

2025 Top Ten Rainbow List for Children

The 2025 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 children available in HSPLS. For the complete 2025 Rainbow List, visit [ALA Rainbow Project Book List](#). Some titles may be available in e-formats. Check the catalog or ask a librarian for assistance.

Early Elementary

Marr, Melissa and Rivero, Marcos Almada Rivero (illustrator)

Family is Family

E Marr

Picture Book, Fiction-Animals, Ages 3-7

Little Chick travels to school and encounters the many forms family can take. Some families have two moms (like Little Chick!), some have brothers or sisters, some have a mom and dad, and some just have one parent! Little Chick learns that all families look different but family can be shared and enjoyed by all.

Meadows, Michelle and Jamiel Law (illustrator)

Jimmy's Rhythm & Blues: The Extraordinary Life of James Baldwin

J B Baldwin Me

Picture Book, Nonfiction-Biography, Ages 4-8

This first-ever picture book biography introduces readers to Jimmy, the legendary Harlem Renaissance writer and activist who discovered his passionate voice through the written word.

Retener, Joëlle and DeAnn Wiley (illustrator)

Marley's Pride

E Retener

Picture Book, Fiction-Realistic, Ages 3-9

Marley is anxious about crowds and loud noises, but when their Zaza is up for an award at Pride, they want to go to support their beloved grandparent. Marley finds the courage to over-come their fears in this colorful picture book that features endmatter about the history of Pride, a glossary of LGBTQ+ terms, and a list of resources.

Wilson Duff, Meghan and Taylor Barron (illustrator)

How Are You, Verity?

E Duff

Picture Book, Fiction-Realistic, Ages 4-8

Verity tests the meaning behind the question "How are you?" after a conversation with their brother makes them question whether people are genuinely asking or just greeting.

Upper Elementary Titles

Averling, Mary

The Curse of Eelgrass Bog

J Averling

Fiction-Fantasy, Ages 8-12

12-year-old Kess tries to save her family's decrepit museum of "unnatural things" with the help of only a jarred demon's head, while longing for her absent parents and worrying over a withdrawn and declining older brother. To break the curse, she enlists the help of the new girl in town, who she may be crushing on.

Horne, Maggie

Noah Frye Gets Crushed

J Horne

Fiction-Realistic, Ages 8-12

12-year-old Noah Frye has a plan to fit in with her friends: develop a crush on a boy. However, when Noah discovers that her heart is pulling her toward someone she didn't intend—the cool new girl at school—her plan may be forced to change in this comedy about first crushes, friendship, and self-discovery.

Huntoon, Caroline

Linus and Etta Could Use a Win

J Huntoon or YA Huntoon

Fiction-Realistic, Ages 8-12

Etta, a hot-headed cynic, befriends new kid Linus, a shy trans boy, after she takes on a bet from her ex-best friend to get him elected student body president.

Tracy, Taylor

Murray Out of Water

J Tracy

Fiction-Fantasy, Ages 9-12

This beautiful novel-in-verse explores one girl's struggle to regain her magic after a hurricane forces her to move away from her beloved ocean that she believes gave her special powers.

Wilfrid, Karen

Just Lizzie

J Wilfred or YA Wilfred

Fiction-Realistic, Ages 8-12

Eighth grader Lizzie's study of asexuality in science class leads her to understand her own asexual identity as she embarks on a journey toward self-discovery and self-advocacy.

Graphic Novel

Wibowo, Jes and Cin Wibowo

Lunar Boy

J GN Wibowo

Graphic Novel, Fiction-Fantasy, Ages 8-12

Indu, a trans boy who was born on the moon, dis-covers the joys of community and found-family in this gorgeously illustrated sci-fi graphic novel.

The complete 2025 Rainbow List, lists from previous years, and information about the Rainbow Project may be found at: [ALA Rainbow Project Book List](#)

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Compiled by the Young Adult Librarian at

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