2023 Rainbow List for Teens
Graphic Novels/Manga

The 2023 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 booklist includes selected titles for teens available in HSPLS. Books with an *asterisk are “Top Ten Titles.” For the complete 2023 Rainbow List, visit 2023 Rainbow Books List. Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

Axelrod, Jadzia and Jess Taylor (illustrator)
Galaxy: The Prettiest Star
YA GN Axelrod or YA GN Galaxy
Gr. 7 and up
An alien princess is disguised as a young man in order to hide from her enemies, but when a new girl enters her life she finds she no longer wants to hide who she is and desires to reveal her true self as the Galaxy, Crowned Princess from the planet Cyanidii. Fiction-Science Fiction

Delliquanti, Blue
Across a Field of Starlight
YA GN Delliquanti or YA GN Across a Field
Gr. 6 and up
Two nonbinary teens are caught up in a cosmic war, in this sweeping sci-fi graphic novel adventure. Fassen, a soldier in training, and Lu, a scientist from a pacifist colony, meet by chance as children. Against all odds, they stay in touch, but when they meet again, they find themselves on opposing sides of an interstellar conflict. Fiction-Science Fiction

Gao, Laura
Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American
YA GN 973.04951 Gao Ga or YA GN B Gao Ga
Gr. 8 and up
Author Laura Gao shares her first generation immigrant experience, detailing her childhood spent with her grandparents and cousins in Wuhan, China, and her school-years in Texas with her parents and younger brother. As one of the only Asians in her class, Gao struggles to fit in with her white peers and doesn’t feel she belongs until she meets other Asian-American immigrants and LGBTQ+ folks in college. Nonfiction-Memoir

Gillman, Melanie
Other Ever Afters: New Queer Fairy Tales
A GN Gillman or YA GN Other Ever Afters Gr. 6 and up
A collection of new fairy tales that capture the magic of the classics while subverting many of the outdated tropes of the genre. These new tales bring a fresh, diverse cast of characters that many readers can relate to. Fiction-Fairy Tales

Hinekure, Wataru and Aruko
My Love Mix-Up!
YA GN Hinekure or YA GN My Love Mix Up
Gr. 7 and up
Trying to save the girl he likes from the embarrassment of Ida finding out she has a crush on him, Aoki pretends that he’s the one with feelings for Ida. Ida takes Aoki’s confession seriously and promises to seriously consider the two of them having a relationship. Through a series of mix-ups, both Aoki and Ida find themselves unsure of where they stand with each other; are they becoming good friends? Or

Kao Studios
Magical Boy
YA GN Kao Studios or YA GN Magical Boy Gr. 6 and up
Max, a young trans man, has his hands full with high school, coming out, and dealing with his unaccepting mother. Soon Max has even more to deal with when he learns that he is from a long line of Magical Girls and that their family cat, Walnut, is his magical talking sidekick. Is it possible for Max to fulfill his destiny and save the world while being true to himself? Fiction-Romance

Muldoon, Molly and Will Hernandez (illustrator)
A Quick & Easy Guide to Asexuality
YA GN 306.762 Mu
Gr. 7 and up
This short comic gives a comprehensive guide to orientations under the asexual umbrella including asexuality and demisexuality. Nonfiction-Informational

Searle, Sarah Winifred
The Greatest Thing
YA GN Searle or YA Greatest Thing Gr. 8 and up
Winifred and her two best friends cope with the pressures of mental illness, eating disorders, and figuring out their sexualities during high school by co-creating comics and zines in this rich slice-of-life graphic novel. Fiction-Realistic

Stephens, Olivia
*Artie and the Wolf Moon
YA GN Artie
Gr. 6 and up
Graphic Novel, Fiction-Fantasy
Artie is excited to discover she comes from a family of werewolves. Her mom relies on their community to help Artie learn about being a werewolf and her father.

Wyatt, Jake and Choo (illustrator)
The Well
YA GN Wyatt or YA GN Well Gr. 8 and up
Upon stealing a handful of coins from a wishing well to end her debt, Lilly is instantly cursed. The well does not require repayment in coin, but instead in wishes sending the young woman on a journey to fulfill the hidden wishes of the coins she stole. Fiction-Romance

The complete 2023 Rainbow List, lists from previous years, and information about the Rainbow Project may be found at http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks Accessed May 26, 2023