

ADVISORY

ADULT CONTENT

WARNING

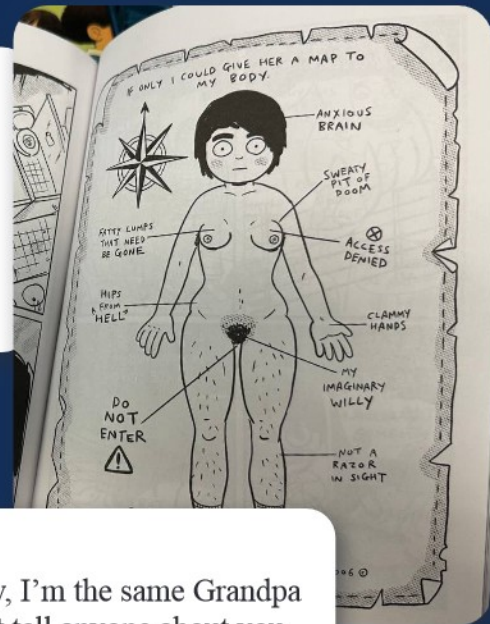
“She immersed her body in the warm water and tried not to think about what was between her legs, but there it was, bobbing in front of her.”

Melissa, Pg. 44



“Well, you could call me a crossdresser, but really, I’m the same Grandpa Ray I’ve always been ... And just like I wouldn’t tell anyone about you without your permission, I hope you won’t tell anyone about me.”

Rick, Pg. 147



“This was called transitioning. You could even start before you were eighteen with pills called androgen blockers that stopped the boy hormones.”

Melissa, Pg. 47



“George had been reading websites about transitioning since Scott had taught her how to clear the web browser history on Mom’s computer.”

Melissa, Pg. 105



“... he had recently realized about himself: that when it came to love and romance, his feelings were aimed at other guys.”

The Language of Seabirds, Pg. 2

Scholastic is feeding this content to your kids, do you know what **this** is?

Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



por·nog·ra·phy

/pôr'nägrəfē/

noun

printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic rather than aesthetic or emotional feelings.
"she warned that access to hardcore pornography was shaping children's expectations of relationships"

Similar:

erotica

pornographic material

hardcore pornography

soft-core pornography



ob·scen·i·ty

/əb'senədē/

noun

the state or quality of being obscene; obscene behavior, language, or images.
"the book was banned for obscenity"

Similar:

indecency

immorality

impropriety

salaciousness

smuttiness

smut



• an extremely offensive word or expression.

plural noun: **obscenities**

"the men scowled and muttered obscenities"

Similar:

curse

oath

swear word

expletive

profanity

four-letter word



And not just pornography, but intense violence.

“‘Cut out your tongue,’ Darkstalker said coldly. Arctic’s eyes became round holes of horror as he reached up to his mouth, pulled out his long blue forked tongue, and sliced it off with his own claws. ... ‘Take your talons, rip open your stomach, and show us all what you’re really like on the inside. Pour out your life on this stage.’ It took a long time, and it was messy, and at the end of it, when Arctic was definitely dead, Darkstalker did not feel nearly as happy as he’d expected.”

Pg 333, *Darkstalker (Wings of Fire: Legends)*

In the Common Sense Media review for the book *Chains*, the following was listed under Violence and Scariness,

“A young girl is beaten into unconsciousness, her teeth are broken, she’s branded on the cheek, and she’s slashed in the face with a riding crop. Men are hung and stabbed; people are killed in battle, fire, and lightning. A boy is decapitated by a cannonball. Dead bodies are stacked like cordwood, dumped in pits. A husband punches his wife in the face.”

Chains is one of the books recommended and provided for grade 6 students in the **Scholastic BookRoom**, a resource for schools and teachers to use in their classrooms.

Another book that can be found on their BookRoom list is *Smile*, a graphic novel by **Raina Telgemeier**. One parent who unsuspectingly purchased it for her 8-year old son had this to say about it.

“The book introduced my son to the idea that you need to have your first kiss when you are 13 ... to the game spin the bottle ... to the phrase “have the hots” for someone, and to the idea that you should feel insecure about yourself based on how you look but then if you fix whatever is causing you to feel insecure (like your teeth) in the end it will be better and you can be happy.”

