

LGBTQ2+ Short Story GUIDE 2018-19

By Christine Bacon, Brennan McConnell and Jodie MacInnis, April 2019

Guide for use: stories and poems specifically mentioned are flagged to suggest value as a class lesson.

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Class Library	Comment
Various	10,11	<i>Barrelling Forward</i> , Eva Crocker	A compilation of short stories. Some have a LGBTQ2+ focus. Most notably, "The Lodge" and "Dead Skin."	√	A look into the harsh realities of life in Newfoundland.
Transgender	9-11	<i>One in Every Crowd</i> , Ivan E. Coyote	A series of connected but independent stories about being transgender, as he travels through different Canadian communities. He includes stories from his life as a transgender kid, as a public speaker and a writer.	√	Focus on individual stories and is geared towards teens. Mostly engaging, but without a linear thread it is difficult to get attached at times.
<p>“No Bikini”, “The Rest of Us,” “Judging a Book,” and “Imagine a Pair of Boots” are all short, quality pieces that have a lot of meat for response. They are like personal essays, not quite short stories.</p> <p>“No Bikini” an eight year-old Ivan is sent to swim class and confronts issues around their gender based on choices to wear/not wear parts of their bikini swim suit. Best for grade 9, short enough for quick response. Short film also available.</p> <p>“The Rest of Us” Ivan recounting the story of the challenge of choosing between gendered bathrooms.</p> <p>“Judging a Book” is about when Ivan was on a plane, sitting beside an evangelical Christian, who assumes Ivan is a “regular man” and their conversation around marriage, sexuality and identity uses irony to explore the space between different viewpoints on human identity.</p> <p>“Imagine a Pair of Boots” is predicated on a central metaphor of an ill-fitting pair of boots and how they can mirror the experience of someone living with an ill-fitting gender or sexual identity.</p>					
Various		<i>How Beautiful the Ordinary: 12 stories of Identity</i> , Michael Cart	Non-traditional narratives, short stories and brief graphics featuring tales of anticipation and regret, and modern views of love, sexuality, and gender identification.	√	

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<p>“A Word from the Nearly Distant Past” by David Levithan is a look at the teen gay community and the building up of it to this day. Suitable for grades 9-11.</p> <p>“Trev” by Jay Woodson is an important story from a young child’s perspective of being transgender. Written in the reflective voice and suitable for grades 9-11.</p> <p>“Dark Red Love Knot” by Margot Lanagan is a Medieval story of a serf whose carefully laid plan goes tragically awry. Suitable 10-11, gay theme.</p> <p>“Fingernail” by William Sleator is a story of love & passion, and learning the difference. Suitable 10-11, gay theme.</p> <p>“The Missing Person” by Jennifer F. Boylan details their first time teenage outing as a member of the opposite sex.</p> <p>“Dyke March” by Ariel Schrag is a short comic lesbian club scene, gr 10+</p> <p>“First time” by Julie Anne Peters features love-making between two girls, using two voices in poem form</p> <p>“Dear Lang” by Emma Donoghue is written in the form of a letter to a child from the non-biological lesbian mother who is separated from her spouse and without legal visitation rights</p>					
Various		<i>The Letter Q</i> edited by	Authors write advice to their teenaged selves. All authors are part of the LGBTQ community.	√	
<p>“Dear David in Eighth Grade” by David Levithan writes to his teenage self, cautioning against bullying others and using verbal take-downs in a futile attempt to build himself up against his own insecurities.</p> <p>Doug Wright cautions about how perfectionism and the fruitless quest to prove yourself to one’s self, in the context of his combatting his own insecure sense of self.</p> <p>Arthur Levine writes about his experience of coming out to his parents and working through his sexuality in discussion with his rabbi-as-psychologist.</p> <p>Comic by Erika Moen treats with themes of sexual identity and labels.</p>					
Lesbian	8	<i>Kissing the Witch</i> by Emma Donoghue	Fairy tales retold with a lesbian lens.	√	Putting new skins on familiar tales. Often simplistic retellings not reaching any greater depth. Straightforward. Great for junior high school.
Lesbian	10+	<i>Almost Famous Women</i> by Megan Mayhew Bergman	Elegant and intimate look at artists who desired recognition.		
<p>“The Siege at Whale Cay” features a realization of the self (great story)</p> <p>“Hell Diving Women” a painful love story featuring an historical look at the treatment of black and white women together</p> <p>“Romaine Remains” concerns the loss of control of self and life through age and drugs</p>					

