

# The Teen Times

Issue No. 13 | June 1, 2023



In the June issue of *The Teen Times*, the RPL Youth Services Team focuses on LGBTQIA Pride Month, bringing you book, film, & television recommendations, a spotlight on our teen programming, and some fun activities.

## Programming Spotlight

June's programming spotlight is our **DISHING OUT DRAG** event.

Join us for an afternoon webinar led by Giganta Smalls as she tells us about the history of drag. We may even be able to get some make-up and costume tips!

At the end of her talk, we will have a Q&A session.

**Registration is required for this event.** You must register in order to receive the Zoom link.

Join us virtually on Saturday, **June 10th at 4:00!**

Don't miss out on a chance to learn about drag from a queen!



**Scan this to register!**



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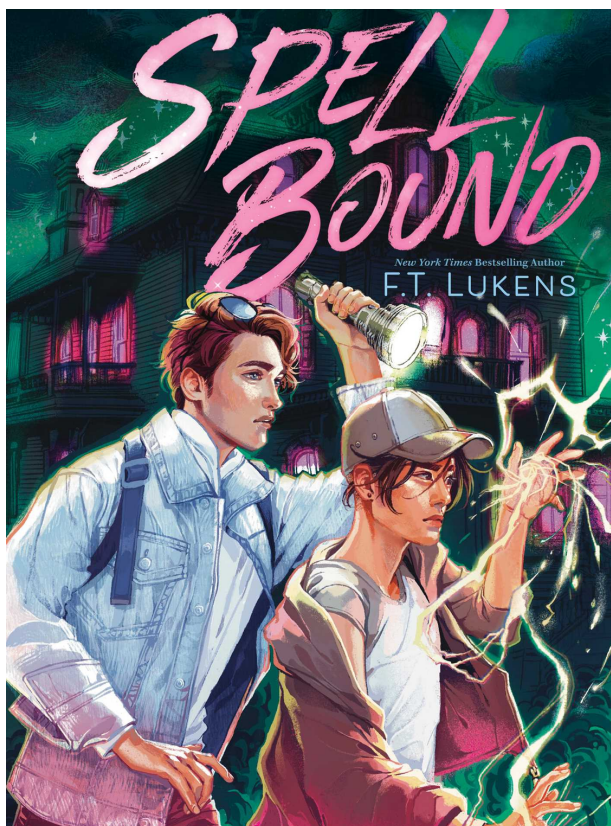
# Book Recommendations: LGBTQIA

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## Spell Bound by F.T. Lukens

Edison Rooker takes a job at a call center for magical emergencies run by Antonia Hex. Despite his lack of magical abilities, Rooker hopes to regain access to the magical world. He accepts the job and a new name, but must keep his illegal magical detection device hidden. When the Magical Consortium discovers his device, Rooker turns to Sun, an apprentice of Antonia's rival colleague, for help. They must work together to rescue their mentors and save their magic.

**Feat.:** NB character & bi MC



## Becoming a Queen by Dan Clay

Mark's heart was shattered after his boyfriend saw him in a dress during a talent show. His confidence in love has since dwindled as he feels that he is too weird, wild, and feminine for anyone to accept. Fortunately, his supportive older brother Eric reminds him to embrace his full sequin-y self. However, Mark realizes that Eric may be struggling with his own issues as well. As Mark's source of strength becomes a source of pain, he finds solace in wearing a dress and becoming someone else for a brief moment. This unexpected escape becomes an avenue for him to connect with others authentically and see them as he wants to be seen.

**Feat.:** Queer MC



## Friday I'm in Love by Camryn Garrett

Mahalia Harris wants a big Sweet Sixteen like her best friend, Naomi.

She wants the super-cute new girl Siobhan to like her back.

She wants a break from worrying—about money, snide remarks from white classmates, pitying looks from church ladies . . . all of it.

Then inspiration strikes: It's too late for a Sweet Sixteen, but what if she had a coming-out party? A singing, dancing, rainbow-cake-eating celebration of queerness on her own terms.

**Feat.:** Queer MC

## Belle of the Ball by Mari Costa

High-school senior and notorious wallflower Hawkins finally works up the courage to remove her mascot mask and ask out her longtime crush: Regina Moreno, head cheerleader, academic overachiever, and all-around popular girl. There's only one teensy little problem: Regina is already dating Chloe Kitagawa, athletic all-star... and middling English student. Regina sees a perfectly self-serving opportunity here, and asks the smitten Hawkins to tutor Chloe free of charge, knowing Hawkins will do anything to get closer to her.

