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LGBT+ Reading List: Secondary

(Key Stage ratings are merely guidelines)

Key Stage	Title and author(s)	Summary
KS3	Lumberjanes <i>Noelle Stevenson</i>	Five best friends are determined to have a great summer together - but there's a quest and a range of supernatural creatures which want to get in the way. Covers a range of LGBT+ identities.
KS3	Heartstopper <i>Alice Osman</i>	A graphic novel about the love two boys find with each other and coming to terms with being gay.
KS3	Leah on the Offbeat <i>Becky Albertalli</i>	The story of a girl who comes out as bisexual.
KS3	Girl Hearts Girl <i>Lucy Suitcliffe</i>	A memoir about Lucy's life as a young person coming to terms with her sexuality and her first lesbian relationship.
KS3	Nothing Ever Happens Here <i>Sarah Hagger-Holt</i>	The story of Izzy, whose Dad comes out as transgender.
KS3	You Should See Me in a Crown <i>Leah Johnson</i>	Liz is in competition with new girl Mack to be Prom Queen and win the financial support she needs to make her dreams come true, but she falls in love with the competition. Great for lesbian representation.
KS3	Cemetery Boys <i>Aiden Thomas</i>	Yadriel, a trans boy has to deal with the consequences for himself and his community when he summons the ghost of Julian. Includes gay and trans identity.



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Key Stage	Title and author(s)	Summary
KS3	Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating <i>Adiba Jaigirdar</i>	The story of two enemies who become friends and eventually something more. Includes lesbian and bisexual representation.
KS3	Love, Frankie <i>Jacqueline Wilson</i>	Frankie falls in love for the first time. Great for lesbian representation.
KS3	Crier's War <i>Nina Varela</i>	Epic fantasy where two enemies fall in love. Also great for lesbian representation.
KS3	Max Kowalski Didn't Mean It <i>Susie Day</i>	When Max meets his friend Tal's dads he begins to see his own dad in a new light. Great for gay representation.
KS3	The Pants Project <i>Cat Clarke</i>	Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but with his new school's terrible dress code, he can't even wear trousers: only skirts. So "Operation: Pants Project" begins! Great for trans representation.
KS3	Pet <i>Akwaeke Emezi</i>	A creature escapes from an artist's canvas and Jam, who is trans, must try to solve the mystery. Includes gay and trans representation.
KS3	The Henna Wars <i>Adiba Jaigirdar</i>	Two girls start rival henna businesses at their school. Great for lesbian and bisexual representation.
KS3	Proud of Me <i>Sarah Hagger-Holt</i>	The story of an LGBT+ family.
KS3	Cinderella Is Dead <i>Kalynn Bayron</i>	A fresh take on the classic tale set in a dystopian world. Includes lesbian representation.





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Key Stage	KS3 Books	Summary
KS3	In Deeper Waters <i>FT Lukens</i>	The swashbuckling story of a prince and some pirates. Great for exploring gay identity.
KS3	Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World <i>Ashley Herring Blake</i>	When a tornado sweeps through Ivy's town, it doesn't just take her home – it takes her secret notebook too. A secret notebook filled with drawings of her holding hands with other girls. Will the notebook reappear, or will it be lost forever? Great for lesbian representation.
KS3	Better Nate than Never <i>Tim Federie</i>	When 13-year-old Nate sneaks off to New York to audition for the musical of his dreams, it doesn't quite go to plan. Young readers won't want to put this book down – great for gay representation too.
KS3/4	These Witches Won't Burn <i>Isabel Sterling</i>	Dealing with her ex, Veronica, is the least of Hannah's concerns when dark magic begins to appear. Great for lesbian representation.
KS3/4	What's the T? <i>Juno Dawson</i>	A guide to all things transgender and non-binary.
KS3/4	What Is Gender? <i>Juno Dawson</i>	A simple guide to the concept of gender and the issues surrounding it, including trans identity.
KS3/4	What We Left Behind <i>Robin Talley</i>	The tale of two university student's changing relationship as they question their gender, including trans identities.
KS3/4	Gender Explorers <i>Juno Roche</i>	A collection of interviews with young trans people about their experiences.





