

Magical tales for the classroom

Stories can be a magical addition to a classroom. They can act as mirrors to pupils, reflecting their own experiences back to them as valid; as windows, allowing pupils to see into other people's lives and as doors, letting pupils step into the shoes of others and experience their perspective for themselves.

Outlined below is a selection of books, chosen by the INTO LGBT+ Teachers' Group, that will add to the inclusion and positive representation of LGBT+ identities in a gentle, age-appropriate way.

Junior and senior infants

Our Big Day by Bob Johnston

Winner of the Specsavers Children's Book of the Year in 2022, *Our Big Day* is a fun and engaging picture book that celebrates love, family and weddings. In the book, uncle David and Simon are going to get married! There's lots to do, from making the invitations to arranging the decorations, but when the wedding rings go missing just before the ceremony, Bear the dog has to use all of his special skills to help save the day!



Sparkle Boy by Lesléa Newman

Casey loves to play with his blocks, puzzles, and dump truck, but he also loves things that sparkle, shimmer, and glitter. When his older sister, Jessie, gets something sparkly, Casey wants one too. The adults in Casey's life embrace his interests, but Jessie isn't so sure. Then, when older boys at the library tease Casey for wearing 'girl' things, Jessie realizes that Casey has the right to be himself and express his gender however he wants.



1st and 2nd class

A Peacock Among Pigeons by Tyler Curry

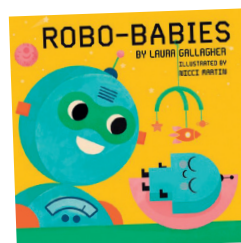
Peter the peacock doesn't know how it happened, but he found himself growing up in a flock of pigeons. Surrounded by a world of grey, he found himself feeling less than his peers and was embarrassed by his colourful feathers. After he fails to blend



in, he decides that it's time to learn to fly on his own. Along the way, he meets new bird friends from all different flocks that teach him a lesson he will never forget.

Robo-babies by Laura Gallagher

This is a story about the many ways in which babies arrive into their families, including IVF, donor conception, surrogacy and adoption. This magical story introduces a variety of robot families and their babies of all shapes and sizes. It explains, in simple terms, the various ways families can be formed, as well as the range of emotions parents can feel when starting a family.



3rd and 4th class

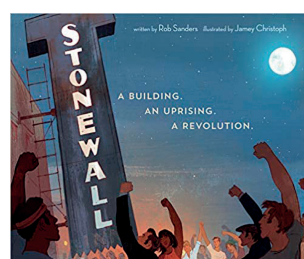
The Last Firefox by Lee Newbery

In this story, Charlie's adventures in being made guardian of a firefox called Cadno cause him to look inside himself to find the bravery he never thought he had. This book is a great example of how the inclusion of LGBT+ characters (in this case, Charlie's dads) can be part of the story rather than the focus of the plot.



Stonewall: A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution by Rob Sanders and Jamey Christoph

In the early-morning hours of 28 June, 1969, the Stonewall Inn (a venue popular with LGBT+ patrons) was raided by police in New York City. Though



the inn had been raided before, that night would be different. It would

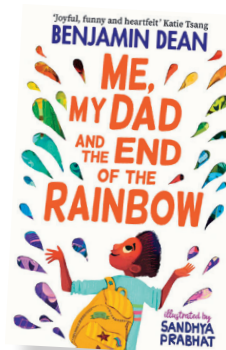
be the night when members of the LGBT+ community began to protest and demand their equal rights as citizens of the United States. The Stonewall Riots lit the spark that fueled the movement for LGBT+ equality around the world.

5th and 6th class

Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow by Benjamin Dean

Things aren't going great for Archie

Albright. His dad's acting weird, his mum too, and all he wants is for everything to go back to normal—to three months before when his parents were happy and still lived together. When Archie sees a colourful, crumpled flyer fall out of dad's pocket, he thinks he may have found the answer. Only problem? The answer might just lie at the end of the rainbow, an adventure away.



Ciel by Sophie Labelle

A gender nonconforming trans kid, Ciel can always rely on best friend Stephie, a trans girl who also happens to be a huge nerd. However, their friendship begins to feel distant when Stephie makes it clear she wants the fact



that she's trans to be more invisible in high school. When Ciel befriends Liam, a new trans boy at school, things become more complicated by the minute.

INTO LGBT+ Teachers' Group