**Feat.:** Lesbian MC, queer side characters

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# Programming Schedule & Highlights

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
JUN 10	4:00 - 5:00 PM	DISHING OUT DRAG
JUN 13	3:30 - 4:30 PM	PRIDE & PRONOUN BUTTON MAKING
JUN 21	3:00 - 5:00 PM	SRP KICK-OFF PARTY
JUN 29	5:00 - 6:15 PM	WORLD TRIVIA & PIZZA



## Recommended Video Games:



**Honkai Star Rail** | Multiple platforms, Genshin Impact meets space!



**Lemon Cake** | Multiple platforms, baking, relaxing cozy vibes

## What Did We Read in May?

In the month of May, Sarah read many things including some fanfiction, but the best book of YA fiction they read last month was **"If I See You Again Tomorrow" by Robbie Couch**.

For some reason, Clark has woken up and relived the same monotonous Monday 309 times. Until Day 310 turns out to be...different. Suddenly, his usual torturous math class is interrupted by an anomaly—a boy he's never seen before in all his previous Mondays.

When shy, reserved Clark decides to throw caution to the wind and join effusive and effervescent Beau on a series of "errands" across the Windy City, he never imagines that anything will really change, because nothing has in such a long time. And he definitely doesn't expect to fall this hard or this fast for someone in just one day.

There's just one problem: how do you build a future with someone if you can never get to tomorrow?

# Film Recs: Featuring LGBTQIA+ Characters

## Strange World

Three generations of a legendary family of explorers will find themselves in an uncharted land with strange creatures. If they want to survive from the numerous dangers, they must bridge their differences and work together.

**Feat.:** Gay MC



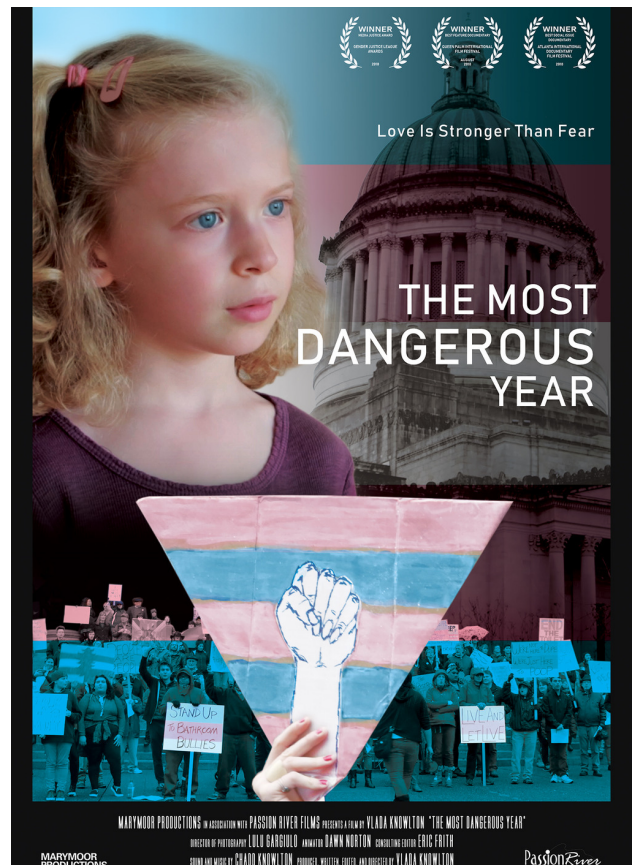
Sarah's Rating: ★★★★★/5

## Love, Simon

Everyone deserves a great love story, but for 17-year-old Simon Spier, it's a little more complicated. He hasn't told his family or friends that he's gay, and he doesn't know the identity of the anonymous classmate that he's fallen for online. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, terrifying and life-changing.

**Feat.:** Gay MC

Sarah's Rating: ★★★/5



## The Most Dangerous Year

Documentary filmmaker Vlada Knowlton captured the ensuing civil rights battle from the perspective of a small group of embattled parents as they banded together to fight a deluge of proposed laws that would strip away the rights of their young, transgender children. As one of the parents, Knowlton presents an intimate portrait of her own struggle to protect her 5-year-old transgender daughter from laws inspired by ignorance and fear.

**Feat.:** Transgender people

Sarah's Rating: ★★★★★/5

## Three Months

On the eve of his high school graduation, Caleb learns he's been exposed to HIV. While he waits three months for his results, he finds love in the most unlikely of places. Suitable for teens aged 16+