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"Who Killed Dolly Wilde?" a sad depiction of Oscar Wilde's lesbian niece					
Various	9-11	<i>All Out: The No Longer Secret Stories of Queer Teens Throughout the Ages</i> , edited by Sandra Mitchell	Adult authors across the queer spectrum have created a collection of diverse historical fiction for teens.	√	
<p>"The Secret Life of a Teenage Boy" by Alex Sanchez – the best coming out story ever, set in the 1960s, gay, whole class, individual gr 9-11.</p> <p>"Roja" by Anna-Marie McLemore – supernatural old west-type story based on some historical myth with a wolf theme, transgender, 10+.</p> <p>"The Sweet Trade" by Natalie Parker – two girls escape marriage in the 1700s to become lesbian cross-dressing sailors, 9+.</p> <p>"And They Don't Kiss at the End" by Nilah Magruder – exploring and understanding love in 1970s roller skating setting, asexual.</p> <p>"Burnt Amber" by MacKenzie Lee – sketching nudes for the first time from a young man's perspective, set in the 1600s.</p> <p>"The Dresser and the Chambermaid" by Robin Talley – two female servants attending on a princess. Class and sexuality each play prominent roles.</p>					
		<i>Three Sides of the Heart: Love Triangles</i> , edited by Natalie C. Parker	All stories related to exploring gender and sexuality in groups of three.		
<p>"Riddles in Mathematics" by Katie Cotugno – a lesbian love story, a bit long (grade 9).</p> <p>"Dread South" by Justina Ireland – plantations, slaves, zombies, and (of course) love (grades 9-11).</p> <p>"Omega Ship" by Rae Carson – spaceship crashes, human choices, not LGBTQ themes per se, but provides a provocative look at gender roles and expectations.</p>					
		<i>Not the Only One: Lesbian and gay Fiction for Teens</i> edited by Jane Summer	YA stories about lesbian and gay teens. Most set in high school.		
<p>"It Feels Great" by Pam McArthur – a questioning (lesbian?) girl is inspired by a speaker at a school assembly and visits her lesbian neighbours to discuss it. Awesome read: "it feels great"</p> <p>"Sara" by Michael Thomas Ford – Sara is an imaginary friend of Thomas, a fourth-grader that is perceived as solitary and strange by his family. Abstract and metaphorical, the story's turns around the revelation of the nature of Sara's existence, and by extension that nature of Thomas's.</p> <p>"Fooling Around" by Claire McNab – Teenage Bret is caught fooling around with his friend Steve and must talk to his girlfriend about what happened.</p>					

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<p>“Happy Birthday” by Nan Prener – A sixteen year old boy escapes his birthday party to hang out with a mushrooming expert boy. He gets sick, and the journey of deciphering the nature of his illness carries him to realizations about the essence of his own identity.</p>					
		<p><i>Meet Cute: Some People are Destined to Meet</i> by Jennifer L. Armentrout</p>	<p>Both hetero and homosexual content. These are all stories about the beginnings of love.</p>		
<p>“Somewhere That’s Green” by Meredith Russo – This story features a transsexual character in high school and is told through two perspectives: one is of the trans character; the other of a religious girl who is attempting to bar the trans student from the school play. They fall in love.</p>					
		<p><i>Feral Youth</i> edited by Shaun David Hutchinson</p>	<p>Ten short stories told from the perspectives of campers.</p>		
<p>“A Ruthless Dame” by Tim Floreen – A boy working at a movie theatre deals with his first crush and ensuing revenge theme.</p>					
		<p><i>Her Body and Other Parties</i> by Carmen Maria Machado</p>	<p>Great stories included, however not school appropriate.</p>		
		<p><i>Willful Impropriety: Thirteen Tales of Society and Scandal</i> edited by Ekaterina Sedia</p>	<p>Historical fiction set in the Victorian era, concerning gender roles and wider society.</p>		
<p>“At Will” by Lianna Renee Hieber – Exploring society’s expectations around gender roles. An actor in the late 1800s performs Shakespearean plays in both male and female roles, which bleeds into her personal life. [28 page read, too long in both WC and descriptiveness for most students, but may be of use for those specifically interested in either Shakespeare or Victorian historical fiction]</p>					
		<p><i>How They Met</i> by David Levithan</p>	<p>A collection of unique short stories, usually focussed on the different faces of love and the experience’s continuity across differences of sexuality, age, life stage, etc.</p>		
<p>“Starbucks Boy” – boy meets barista boy while babysitting young girl. Older YA: cute, positive, reads like rom-com. Too long for response.</p>					

