

Guest Columnist: Tara Rousseau, LGBTQ+ Co-President-Elect and Column Co-Editor

LGBTQ+ BOOKS TO ENRICH YOUR YOUNG ADULT LIBRARIES

“What was that book you picked out when we were shopping on vacation last year?”

In putting together this column, I reached out to a trusted source—my 13-year-old niece. “*Ramona Blue*,” she answered, a novel about a queer teen protagonist navigating the fluidity of life. “Do you recommend it? Is it good?” “Ya,” she texted, a monosyllable, I have learned, that translates to a firm “yes.”

This is the second installment in our Interest Group’s series of recommended reading for all ages. This column focuses on young adult literature and nonfiction.

Gay and Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights by Jerome Pohlen. A book that makes visible important LGBT history.

Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community by Robin Stevenson. An accessibly written history of *Pride* for a broad age range.

Queer, There, and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World by Sarah Prager. Includes Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, Frida Kahlo, and Sylvia Rivera.

Ramona Blue by Julie Murphy. Ramona’s journey, briefly described above.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky. Charlie finds confidence and love through his friends in the book that inspired the eponymous movie.

The Gentlemen’s Guide to Vice and Virtue (Montague Siblings Series #1) by Mackenzi Lee. The adventures of Monty, young lord and his best friend/secret crush, Percy.

The Lady’s Guide to Petticoats and Piracy (Montague Siblings Series #2) by Mackenzi Lee. The adventures of Felicity, Monty’s sister, as she avoids suitors and works to get herself into medical school, a near-impossible task in the book’s era.

I’ll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson. A coming-of-age novel about nonidentical twins from ages 13 to 16.

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun by Jacqueline Woodson. Thirteen-year-old Melanin navigates her new life with her mom and her mother’s new partner.

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson. A novel about transgender teens Kate and Leo.

Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart. A story about a transgender girl and her friend Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Alire Saenz. A story of two loners, with seemingly little in common, who strike up a special friendship.

Luna by Julie Anne Peters. The story of Liam’s transformation into Luna.

Will Grayson, Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan. Two award-winning authors collaborate on this LGBT-themed best seller about two teens with the same name.

Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan. A few weeks in the lives of high school students in a gay-friendly American town.

George by Alex Gino. A novel about a young transgender girl.

Symptoms of Being Human by Jeff Garvin. Meet Riley Cavanaugh—punk rock, snarky, rebellious, and gender fluid.

I Am J by Cris Beam. J’s struggle to stand up for his true identity.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post by Emily M. Danforth. Cameron’s struggles to hide her sexuality in the household of a conservative aunt.

Hero by Perry Moore. The story of Thom, gay superhero.

We Are the Ants by Shaun David Hutchinson. Henry has been given the opportunity by aliens to save humanity merely by pressing a big red button, but he is not sure he wants to.

The Upside of Unrequited by Becky Albertalli. Twin sisters and their quest for rejection-free love.

Get it Together, Delilah! by Erin Gough. Delilah is beset by drama, the best of which is the beautiful Rosa.

More Than This by Patrick Ness. A novel about a boy who dies but lives on in an alternate reality.

Lizard Radio by Pat Schmatz. A novel about trans Kivali, who does not fit in but has a special talent in connecting with her animal self.

Dreadnought: Nemesis, Book One by April Daniels. Danny becomes her true self by being passed super powers, but living her true self proves to be more difficult than she imagined.

As with our first column of reading recommendations, this is in no way an exhaustive list. Please email me with your favorite books and any additional suggestions. We will be putting these resources online in an expanded format, and we welcome your input! ■

Carlos Cruz

President. Unified Arts Learning Facilitator, Evolutions High School, Providence, RI. Email: carlosacruz77@gmail.com

Tara Rousseau

Co-President-Elect. Visual Arts Teacher, Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, OISE, University of Toronto. Email: tara.rousseau@utoronto.ca

Jess Graff

Co-President-Elect. Teaching Artist and Consultant. Email: jessgraffcreative@gmail.com

Barry Morang

LGBTQ+ Past President. Email: bwmorang@gmail.com