**List of books we should remove from the school libraries.**

These books are inappropriate because they are promoting deviant sexual themes and practices to children as young as kindergarten.

This list is far from complete. When I do a search on “gender” (Blount County Schools) I get 99 hits, “gay” gets 58 hits and “transgender” gets 16 hits and “lesbian” gets 34 and “homosexuality” get 27 hits.. “Drag” gets 27 but only 1 book was about drag queens. There will be duplicates when searching by topic and those have to be eliminated. Each book, or hit, needs to be looked at and sometimes the description is vague. When the description is vague, click on the image of the book to get a fuller description. Also, when I find an inappropriate book, I do another search on the author’s name. Often these authors have more than one sex-oriented book. I haven’t even started on Maryville City or Alcoa City Schools.

If anyone cares to help in this quest to find, and hopefully root out, inappropriate books that are in our school libraries, I will be happy to get together with them to teach them how to do the searches.

Rick by Alex Gino (UGMS)

Rick's gotten to middle school, and new doors are opening. One of them leads to the school's Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities congregate.

And Tango Makes Three by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson (PE)

At New York City's Central Park Zoo, two male penguins fall in love and start a family by taking turns sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches.

The Magic Fish by Trung Le Nguyen (CMS, ECCA)

It's hard enough trying to communicate with your parents as a kid, but for Tíên, he doesn't even have the right words because his parents are struggling with their English. Is there a Vietnamese word for what he's going through? Is there a way to tell them he's gay?

Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman (PE)

Heather, feeling bad because she has two mothers and no father, soon learns that the other children in her play group have lots of different kinds of families and the most important thing is that all the people love each other.

My Two Moms by Claudia Harrington (PE)

Lenny, the class reporter, follows Elsie for a school project and learns about her life with her two lesbian moms.

My Two Dads by Claudia Harrington (PE)

Lenny follows Jasmine for a school project and learns about her life with her two gay dads.

Stella Brings the Family by Miriam Schiffer (CES)  
"Stella brings her two gay fathers to school to celebrate Mother's Day."

I am Jazz by Jessica Herthel, Jazz Jennings (PE)  
"...who was born a boy, but felt like a girl…" The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings, who has become a spokesperson for transkids everywhere

Home At Last by Vera Williams (PE)  
"After Lester is adopted from his foster home by Daddy Albert and Daddy Rich...Lester has trouble sleeping so every night he gets into bed with his two dads…"  
  
Pride: The story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by Rob Sanders (FES, PES)  
Harvey Milk groomed a young boy and had a very public affair with this boy when the boy was 16. He has a street named after him in San Francisco

And She Was by Jessica Verdi (UGMS)  
"...when her mother, Mellie, reveals that she is transgender and transitioned…" the child finds out her mother used to be her father.

Follow Your Arrow by Jessica Verdi (UGMS)

“while CeCe has always known she is bisexual, she is not prepared to find herself in the middle of an online storm where her public and private lives collide.”

Melissa by Alex Gino (UGMS, ECCA)  
"When people look at Melissa, they think they see a boy named George. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl."

The List of Things That Will Not Change by Rebecca Stead (PE, EE, RE, UGMS)  
"parents divorced...her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend…"

Who is RuPaul? by Nico Medina (EE)  
"Even as a young child, he loved to dress up and imitate the glamorous women he saw on television...has raised the profile of the art of drag, and drag queens around the world."

Between Perfect & Real by Ray Stoeve (ECCA)  
"...Dean realizes he wants everyone to see him as he really is, a male, and not just play one on the stage..."  
  
