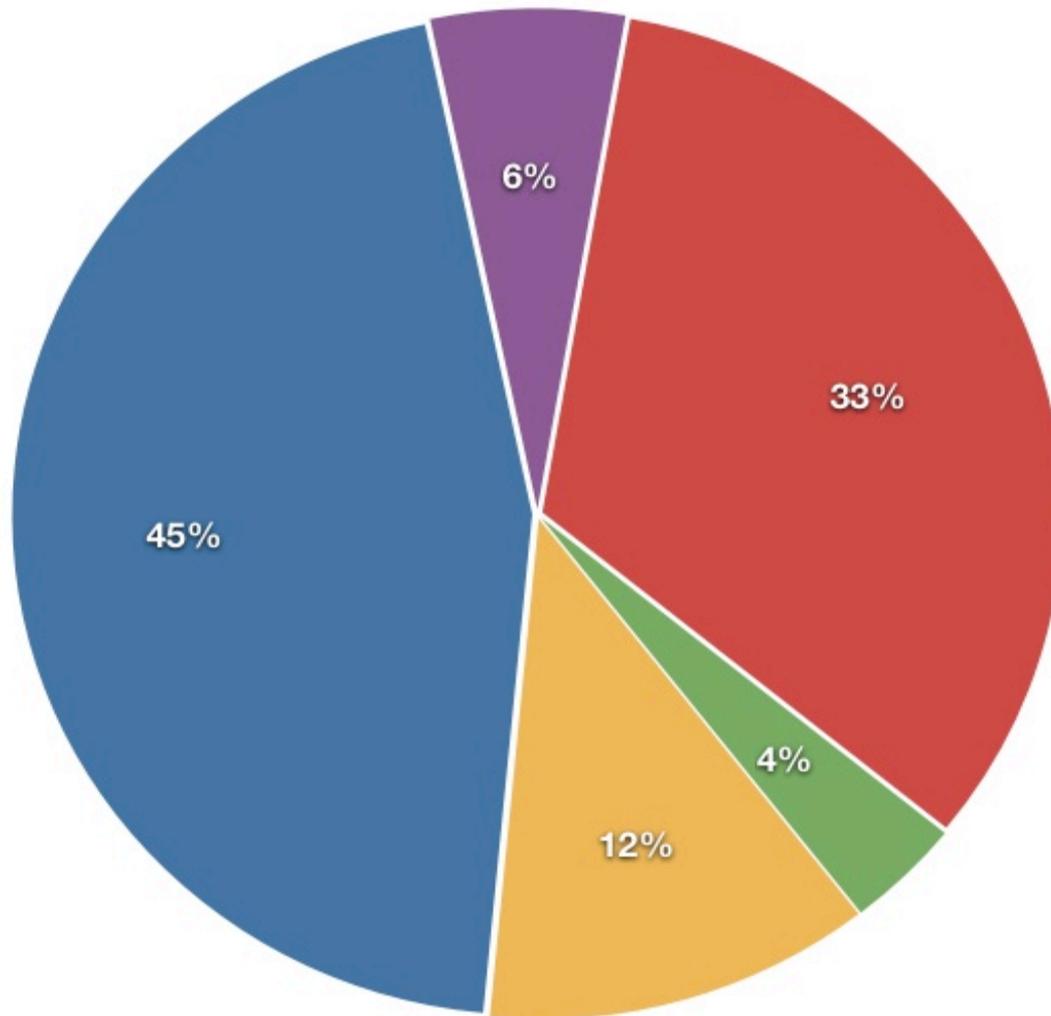


LGBT YA Novels by Year/Publisher, 2000-2011



<http://www.malindalo.com/2014/12/2014-lgbt-ya-by-the-numbers/>

LGBT YA 2003-13: LGBT Content



- Cisgender Male Main Character
- Multiple LGBT Main Characters
- Cisgender Female Main Character
- Transgender Main Character
- Issue

Book Lists

[daisyporter.org/queerya]



[www.leewind.org]



I'M HERE. I'M QUEER. WHAT THE HELL DO I READ?