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					<p>“Miss Lucy Had a Steamboat” – girl meets exploitative, selfish girl in high school. Discovers aversion to traditional, single-partner pairing through bad breakup. (Too) long for response.</p> <p>“The Alumni Interview” – gorgeous, 11-page story of boy being interviewed by closeted boyfriend’s father for entry into university. Artfully written and concise. Worth response consideration grade 9/10.</p> <p>“The Good Witch” – Boy invites distant (girl) friend to prom and discomfort at events leads to crescendo of coming out in the back of a limo to her. 13 pages, OKAY for response, but somewhat flat.</p> <p>“The escalator, a love story” – A (7pg.) story about how love really sprouts, anti-trite “love at first sight,” NOT LGBTQ, but could be useful in a love-centred workshop/stations reading activity.</p> <p>“The Number of People Who Meet on Airplanes” – Long for response. Cute hetero story about the story of two falling in love after matchmaker attendant secretly changed their seats.</p> <p>“Andrew Chang” – Story of an arranged date (Chinese cultural context) and finding love where you least expect it. Not LGBTQ. Short enough for response, light.</p> <p>“Lost Sometimes” – Sexually explicit gay high school story. Short and to the (not particularly revelatory) point. Lacking depth and centred on physical experiences of love, may not have broad enough appeal or relevance for response. Useful for gay boys seeking to explore the balance between sexuality and the limitedness of their community, experiences of loneliness in the context of their love needs in hetero-dominated communities.</p> <p>“Princes” – Charming story about teenage boy in a dance studio whose failed 1st attempt at a boyfriend brings him 1st into conflict with his parents and then into realization of love of younger brother and friend Miles. While 30 pages, nonetheless rewarding and potentially worthwhile to take a class through.</p> <p>“Breaking and Entering” – 9 pages. Boy left by other boy who goes away to school. Boy breaks into ex’s parents’ and talks with Mom about his loss when she finds him in his bed. Not worth use – pedestrian.</p> <p>“Skipping the Prom” – Hetero story of teenage love with a self-conscious expiry date. NO LGBTQ, only 5 pages. Sweet, but slight.</p> <p>“A Romantic Inclination” – A brief (5 pg) but rewarding hetero anti-love story told through scientific metaphors. Calls into question (in)compatibility of love and logic.</p> <p>“What a Song Can Do” – 18 pages centred on the metaphor of music and dance as a metaphor for relationships, and the love of 2 gay boys. Ends with a really strong emotional crescendo with Mom surprising singer and emotional disaster of seeming doomed-to-fail relationship being saved. Touching, nothing sexually explicit. Longish, but a great fit for 10 ELA.</p>

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<p>“How They Met” – Fragmented series of shorts describing Levithan’s grandparents’ and parents’ start to their love stories. Could be neat to show how choices around page and paragraph breaks can be used in short story writing (not just poetry) to convey meaning through the shape of text on the page.</p> <p>“Memory Dance” – Short but sweet. Two elderly lovers sit down to breakfast, but the wife goes on a journey in her memory to when they first met and danced, rekindling their generations-long love. Could be used as a quick (5pg) short story, perhaps in a response-workshop lesson. Interesting playing with narrative perspective.</p> <p>“Intersection” – Wraps up collection nicely with message that love just is, and should be welcomed however it appears, in whatever form. Not useful out of the context of his collection.</p>					
		<i>Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time: An Indigenous LGBT Sci-Fi Anthology</i> edited by Hope Nicholson	A collection of indigenous sci-fi and urban fantasy stories, focussing on LGBT and two-spirit characters.		
<p>“Legends are Made, Not Born” by Cherie Dimaline – focuses on parent-child relationship. Auntie-Dave raises the young narrator, training him in two-spirit community responsibilities.</p> <p>“Perfectly You” by David A Robertson – a young Cree woman uses virtual reality to reconnect with a lost opportunity (girlfriend)...</p> <p>“Ne Le!” by Darcie Little Badger – Space-travelling veterinarian slowly gets to know her shipmate as they travel with 40 chihuahuas and a single husky. Her shipmate is a female – they fall in love.</p> <p>“Transitions” by Gwen Benaway – A transgender, Metis narrative attempts a new experimental transitional therapy, only to be visited by traditional indigenous visions.</p> <p>“Valediction at the Starview Motel” by Nathan Adler – this story is told by a white girl adopted by an indigenous tribe. Includes references to Charlotte’s Web and Peter Pan</p>					