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli (HHS, WBHS)  
"Sixteen-year-old, not-so-openly-gay Simon Spier is blackmailed…"

Becoming Chloe by Catherine Ryan (WBHS)  
"A gay teenage boy and a fragile teenage girl meet while living on the streets…"

Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature by Robin Brande (HHS)  
"Mena, ostracized at church, home, and school for writing a letter of apology to a gay teen who was harassed into trying to kill himself by her fundamentalist friends…"

What If It's Us by Becky Albertalli & Adam Silver (HHS)  
"Arthur...Ben...after three attempts at dating fail…A rocky series of do-over first dates proves that they are different in many ways—Arthur is a white, Jewish, show tune-loving, Southern boy with ADHD who has never been kissed and dreams of attending Yale. Ben, on the other hand, is a Puerto Rican, Catholic, native New Yorker recovering from a recent breakup who is self-conscious about attending summer school and writes a novel in his spare time. However, the boys have one important thing in common—they're both willing to believe in the universe's bringing them together.

Your Rights as an LGBTQ+ Teen by Barbra Penne (HHS)

Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea by Ashley Blake (CMS)

“For two years, twelve-year-old Hazel (raised by two lesbians) has coped with her Mum's accidental death by overprotecting her sister and Mama, but when Mama reconnects with her first love, roles begin to shift.”

Molly’s Family by Nancy Garden (PE)

“When Molly draws a picture of her family for Open School Night, one of her classmates makes her feel bad because he says she cannot have a mommy and a mama.”

Saving Montgomery Sole by Marika Tamaki (UGMS)

“Montgomery lives with her two moms and her sister in a fairly progressive California town, and she is pretty comfortable being an oddball, especially in the company of her friends Thomas and Naoki, with whom she runs a mystery club dedicated to learning about paranormal occurrences. She is particularly excited about her latest discovery: the Eye of Know, a stone that promises "a portal into vision untold." But when someone superglues a cross to her locker—just as blustery, conservative Reverend White sets up shop downtown and plasters antigay, "family-values" posters everywhere—she begins to panic, and her hardened attitude, particularly toward Reverend White's son, newly enrolled at her school, begins to drive a wedge between her and her friends.

Upside of Unrequited by Becky Albertalli (HHS)

“But why shouldn't she have the same kind of loving relationship with a boy that her twin sister, Cassie, has with a girl?”

Cinderella is Dead by Kaylynn Bayron (UGMS, WBHS, HHS)

"Queer black girls team up to overthrow the patriarchy in the former kingdom of Cinderella"

Going Viral: A Socially Distant Love Story by Katie Cicatelli-Kuc (UGMS)

"Claire is a junior in high school when a worldwide pandemic strikes, and she's in the epicenter of it all in New York City. Suddenly, Claire is forced to isolate with her family indefinitely, which means she won't be able to see her friends or even her girlfriend, Vanessa, in person for a long time.”

Sing You Home by Jodi Picoult (HHS, WBHS)

Zoe Baxter finds unexpected love with a younger woman after she and her husband divorce, and when the couple wants to use the embryos Zoe and her ex-husband had frozen when they were trying to get pregnant, it sparks a legal battle over the rights of gay couples and whether an embryo is considered a life or a piece of property.

Boy Minus Girl by Richard Uhlig (HHS)

Hormone-ridden eighth-grader Les is anticipating another boring Kansas summer when cool Uncle Ray comes to town packing a revolver, a bottle of Jack Daniels and nudie pics. Ray is Les's idol, but when it comes to light that he's tomcatting around with a local married woman and is on the lam from his pregnant, stripper ex-girlfriend, Les is forced to reevaluate his bed-hopping hero. Meanwhile, he's got his own problems: The town bully wants to crucify him, the girl of his dreams is gay and no matter how hard he tries, he just can't stop masturbating.

Coping with Gender Fluidity by Stephanie Lundquist-Arora. (HHS)

"A study published in 2018 found that the number of gender-fluid and transgender teens are on the rise and being underestimated by researchers. In a time when a political and media spotlight is cast significantly on teen gender identities, awareness and access to resources are even more important. This resource highlights that the right to self-define is a civil right. Readers will discover what it means to be gender-fluid and how to dispel predominant myths. They will also learn how to access resources on physical and mental health, as well as safe spaces and the advocate community.”

Totally Joe by James Howe (UGMS)

Joe may only be twelve-going-on-thirteen, but he’s known who he is from the time he was a little kid tottering around in his mother’s high heels. Now in the seventh grade, he wears green high tops with pink trim, has a (secret) boyfriend. Explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.

Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake (UGMS, CMS)

“The tornado scene is filled with breathtaking urgency as Ivy and her family run for safety, and the descriptions of Ivy's contradictory and confusing feelings capture the heartbreaking difficulty of a non-normative early adolescence filled with questions of identity and belonging. Most characters are assumed white; the black lesbian who owns the inn where the Aberdeens stay after the storm and who steps in as a surrogate mother while Ivy's own is occupied with insurance and a sick baby, is engaged to a brown-skinned Latina. Ivy's story is no mere niche-filler in LGBTQ middle-grade realism—it's a standard-setter.”

Kiss the Morning Star by Elissa Janine Hoole (HHS)

Anna hasn't been sure of anything since her mother died in a fire and her preacher father withdrew into grief and alcohol. So when her best friend, Katy, proposes a Kerouac-inspired post–high-school road trip to find God, she allows herself to go along. On a meandering camping trip that takes them from Minnesota across the West to Vancouver Island, they encounter drunken thugs, semi-fanatic missionaries, jam-band vagabonds, a grizzly bear and a fortune-teller. Anna, ordinarily restrained and now emotionally crippled, does her best to get into theDharma Bums spirit, smoking weed, getting a tattoo, consulting with a shaman, dropping acid (unintentionally), taking care of her "persistent virginity"--with Katy--and, perhaps, finding God.

Rules For Hearts : A Family Drama by Sara Ryan (HHS)

Battle (a girl), just graduated from high school and still hurt from her breakup with girlfriend Nicola, has arrived in Portland, Oregon, where she'll start college in the fall. Her parents don't know that Battle chose Portland to be with Nick, her estranged older brother, and that her home for the summer is the rambling Victorian that Nick shares with fellow members of a theater group... the artsy, ensemble cast is memorable, and both gay and straight relationships are described with refreshing honesty. Battle begins a tumultuous romance with a sexy female housemate, but the family feelings are the story's core.

You I’ve Never Known by Ellen Hopkins (WBHS)

17-year-old Ariel tells hers in Hopkins' signature free-verse poems, while Ariel's mother, Maya, shares the journals she wrote to the daughter who was stolen from her at age 3. Ariel has been told her mother left the family for another woman, and she has grown up with her alternately overprotective and negligent father, moving frequently. Now in her senior year, she's been able to savor the luxury of putting down roots in Sonora, where she's fallen in love with lesbian Monica, while exploring an attraction to handsome Gabe.

You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson (UGMS, ECCA)

“Though elements of high-school clichés are present, Johnson puts a fresh spin on this novel with an unlikely romance, heartwarming friendships, and the tension of being Black, poor, and queer in a small town.”

The Bermudez Triangle by Maureen Johnson (HHS)

“ Mel and Avery realize that their feelings for each other may be more than friendship. Johnson deftly portrays Mel's struggle to come to grips with her homosexuality, Avery's confusion and uncertainty about hers, and Nina's hurt and frustration at being left out and losing the comfort of old routines.”

One True Way by Shannon Hitchcock (UGMS)

“From the moment she met Samantha, star of the school basketball team, on her first day at Daniel Boone Middle School, Allison Drake felt she had found a friend, something she needs badly since her brother died and her father left--but as their friendship grows it begins to evolve into a deeper emotion, and in North Carolina in 1977, it is not easy to discover that you might be gay.”

Sharice’s Big Voice by Sharice Davids (EE, FES)

“This inspiring picture book autobiography tells the remarkable story of Sharice Davids, one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the first LGBTQ congressperson to represent Kansas.”

The Dear One by Jacqueline Woodson (UGMS)

“Having had her mother all to herself for most of her life, Feni’s perfect world is disrupted when Rebecca, the fifteen-year-old daughter of her mother’s friend, comes to live with them, but through time and patience, the two girls realize that they can benefit from one another if only they open themselves to the possibilities of a friendship.” Tagged as “unmarried mother” “alcoholism” and “lesbians”

Deliver us from Evie by M. E. Kerr (UGMS)

Sixteen-year-old Parr Burrman and his family face some difficult times when word spreads through their rural Missouri town that his older sister is a lesbian, and she leaves the family farm to live with the daughter of the town's banker.

