Ages 2-6.

**Amazing Grace** by Mary Hoffman and illustrated by Caroline Binch  
New York: Dial for Young Readers, 1991. Print. Grace wants to audition for the role of Peter Pan in a play at school, but her classmates say that she cannot play this part because she is African American and a girl. Grace’s mother and grandmother explain to her that she can be anything she wants to be, her race and gender shouldn’t stand in her way. Grace puts on a stunning audition for the role of Peter Pan, and her class voted to give her the part!  
(Could also be for 5-9)

**About Chris** by Nina Benedetto  
Benedetto, Nina. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015. Print. *About Chris* is a story about a transgender boy determined to find his self-worth. As Chris works towards expressing his true self, those around him, including his teacher, learn lessons of their own.

**Henry Holton Takes the Ice** by Sandra Bradley with pictures by Sara Palacios  
Bradley, Sandra, and Sara Palacios. New York: Dial for Young Readers, 2015. Print. Everyone is Henry’s family plays hockey, so as soon as he could walk they put him in skates on the ice with a hockey stick in hand. Playing hockey never felt right to Henry, and one night after seeing an ice dancing show he realizes that this is what he wants to do. Henry’s family doesn’t want him to wear figure skates, as they say that they’re a hockey family and figure skating is only for girls. Henry’s grandma finally brings him figure skates, and he at once feels comfortable and happy on the ice. Henry’s family ultimately embraces his love of figure skating.

**Introducing Teddy** by Jess Walton and illustrated by Dougal MacPherson  
Bloomsbury USA, 2016. Print. *Introducing Teddy* seeks to help young readers understand gender and what it means to transition. When Thomas, Errol’s teddy, builds up the courage to tell Errol, “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,” Errol responds with love and acceptance for his best friend. In this heart-warming story, Errol and Thomas teach children about being your true self and what it means to be a good.

This vibrantly colored book features many examples of things that might make us unique or different from one another. While it doesn’t address gender nonconformity directly, the author encourages readers to be themselves even if they might be considered “different”. This book would be helpful for explaining differences to younger children, as nearly every kid will be able to find a page they can relate to themselves.

*Jacob’s New Dress* by Sarah and Ian Hoffman. Chicago: Whitman, 2014. Print. Jacob wants nothing more than his own dress. While his parents and peers initially don’t accept his love for such fashion, his mom ultimately helps him sew a dress of his own, and upon wearing it to school his peers come to understand that it’s okay for someone labeled a boy to wear dresses.

*My Princess Boy* by Cheryl Kilodavis: *A Mom's Story About A Young Boy Who Loves to Dress Up*. New York: Aladdin, 2010. Print. Dyson likes to wear dresses and tiaras, but his peers make fun of him because they don’t believe he should act such ways if he has been labeled as a boy. Dyson’s parents nurture his spirit and encourage him to be his true self. This book does a good job prompting readers to begin a discussion about how they would act in situations similar to the book, and these discussions would be especially helpful in working towards decreasing bullying incidence.

*Not Every Princess* by Jeffrey and Lisa Bone. Washington, DC: Magination, 2014. Print. A poetic book that explains how assumptions about one’s identity might not always be true and that this is okay. The illustrations speak louder than the words as they show diversity in race as well as gender presentations.

*Red: A Crayon’s Story* by Michael Hall. New York: HarperCollins Children's, 2015. Print. A crayon has a red wrapper around it, and the other crayons assume that it’s a red crayon, but it’s actually a blue crayon! This crayon struggles as it is constantly told to draw red things, until one day it is asked to draw something blue. At last it is accepted as a blue crayon, and enjoys drawing blue pictures with the other crayons.

*The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf with drawings by Robert Lawson. New York: Viking, 1936. Print. Ferdinand is a bull who lives in Spain. While all the other young bulls enjoy fighting, Ferdinand loves smelling flowers and relaxing under his favorite tree. When he is chosen for a bull fight in Madrid, Ferdinand only wants to appreciate the beautiful flowers on the spectator’s hats; he doesn’t want to fight the men who are trying to provoke him. After refusing to fight Ferdinand returns to his favorite tree and happily continues being himself, smelling flowers and lounging in the sun.