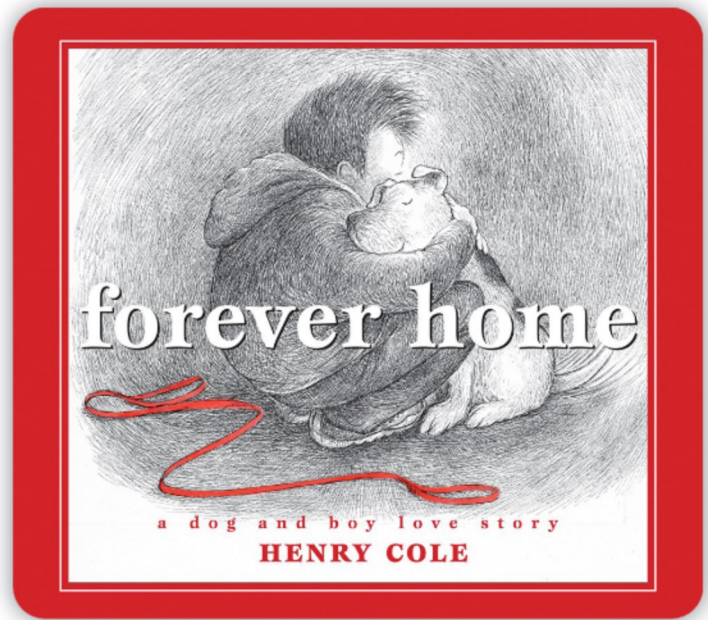
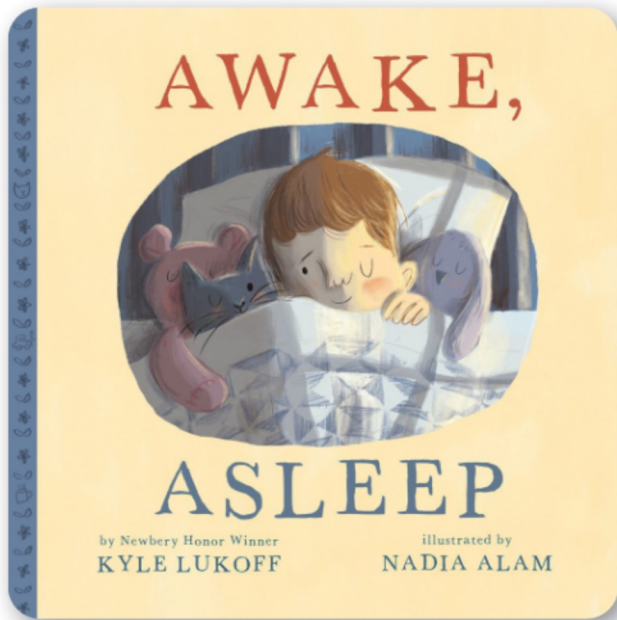
Smile can be found in book fairs around the country. And Raina Telgemeier is also the author of *DRAMA*, a book with strong thematic elements including sexual material that has been labeled for grades 5-8. These children are ages 9-14 and have been told to believe that their parents are evil and homophobic if they don't agree with the LGBT agenda being pushed on their kids. One kid left a review on [Common Sense Media](#) that states,

“... I loved how the book was able to show how a young teenager (the characters are in middle school) is able to figure out their sexuality. This book actually helped me a bit when I was questioning my sexuality.”



Telgemeier is a popular author at Scholastic, having multiple “[Raina Telgemeier collections](#)” promoted across their website and in book fair flyers. *Smile* is a book that seems innocent enough from the cover, just like these books that are for kids from PreK-3...





But if you look a little deeper, these too are pushing something. *Awake, Asleep* “Showcases a diverse range of kids, and families that include same-sex parents ... “ And *Forever Home*’s main character has two dads.

You may be thinking that Scholastic is a huge company and some bad books just slipped through the cracks. Seems reasonable ... but you would be dead wrong. Here is a quote from former [Scholastic CEO Dick Robinson](#).

“We believe Scholastic can make the greatest impact by continuing to promote the work of LGBTQIA+ creators in our publishing, including the support and amplification of transgender and non-binary voices.

This year, eight of the ten most challenged books on the American Library Association’s Most Challenged Books List were there because of LGBTQIA+ content, and **we are proud that two of them were published by Scholastic:** Raina Telgemeier’s *Drama* and Alex Gino’s *George*, the #1 most challenged book of last year.”

Scholastic is behind this agenda from the very top on down.

