

# World book day 2020

Stories are powerful. We use them all the time in teaching; not only for English but also to integrate with other subject areas. A well chosen book can teach many things at the same time. A key area of the SPHE curriculum is the strand 'Myself and My Family' and a recurring objective within this is to

recognise that not all families are the same. Outlined below are a selection of books, chosen by the INTO LGBT+ Teachers' Group, that will meet objectives in the Language curriculum but also act as positive representation of LGBT+ characters in a gentle, age appropriate way.

## Junior and senior infants

### We Are Family

Through illness and health, in celebration and disappointment, families stick together. Some families are made

up of many people, and some are much smaller. Sometimes family members look like each other, and sometimes they don't! But even though every family is different, the love is all the same.

This beautifully

illustrated rhyming book depicts the lives of many different types of families and shows how the core values of love and care are common to all families.

The book is versatile and could be read through in one sitting or delved into deeper by following the illustrations of one particular family as you read through.

Written by Patricia Hegarty and illustrated by Ryan Wheatcroft. Tiger Tales, 2017. ISBN 9781680100549. 32pp. Cost: €15.39.

### Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story About Gender and Friendship

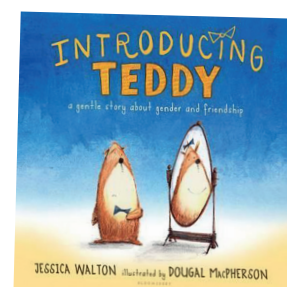
Errol and his teddy, Thomas, are best friends who do everything together. Whether it's riding a bike, playing in the tree house, having a tea party, or all of the above, every day holds something fun to do.

One sunny day, Errol finds that Thomas is sad, even when they are playing in their favorite ways. Errol can't figure out why, until Thomas finally

tells Errol what the teddy has been afraid to say: "In my heart, I've always known that I'm a girl teddy, not a boy teddy. I wish my name was Tilly, not Thomas." And Errol says, "I don't care if you're a girl teddy or a boy teddy! What matters is that you are my friend."

This is a gentle and sweet story that can be used to introduce children to the concept of gender identity and how to be a good friend.

Written by Jessica Walton and illustrated by Dougal MacPherson. Bloomsbury, 2016. ISBN 9781681192116. 32pp. Cost: €9.80.



## 1st and 2nd class

### Worm Loves Worm

A simple and fun book looking at the story of two worms who fall in love and want to get married. Their insect friends have lots of advice

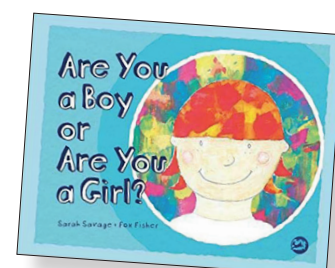
on how weddings have always been done and what the worms should do but in the end, the worms do things their own way and everyone has a lovely time at their wedding. A

nice book to stimulate discussion on being true to yourself in the face of peer pressure.

Written by JJ Austrian and illustrated by Mike Curato. Balzer + Bray, 2016. ISBN 9780062386335. 32pp. Cost: €18.19.

### Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?

Tiny loves costumes! Tiny likes to dress up as an animal, or a doctor, or a butterfly. Tiny also prefers not to tell other children whether they are a boy or a girl. Tiny's friends don't mind, but when Tiny starts a new school their new friends can't help

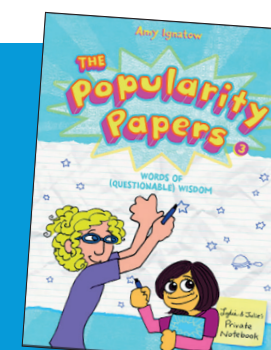
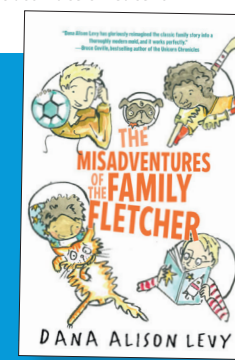
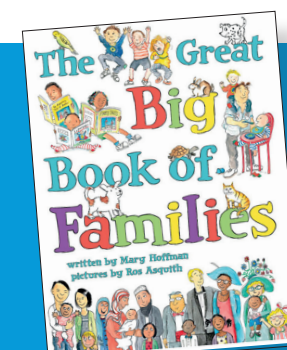
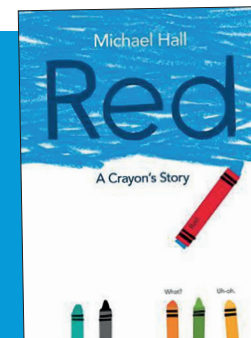
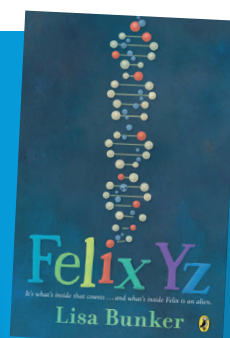
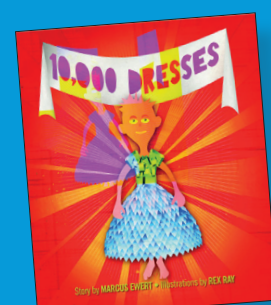