*Ages 5-9*

*Allie’s Basketball Dream* by Barbara E. Barber. New York: Lee & Low, 1996. Print. Allie dreams of becoming a professional basketball player, and can’t wait to practice after her father buys her a basketball. At the park a group of boys and Allie’s friends continually tell her that basketball is only for boys, but she insists that she loves
regardless of what they say. The reader sees her skill grow as she perseveres throughout the book, and she proves that basketball isn’t just for boys.

*All I Want To Be Is Me* by Phyllis Rothblatt MFT. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011. Print. *All I Want To Be Is Me* is a children's book depicting the wide range of ways in which children experience and express gender. The book offers language for those who don't necessarily fit gender stereotypes, who want feel accepted and feel free to be themselves. This book helps children learn about diversity and acceptance, encouraging all children to embrace their true selves.

*But I'm Not A Boy* by Katie Leone and illustrated by Alison Pfeifer Doppler Press, 2014. Print. Sarah is a transgender girl, but everyone thinks she is a boy named David. Feeling lonely and confused, Sarah longs for the courage to tell her parents about her secret. Written from Sarah's perspective, *But I'm Not a Boy* is a story about a child’s gender exploration, a desire for acceptance, and all of the emotions that comes with it.

*I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. New York: Dial for Young Readers, 2014. Print. Based off the true story of Jazz Jennings, this book takes readers through her childhood life as she realized she is a girl despite the fact she was labeled a boy at birth. A good book for explaining transgender identities to children, as it provides them a character at their age with which they can relate.

*Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino and illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant. Berkeley: Groundwood / House of Anansi, 2014. Print. Morris is a young boy who loves dressing up in a tangerine dress at school. Unfortunately, his peers make fun of him for wearing the dress and painting his fingernails pink; they tell him that boys can’t wear dresses. Morris is initially discouraged by their comments, but as he returns to school full of self-confidence, and his classmates ultimately accept him for who he is.

*The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch and illustrated by Michael Martchenko. New York: Annick, 1980. Print. Elizabeth is a beautiful princess planning to marry a prince named Ronald and after is captured by a dragon, Elizabeth goes to rescue him. Elizabeth is clever and outsmarts the dragon, and by the time she gets to Ronald her clothes have been destroyed. Ronald refuses to talk to her until she “looks like a princess”, so she decides not to marry him. The final illustration shows Elizabeth happily skipping into the sunset, leaving us with the message that you don’t need to be “feminine” to be a princess.

*The Sissy Duckling* by Harvey Fierstein & Illustrated by Henry Cole. New York: Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2002. Print. Elmer is a duckling who loves to paint pictures, decorate cookies, and put on theater productions. A lot of other
ducklings make fun of Elmer because he doesn’t want to play sports games with the other male ducklings. Even his father makes fun of his son, calling him a “sissy”. When Elmer’s father is injured as they begin migrating for the winter, Elmer is the only duck who stays behind to take care of him. Elmer is praised for his uniqueness, and finds that he isn’t an outsider after all.

10,000 Dresses by Marcus Ewert and Illustrated by Rex Ray. New York: Seven Stories, 2008. Print. Bailey dreams every night of extravagant dresses. When she awakes in the morning, she tells her family members that she wants a dress, but they all tell her that she is a boy and can’t have dresses. Bailey is confused and upset as she knows that she is a girl. She ultimately finds an older girl, Laurel, living down the street from her; they make dresses together and Laurel correctly refers to Bailey as a girl.

Annie’s Plaid Shirt by Stacey B. Davids. North Miami Beach: Upswing Books, 2015. Print. Annie loves her plaid shirt and dressing as she pleases, but has to be creative about a wedding to which she is ‘supposed’ to wear a fancy dress.

Ages 10-14

A Boy Like Me by Jennie Wood. 215 Ink, 2014. Print. While beginning the process of affirming himself as male, Peyton develops a crush in his middle school’s girl’s bathroom. This coming-of-age novel details his struggles and triumphs with his crush, their parents and their school with clarity, wisdom and wit.

Alex As Well by Alyssa Brugman. Print. Alex As Well is a story about being intersex; exploring gender, sexuality and friendships; and seeking a sense of belonging. While everyone thinks Alex is a boy, gender feels more complex than feeling like a girl or a boy. As Alex works to better understand herself, she is also faced with learning how to navigate relationships with friends and family- all while transferring to a new school.