LGBTQ2+ Poetry Text GUIDE 2018-19

By Christine Bacon, Brennan McConnell and Jodie MacInnis, April 2019

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Class Library	Comment
Queer	meh	<i>Don't Call Us Dead</i> by Danez Smith	Esoteric, abstract, protest poetry. Often sexually explicit. Not striking; not age appropriate.		Potential for students specifically interested in mature, sexually explicit poetic material.
Two-Spirit	11	<i>Indigiqueer</i> , Joshua Whitehead	Joshua Whitehead's book of poems. Poems that refer to great poets, literature of the past combined with present pop culture representatives. He doesn't use punctuation and plays with form and bends convention.	-	-
Gay	9-11	<i>Prelude to Bruise</i> Saeed Jones	Gorgeous poetry collection.	√	Friggin, fuckin, awesome lil' collection.
<p>"Body and Kentucky Bourbon," flagged as standout. "Pretending to Drown," flagged as standout. "Boy in a Whalebone Corsett", trying to dress in a different way while still seeking acceptance. "Sleeping Arrangement," flagged as standout.</p>					
Lesbian	9-11	<i>Bodymap</i> by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha	Black lesbian disabled poetry	√	Phenomenal read.
<p>"Dirty River Girl" flagged as standout.</p>					
Queer Teen	9-11	<i>A Place Called No Homeland</i> by Kai Cheng Thom	Poetic journey: memory, mythology, new maps of gender, sexuality and violence. Punk teen perspective.	√	Fabulous, dynamic.

<p>“You and Me” flagged as standout.</p> <p>“Between Friends” flagged as standout.</p> <p>“When is a Woman” transgender poem flagged as standout.</p>					
Diverse	9-11	<i>Please Excuse this Poem: A Hundred New Poets for the Next Generation</i> edited by Brett Fletcher Laner and Lynn Melnick	American poetry, not all LGBTQ though their voices are included. Focus on backgrounds.		Useful for specific poems, not worth buying the whole book.
<p>“Boyishly” by Tanya Olsen, flagged as standout.</p> <p>“Like Father” by Jericho Brown, intimacy between men.</p> <p>“Wilberforce” by Amanda Nadelberg, rural Ohio integrates LGBTQ in a normalizing fashion within a poem principally focused on capturing the everyday experience of life in rural America.</p> <p>“Poem for his Ex” by Jillian Weise, flagged as standout.</p>					
	10-11	<i>BreakBeat Poets</i> edited by Kevin Coval, Qurarsh Ali Lansana, and NAte Marshall	Hip-hop themed poetry anthology, only 2 LGBTQ poems		
	11	Refuse: Canlit in Ruins		√	
<p>“But I Still Like” by Gwen Benaway, identifies CanLit as boring, white, and straight.</p> <p>“Refuse: A trans girl writer’s story” by Kai Cheng Thom, ranty and preachy with strong moments of high-level literary criticism of the genre of CanLit (see last page).</p> <p>“</p>					
	7-11	<i>Good Poems</i> edited by Garrison Keillor	Aptly named collection of poetry through the ages. Not all LGBTQ.	√	