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Key Stage	Title and author(s)	Summary
KS3/4	Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe <i>Benjamin Alire Sáenz</i>	Aristotle is having a hard time until he meets new boy, Dante. Great for gay representation.
KS3/4	Will Grayson, Will Grayson <i>John Green and David Levithan</i>	Told from two points of view, this is the story of two boys called Will Grayson. Great for gay representation.
KS3/4	Heartbreak Boys <i>Simon James Green</i>	Two friends, both recently heartbroken, go on a road trip. Also great for gay representation.
KS3/4	This Book Is Gay <i>Juno Dawson</i>	A non-fiction book about what it's like to grow up LGBT+.
KS4	Girls of Paper and Fire <i>Natasha Ngan</i>	A fantasy story based on the imperial dynasties of China and Japan, including lesbian representation. Content warning: Some discussion of trauma.
KS4	Felix Ever After <i>Kacen Callender</i>	Felix is a transgender teen who wants to fall in love.
KS4	The Black Flamingo <i>Dean Atta</i>	Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers and show ourselves to the world in bold colour. Great for Black, gay representation.
KS4	Kemosha of the Caribbean <i>Alex Wheatle</i>	The story of an escaped slave who becomes a pirate and falls in love. Great for lesbian representation.
KS4	Camp <i>L C Rosen</i>	16 year old Randy spends his summer at a camp for LGBT+ teens, makes friends and falls in love.



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KS3/4	We Set the Dark on Fire <i>Tehlor Kay Mejia</i>	Two girls find forbidden love in a world where gender roles are set in stone. Great for lesbian representation.
KS4	I'll Give You The Sun <i>Jandy Nelson</i>	The story of twins who grow apart as they grow up. Great for gay representation.
KS4	If I was Your Girl <i>Meredith Russo</i>	Starting a new school is always hard but for Amanda it's even harder because she is trying to keep a secret from students. Also explores coming out as trans.
KS4	The Art of Being Normal <i>Lisa Williamson</i>	The story of how two young people become friends and find they have more in common than they thought. Also explores coming out as trans.
KS4	Loveless <i>Alice Osman</i>	Follow Georgia as she begins to understand her asexual identity.
KS4	Last Night at the Telegraph Club <i>Malinda Lo</i>	Sometimes, we need to take charge, to stand up wearing pink feathers and show ourselves to the world in bold colour. Great for gay representation.
KS4	More Happy Than Not <i>Adam Silvera</i>	As Aaron and his friend Thomas get closer, Aaron discovers things about himself. Also great for gay representation.
KS4/5	Red, White and Royal Blue <i>Casey McQuiston</i>	The Prince of England and the son of the president are enemies, but maybe they will be something more... Great for gay/bisexual representation.
KS4/5	The Miseducation of Cameron Post <i>Emily Danforth</i>	Cameron is forced to undergo conversion therapy, to 'cure' her of being a lesbian.





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Key Stage	Title and author(s)	Summary
KS5	Maurice <i>E. M. Forster</i>	Maurice falls in love with Clive at university but it is not plain sailing for them.
KS5	Parrotfish <i>Ellen Wattlinger</i>	Angela is tired of living a lie
KS5	Orlando <i>Virginia Woolf</i>	Orlando, which Woolf wrote in tribute to a friend and lover, is a study in gender fluidity across time and space.
KS5	Fun Home <i>Allison Bechdel</i>	An autobiographical novel about Bechdel's growing up.
KS5	Trans Like Me <i>C N Lester</i>	What does it mean to be transgender? How do we discuss the subject? In this eyeopening book, CN Lester takes us on a journey through some of the most pressing issues concerning the trans debate.
KS5	Gioavanni's Room <i>James Baldwin</i>	David, an American living in Paris in the 1950s begins an affair with Giovanni, an Italian man.
KS5	Oranges are not the Only Fruit <i>Jeanette Winterson</i>	A semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story about a girl growing up in a Pentecostal family in England's industrial Midlands region.
KS5	Zami <i>Audre Lorde</i>	This 1982 autobiography by the iconic queer Black poet Audre Lorde explores the intersection between various different identities: lesbian, Black woman, mother.