





Nonbinary Middle Grade Book List (2024)


A starter list of middle grade fiction with nonbinary (NB) main (or significant) characters. Most books listed are intended for ages 8+. Short non-fiction & caregiver sections at the end. Free download at: www.rieneal.com. Not an exhaustive list.


KEY:


- ♥ Author or illustrator identifies as trans or nonbinary (or two spirit, agender, or otherwise gender-expansive)
- ☂ NB character uses pronouns *other than* they/them (i.e., e/em/eir, no pronouns, etc.)
- 🎨 Graphic Novel
- 🌟 Sci-fi/Fantasy


 **Riley Reynolds** (8-book early MG series), by Jay Albee. Stone Arch Books (2022). A creative and spunky NB fourth-grader takes on challenges like saving the school play or decorating for a gala fundraiser.


 **Deephaven** (2 books), by Ethan M. Aldridge ♥. Quill Tree Books (2023, Sept 2024). An NB kid must decide whether to solve the mystery behind their new boarding school when it means risking their place there. 🌟


 **Another Kind**, by Trevor Bream ♥ & Cait May ♥. Harper Alley (2021). Six not-quite-human kids with super powers work together to escape the clutches of the Collector. Two of the kids are nonbinary. 🎨 🌟


 **Skip!**, by Sarah Burgess. Andrews McMeel Publishing (2023). Jay, a nonbinary kid poet, struggles to find their true identity after joining a Double Dutch team and meeting a new friend that challenges them. 🎨


 **Moonflower**, by Kacen Callender ♥. Scholastic (2022). An NB child with depression must save the spirit realm they take refuge from the real world in, to ultimately find love and acceptance. 🌟


 **Ghost Girl** (early MG), by Brooke Carter (illus: Alyssa Waterbury). Orca Book Publishers (2023). When 10yo Sly accidentally frees a ghost girl in a mirror, they must outsmart her to avoid getting trapped themselves. 🌟


 **Upstaged**, by Robin Easter ♥. Little, Brown Ink (May 2024). During Ashton's last summer attending theater camp with their best friend before high school, Ashton plans to confess their crush on her. 🎨


 **Alice Austen Lived Here**, by Alex Gino ♥. Scholastic (2022). Two nonbinary BFFs are determined to shine a light on queer history in their community, starting with photographer Alice Austen.


 **Green**, by Alex Gino ♥. Scholastic (2023). When Green, a nonbinary kid from a supportive family, joins the tech crew for the school musical, they are forced to confront their feelings for their crush.


 **Gooseberry**, by Robin Gow ♥. Amulet Books (May 2024). 12yo nonbinary foster kid, B, questions their ability to become a dog trainer one day when their newly adopted dog is reluctant to trust anyone, including them.


 **All You Knead Is Love**, by Tanya Guerrero. Square Fish (2022). After domestic abuse at home, a gender-nonconforming 12yo stays with her grandmother in Barcelona, where she is able to be honest about who she is.


 **The Fights That Make Us**, by Sarah Hagger-Holt. Usborne Publishing Ltd. (Feb 2024). Recently out as nonbinary, Jesse finds a 35-year-old diary about their cousin Lisa's crush on a girl and wants to preserve the history in it.


 **Skating on Mars**, by Caroline Huntoon 🧡. Feiwel & Friends (2023). Still grieving their father's recent death, 12yo figure skater Mars accepts a challenge to compete as a boy so they can beat the school's hot shot.


 **The Street Belongs to Us**, by Karleen Pendleton Jimenez. Arsenal Pulp Press (2021). In 1984 L.A., two kids (one is gender-nonconforming) work out their issues by playing war in their street that's under construction.


 **Elle Campbell Wins Their Weekend**, by Ben Kahn 🧡. Scholastic (2023). An NB kid's friends help them get out of Saturday detention so they can finally meet their hero, a nonbinary author.


 **Ciel** (2 books), by Sophie Labelle 🧡. Second Story Press (2020). A gender-nonconforming teen starts high school, only to be confronted with changing friendships and relationships.


 **Rabbit Chase**, by Elizabeth LaPensée (illus: KC Oster 🧡). Annick Press (2022). An NB Anishinaabe kid must hunt down dark water spirits in an alternate dimension like *Alice in Wonderland* with Anishinaabe legends. 🎨 ✨


 **Jamie**, by L.D. Lapinski 🧡. Yellow Jacket (May 2024). A happy 11yo NB fights for the right to keep their friend group together when they start middle school, which in their district, sends boys and girls to separate schools.