<p>“When I heard at the Close of Day” by Walt Whitman, thinks about his dear friend and lover happily. Veiled allusion to homosexuality. Useful for study of historical context of LGBTQ progress.</p> <p>“Animals” Frank O’Hara, gay man writes love poetry with <i>no revelation of homosexuality</i>. Interesting contrast with above to note historical approaches to homosexuality in poetry.</p>					
Lesbian	9-11	<i>The Madness Vase</i> by Andrea Gibson	An honest book of poems with an intimate look at themes of family, gender, grief and hope.	√	Plenty of YouTube videos of her spoken word poetry.
<p>“The Madness Vase” flagged as standout.</p>					
Lesbian	9-11	<i>Pansy</i> by Andrea Gibson	Themes of feminism, love, gender, sexuality, illness, white privilege, and mental health. Protest poetry, politically engaged, action oriented writing.	√	Not afraid to use foul language to make a point, this collection is accessible and often narrative-driven in its poems.
<p>“To the Mean Catcalling My Girlfriend While I’m Walking Beside Her” angry, language-focused rant-style experience-based response to catcalling (of lesbians) by men. Excellent for considerations of language as violence and ways to respond powerfully to assertions of heteronormative and sexist attitudes in everyday life.</p>					

LGBTQ2+ Multimedia GUIDE 2018-19

By Christine Bacon, Brennan McConnell and Jodie MacInnis, April 2019

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Whole class	Comment
Various	9	<i>Queeriosity</i> slam poetry annual competition	Run in Oregon, this competition uploads winners and finalists to YouTube back to 2014.	√	Lively, youth-created and presented, activist poetry.
<p>“Straight People” by Maya – use of scientific phenomenon to draw parallels to queer and specifically lesbian youth experience. Turns on its head the use of biology to discredit divergent gender and sexual identities.</p>					

Gay and indigenous	11	Billy-Ray Belcourt reads from "This Wound is a World"	Canadian indigenous poet from Northern Alberta	√	Dark. Starts with humour, then turns to sexual violence and historical trauma. Maturely presented.
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LGBTQ2+ Long TEXT GUIDE

By Christine Bacon, Brennan McConnell, Marie McGlynn, and Jodie MacInnis – April 2019

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Text Type	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Whole class	Literature Circle	Class Library	Comment
Gay	Novel	8-9	<i>HERO</i> , Perry Moore	A superhero story, set in a modern times. Teenage boy, son of a disgraced superhero, wrestles with demons of his father's past and the secrets of his present. He struggles with developing a relationship with his distant father and with coming out.	√	√	√	The superhero plotline is a mirror to the gay teen plotline. The main character is hiding both from his father. Students who might not be gay themselves could relate to this aspect too. Fast-paced, a great read. Fully developed characters with multiple plot lines. Empowering.
Gay	Novel	9-10	<i>Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe</i> , Benjamin Alire Sáenz	A story of discovery and friendship. Two Hispanic teenagers who struggle to fit in forge a friendship and explore their sexuality amidst the backdrop of coming-of-age challenges.	√	√	√	Eloquent, artful, and yet accessible. Uplifting, realistic and down to earth. Features subthemes of bullying, violence, isolation, and growing up.
Gay	Novel	8-9	<i>Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda</i> , Becky Albertalli	Young teenage boy is an anonymous email relationship with a fellow male student. They leave each other clues about their identity through their letters to each other. The big reveal at the end has a happy ending.		√	√	Light, straightforward teen love story. Very successful with Grade 9s. Now a major motion film, <i>Love, Simon</i> .
Gay	Comedic Memoire	11	<i>Theft By Finding</i> , David Sedaris	A comedic memoire from a successful gay author. They are his actual personal diaries spanning from 1970s to 2002.		√	√	Lighthearted read on many topics, not exclusively a look into the homosexual experience.
Gay	Auto-biography	10,11	<i>Choose Your Own Autobiography</i> , Neil Patrick Harris	The life story of a gay actor and his journey through being a child		√	√	Humorous and thoughtful look into his life.

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				star to self-acceptance as an Out adult celebrity.				
Gay	Novel	10,11	<i>Will Grayson Will Grayson</i> , John Green & David Levithan	A gay male and a straight male with the same name cross paths in Chicago. Both points of view are told through the first person. Culminates in a high school musical production.		√	√	Good, but graphic language.
Gay	Novel	9	<i>Carry On</i> , Rainbow Rowell	Of the Harry Potter Genre, except in this case the main character is gay. He is comfortable with his sexuality.		√	√	Well written, fun, adventure story.
Gay	Novel	9-11	<i>History is All You Left Me</i> , Adam Silvera	Explores grief and mental illness through a focus on gay relationships. Developed relationship that tragically ends and leaves in its wake the MC's grief.		√	√	More mature than <i>They Both Die at the End</i> .
Gay	Novel	10-11	<i>More Happy than Not</i> , Adam Silvera	Features 16 year-old in future-Bronx struggling to find happiness after a family tragedy. Involves memory-altering procedure.		√	√	Unreliable narrator.
Gay (historical fiction)	Novel		<i>The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue</i> , Mackenzi Lee	The unforgettable escapade of Lord Henry 'Monty' Montague, a charming young scoundrel who fully expects to carouse his way across eighteenth-century Europe with his best guy-friend.			√	Lively swashbuckling historical fiction. So much fun. Includes an authorial epilogue exploring varying historical accuracies/liberties taken (and reasons for) throughout the novel that is a history lesson in a half-chapter.