[gayya.org]



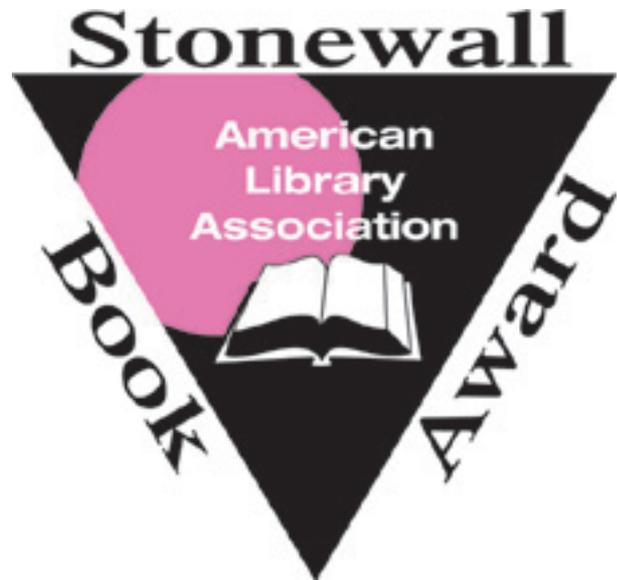
Contains Six Master Lists:

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual (Pansexual/Polysexual)
- Transgender (Nonbinary)
- Intersex
- Asexual/Aromantic (demisexual/romantic)

[glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/about]

Rainbow List Top Ten (2016)

- *Gracefully Grayson* (Ami Polonsky)
- *The Marvels* (Brian Selznick)
- *Sex is a Funny Word: A Book About Bodies, Feelings, and YOU* (Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth)
- *Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda* (Becky Albertalli)
- *Cut Both Ways* (Carrie Mesrobian)
- *When Everything Feels Like the Movies* (Raziel Reid)
- *Fans of the Impossible Life* (Kate Scelsa)
- *Forgive Me If I've Told You This Before* (Karelia Stetz-Waters)
- *Breakthrough* (Jack Andraka and Matthew Lysiak)
- *SuperMutant Magic Academy* (Jillian Tamaki)



The first and most enduring award for GLBT books is the Stonewall Book Awards, sponsored by the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table.

[Honoring books displaying] exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender experience.

Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Award

Winner (Children's):

- *George* (Alex Gino)

Winner (Young Adult):

- *The Porcupine of Truth* (Bill Konigsburg)

Honors:

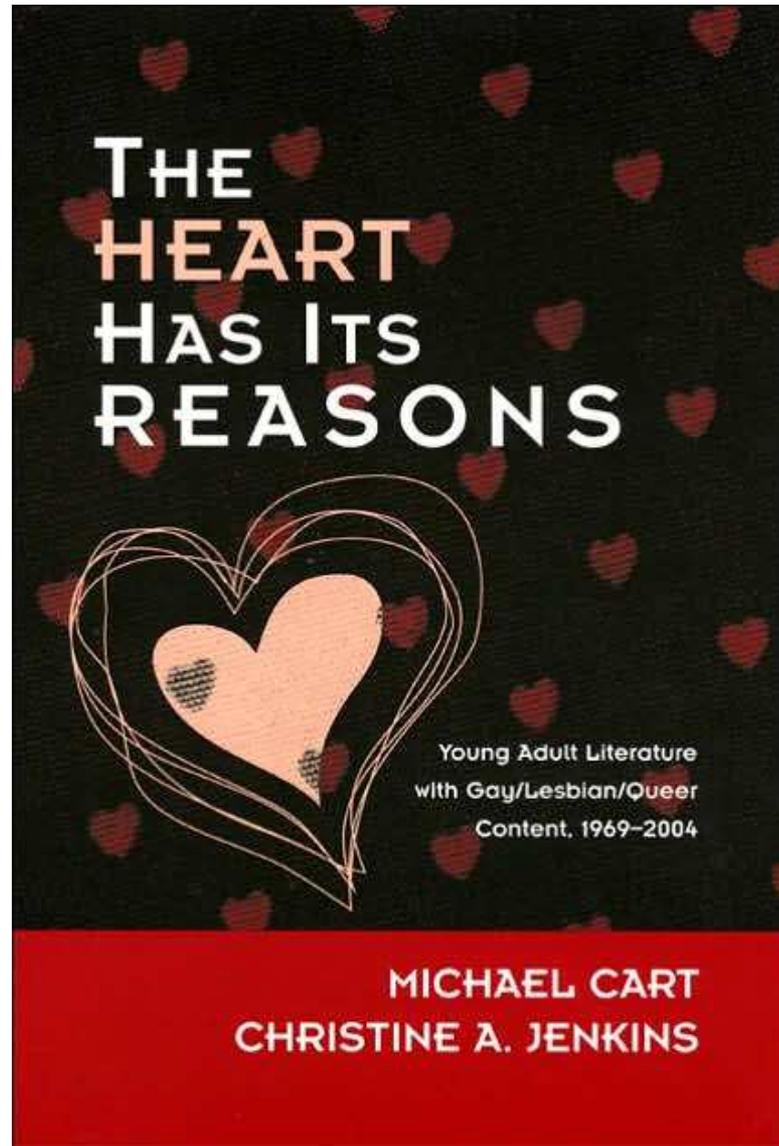
- *Wonders of the Invisible World* (Christopher Barzak)
- *Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU* (Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth)