And *George*, republished as *Melissa* (to respect the main character’s trans identity), is practically **a handbook leading kids to a gender transition, it also includes things like: how to hide internet search history and “dirty magazines” from parents and encourages kids to avoid talking to “unsupportive” parents.**

There is an author interview at the back of the book that shares LGBTQ+ terms and tells young readers that there is a **“community out here ready and waiting to love and cherish you”** if the readers don’t feel as though they have someone to talk to.

The author of *Melissa*, Alex Gino has stated that, “A lot of my inspiration comes from going to school visits...” Take from that what you will. So you may be wondering... Who is this Alex Gino? Well, let us introduce him. Say hello to [Alex Gino](#), the 45-year-old male author encouraging your kids to go to people like him, rather than you, when they are confused.



Gino uses “the singular they and the honorific Mx (pronounced mix).” He has written three pro-LGBTQ+ books that are sexually explicit and are recommended for grades 3-7. One lesser-known one, *Alice Austen Lived Here*, has this description,

“Sam is very in touch with their own queer identity. They’re nonbinary, and their best friend, TJ, is nonbinary as well ... The teacher-respect thing is hard when it comes to Sam’s history class, because their teacher seems to believe that only Dead Straight Cis White Men are responsible for history.”

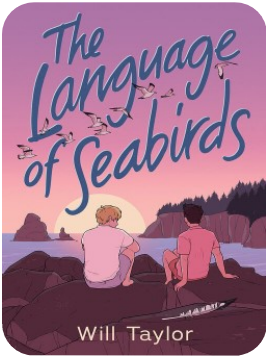
But did I mention Gino also has a book, *You Don’t Know Everything, Jilly P!* that includes a discussion on police brutality and even has a deaf black girl shot seven times in the back by police within the book. Again, these are all for grades 3-7.

But should we be surprised? According to Gino himself, when they were first naming *Melissa*, Gino wanted to call it *Girl George* in reference to Boy George, a bisexual androgynous singer-songwriter. But Scholastic took “girl” off the title because, “we can sell more copies, we can get it in more hands ... there are people who won’t read it with the word girl on it.”

Their goal, of course, is to market this type of content to all young and impressionable boys and girls in middle school. Oh, and they aren’t going to stop,

“We [Scholastic] will continue to support all our authors of LGBTQIA+ work and, even more important, the LGBTQIA+ youth to whom these books mean so much. There are still more voices out there that need to be heard.”

And “voices” they have found. Here are more authors Scholastic has worked with to provide literature to your children.

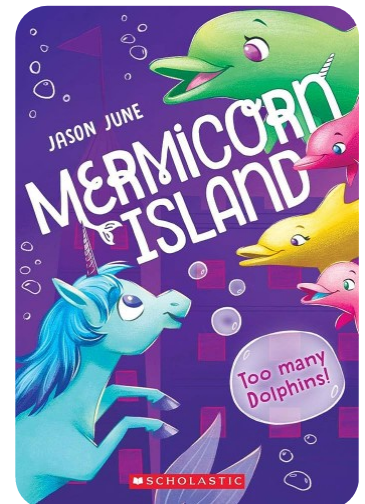


Will Taylor, author of *The Language of Seabirds* [says](#),

“I am gay, biromantic, gray ace, and enby, or, as a teacher friend once dubbed me, multidisciplinary queer.” He’s currently piecing together a “super gay murder-mystery-musical-romcom.”

Or how about **Jason June**, the author of Scholastic’s *Mermicorn Island* series, who has a bio that states,

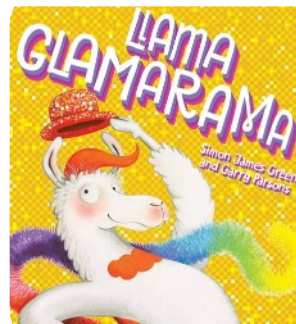
“Jason June is a writer who has always dreamed of being a mermaid. He regularly swims in the lake that he lives on and tells stories to the turtles on the beach. If he could have any kind of Sparkle, it would be Shape Shifting Sparkle. When he finally gets that mermaid tail, he hopes it’s covered in pink scales.”



June has written other books as well, one for ages 14+ called *Jay’s Gay Agenda*, and another book for ages 4-8, *Porcupine Cupid*, which, according to one purchaser,

“Nothing in any description says that it [Porcupine Cupid] has an LGTBQ message which is purposely deceitful for parents. ... it [The LGTBQ message] shouldn’t be snuck in so the parent can’t make an educated decision if that’s something they want to read. This book is going in the trash.”