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Text Type	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Whole class	Literature Circle	Class Library	Comment
Gay and Lesbian	Novel	Adult	<i>Hogtown Bonbons</i> , by Greg Kramer	A mature series of short stories set in the gay village of Toronto during the 1990s. Features gay and lesbian narrators.				Sexually explicit. S+M features prominently.
Intersex	Novel	10, 11	<i>Annabel</i> , Kathleen Winter	Coming of age story about an intersex child in rural Labrador.		√	√	A good read that should interest students getting ready for independence.
Intersex	Novel	11	<i>Middlesex</i> , Jeffrey Eugenides	A contemporary intersex story. Extremely complex storyline. An intersex character who explores gender.			√	A novel that is an extremely, detailed and thoughtful piece of literature.
Lesbian	Novel	9-10	<i>Girl Mans Up</i> , M-E Girard	A story of a Toronto girl trying to come terms with her sexuality and coming out to her traditional, immigrant and dated parents. She is exploring her gender identity while wrestling with her friend's and family's expectations.		√	√	Powerful and empowering. Teenagers will love it.
Lesbian	Novel	10-11	<i>Unbecoming</i> , Jenny Downham	A British teen wrestles with discovering her own sexuality in the context of her grandmother's surprise-return to the family fold and her own process of self-discovery through the increasing shroud of dementia. Grandmother, mother, and daughter each navigate their own minefields of secrets and shame while trying to support one another.		√	√	A mature read that challenges readers with shifting perspectives between grandmother and granddaughter, from the 1950s to the present day. Some unfamiliar diction (set in England).
Lesbian	Novel	11	<i>The Paying Guest</i> , Sarah Waters	Historical lesbian fiction set in an English boarding house during the Victorian era.			√	Journey of love and discovery. A real reflection of what life was like for Lesbians during this era.

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Text Type	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Whole class	Literature Circle	Class Library	Comment
Lesbian	Novel	11	<i>Fingersmith</i> , Sarah Waters	Historical lesbian fiction and a crime novel set in England during the Victorian era.			√	Journey of love and discovery. A real reflection of what life was like for Lesbians during this era.
Lesbian	Novel	11	<i>Tipping the Velvet</i> , Sarah Waters	Historical lesbian fiction set in England during the Victorian era.			√	Long journey of love and discovery. A real reflection of what life was like for Lesbians during this era.
Lesbian	Novel	9-11	<i>The Miseducation of Cameron Post</i> , by Emily M. Danforth	A lesbian girl is sent to a conversion therapy camp		√	√	YA novel. Quick read. Interesting look at the dark intersection of religion and sexuality in the American South.
Lesbian (historical)	Novel	10-11	<i>Oranges are not the Only Fruit</i> , by Jeanette Winterson	Written in 1985. A coming-of-age story about an English girl who leaves her Pentecostal family for a girl. Semi-autobiographical			√	Adapted to a BBC series.
Queer	Memoir	10-11	<i>Out of Step</i> , Anthony Moll	Joining the army in the midst of the don't-ask-don't-tell era, the author shows how his identity develops as he integrates into military life.		√	√	Includes one sexually explicit scene (oral sex).
Straight	Novel	9-10	<i>Winger</i> , Andrew Smith	Heterosexual male falls in love with and pursues girl. Side-plot: develops friendships with his rugby playing teammates, including one who is gay.				Gratuitous and unjustified murder of a friend-character that is underdeveloped, and is merely used as plot device. We do not recommend it for the classroom.
Transgender Male -->Female	Novel	9-11	<i>If I Was Your Girl</i> , Meredith Russo	The story of a girl starting at a new school, in a new town. She is trying to live the life of a Cis gender female.		√	√	Soap opera type story, many dramatic events. Extremely engaging. Written by a transgendered author.