Diversity in YA

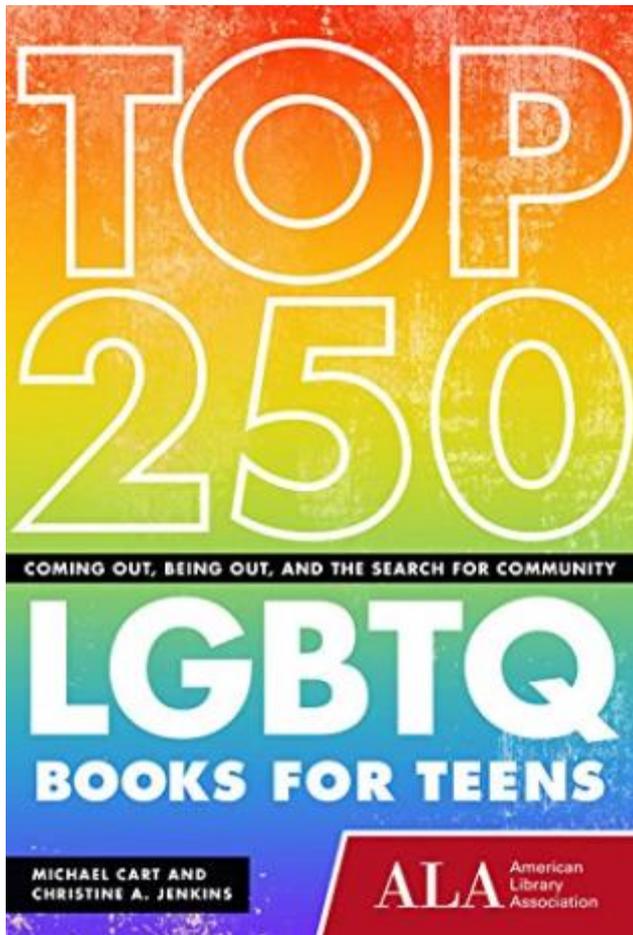
Puttin' a little diversity in ya since 2011.



[www.diversityinya.com/tag/lgbtq]



This book examines these issues and critically evaluates the body of literature published for young adults that offers homosexual themes and characters.



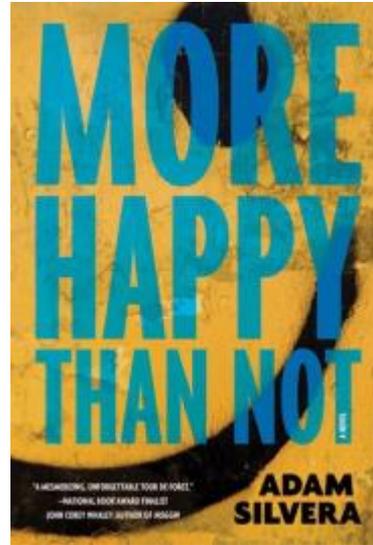
Identifying titles that address the sensitive and important topics of coming out, being out, and the search for community, this catalog spotlights the best gay, lesbian, bi, transgender, and questioning books written for teens.

Sample of Curated Booklist(s)