 **Tiger Honor** (Book 2 of 3), by Yoon Ha Lee 🧡. Rick Riordan Presents (2023). A young NB tiger spirit sets out to clear their beloved uncle's name and one day captain a battle cruiser like him. ✨


 **Different Kinds of Fruit**, by Kyle Lukoff 🧡. Dial Books (2022). A girl's friendship with the new nonbinary kid at school helps her process the news that her dad is a transgender man.


 **Both Can Be True**, by Jules Machias 🧡. Quill Tree Books (2021). Ash and Daniel develop crush feelings for each other as they work together to rescue a dog. Ash is genderfluid, and isn't sure how Daniel will react.


 **B.E.S.T. World** (3 books), by Cory McCarthy 🧡. Clarion Books (2021-3). Four tweens hoping to earn augments discover that the program is hiding big secrets. One of the friends (Leo) is NB, and is a POV in Book 2. ✨


 **The Accursed Vampire** (2 books), by Madeline McGrane. Quill Tree Books (2021). A cursed vampire kid must steal a spellbook with their friends to avoid being turned into worms. 🎨 ✨

 **The One Who Loves You the Most**, by medina 🧡. Levine Querido (2022). In a body that feels less and less their own, 12yo Gabriela searches for a place to belong, with help from their friends and a new YouTube channel.

 **Camp QUILTBAG**, by Nicole Melleby & A.J. Sass 🧡. Algonquin (2023). Abigail (she/her/hers) and Kai (e/em/eir) navigate crushes, queer identity issues, and an all-camp competition at an LGBTQ+ summer camp. 🌂

 **Splinter & Ash**, by Marieke Nijkamp 🧡. Greenwillow Books (Sept 2024). Splinter (NB squire) and Ash (disabled princess) set out to prove themselves by defeating a group plotting to overthrow the queen. ✨

 **Camp Prodigy**, by Caroline Palmer 🧡. Atheneum (June 2024). Two nonbinary kids help each other improve at the viola, and at finding self-confidence, at a summer camp for young musicians. 🎨

 **Spin With Me**, by Ami Polonsky. Square Fish (2021). 13yo Essie and Ollie develop a mutual crush, but Essie doesn't know Ollie is nonbinary, and they're running out of time before Essie moves away.



Trouble in the Stars (2 books), by Sarah Prineas. Viking Books for Young Readers (2021). A young shapeshifter disguises themselves as a blob, a puppy, and a human boy to stow away on a starship and evade capture. ✨



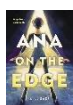
Puzzleheart, by Jenn Reese 🧡. Henry Holt & Co. (May 2024). 12yo NB Perigee must solve their grandma's puzzle house to figure out what happened between her and their dad, but the puzzles are growing dangerous. ✨



Jude Saves the World, by Ronnie Riley 🧡. Scholastic (2023). 12yo Jude works up the courage to come out as NB and, along with their two friends, sets out to create their community's first safe space for LGBTQ+ kids.



Asking for a Friend, by Ronnie Riley 🧡. Scholastic (June 2024). Eden must turn three kids into the friends they've lied about having in time for the birthday party their mom is planning for them.



Ana on the Edge, by A.J. Sass 🧡. Little, Brown (2020). 12yo NB figure skating champ Ana must decide if it's worth risking years of hard work on the ice to come out to the world as who they really are.



Ellen Outside the Lines, by A.J. Sass 🧡. Little, Brown (2022). On a class trip to Barcelona, 13yo Ellen's binary worldview is challenged by an old friend drifting away and a new friend who is NB. (Ellen is autistic & queer.)



Just Shy of Ordinary, by A.J. Sass 🧡. Little, Brown (Jan 2024). Logical 13yo Shai is determined to mitigate the anxiety they feel post-pandemic by developing a new routine that includes starting public school.



The Fabulous Zed Watson! (2 books), by Basil Sylvester 🧡 & Kevin Sylvester. HarperCollins (2021). Zed, a proud NB tween, sets off on a road trip with friends to find a mysterious unpublished novel.



Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston (3 books), by Esme Symes-Smith 🧡. Yearling (2022-Oct 2024). Hopeful knight Callie (NB) sets out to prove to the kingdom that they and their friends are more than expected. ✨



The Best Liars in Riverview, by Lin Thompson 🧡. Little, Brown (2022). Aubrey must fess up to who they really are to help the town find their friend Joel, who disappeared with a raft they were building together in secret.



The Beautiful Something Else, by Ash Van Otterloo 🧡. Scholastic (2023). Sent to the estate of an eccentric aunt, Sparrow accepts their non-binary identity but wrestles with whether to tell their troubled mother. ✨



A Touch of Ruckus, by Ash Van Otterloo 🧡. Scholastic (2021). Tennie and her new friend Fox (NB) set out on a ghost hunt in the South that ends up unraveling family secrets. ✨



The Dog Knight, by Jeremy Whitley (illus: Bre Indigo 🧡, et al.). Feiwel & Friends (2023). An NB middle-schooler saves a golden retriever from bullies and is brought into a magical world of canine superheroes. 🐾 ✨

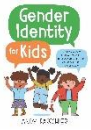


The Otherwoods, by Justine Pucella Winans 🧡. Bloomsbury (2023). When their only friend (and crush) is taken, River must stop ignoring their gift of sight of the Otherwoods to save her. ✨

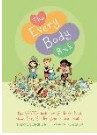


Tales From Beyond the Rainbow, collected & adapted by Pete Jordi Wood (illus: various). Puffin Classics (2023). A collection of 10 LGBTQ+ folk tales from around the world, including trans & genderfluid rep. ✨

Nonfiction for Kids:



Gender Identity for Kids: A Book about Finding Yourself, Understanding Others, and Respecting Everybody!, by Andy Passchier 🧡. Little, Brown (2023). An illustrated guide to help kids identify and analyze definitions of gender they encounter, and to help decide whether/how those definitions apply to them.



The Every Body Book: The LGBTQ+ Inclusive Guide for Kids about Sex, Gender, Bodies, and Families, by Rachel E. Simon (illus: Noah Grigni 🧡). Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2020). An inclusive guide to understanding gender, sex, puberty, hormones, consent, etc.



The Every Body Book of Consent, by Rachel E. Simon (illus: Noah Grigni 🧡). Jessica Kingsley Publishers (Aug 2024). An inclusive guide to understanding respect, empathy, body safety, verbal and nonverbal cues, terminology for body parts, etc.

Nonfiction for Caregivers/Educators/Therapists/Other Adult-Like People:



Life Isn't Binary: On Being Both, Beyond, and In-Between, by Meg-John Barker 🧡 & Alex Iantaffi 🧡. Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2020). Using bisexual and nonbinary gender experiences, this book is an examination of how it is beneficial to think outside a rigid right/wrong, black/white, success/failure mindset.



Gender: A Graphic Guide, by Meg-John Barker 🧡 & Jules Scheele 🧡. Icon Books (2019). An LGBTQ+ inclusive examination of society's definitions of gender and the implications of those definitions. Told in comic form. 🌈



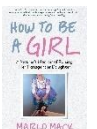
A Quick and Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns, by Archie Bongiovanni 🧡 & Tristan Jimerson. Limerence Press (2018). A short comic guide to using they/them pronouns, why they're important, and how to encourage others to use them properly. 🌈



The Transgender Child: A Handbook for Parents and Professionals Supporting Transgender and Nonbinary Children (Revised & Updated Edition), by Stephanie Brill & Rachel Pepper. Cleis Press (2022). Lauded as a trusted source since its initial publication in 2008, this is an extensive guide to supporting the gender-expansive child(ren) in your life.



The Transgender Teen: A Handbook for Parents and Professionals Supporting Transgender and Non-Binary Teens, by Stephanie Brill & Lisa Kenney. Cleis Press (2016). Similar to The Transgender Child, but specific to issues teens deal with—medical options, school pressures, college/career selection, and just generally how to support your teen.



How to Be a Girl: A Mother's Memoir of Raising Her Transgender Daughter, by Marlo Mack. The Experiment (2021). This is a cis-het mother's memoir of raising her trans daughter (not NB), but addresses feelings that may come up for cis-het parents as they support *any* gender expansive kids.