George by Alex Gino. New York: Scholastic, 2015. Print. George is 10 years old, and while everyone refers to her as a boy, she knows that she is a girl. From the start of the book Gino uses female pronouns when referring to George, enforcing to readers that she is in fact a girl. Throughout the story George comes out to her friends, family, and peers at school as transgender, and this conversation starts as she auditions for the role of Charlotte in her schools production of “Charlotte’s Web”.

Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2014. Print. The protagonist of the story is Grayson, a transgender girl in the sixth grade. Grayson often feels socially left out at school, but one day bravely auditions for the role of Persephone in the school play. Grayson’s playing the role of the female character ultimately helps her realize that she in fact identifies as a girl, and the support from other students in the play aid in her self exploration and discovery.

Lily Jo McGrother is a transgender girl navigating her way through eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, once known as Norbert Dorfman, recently moved from New Jersey has been hiding a big secret on top of managing his bipolar disorder. But when Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, their lives are forever changed.

*My Last Skirt.* Durant, Lynda. Clarion Books. 2006. Print. Jennie Hodgers dressed as a boy for the first time in order to help support her impoverished Irish family with a shepherd’s wages. Then her arrival in America confirmed her belief that the world offers better opportunities to young men than to young women. So Jennie maintained her outward identity as Albert Cashier, serving as a grocery clerk in Queens, New York; as a farmhand in Ohio; and as a recruit in the 95th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. Not only did she survive three years in combat with her true identity undiscovered, she chose to continue living as Albert for nearly all of her life. Combining careful research with vivid insight, Lynda Durrant portrays Albert Cashier as soldier who served his adopted country and his comrades with loyalty and heroism, and Jennie Hodgers as a woman of a woman of astonishing strength, courage, and adaptability a woman sometimes at war with her own secrets.

*Riding Freedom* by Pam Muñoz Ryan with pictures by Brian Selznick. New York: Scholastic, 1998. Print. The story takes place beginning in the 1860s, as Charlotte, a girl who has always played with the boys at the orphanage, decides she must run away to forge a life of her own. As this is a time when it was unacceptable for girls to travel by themselves, Charlotte cuts off her hair and dresses in boys clothes and passes as Charley. Charley ultimately gets jobs at various stables doing what she loves, working with horses, but is always hired under the assumption that she is a boy. Charley is ultimately successful in life because she is able to pass, and gains the respect of people across the country for her amazing work with horses.

*The Other Boy* by M. G. Hennessey. 2016. Print. Twelve-year-old Shane Woods is known to his friends and family as a regular boy. While Shane enjoys pitching for his baseball team, writing his graphic novel, and spending time with his best friend, Josh, Shane has a secret that could change everything; but his world is turned upside down when Shane’s classmate threatens to uncover his secret. With great courage, and some surprising allies, Shane works to stand up to hate and show everyone that he’s still the same person as he always was.

*The Pants Project* by Cat Clarke
Clarke, Cat. *The Pants Project.* Sourcebook Jabberwocky, 2017. Print. *The Pants Project* is a story about Liv, a transgender boy who is forced to wear skirts everyday because of his school’s dress code. Liv creates Operation: Pants Project in an effort to change his school’s policy while also finding himself in the process.

*When Kayla Was Kyle* by Amy Fabrikant
Fabrikant, Amy, and Jennifer Levine. *When Kayla Was Kyle.* Lakewood: Avid Readers Group, 2013. Print. “Kyle doesn't understand why the other kids at school call him names. He looks like other boys, but doesn't feel like them. Can Kyle find the words to
share his feelings about his gender - and can his parents help him to transition into the girl he was born to be?”

**Whale Rider.** Ihimaera, Witi. HMH Books for Young Readers. 2003. Eight-year old Kahu, a member of the Maori tribe of Whangara, New Zealand, fights to prove her love, her leadership, and her destiny. Her people claim descent from Kahutia Te Rangi, the legendary "whale rider." In every generation since Kahutia, a male heir has inherited the title of chief. But now there is no male heir, and the aging chief is desperate to find a successor. Kahu is his only great Grandchild and Maori tradition has no use for a girl. But when hundreds of whales beach themselves and threaten the future of the Maori tribe, it is Kahu who saves the tribe when she reveals that she has the whale rider's ancient gift of communicating with whales.