Melanin Sun by Jacqueline Woodson (FES)

“A fourteen-year-old African American boy struggles to come to terms with his mother's homosexuality.”

Hate Groups: Opposing Viewpoints by Mary Williams (HHS)

Provides a collection of essays discussing a variety of viewpoints on hate groups and hate crimes. Tagged as “Muslims”, “Arabs”, “Gays”, “Lesbians”

Holly’s Secret by Nancy Garden (UGMS)

Holly Lawrence-Jones has two moms. She and her younger brother, Will, are both adopted. When the family moves from New York City to a comfortable small town in western Massachusetts, and Holly starts seventh grade, she decides not to tell anyone that her parents are lesbians, and she reinvents herself as "Yvette," part of a "normal" family.

Huntress by Malinda Lo (CMS)

Seventeen-year-olds Kaede and Taisin (lesbians) are called to go on a dangerous and unprecedented journey to Tanlili, the city of the Fairy Queen, in an effort to restore the balance of nature in the human world.

Hurricane Child by Kheryn Callender (ECCA)

Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, which is considered bad luck, twelve-year-old Caroline falls in love with another girl--and together they set out in a hurricane to find Caroline's missing mother.

Our Daughter Martha: a Family Struggles with Coming Out (HHS)

by Marcy Clements Henrikson

Pretend You Love Me by Julie Anne Peters (WBHS)

In a small Kansas town, sixteen-year-old Mary-Elizabeth "Mike" Szabo tries to come to terms with her father's suicide and her own homosexuality.

Zenobia July by Lisa Bunker (ECCA)

Zenobia July isn't having the easiest time fitting in at her new school. Her mother and father are dead, and she is finally able to live her truth, even though she still has a hard time looking at herself in the mirror without seeing boy all over her face. She now lives with her aunts Phil and Lucy. During the first few weeks of school, Zen is befriended by Arli—a gender nonconforming young person—and an evangelical Christian girl, Melissa. After a series of anti-Muslim and transphobic memes appear on the school website, Zen and her new friends need some serious introspection about their own personal biases.   
Zenobia is an endearing white trans girl heroine, with an accessible amount of angst and anxiety that never tips over into titillating tragedy. Her community of weirdos and queers (including her aunts' drag-queen friend Sprink) offers desperately needed representation. Hijab-wearing Congolese immigrant Dyna and Asian Elijah provide some racial diversity, though the default is white.

Homosexuality : What does it Mean by Julie Endersby (HHS)

Provides an overview of sexuality and sexual orientation and discusses the issues and concerns of teenage homosexuals, including coming out, support systems, risks, fears, prejudices, and healthy sexual behavior.

Aristotle and Dante Dive Into the Waters of the World by John Sooja (HHS)

“Embarking on a relationship, Ari and Dante navigate the joys (a camping trip that takes their journey to a new level) and pains (uncertainties about life after high school) of young love. Throughout, the harsh truths of life circle the two young men: the specter of Ari's imprisoned brother, who makes a memorable appearance; questions of what constitutes one's sexual and cultural identities ("We'll never be Mexican enough. We'll never be American enough"); and the AIDS pandemic, whose tremors fill the airwaves and affect their community.”

Fun Home by Allison Bechdel (WBHS)

A graphic memoir about growing up with a remote dad who managed a funeral home while hiding his homosexuality. Includes adult content. Dad has sex with teenage boys.

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**School Names Where Books Were Found**

PES – Porter Elementary School

FES – Fairview Elementary School

CMS- Carpenters Middle School

ECCA – Eagleton College and Career Academy

UGMS – Union Grove Middle School

PE – Prospect Elementary

EE – Eagleton Elementary

RE – Rockford Elementary

**Subjects to Look Up**

Gender Identity

Gender Role

Gender Nonconformity

Gay

Transgender

Drag

Sexual Minority

Homosexuality

Lesbian