Simon James Green, the author of *Llama Glamarama*, a book for 3-5 year olds, is also the author of *Gay Club!* Both books are available from Scholastic.

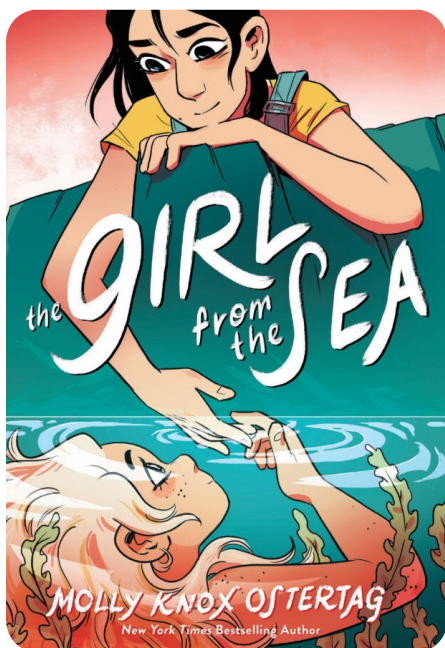


Now, let’s not forget the authors and illustrators of Scholastic’s graphic novels. It would be remiss of us to leave out a genre of books that has had a [76% increase in consumer sales](#) in the past few years.

Let's start with **Lewis Hancox**, author and illustrator of the graphic novel that included images you saw on the first page of this document, **Welcome to St. Hell: My Trans Teen Misadventure**. A novel geared towards young 14-year-olds in high school. Scholastic really puts the *graphic* in graphic novel with this one.



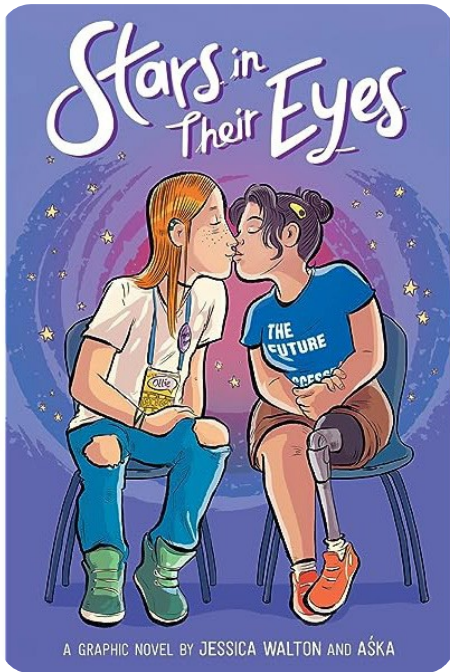
But Lewis isn't done! Apparently, his first graphic trans memoir wasn't enough. So he is partnering with Scholastic once again for his sequel to this super family-friendly book called, "*Escape from St. Hell*" coming out in 2024.



There's also **Molly Knox Ostertag**, who wrote *The Girl from the Sea*, for kids 12-18.

"Fifteen-year-old Morgan has a secret: She can't wait to escape the perfect little island where she lives. She's desperate to finish high school and escape her sad divorced mom, her volatile little brother, and worst of all, her great group of friends...who don't understand Morgan at all. Because really, Morgan's biggest secret is that she has a lot of secrets, including the one about wanting to kiss another girl."

Then there is **Alice Oseman**, author and illustrator of the *Heartstopper Series*. The tagline for this series is, “Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. A bestselling LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between.” These books are now a hit Netflix series as well.



Or how about **Stars in Their Eyes**, by Aska and Jessica Walton? For ages 12-18, this book looks at an LGBT love story as well. One of the co-authors, Jessica Walton, also wrote, *Introducing Teddy*, a picture book for Preschool to 1st grade (3-6 years old) that

“introduces the youngest readers to understanding gender identity and transition in an accessible and heart-warming story.”

Although not published by Scholastic, Scholastic AU (Australia) does list a supplemental [teaching resource](#) for the book.

And they’re not going to stop. Because again, according to Robinson,

“We [Scholastic] will work hard to find and promote them [LGBTQIA+ voices], and provide every child with books where he, she, or they can see the joy and importance of all identities on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum. This is in keeping with our commitment to support all children to live a full life and realize their human potential.”