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Text Type	Grade Level	Title + Author	Synopsis	Whole class	Literature Circle	Class Library	Comment
Transgender Female --> Male	Memoire	10	<i>Some Assembly Required</i> , Arin Andrews	A Southern American girl's account of coming to terms with being transgender and transitioning to a male. Initially, her religious family is not supportive, but as the memoir progresses his family comes around.		√	√	Quick and easy read. Engaging, but lacking depth at times. Very successful with Grade 10.
Transgender	Long personal essay	11	<i>I'm Afraid of Men</i> , Vivek Shraya	A trans artist explores how masculinity was imposed on her as a boy and continues to haunt as a girl.			√	Moving, accessible, important and short.
Transgender Female --> Male	Novel	6-7	<i>The Pants Project</i> , Cat Clarke	About an 11 year old girl who is starting middle school. She is transgender and identifies as a boy, however, hasn't told her two moms yet or her best friend. Adapting to the new school isn't easy as they have a strict uniform dress code that requires girls to wear skirts – which is traumatic for her. She decides to stand up and get the rule changed. She's fiercely bullied by mean girls in her school and her best friend ditches her for the blonde posse.	√	√	√	A great and inspirational read. There are many nice moments of love and joy, with a happy ending. Fun and light. Would make an excellent Grade 7-8 whole class novel study.
Two-spirit	Novel	11	<i>Jonny Appleseed</i> , Joshua Whitehead	Off reserve and living in the city, Jonny goes on a traumatic journey of self-discovery that precedes a return to his reservation for a family funeral.			√	Cyber-sex worker, with multiple sexually explicit scenes.

LGBTQ2+ Film GUIDE

By Christine Bacon, Brennan McConnell, Adam Leclair, and Jodie MacInnis – 2019-2020

LGBTQ2+ Connection	Film length	Type	Grade Level	Title	Distribution Platform(s)	Synopsis	Pedagogical Comment
Transgender teen	7:18	Short Doc	7, 8, 9, 10, 11	The Real Thing	YouTube	Child transitioned while father was away on a tour (military). The father comes home to greet her.	Teacher that sets stage for stereotypical expectations of how father (soldier) will react at first meeting.
Gay young adult	12:36	Short Doc	9, 10, 11	FaceTime Friends	YouTube	20-something guy starts an online friendship on the heels of a break-up. He flies to Paris to surprise him after 3 years of talking online only. He documents the experience.	Not focussed on the homosexual experience so much as that of the experience of relationships primarily mediated by technology. Well suited for setting up a personal documentary filming project.
Lesbian teen	3:27	Short film	9, 10, 11	Fifteen	YouTube	1 st love story told from perspective of a 15 year-old lesbian. Archetypal love story, falling in and out.	To be used with Cat Stevens. A useful link for discussing the socio-emotional teen life.
				Packed in a trunk,			historical treatment of lesbians
Transgender child	83 minutes	Feature documentary	7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Growing up Coy	Netflix	Growing Up Coy is a 2016 documentary that documents a landmark 2013 case in which the Colorado Civil Rights Division ruled in favor of transgender 6-year-old Coy Mathis to use the girls' bathroom at her	Film focuses on Coy and her family as they navigate the media and life following their widely publicized court case.

						elementary school in Fountain, Colorado.	
Gay	85 min	documentary		Strike a pose	Netflix	Madonna's back-up dancers: where are they now and the impact of their first world exposure.	25 years after the Blonde Ambition tour, seven male dancers reveal the truths of the experience. The film is a dramatic tale about overcoming shame and finding the courage to be who you are.
				Outrage			politicians who had discrepancy between policy and personal life
				We were here			AIDS Crisis
				Out list		Interviews with Celebrities and the impact of coming out on them and or their careers.	Hollywood celebrities on cost of coming out
Gay young adult	1:19:56	documentary	9, 10, 11	Bridegroom	Youtube (\$5)	Most of the doc is focused on the experience of two young gay guys (Shane and Tom) falling in love, as the backdrop to the emotional climax that is Tom's accidental death and Shane's sudden, emotional, and unjust separation from the usual processes of grieving.	Useful for conversations around love, loss, and the law's ability to create suffering in the lives of those on "its margins." Slow, very personal, and slightly older production style. Not ideal for whole-class use, but no warning content to keep from being suggested to students looking to understand this topic better. Borders on video-memoir in terms of the level of personal perspective (Shane's) that is brought to the storytelling.