**High School/Young Adults**

**A + E 4ever by Ilike Merey**
Merey, Ilike. *A + E 4ever: A Graphic Novel.* Maple Shade: Lethe, 2011. Print. This **graphic novel** depicts the relationship between Asher, a quiet androgynous boy, and Eulalie, a girl who presents with stronger masculine features. The two are brought together through their love for art, and a relationship exploring the boundaries of gender.

**Alex As Well.** Brugman, Alyssa. Square Fish; Reprint edition. 2016. Print. Alex is ready for things to change, in a big way. Everyone things she’s a boy but for Alex the whole boy/girl thing isn’t as simple as either or and when she decides girls is close to the truth no one knows how to react, least of all her parents. Heartbreaking and droll in equal measures, *Alex As Well* is a brilliantly told story about being intersex, exploring gender and sexuality, navigating friendships, and finding a place to belong.

**Almost Perfect by Brian Katcher**
Katcher, Brian, and Cathy Bobak. *Almost Perfect.* New York: Delacorte, 2009. Print. “Logan Witherspoon befriends Sage Hendricks at a time when he no longer trusts or believes in people. As time goes on, he finds himself drawn to Sage, pulled in by her deep, but sexy feminine voice and her constant smile. Eventually Logan’s feelings for Sage grow so strong that he can’t resist kissing her. Moments later, he wishes he never had. Sage finally discloses her big secret: she was born a boy. Enraged, frightened, and feeling betrayed, Logan lashes out at Sage. Once his anger has cooled, however, his regrets lead him to attempt to rekindle their friendship. But it’s hard to replace something that’s been broken—and it’s even harder to find your way back to friendship when you began with love.”
Before I Had the Words: On Being a Transgender Young Adult by Skylar Kergil

Kergil, Skylar. Before I Had the Words: On Being a Transgender Young Adult. Skyhorse Publishing, 2017. Print. As seventeen-year-old Skylar Kergil posts weekly videos to YouTube, documenting emotional and physical changes throughout his transition from female to male, Skylar’s transparency and positive energy attracts thousands of viewers to follow him along his journey. Revealing the intimate details of his experience, Skylar’s memoir provides a deeper look into the highs and lows of what it’s like to transition from one gender to another.

Being Emily by Rachel Gold

Gold, Rachel. Being Emily. Tallahassee: Bella Books, 2012. Print. Emily, born Christopher, is a 16 year old high school student who keeps waiting for “it to get better” in her small town high school and instead is challenged…until she meets an unlikely guide, a substitute teacher.

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family by Amy Ellis Nutt


Beautiful Music For Ugly Children by Kirsten Cronn-Mills

Cronn-Mills, Kirstin. Beautiful Music for Ugly Children. Woodbury: Flux, 2012. Print. Gabe is a young transgender teen who was assigned female at birth, but is transitioning throughout the book to presenting as the man he is. While he is bullied at school, he has the opportunity to hold his own radio show and freely identify and be accepted as Gabe, and he enjoys this leisure. Tension grows as radio listeners out Gabe as “Liz” (the name he was assigned at birth) at school, and Gabe’s strength and will are tested.

I Am J by Cris Beam

Beam, Cris, and Ben Mautner. I Am J. New York: Little, Brown, 2011. Print. This story follows J, a transgender teen boy who wants nothing more than to be accepted by his male peers. J maneuvers the obstacles placed before him while he transitions, and his strength is tested through tension with his family and friends.

If I Was Your Girl by Meredith Russo

Russo, Meredith. If I Was Your Girl. Flatiron Books, 2016. Print. As the new girl in school, Amanda Hardy just wants is to make friends and fit in. However, Amanda has a secret keeping her from getting too close to anyone. When Amanda begins developing feelings for Grant, she finds herself wanting to put her guard down and share an important piece of her identity- that Amanda was once known as Andrew.

