

Girls and Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Identities

Appleby, George Alan & Anastas, Jeane W. (1998). *Not just a passing phase: Social work with gay, lesbian, and bisexual people*. New York: Columbia University. ISBN 0-231-10323-9. \$29.00.

A resource designed for an academic setting to inform social workers in training about all aspects of the lives of these populations. It addresses theory and practice with a blueprint for action in knowledge development and knowledge dissemination in the field. It is divided into three major sections: an overview of what it means to be gay, lesbian or bisexual in the United State, life transitions, including a chapter on the needs of adolescents and children, and special issues exploring problems related to the challenges of mental health and substance abuse. The appendix includes recommended resources and a variety of experiential exercises for classroom and workshop use with the goal of increasing awareness. Girls Incorporated centers could take advantage of the latter for staff training sessions. The exercises were developed by Warren Blumenfield whose own book appears later in this list.

Bass, Ellen & Kaufman, Kate. (1996). *Free your mind: The book for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth — and their allies*. New York: HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-095104-4. \$14.00.

A comprehensive guide for concerned adults, staff and young adults. The six sections discuss the following phases of daily life for this vulnerable population: self-discovery, friends and lovers, family, school, spirituality and community. It offers advice on how to come out while dealing with problems encountered in the process. Guidance on how to make healthy choices about relationships and sex, how to connect with other gay youth and supportive adults, and taking pride while participating in the gay and lesbian community. Sample scripts are included to assist with possible conversations with loved ones. Includes guidance for adults who want to make the world safer for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. There are 33 pages of helpful resources. If you can purchase only one book on this list, this is the one.

Blumenfield, Warren J., Ed. (1992). *Homophobia: How we all pay the price*. Boston: Beacon Press. ISBN 0-8070-7919-7. \$20.00.

Contributors include activists and academics offering concrete suggestions for transforming attitudes, behaviors and institutions. Their premise is that homophobic attitudes contribute to stereotypical gender roles and sexism in general. The appendix includes guidance on conducting an anti-heterosexism workshop.

Day, Frances Ann. (2000). *Lesbian and gay voices: An annotated bibliography and guide to literature for children and young adults*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. ISBN 0-313-31162-5. \$35.00.

A gold mine of resources that provides profiles of lesbian and gay writers with lists of their work, plus suggestions of videos, posters, magazines, help lines and a couple of web sites. Each of the nearly full-page annotations describing the recommended books includes appropriate reader ages. Categories include: picture books, fiction, short stories, nonfiction, biography and autobiography, books for librarians, educators, parents, and other interested adults. Useful for building a bookshelf in a center or for suggesting a helpful resource to an individual.

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Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning (2)

Ponton, Lynn. (2000). *The Sex lives of teenagers: Revealing the secret world of adolescent boys and girls*. New York: Dutton. ISBN 0-525-94561-X. \$24.95.

One chapter (#6) in this book about broad issues of sexuality contains “food for thought” that enlightens both adolescents who are dealing with their emerging sexual feelings and parents who are trying to handle their own feelings about what is happening in the lives of their child. Both a young man and young woman are patients of Dr. Ponton, who is a psychoanalyst. Her skills as a facilitator of conversations between the teenagers and their parents is beneficial to all the participants and provides valuable insights to the reader.

Schneider, Margaret S., Ed. (1997). *Pride & prejudice: Working with lesbian, gay and bisexual youth*. Toronto: Central Toronto Youth Services. ISBN 0-921708-18-1. Available from the publisher at 65 Wellesley Street East, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1G7. \$19.95

The CTYS staff feel that professionals working in the field, interacting with this minority population of young people, need guidance and knowledge to increase their awareness of the needs of lesbian, gay and bisexual youth. This is their recommended resource, which is a sequel to the book, *Often Invisible: Counseling Gay and Lesbian Youth*, published in 1988, by the same editor. The intended audience for this book is anyone who interacts with young people as a volunteer or staff person. Chapters of special interest to affiliates: gay, lesbian and bisexual adolescents and AIDS, plus making services available to this population through referrals to appropriate agencies.

Sutton, Roger. (1997). *Hearing us out: Voices from the gay and lesbian community*. Boston: Little, Brown. ISBN 0-316-82313-9. Price \$8.95.

Written by the editor of the *Horn Book*, a well-respected periodical for children’s book reviews. Sutton says in the introduction to this book that he set out to create a work of nonfiction that would “show teenage gays and lesbians that life goes on past junior-high humiliation and high-school ostracism.” Of the people who are profiled in this collection of personal experiences, none is a more nontraditional role model for girls than Dorothy Knudson, the first openly gay officer on the Chicago police force. Also included is a lesbian couple building a family life with two little girls adopted from Peru. In addition, the author includes a biographical sketch of Renee Hanover, a lawyer who defends the rights of gays and lesbians to be free from public harassment. Young Daniel Mitchell’s story is told in his words and those of his father. Recommended for staff and older girls because of the reading level.

