

# Alterna-Lit for Teens



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# GLBT Teens Experience...



- Devastation at not conforming to heterosexual lifestyle constantly presented as only acceptable way of being (Heron, 1983 & 1994).
- Isolation in struggle to find peers & role models.
- Homophobic language, harassment, bullying, physical assault, academic failure, & psychological problems ranging from low self esteem to suicide (Kosciw & Diaz, 2006).

# Recent Trends



- Number of books slowly increasing.
- Themes increasingly complex.
- Treatment of sex has evolved (Stone, 2006).
- Move beyond treating homosexuality as a teen problem to be solved and now includes richer presentations of the many facets of GLBT life (Cart, 2004).



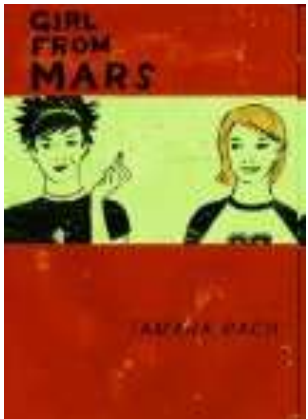
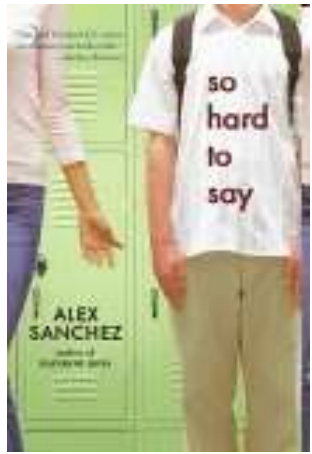
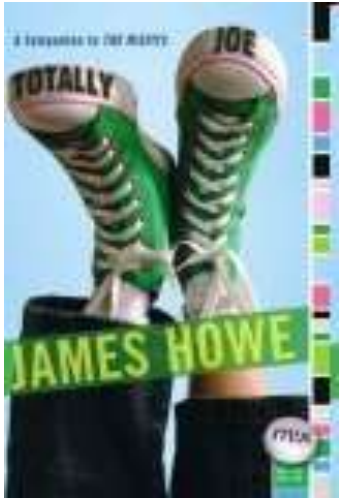
# Books Focus on...



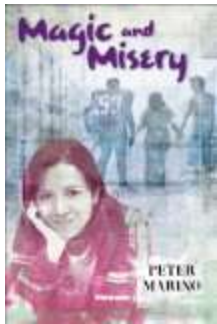
- Coming out
- Transgender/transsexual
- Younger adolescents
- Relationships
- Legal rights/politics
- Family
- School
- Work
- Religion



# Coming Out



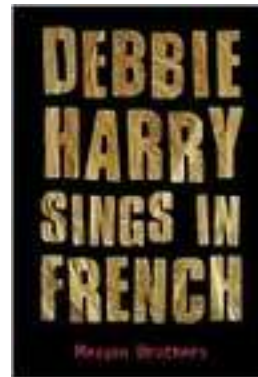
# School Climate



THE  
BERMUDEZ  
TRIANGLE



As Told by MAUREN JOHNSON



# Religion and Sexuality



# What Librarians Can Do



- Don't avoid buying books that might be controversial & lead to challenges.
- Make sure that GLBTQ books are adequately cataloged & easily searchable for teens who are unwilling or unable to ask a librarian for help.
- Create booklists of GLBTQ materials available in your library.
- Note use of GLBTQ teen books that do not leave the library, but are being read.

# References



- Cart, M. (2004 Winter). What a wonderful world: Notes on the evolution of GLBTQ literature for young adults. *The ALAN Review*. Online: [http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_qa4063/is\\_200401/ai\\_n9385166](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa4063/is_200401/ai_n9385166)
- Heron, A., Ed. (1983). *One teenager in ten*. New York: Alyson Books.
- Heron, A., Ed. (1994). *Two teenagers in twenty: Writings by gay and lesbian youth*. New York: Alyson Books.
- Kosciw, J.G. and Diaz, E.M. (2005) *The 2005 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN. Online: [http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN\\_ATTACHMENTS/file/585-1.pdf](http://www.glsen.org/binary-data/GLSEN_ATTACHMENTS/file/585-1.pdf)
- Stone, Tanya Lee. (2006 February). Now and forever: The power of sex in young adult literature. *VOYA* . Online: <http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200602AuthorTalk.pdf>

# Resources



- The Rainbow List - <http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com/rl-2009/>
- Stonewall Book Awards - <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/stonewall/stonewallbook.cfm>
- Lambda Book Award - <http://www.lambdaliterary.org/index.html>
- GLSEN Book Kits - <http://glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/1294.html>, <http://glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/educator/index.html>, <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/booklink/7-12.html>
- Coming Out in Middle School - [NY Times Magazine Article](#) article by enoit Denizet-Lewis captures the coming out process for American teens in 2009.