**Feat.:** Gay MC

Sarah's Rating: ★★★★★/5

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# Activities Corner

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## PRIDE MONTH WORD SEARCH

S	L	I	N	O	N	B	I	N	A	R	Y	N	I
P	Y	H	A	U	U	A	N	N	E	U	L	A	I
N	N	O	S	N	H	O	J	A	H	S	R	A	M
R	S	R	A	I	N	B	O	W	U	J	G	M	I
K	U	E	R	N	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	E
E	S	E	X	U	A	L	I	T	Y	R	I	A	E
B	T	R	A	N	S	G	E	N	D	E	R	S	U
N	S	H	A	R	V	E	Y	M	I	L	K	M	E
H	E	E	I	Q	M	E	L	A	E	G	G	U	I
A	S	S	L	J	D	Y	A	M	J	G	E	S	H
N	K	U	J	I	U	H	Y	I	L	A	D	A	A
Y	O	E	R	E	R	N	M	A	S	U	E	N	Q
O	O	P	I	S	U	N	E	E	D	O	H	N	A
T	N	E	E	U	Q	G	A	R	D	N	A	E	E

### Word Bank:

RAINBOW	SEXUALITY	TRANSGENDER
EQUALITY	HARVEY MILK	MARSHA JOHNSON
DRAG QUEEN	PRIDE	NONBINARY

Bring back a completed word search for a sticker!

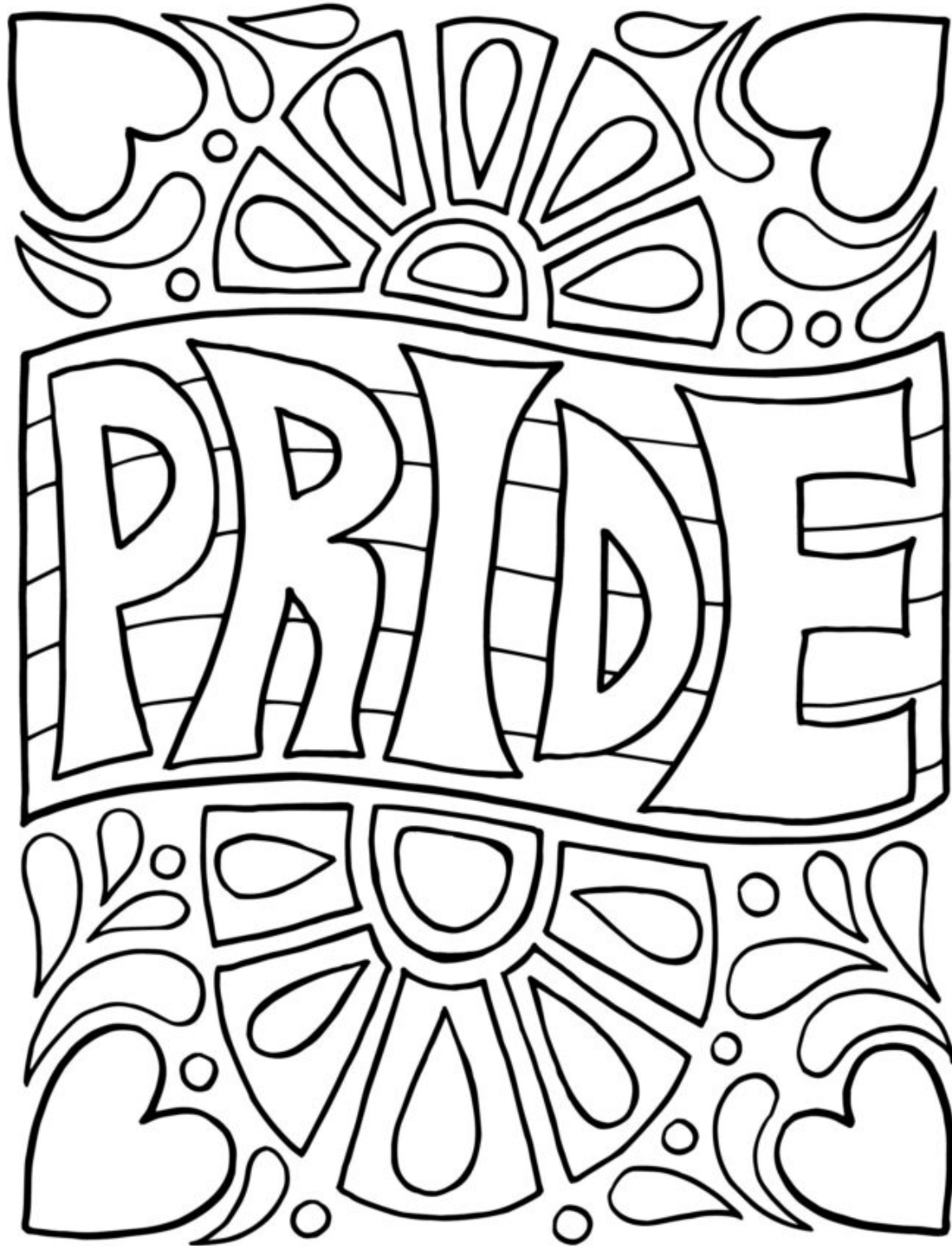
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# Activities Corner, cont.

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## Color Me!



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