asking one question: "Tiny, are you a boy or are you a girl?" This brightly illustrated book can be used to spark discussions

on gender roles as well as gender identity. It would be a great stimulus for a circle time discussion and the book also includes a page with suggested questionse.

Written by Sarah Savage and illustrated Fox Fisher. TQUAL Books, 2015. ISBN 9780993192500. 28pp. €12.60.

## 2019 recommendations



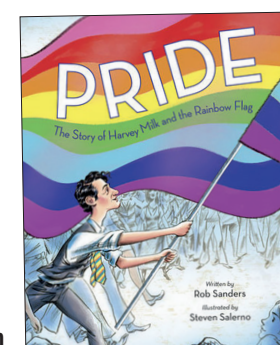
## 3rd and 4th class

### Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

This brightly illustrated true story simultaneously introduces the readers to the story of Harvey Milk and the history of the Pride Flag. It charts the activism of Harvey Milk and the contribution he made to LGBT+ rights; deals sensitively with his assassination and that of Mayor George Morcone ("Their lives were taken by a man who did not think like Harvey, or feel like him or love like him") and looks at how the Rainbow Pride Flag became a symbol of hope and inclusion across the world. This book could also be used in the 5th

and 6th classroom.

Written by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Steven Salerno. Penguin Random House, 2018. ISBN 9780399555312. 40pp. Cost: €15.89.



### The Witch Boy

In thirteen-year-old Aster's family, all the girls are raised to be witches, while boys grow up to be shapeshifters. Anyone who dares cross those lines is exiled. Unfortunately for Aster, he still hasn't shifted... and he's still fascinated by witchery, no matter how forbidden it might be. When a mysterious danger

threatens the other boys, Aster knows he can help – as a witch. It will take the encouragement of a new friend, the non-magical and non-conforming Charlie, to convince Aster to try practising his skills. And it will require even more courage to save his family... and be truly himself.

This engaging graphic novel examines gender norms and how to be true to yourself when you feel like you don't fit in. It would be suited to all classrooms in the senior side of the school.

Written and illustrated by Molly Knox Osterstag. Graphix/Scholastic, 2017. ISBN 9781338089523. 224pp. Cost: €18.15.



## 5th and 6th class

### The Lottery Plus One

Sumac Lottery is nine years old and the self-proclaimed 'good girl' of her (VERY) large, (EXTREMELY) unruly family. And what a family the

Lotterys are: four parents, children both adopted and biological, and a menagerie of pets, all living and learning together in a sprawling house called Camelottery. Then one day, the news breaks that one of their grandfathers is suffering from dementia and will be coming to live with them. And not just any grandfather – the long dormant

'Grumps', who fell out with his son so long ago that he hasn't been part of any of their lives.

Irish author Emma Donoghue brings a fantastical set of characters to life in this fun and whimsical story. Suspension of disbelief is a definite requirement to engage with this quirky premise but the story is one of the importance of love and acceptance.

Written by Emma Donoghue and illustrated by Caroline Hadilaksono. Arthur A Levine Books, 2017. ISBN 9780545925815. 303pp. Cost: €9.80.

### The Other Boy

Twelve-year-old Shane Woods is just a regular boy. He loves pitching for his baseball team, working on his graphic novel, and hanging out with his best friend, Josh. But Shane is keeping something private, something that might make a difference to his friends, his teammates, and to his new crush, Madeleine. When a classmate threatens

to reveal his secret, Shane's whole world comes crashing down. It will take a lot of courage for Shane to ignore the hate and show the world that he's still the same boy he was before.

This book tells the story of a young boy dealing with the challenges posed by transitioning and the negative reactions from school peers when they find out about his previous life. While some difficult issues are raised, this book is a useful tool in building empathy and carries a powerful message of hope.

Written by MG Hennessey. Harper Collins, 2016. ISBN 9780062427687. 240pp. €9.80.