We've referenced quite a few books so far. Have you been able to keep up? **Would you like a list of some of the books we've mentioned in a nice compartmentalized way to ensure you can keep your kids safe?** Well, have no fear, Scholastic is here. They have created their own [resource guide](#) for educators, caregivers, and advocates that lays it all out for you. This resource guide was written for their Read with Pride campaign and was laid out by a Boston children's librarian and ALA award committee member.

GLOSSARY

Language is ever-changing. It is always important to ask the LGBTQIA+ people in your life what words they prefer for themselves. Here are some key words and phrases to know; the terms in this glossary are widely accepted amongst LGBTQIA+ people at the time of this printing.

agender: Having no gender identity.

allocisnet: A term combining "allosexual/afromantic," "cisgender," and "heterosexual/heteroromantic" that is used as a shorthand to describe people whose gender and sexuality are privileged by society.

alloromantic: Someone who is not a romantic; someone who consistently experiences romantic attraction. Sometimes shortened to "allo."

allosexual: Someone who is not asexual; someone who consistently experiences sexual attraction. Sometimes shortened to "allo."

aromantic: Experiencing little to no romantic attraction. Sometimes shortened to "aro."

asexual: Experiencing little to no sexual attraction. Asexual people can be *sex-repulsed*, *sex-neutral*, or *sex-positive*. Some asexual people identify as *gray-asexual* (rarely experiencing sexual attraction) or *demisexual* (experiencing sexual attraction only after forming emotional intimacy). Often shortened to "ace."

biromantic: Someone who is romantically attracted to people who share their gender and people of other genders. Sometimes shortened to "bi."

bisexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people who share their gender and people of other genders. Often shortened to "bi."

cisgender: Someone whose current gender matches the gender they were assigned at birth. Sometimes shortened to "cis."

demiboy/demigirl: Someone who identifies as partly a boy or partly a girl.

gay: Someone who is attracted to people of the same gender. Traditionally used to describe men who are attracted to men, but it is sometimes used more expansively.

gender: A socially constructed category for dividing humans. An individual's gender is often presumed by others based on assumptions about their gender expression, pronouns, and/or assigned sex, but an individual's gender identity can only be determined by the individual themselves.

gender dysphoria: A visceral discomfort or distress for some people when they feel their body or sex doesn't "match" their gender.

gender expression: External expressions of a person's gender that can include clothes, hair style, body language, and other aspects of appearance. Cultures often prescribe aspects of these expressions as "feminine" or "masculine," but gender expression is varied. Someone's gender should not be assumed by their gender expression.

gender identity: An individual's internal sense of their own gender.

genderfluid: An identity term for someone whose gender changes or fluctuates.

genderqueer: A broad term for someone whose gender identity subverts the supposed gender binary.

Intersex: Someone whose primary and/or secondary sex characteristics do not neatly or obviously fit into the designators "male" or "female."

lesbian: Traditionally used to describe women who are attracted to women, some nonbinary people also use it to describe their attraction to women.

LGBTQIA+: An initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual/romantic, and more (including pansexual, two-spirit, nonbinary, and genderqueer). Some versions rearrange the letters or add additional letters, such as 2SLGBTQIA+ (2S standing for two-spirit) or GLBT (an older and narrower arrangement).

nonbinary: Someone whose gender identity does not entirely align with, and/or falls outside of, one of the binary gender categories of man or woman. Many, but not all, nonbinary people also identify as trans. This term is used both as a specific identity for individuals and as an umbrella term. Sometimes shortened to "enby."

panromantic: Someone who is romantically attracted to people regardless of their gender. Sometimes shortened to "pan."

pansexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people regardless of their gender. Sometimes shortened to "pan."

pronouns: Most people have pronouns that are sometimes used instead of their name. Some people do not have pronouns, instead using their name in all circumstances. Some people are comfortable with any pronouns. Some people use one set of pronouns (for example, just "he" or just "they"), while others use multiple (for example, "they/it" or "he/she/they").

queer: A term historically wielded as an insult by allocisnet people, "queer" has now been reappropriated by many — though not all — LGBTQIA+ people. It is now used in several ways: as an umbrella term and inclusive shorthand for referring to multiple specific identities within the LGBTQIA+ community; and as an identifier for a person who is not heterosexual and/or whose gender identity is not cisgender (without the need for further or more specific self-identification).