If You Could Be Mine by Sara Farizan

**Jaya and Rasa. A Love Story by Sonia Patel**

**Jess, Chunk, and the Road Trip to Infinity by Kristin Elizabeth Clark**
Clark, Kristin Elizabeth. *Jess, Chunk, and the Road Trip to Infinity*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016. Print. After graduating high school, Jess finds herself on a cross-country journey with her best friend, “Chunk” to surprise her father, who is marrying her mother’s ex-best friend. However, Jess has not seen her father since before she came out as a girl. As Jess and Chunk make their way across the country, they get a surprise of their own—discovering more about themselves, each other, and their evolving relationship.

**Jumpstart the World by Catherine Ryan Hyde**
Hyde, Catherine Ryan. *Jumpstart the World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. Print. After being kicked out of her house at the request of her mother’s boyfriend, fifteen year old Elle rents an apartment next to a welcoming and charming couple, Frank and Molly. Elle is immediately intrigued by Frank, and develops a crush on him. Elle never knew what “transgender” meant, but she quickly learns as she finds out that Frank is transgender. Elle grapples with her feelings and friendship with Frank as she tries to understand his identity.

**Luna by Julie Anne Peters**
Peters, Julie Anne. *Luna: A Novel*. New York: Little, Brown, 2004. Print. In this novel Peters delves into the lives of Regan and her older (and transgender) sister Luna. Regan provided Luna with clothes and make-up at night, when during the day others referred to Luna as her name assigned at birth, “Liam”. Tensions arise in their family Luna wants to be more public about her female identity. Luna is ultimately supported in her transition by her sister.

**Parrotfish by Ellen Wittlinger**

**Some Assembly Required by Arin Andrews**

*Symptoms of Being Human by Jeff Garvin*  
Garvin, Jeff. *Symptoms of Being Human*. Balzer + Bray, 2016. Print. Riley Cavanaugh is a gender fluid teen who is not out to his world. Between the stress of a new school and having a congresswoman as a father, Riley starts an anonymous blog in search of some relief. After blogging about life as a gender fluid teenager, the blog goes viral, and his anonymity is threatened. Riley is faced with a life changing decision to delete the blog, his positive outlet, or come out to peers.

*The Complicated Geography of Alice by Jules Vilmur*  

*The Full Spectrum edited by David Levithan and Billy Merrell*  

*The Lives of Merfolk by Chelsea Mason Basiliere*  

*Tomboy by Liz Prince*  

*Drag Teen by Jeffrey Self*  
Self, Jeffrey. *Drag Teen*. New York: PUSH (Scholastic Books), 2016. Print. JD, the book’s protagonist, and his best friend go on a road trip from Florida to New York City in search of their dreams.

*Beast by Brie Spangler*  
The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson

If I Was Your Girl, by Meredith Russo

Beyond Magenta by Susan Kuklin
This book consists of a collection of personal stories and photographs from various members of the gender nonconforming community. A few of the stories are from transgender individuals, but there are also stories from genderqueer and intersex folks.

Adults

Note: There are many books for college-age young adults that can be easily accessed via the Web, libraries, bookstores and college classes about gender. This is a very small sampling:

Nina Here Nor There by Nick Krieger
Krieger, Nick. Nina Here Nor There: My Journey Beyond Gender. Boston: Beacon, 2011. Print. “When she lands in San Francisco’s Castro neighborhood, her roommates introduce her to a whole new world, full of people who identify as queer, who modify their bodies and blur the line between woman and man, who defy everything Nina thought she knew about gender and identity. Nina is drawn to the people she once considered freaks, and forges a path that is neither man nor woman, here nor there. This candid and humorous memoir of gender awakening brings readers into the world of the next generation of transgender warriors and tells a classic tale of first love and self-discovery.” (http://www.amazon.com/Nina-Here-Nor-There-Journey/dp/0807000922/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1453248690&s=books&sr=1-1&keywords=nina+here+nor+there

Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity by Julia Serano
Serano, Julia. Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity. New York: Seal, 2007. Print. Whipping Girl provides a wealth of information, as Serano starts the book by not only defining different words used in the
transgender community, but also words helpful in describing different types of discrimination people might face. Serano focuses on the transphobia and sexism that is targeted at trans* women, and provides examples from media, history, and how knowledge is reproduced.

*She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders by Jennifer Finney Boylan*