Rainbow List for Middle Grade Readers

The 2020 Rainbow List is selected by the committee of the Rainbow Project, a joint task force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table and the Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Queer Round Table of the American Library Association. This booklet includes selected titles for children available in HSPLS. For the complete 2020 Rainbow List, visit http://gblitr.ala.org/rainbowbooks. Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

**Middle Grade Fiction**

Bigelow, Lisa Jenn
*Hazel's Theory of Evolution*
J Bigelow, Grades 3-7
Hazel would rather get lost in the pages of an encyclopedia than deal with the mounting changes in her life: starting over at a new school in her last year of middle school; worrying about her mom’s pregnancy following two miscarriages; and questioning romantic attraction as other girls focus on boys.

Blake, Ashley Herring
*The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James*
J Blake, Grades 4-7
After finally getting a heart transplant, Sunny’s summer plan is to “do awesome amazing things she could never do before.” On her quest to find a new best friend and kiss a boy, she wonders if she really wants to kiss a boy at all.

Bunker, Lisa
*Zenobia July*
J or YA Bunker, Grades 5 and up
Zenobia has a whole lot of new in her life: a new school, new friends, a new place to live with her lesbian aunts, and a new opportunity to finally live as a girl. When someone posts hateful Islamophobic and transphobic memes on the school website, Zenobia knows her coding skills from her old life could help her catch the culprit, and suddenly she has new decisions to make: who can she trust? And is catching the hacker worth the attention and risk?

Dilloway, Margaret
*Summer of a Thousand Pies*
J Dilloway, Grades 3-6
After her mother’s death, Cady’s father spirals into substance abuse which lands him in jail. Cady experiences neglect, food insecurity, homelessness, and the foster care system before she’s sent to live with two aunts she has never met. Resistant at first, Cady soon discovers a passion for baking. But the perfect pie crust isn’t the solution for everything; she must also deal with her trauma — and the realization that her parents were more flawed than she knew. Back matter contains recipes, including one for a gluten-free pie crust.

**Middle Grade Non-Fiction**

Pancholy, Maulik
*The Best at It*
J or YA Pancholy, Grades 5-7
Rahul, a 7th grade Indian-American boy growing up in a small town, deals with anxiety, bullies, racial prejudice, and being different by following his grandfather’s advice — find something to be the best at. As Rahul figures out who he is, his best friend Chelsea and his family are there to cheer him on, and he hopes that just maybe his crush Justin will start to notice him.

Salazar, Aida
*The Moon Within*
J Salazar, Grades 3-6
Celi is unhappy about her impending menstruation and even more unhappy that her mom wants to celebrate it in a reclaimed indigenous ceremony. What’s more, her best friend is coming out as nonbinary and the boy she likes is being a jerk about it. Can Celi find the strength to both be true to herself and loyal to her friend?

Pitman, Gayle E and Fred Sargeant
*The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out in the Streets*
YA 306.7660973 Pi, Grades 5-9
Pitman takes a uniquely archival approach to her subject, examining objects that provide insight into the Stonewall Riots, their social context, LGBT history, and the gay rights movement. Includes a timeline, notes, bibliography, and index.

The complete 2020 Rainbow List, lists from previous years, and information about the Rainbow Project may be found at: http://gblitr.ala.org/rainbowbooks
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