questioning: When someone is unsure of or reconsidering their gender identity or sexuality.

sapphic: A general term for women or femmes who are romantically and/or sexually attracted to women.

sex: Assigned at birth, sex is most often determined by external genitalia. Often assumed to be a binary of female and male, sex has significant variety and includes intersex.

sexual orientation: A pattern of sexual attraction to people with the same or different gender identities. Although romantic orientation is separate, they are often blended together both by individuals and culturally.

transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity is different than the gender they were assigned at birth. While some transgender people also identify as nonbinary, many have a gender identity that is either "man" or "woman." Sometimes shortened to "trans."

two-spirit: An umbrella term specifically for Native American/First Nations/Indigenous people who do not identify with the colonialist gender binary. Sometimes shortened to "2S."

LGBTQIA+ BOOK LIST

Use this grid to ensure your bookshelves include diverse LGBTQIA+ representation, and to support readers in finding books that depict specific queer identities and experiences. Grouped by age range and tagged with the identities represented, the books on this grid include queer main characters, queer family members, and/or clear LGBTQIA+ representation that is relevant to the main story arc.

PICTURE BOOK / EARLY READER (AGES 0-8)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	ALLOSEXUAL	AROMANTIC	ASexual	BISEXUAL	LESBIAN	GAY	TRANS	QUEER	INTERSEX	NONBINARY	2S
<i>Amelia's Ark</i>	Ruth Labaffa, Ruth Allen											
<i>Dragon Heart</i>	Emily Stone, Fred Landberg											
<i>Forever Home</i>	Blair J. Cull											
<i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>	Christine Green, A. George-Peterson											
<i>My Friend Leo</i>	Ruth Labaffa, Ruth Allen											
<i>My Friend Leo</i>	Christine Green, A. George-Peterson											
<i>My Friend Leo</i>	Christine Green, A. George-Peterson											

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 12+)

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 12+)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	ALLOSEXUAL	AROMANTIC	ASexual	BISEXUAL	LESBIAN	GAY	TRANS	QUEER	INTERSEX	NONBINARY	2S
<i>A Very, Very Long Day</i>	Jillory Jeff											
<i>And the Winner Is...</i>	Janice Radt											
<i>As Good as Dead</i>	Janice Radt											
<i>Be a Hero</i>	Janice Radt											
<i>Be a Hero</i>	Janice Radt											
<i>Be a Hero</i>	Janice Radt											

LGBTQIA+ BOOK LIST (CONTINUED)

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 12+)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	ALLOSEXUAL	AROMANTIC	ASexual	BISEXUAL	LESBIAN	GAY	TRANS	QUEER	INTERSEX	NONBINARY	2S
<i>The Book of Bill</i>	Erin Egan											
<i>Change My Mind</i>	By Cole											
<i>Dear Mr. Noodle</i>	Vanessa Brantley Nester											
<i>The Whisker</i>	Alice Cooper											
<i>Whisker</i>	Alice Cooper											
<i>Whisker</i>	Alice Cooper											

2023 TITLE SPOTLIGHT

LEARN ABOUT THESE AND MORE 2023 FEATURED TITLES AT [SCHOLASTIC.COM/READWITHPRIDE](https://www.scholastic.com/readwithpride)

ABOUT THE WRITER OF THIS GUIDE

Kate Berley-Cramer (@kateberley) is a children's librarian at a public library in Boston, Massachusetts. They've served on the American Library Association's Stonewall and Smart Book Award committees, co-edited the Stonewall Award speculation Mag Medal on My Mind, and they review for *Kirkus Reviews*. In addition to their MS in library and information science, they hold an MA in Children's Literature. They use *they/their* pronouns and are proud to be a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. They can be found occasionally sharing their thoughts on social media @kateberley.

Take a look at the two-page glossary of terms for the LGBTQIA+ community, which includes terms such as **allocisnet**, **intersex**, **sapphic**, **two-spirit**, and more.

The only good part about this resource guide is that list of **102 different titles** to avoid. The list lets you know if there is a side character or main character in each book that is one of the following →

So how did these books get into children’s hands? We all remember the Scholastic Book Fairs of our childhood, with the colorful book displays and the wish-list flyers. The Scholastic and iconic Book Fairs have been the primary mode of getting these books into children’s hands.