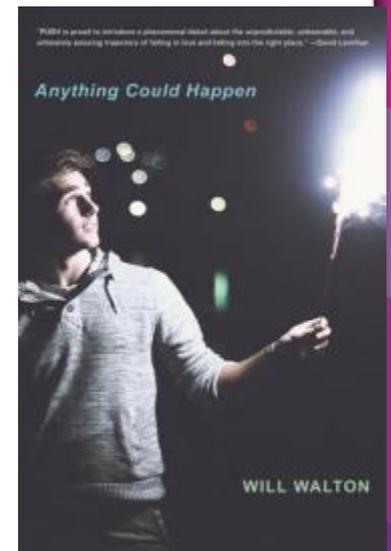
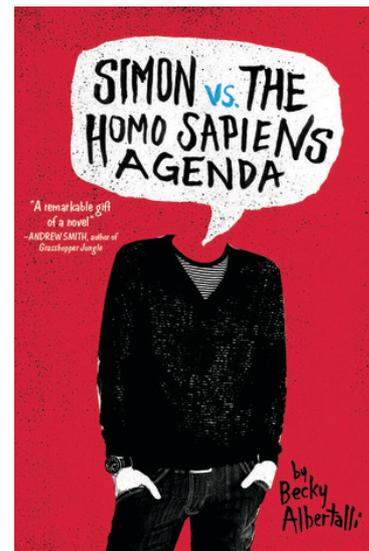
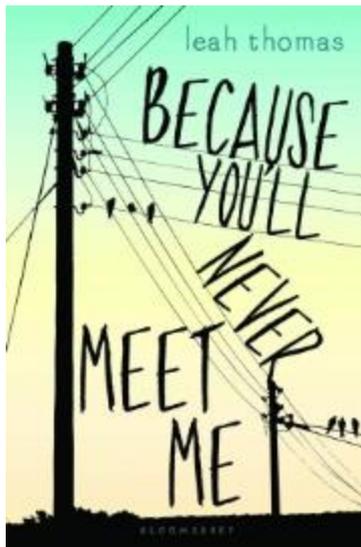
Cover Image	Title	Author	Themes/Keywords	Date of Publication
	<p><i>Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen</i></p>	<p>Andrews, <u>Arin</u></p>	<p>Non-fiction/Memoir Protagonist: Transgender/male-identified</p> <p>Key Topics: Transitioning; family; acceptance; dating; gender reassignment; school; coming out; growing up</p> <p>Awards: 2015 Rainbow List</p>	<p>2014</p>
	<p><i>I Am J</i></p>	<p>Beam, <u>Cris</u></p>	<p>Fiction: GA Protagonist: Transgender/male-identified</p> <p>Key Topics: Self-discovery; gender transition; coming out; betrayal; growing up; medical intervention; sexual awakening</p> <p>Awards: <u>Kirkus</u> Reviews Best Books List 2011; James Cook Award Honor</p>	<p>2011</p>

GEORGE

ALEX GINO



2015 Faves



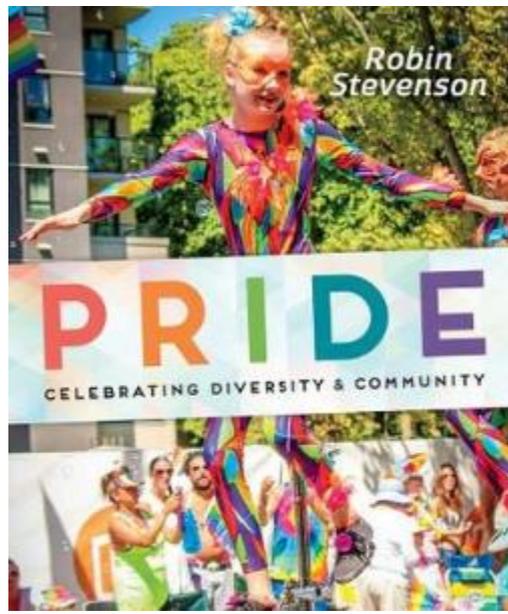
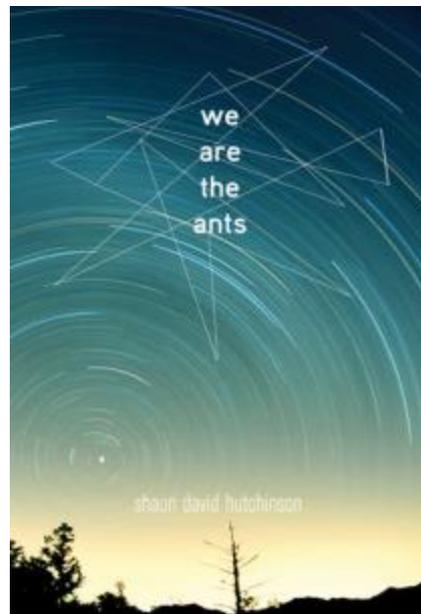
Looking to 2016



SYMPTOMS
OF
BEING
HUMAN

NOT ON DVD YET

JEFF GARVIN



And Because I Just Can't Help Myself...

