



BOOKS FOR STUDENTS INCLUSIVE OF GAY FAMILY MEMBERS AND CHARACTERS: A SHORT LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES

All Families Are Special, Norma Simon. (2 – 3). Goes beyond other books in portraying different kinds of families and shows both what can be hard in a family, as well as what is good. Includes two-mom, blended and international families.

Families, Susan Kuklin. (4 – 5). Combining interviews and engaging color photos, this shows the diversity of families in America. Includes mixed-race, immigrant, two-dad, two-mom and single-parent families and families for whom religion is a focal point.

The Family Book, Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K). All kinds of families are celebrated in a funny, silly and reassuring way. Includes adoptive families, stepfamilies, single-parent families, two-mom and two-dad families and families with a mom and a dad. Quirky humor and bright, childlike illustrations.

Who's in a Family? Robert Skutch. (Pre-K – 1). A picture book showing multicultural contemporary family units, including those with single parents, two moms or two dads, mixed-race couples, grandparents and divorced parents.

That's a Family! Debra Chasnoff & Helen Cohen. DVD. Exclusively the words of children speaking about their diverse range of families — mixed families in terms of race, language or religion, adoptive families, divorced parents, families with two moms or two dads, grandparent headed, and single-parent families. Good for parent/guardian events, professional development and grades 4 and up. www.groundspark.org.

PICTURE BOOKS WITH GAY FAMILY MEMBERS

And Tango Makes Three, Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell. (1-3). Penguins Roy and Silo at New York's Central Park Zoo, keep putting a rock in their nest and try to hatch it. The zookeeper gives them a real egg that needs care. The penguins take turns sitting on it until it hatches, and Tango is born.

Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio, Rigoberto Gonzales. (1 – 4). As Mother's Day approaches, Antonio must choose whether — or how — to express his connection and love for his mother and her partner, Leslie.

The Different Dragon, Jennifer Bryan. (K – 1). Shows how the wonderful curiosity and care of a little boy, with some help from his two moms, can lead to magical places with a dragon who is tired of being tough.

In Our Mothers' House, Patricia Polacco. (3 – 5). Marmee, Meema, and their kids cook, laugh, and dance together. But some families don't accept them, saying they are different. Yet Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. They teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong. Good if issues have come up in class.

A Tale of Two Daddies, Vanita Oelschlager. (Pre-K – 1). A young girl answers a friend's questions about what it is like to have two fathers. The boy asks straightforward questions: "Which dad would build your home in a tree? And which dad helps when you skin your knee?" The story ends with simply, "Who is your dad when you're sad and need some love?" Both, of course.

Uncle Bobby's Wedding, Sarah S. Brannen (K – 3). Looks at the fears that a young girl has of losing her favorite uncle when he plans to get married. Everyone in the family is happy, but her. Finally, she sees that she is not losing an uncle but gaining another uncle.

CHAPTER BOOKS WITH GAY FAMILY MEMBERS OR CHARACTERS

The Manny Files, Christian Burch. (3 – 6). Shy Keats Dalinger learns from his unconventional male "nanny" to be more self-confident and out-going while the "manny" becomes more and more a part of the family.

Hit the Road, Manny: A Manny Files Novel, Christian Burch. (4 – 6). In a sequel to *The Manny Files*, the family heads off on a road trip with Mom, Dad, four kids and their male nanny or "manny." Looks directly at gay put-downs, parental acceptance, celebrating commitment and pride.

Holly's Secret, Nancy Garden, Farrar. (4 – 7). Holly plans to create a new self to hide that she has two moms from schoolmates in her new hometown. But trying to hide something so big proves to be daunting. The novel can be humorous but also tackles prejudice and reinforces the old saw: Honesty is the best policy.

The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World, E. L. Konigsburg. (5 – 7). Two boys find themselves caught up in a story based on things they find at an estate sale -- a story that links a sketch, a young boy's life, an old man's reminiscence, and a painful secret dating back to the outrages of Nazi Germany. Includes revelations about the victimization of artists and gays during the Holocaust.

No Castles Here, A.C.E. Bauer. (5 – 7). Augie knows how to get by – be invisible. Then, a book of fairy tales, participation in a school chorus, and a gay Big Brother combine to give 11-year-old Augie the confidence he needs to handle bullies and become an activist.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang, Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6). Two fifth-grade best friends are determined to uncover the secrets of popularity by observing, recording, discussing, and replicating the behaviors of the "cool" girls. Notebook format with a lot of illustrations. Julie has two dads who do typical parent things like take too many pictures of her.

The Popularity Papers: Book Two: The Long-Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang, Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6). Julie and Lydia are ready to put their hard-earned lessons to use in junior high. But then, Lydia's mom gets a job in London. They learn to keep in touch and stand on their own. Each girl in her own way deals with bullying behavior. Julie has two dads. Notebook/graphic format.

The Revealers, Doug Wilhelm. (5 – 7). At Parkland Middle School, three bullied seventh graders start an unofficial e-mail forum in which they publicize their experiences. Unexpectedly, lots of other kids come forward to confess their similar troubles, and it becomes clear that the problem at their school is bigger than anyone knew. In one email, a student tells his troubles of being called gay.

Riding Freedom, Pam Muñoz Ryan. (4 – 6). A fictionalized account of the true story of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, drove stagecoaches and continued to pass as a man her whole life.

The Trouble with Babies, Martha Freeman. (2 – 4). Holly has just moved to San Francisco. Her new friend Xavier, who lives with his two dads, has a crush on Annie, who is Jewish and Chinese. Xavier hopes to win Annie over by putting her "yucky" baby sister in his de-yuckification machine.

The Van Gogh Café, Cynthia Rylant. (3 – 7). Seven vignettes of life at the Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas. The café is run by a father and his 10-year-old daughter. Something magical or special happens in each chapter. In "The Star" an elderly film star comes to the Van Gogh Café to wait for his true love, a young man he met many years ago.