Scholastic is not leaving anything to chance, though. As the earlier quote from their former CEO attested, they are determined to get these sick books into every child’s hands. This past June, Scholastic combined their Book Fairs and Books Clubs to create a new division called School Reading Events. The Book Fairs and Clubs surely include some, if not all, of the books mentioned previously, but if you thought that was the only path Scholastic had into your children’s schools and minds, think again.

The Scholastic Literacy program is a

“comprehensive K-6 program offering whole-class, small group, and independent learning instruction with authentic and culturally relevant literature, integrated writing, and digital resources.”

Let’s focus on that “culturally relevant” section. Because that is the area in which Scholastic is hiding (but not too hard) these books.

As we conducted this research, we found multiple “collections” available for purchase by teachers that include books like *Julian is a Mermaid*, *King and the Dragonflies* (on their Read with Pride guide), and *Prince & Knight*.

Prince & Knight was found in their “Equity and Inclusion” collection for PreK - 2 (really?).

LGBTQIA+ FAMILY MEMBER
LESBIAN / SAPPHIC
GAY
BI / PAN
TRANSGENDER
NONBINARY / GENDERFLUID
QUEER
QUESTIONING
INTERSEX
ARO / ACE / DEMI



In their Accelerated Reading Collection, they show *Dragon Masters* the book series (On their Read with Pride guide). This series included the disembowelment scene mentioned earlier.

Accelerated Reader C3 Framework Culturally Responsive Guided Reading Grade-Level Guided Reading Le Packs

Accelerated Reader Collections

Each collection includes a comprehensive title list with the AR Level, points, and quiz number for each book.

[BUY NOW →](#)

In Scholastic's The Power of Story Initiative, the tagline is "Building equitable bookshelves" and in the educator materials section, they have a discussion guide for *Melissa*, that encourages kids to not trust their parents and leads them to gender transition sites and information?

Educator Materials

Discover FREE downloadable resources to support reader engagement with Scholastic books featured in the Power of Story Catalog! Written by educators and specialists, these resources include in-depth discussion questions, activities, resources, and/or further reading lists across a range of themes, topics, and lived experiences.

RESOURCE GUIDE
READ WITH PRIDE
EDUCATIONAL, CURRICULAR, AND ADVOCATE RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING LGBTQIA+ YOUTH AND BODIES

READING GUIDE
MISS QUINCES
BY KAT FAJARDO

DISCUSSION GUIDE
WILDOAK
BY C.C. HARRINGTON

DISCUSSION GUIDE
MELISSA
BY ALEX GINO

A Guide to Using
WE ARE HERE
at Home and in the Classroom

READING GUIDE
I Am Ruby Bridges
BY RUBY BRIDGES • ILLUSTRATED BY JENNIFER BROWN

So, how did these books come to be? How did they make it into our public schools and libraries without us knowing? There have surely been some bad actors in schools to make sure these books get read, but often, the only thing many principals or librarians are guilty of is trusting Scholastic's catalog.

Scholastic has been a household name for decades. They themselves state,

“[We have] been a trusted literacy partner for almost 100 years.”

Well, we can't trust them. Not anymore.

Scholastic has had a dramatic shift in its mission and principles. A company that once promoted good traditional values to children through sweet and fun stories has, over time, replaced those values with an ideology that believes sexual immorality should be fed to young children.

If chivalry is dead, truth doesn't exist, and uplifting heroes are useless, what matters? Scholastic has pushed every good thing aside, they've denied reality, and created an inverted morality.

After all this, one thing remains clear: Scholastic no longer cares about your children. They care about promoting an ideology that is spiritually, physically, and mentally harmful to your kids. The question is, what are you going to do about it? Are you going to keep giving your hard-earned money to Scholastic? Or **are you going to stop letting companies get away with this crime against children?**

It's time to boycott Scholastic.

If you are a principal, librarian, or school board member, you need to take a stand. We are watching what you do.

If you are wondering how to replace the books and book fairs that Scholastic provided, below is a list of companies that can help you.

RESOURCES

Book Fairs:

[Brave Books](#)

[Bedford Falls](#)

Book Clubs:

[Freedom Island Book Club](#)

[I55](#)

[Theolit](#)

Curriculums:

[Sonlight](#)

[Abeka](#)

[Steadfast](#)

[BJU Press](#)

[AOP](#)

[Apologia](#)

[Memoria Press](#)

[Summit](#)

[New Growth](#)