				Matthew Shepard is a friend of mine	YouTube (\$5)	Didn't watch because of cost, instead opting for the free "State of Pride"	with Tig , the beating and death of Matthew
Lesbian	56 min	Stand-up Comedy		Tig Notaro: Happy to be Here	Netflix	A stand-up special from 2018, in which Tig talks about celebrity and raising twin boys with her wife.	
Transgender adult	8 minutes	Scripted documentary short	9, 10, 11	Dylan	https://www.shortoftheweek.com/2015/06/23/dylan/	Directed by Elizabeth Rohrbaugh, a young trans man tells his story on an early morning journey to Coney Island	An LGBTQ actor reads the words of Dylan, a personal friend of the director. The focus is on the realities of living as a trans person: relationships, surgeries, intimate moments and thoughts.
Gay, transgender and transexual	1:18:00	documentary	11?	Paris is burning	Netflix	The historical development of Drag Queens in NYC during the late 80s (released 1990). Principally focussed on African American drag subculture. Significant references to Aids, violence, prostitution, and poverty. Consistent focus on how the in-group used language to restructure and mediate their experiences.	The historical look at the development of Drag Queens. May be of use for a student doing a targeted study of a cultural group and their use of language to assert power in a broader context that is strikingly devoid of power/control and subject to violence and adversity. Grade 11 ethnography possibility, but not suitable for whole-class use and slightly dated.
LGBTQ: intentionally broad focus, though through the eyes of a	1:10:00	Documentary	9, 10, 11	State of Pride	YouTube (free)	Oscar-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman examine the state and use of Pride today. Explore tension of protest/party dynamics, shifting evolution over time and	Rich representation of the tapestry of lived LGBTQ2+ experience in USA (and even, briefly, abroad). Compelling case for Pride being an essential function in both its

white gay man						geography (Salt Lake City, San Francisco, rural Alabama), and differing experiences of Pride from trans, homosexual, age, racial, and variety of cultural perspectives.	party and protest dynamics, all the way back to Stonewall. Useful for history classes as well as English classes. Useful sections on the contested power of words (tranny, faggot) in 1 st half. Moving, informative, and highly recommended.
LGBTQ	6 min	Short film	11	Handmade Mountain	NFB	Experimental film discusses the personal and political impact of both gay marriage and gay divorce in a series of voiceovers	Audio and visual images are mismatched, evoking a sense of confusion – may be difficult for students to follow
Two Spirit	6 min	Short film		Woman Dress	NFB	Using archival footage and re-enactments, this is the story of a two spirit storyteller	A look at Indigenous mythology and the nature of storytelling
Lesbian	6 min	Short film		The Bassinet	NFB	A story about culture, expectations, and sexuality involving a symbolic vintage bassinet.	This short film can be used to discuss symbolism and diverse voices.
LGBTQ	6 min	animation		Reviving the Roost	NFB	Filmmaker and bestselling author Vivek Shraya's ode to a popular Edmonton gay bar that closed in 2007. Reviving the Roost is a story about community complexity and longing, and an elegy to a lost space.	Spoken word poem about memories of and experiences in a gay bar in Edmonton.
Gay	6 min	Short documentary		The Hook Up	NFB	The Hook Up is an experimental doc featuring four gay men from two different generations: two	Men share stories of hook up culture from the past and present.

						nearing age 70 and two 20-somethings.	
Gay	40 min	Documentary	9,10,11	All in My Family	Netflix	Film-maker Hao Wu documents his traditional Chinese family's response to his American family: a husband and two children via surrogacy.	Touching and heartfelt, but not overly sentimental or dramatic, this film touches on the conflicts arising between two cultures and the importance of traditions and relationships.

Today's presentation slides can be found at the following [link](#):

https://wqsb-my.sharepoint.com/:p/g/personal/bmccconnell_wqsb_qc_ca/EdiRhli5dCNCqITNCfgWafYBx4d82mwvA6O9PvLOmzkZ2g?e=LvbYAC