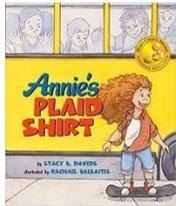


## Tikkun Olam

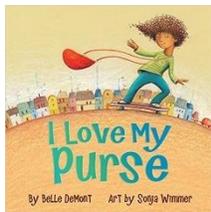
### Gender and LGBTQ+ Equality Reading List for Kids Featuring Recommendations from the Penn Family Early Childhood Center

#### Early Childhood



**Davids, Stacy B. *Annie's Plaid Shirt*. Upswing Press, 2015.**

Annie loves her plaid shirt and wears it everywhere. But one day her mom tells Annie that she must wear a dress to her uncle's wedding. Annie protests, but her mom insists and buys her a fancy new dress anyway. Annie is miserable. She feels weird in dresses. Why can't her mom understand? Then Annie has an idea. But will her mom agree?



**Demont, Belle. *I Love My Purse*. Annick Press, 2017.**

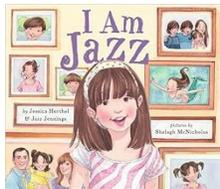
Charlie loves the bright red purse that his grandmother let him have. One day, he decides to take it to school. First his father, then his friends, and even the crossing guard question him about his "strange" choice. After all, boys don't carry purses. But Charlie isn't deterred. Before long, his unselfconscious determination to carry a purse starts to affect those around him. Thanks to Charlie, everyone around him realizes that it isn't always necessary to conform to societal norms. It's more

important to be true to yourself.



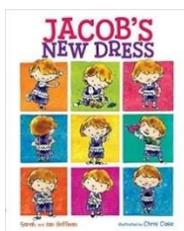
**Hall, Michael. *Red: A Crayon's Story*. Greenwillow Books, 2015.**

A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis in this picture book. Funny, insightful, and colorful, *Red: A Crayon's Story*, by Michael Hall, is about being true to your inner self and following your own path despite obstacles that may come your way.



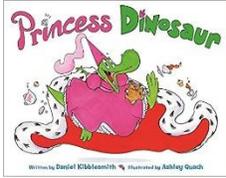
**Herthel, Jessica and Jennings, Jazz. *I am Jazz*. Dial Books, 2014.**

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers.



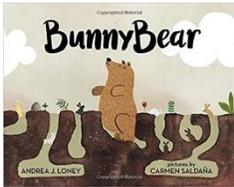
**Hoffman, Sara. *Jacob's New Dress*. Albert Whitman & Company, 2014.**

Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Some kids at school say he can't wear "girl" clothes, but Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants? This heartwarming story speaks to the unique challenges faced by children who don't identify with traditional gender roles.



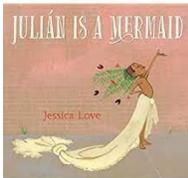
**Kibblesmith, Daniel. *Princess Dinosaur*. Little, Brown, 2021.**

Princess Dinosaur *loves* wearing pink dresses and hosting fancy tea parties. But she also loves roaring and making messes. Embodying both parts of her personality to the fullest, Princess Dinosaur isn't just one thing, she's a princess and a dinosaur (and some other things, too)!



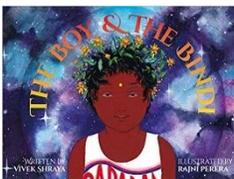
**Loney, Andrea J. *Bunnybear*. Albert Witman & Company, 2017.**

Although Bunnybear was born a bear, he feels more like a bunny. He prefers bouncing in the thicket to tramping in the forest, and in his heart he's fluffy and tiny, like a rabbit, instead of burly and loud, like a bear. The other bears don't understand him, and neither do the bunnies. Will Bunnybear ever find a friend who likes him just the way he is?



**Love, Jessica. *Julián Is a Mermaid*. Candlewick, 2019.**

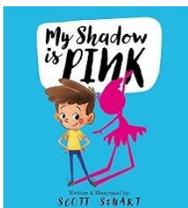
While riding the subway with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up as mermaids. When Julián gets home, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself?



**Shraya, Vivek. *The Boy and the Bindi*. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016.**

A five-year-old South Asian boy becomes fascinated with his mother's bindi, the red dot commonly worn by Hindu women to indicate the point at which creation begins, and wishes to have one of his own. Rather than chastise her son, she agrees to it, and teaches him about its cultural significance, allowing the boy to discover the magic of the bindi, which in turn gives him permission

to be more fully himself.



**Stuart, Scott. *My Shadow is Pink*. Larrikin House, 2021.**

Inspired by the author's own little boy, the main character likes princesses, fairies and things "not for boys." He soon learns (through the support of his dad) that everyone has a shadow that they sometimes feel they need to hide. This is an important book for a new generation of children (and adults alike) which exemplifies the concepts of unconditional love, respect and positive parenting.

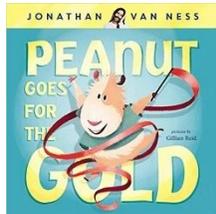


**Thom, Kai Cheng, Ching, Kai Yin, et al. *From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea*. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2017.**

In the magical time between night and day, when both the sun and the moon are in the sky, a child is born in a little blue house on a hill. And Miu Lan is not just any child, but one who can change into any shape they can imagine. The only problem is they can't decide what to be: A boy or a girl? A bird or a fish? A flower or a shooting star? At school, though, they must endure inquisitive

looks and difficult questions from the other children, and they have trouble finding friends who will

accept them for who they are. But they find comfort in the loving arms of their mother, who always offers them the same loving refrain: “whatever you dream of / I believe you can be / from the stars in the sky to the fish in the sea.”



**Van Ness, Jonathan. *Peanut Goes for the Gold*. Harper Collins, 2020.**

Peanut just has their own unique way of doing things. Whether it’s cartwheeling during basketball practice or cutting their own hair, this little guinea pig puts their own special twist on life. So when Peanut decides to be a rhythmic gymnast, they come up with a routine that they know is absolutely perfect, because it is absolutely, one hundred percent Peanut.

### Upper Elementary



**Callender, Kacen. *Hurricane Child*. Scholastic, 2018.**

Caroline Murphy is a Hurricane Child. Being born during a hurricane is unlucky, and 12-year-old Caroline has had her share of bad luck lately. She's hated and bullied by everyone in her small school on St. Thomas of the US Virgin Islands; a spirit only she can see won't stop following her; and – worst of all – Caroline's mother left home one day and never came back. But when a new student named Kalinda arrives, Caroline's luck begins to turn around. Kalinda, a solemn girl from Barbados with a special smile for everyone, becomes Caroline's first and only friend – and the person for whom Caroline has begun to develop a crush.



**Ostertag, Molly. *Witch Boy*. Scholastic, 2017. (Graphic novel)**

In 13-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 practicing his skills. And it will require even more courage to save his family . . . and be truly himself.