Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.

# Ana on the Edge

JF Sass

When figure skater Ana meets Hayden, a trans boy new to the rink, thoughts about gender identity begin to take center stage. And when Hayden mistakes Ana for a boy, Ana doesn't correct him and finds comfort in this identity. As their friendship develops, Ana realizes that it's tricky juggling two different identities on one slippery sheet of ice.

### Ellen Outside the Lines

JF Sass

Ellen feels most comfortable when her life is well planned and people fit into neat categories. On a school trip to Spain, homesickness, a new nonbinary classmate whose identity has Ellen questioning her way of seeing the world, and a team project that takes the students through Barcelona, help Ellen learn life doesn't always stick to your plan.

### The Anti-Book

JF Simon

Mickey, sick of being bullied, is angry. So he can't resist the ad inside his pack of gum: "Do you ever wish everyone would go away? Buy *The Anti-Book*!" When it arrives, it's blank—except for one line of instruction: *To erase it, write it.* He fills the pages with all the things and people he dislikes and finds himself in a new world he doesn't recognize.

### This Is Our Rainbow

JF This

This first LGBTQA+ anthology for middlegrade readers presents queer fantasy, historical and contemporary stories.

# **Graphic Novels**

## The Real Riley Mayes

JF G Elliott

Fifth grade is just not Riley's vibe. One thing that makes her happy is her favorite comedian, Joy Powers, so when the class is assigned to write letters to people they admire, of course Riley's picking Joy! Things start to look up when a classmate offers to help Riley with the letter and a new kid gets her weird sense of humor. But when mean girl Whitney spreads a rumor about her, things begin to click into place for Riley and her celebrity crush on Joy Powers suddenly make more sense.

## Princess Princess Ever After

**JF G Princess** 

When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, the two band together to defeat a jealous sorceress with a dire grudge against Sadie.

### Drama

JF G Telgemeier

Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon over Mississippi*, she can't really sing. Instead she's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. And when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier!





LGBTQIA+ Books for Middle Grade Readers (Grades 3-6)



Old Bridge Public Library Central Branch One Old Bridge Plaza, Municipal Center Route 516 and Cottrell Rd (732) 721-5600 ext 5028 www.oldbridgelibrary.org

# Almost Flying

JF Arlow

When future stepsisters Dalia and Alexa leave on a summer roadtrip, Alexa reveals that her girlfriend will be joining them. Dalia promises to keep her secret, but realizes she may have one of her own.

## The Ship We Built

JF Bean

Rowan knows who he is, but the kids at school don't understand. And at night, his dad hurts him in ways he's not ready to talk about yet. But when he befriends a classmate who knows what it's like to be lonely and scared, Rowan realizes that there might already be a person he can trust.

### Drum Roll Please

JF Bigelow

Melly only joined the school band because her best friend begged her to, but finds she loves playing the drums. Her summer at music camp brings a lot of changes, including falling for a girl at camp.

# Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World

JF Blake

Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

# The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James JF Blake

When Sunny gets a new heart, she decides to set off on a "New Life Plan": 1) do awesome things she could never do before 2) find a new best friend and 3) kiss a boy for the first time. But when she meets Quinn, Sunny questions whether she really wants to kiss a boy at all.

## Zenobia July

JF Bunker

Zenobia July, an excellent coder and hacker, investigates a mystery while wrestling with the challenges of a new school, a new family, and presenting her true gender for the first time.

### Drew LeClair Gets a Clue

JF Bury

When a cyberbully posts embarrassing rumors about other students at school, Drew, to protect her own secret, puts her sleuthing skills to good use to find the culprit, who just might be one of her closest friends.

## Melissa

JF Gino

When people look at Melissa they think they see a boy named George, but she knows she's a girl. She wants to play Charlotte in the class play Charlotte's Web, but the teacher says she can't even try out for the part because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Melissa comes up with a plan so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

## One True Way

JF Hitchcock

From the moment she met Samantha on her first day at school, Allison felt she had found a friend, something she needed badly since her brother died and her father left. But their friendship begins to evolve into a deeper emotion, and in North Carolina in 1977, it is not easy to discover that you might be gay.

# Middle School's a Drag

JF Howard

Middle school entrepreneur Mikey, trying to impress his grandfather, finds himself as the talent agent for a 13-year-old drag queen. But Mikey is also dealing with the usual

middle-school obstacles: bullying, selfdiscovery, coming out to friends, and trying not to strangle his sister.

# Too Bright to See

JF Lukoff

In the summer before middle school, Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghost haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity.

### Hurricane Season

JF Melleby

Fig's dad, a pianist dealing with mental illness, shows up at her school confused one day, and social services get involved. Fig is sure it's up to her alone to solve her father's problems. But with the help of her best friend, a cute girl at the library, and a surprisingly kind new neighbor, Fig learns she isn't as alone as she once thought.

### Middletown

JF Moon

13-year-old Eli and her older sister Anna couldn't be more different: Eli doesn't care about her appearance and is in love with her female best friend. Anna is fashion and boy obsessed. But when their mom is ordered into rehab, they must figure out a way to stick together.

## Birdie and Me

JF Nuanez

Losing their home when their mama dies, a girl named Jack and her gender-diverse little brother, Birdie, learn what home really means from their two very different uncles.

# The Best Man

JF Peck

Archer has four important role models in his life: his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When