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# ELECTRONIC

## Queering the ABCs: LGBTQ Characters in Children's Books

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### Degree Name

MA (Master of Arts)

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Sociology

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### Committee Chair or Co-Chairs

Dr. Martha Copp

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### Abstract

Over the past 30 years, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex characters have called for children's books to include LGBTQ characters so that all children understand our multifaceted social world. Few LGBTQ characters appeared in children's literature. This qualitative study analyzed children's books published between 1972 and 2013 that have a LGBTQ character. Books featuring lesbian and gay characters often presented them in heteronormative standards to find fulfillment. The majority of LGBTQ characters focused on boys harassed by other characters.

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conventionally feminine behaviors. Surprisingly few books in 1 depicted any non-white characters. This study concludes by o for how authors of children's books could approach this genre long-standing inequalities tied to gender, race, class, and sexu

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