



Kids Are Ready.™

Ages 5+



Activism



Belonging



Courage



Resilience

What's Inside?

In June, we celebrate Pride, but what does that mean? Everyone wants to be accepted just as they are, and Pride is all about honoring and encouraging people to be their most authentic selves! To help kids understand the enduring bravery of LGBTQIA+ people, this book includes the story of a moment in history which sparked the fight for freedom and acceptance for this community and beyond—something worth celebrating every day.

About The Author

Kendall Clawson (she/her) lives in the Pacific Northwest and was the first executive director of Q Center, Oregon's LGBTQIA+ community center. She currently works in philanthropy and believes widespread change often comes from unexpected leaders. Kendall loves traveling, playing with dogs, and eating at food trucks.

 **akidsco.com**
Designed in Portland, Oregon



Kendall Clawson

a kids book about pride

a kids book about

PRIDE

by Kendall Clawson



better together*

***This book is best read together,
grownup and kid.**



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**a
kids
book
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Printed in the United States of America.

A Kids Book About books are available online: *akidsco.com*

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ISBN: 978-1-953955-83-8

Designed by Rick DeLucco
Edited by Emma Wolf

This book is dedicated to all
the LGBTQIA+ heroes who have bravely
fought for the rights of our community, and
to the people who have always helped my inner
light shine the brightest: my parents, Charles
and Annie Clawson, and my wife, Michele.

Intro

Pride. How do we talk about something that has become a festive celebration but commemorates decades of protests for human rights? Talking about Pride can get muddled with our views and acceptance of people whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity may differ from our own. And sometimes, those views can minimize what Pride is really about.

People might think Pride is just about parades, costumes, and rainbow flags, but at its core, Pride is new for each generation. Until about a decade ago, it was primarily a protest for equal rights. Today, it celebrates the vibrant and diverse LGBTQIA+ community. Pride continues as a demand to set discrimination aside and celebrate acceptance and freedom to be ourselves without fear.

In addition to a bit of history about Pride as a movement, this book is centered on the joy of having pride—no matter who you are, how you identify, or who you love.

Together, let's celebrate Pride all year long.

My name is
Kendall Clawson.

I live in the Pacific Northwest
of the United States.

I am married and have
a dog named Blazer.

I love the ocean, traveling
the world, and making lamps
out of unexpected things.

**I am a member of the
LGBTQIA+ community.**

Here's a little bit about what those letters mean when people use them to identify* themselves:

L

- lesbian (a woman who is primarily attracted to other women)

G

- gay (a man who is primarily attracted to other men)

B

- bisexual (a person who is attracted to both men and women)

T

- transgender (a person whose gender identity differs from their gender assigned at birth)

Q

- questioning (a person who is exploring who they are attracted to) or queer [the LGBTQIA+ community and people with fluid, shifting identities]

I

- intersex (a person who was born with traits that are not exclusively male or female)

A

- asexual (a person who doesn't experience attraction to anyone)

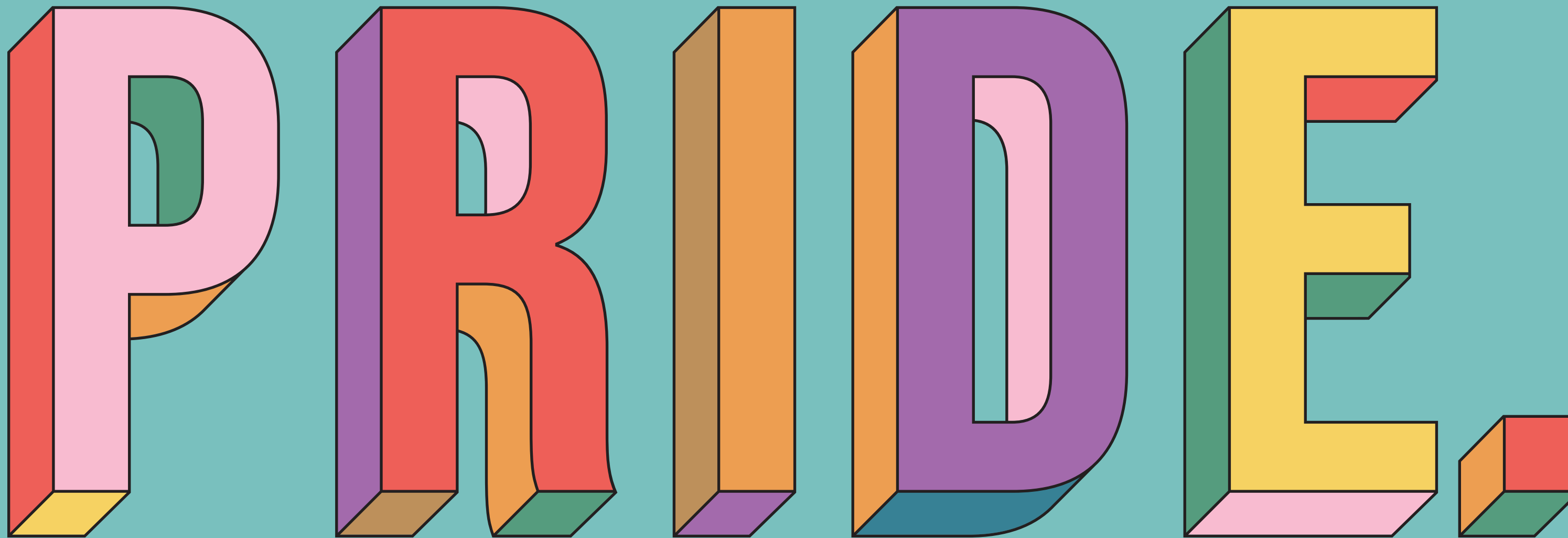
+

The plus sign is for all the other ways people express themselves as well as for LGBTQIA+ allies, who stand up for, support, and encourage members of this community.

*The meaning of these words have changed a lot over the years and will continue to change with each generation.

Now that you know who we are, let's talk

about why I wrote this book—it's all about



Everyone wants to be accepted
for who they really are.

Think about it like this:

Every person has a light
inside of them, which
represents everything
that makes them unique.

(It's important you know I'm not talking about a
lightbulb or a flashlight! This light is your spirit, that
special thing inside of you that makes you, YOU.)



When you feel pride, your light shines so brightly that other people can see and feel it.

But when someone feels misunderstood or unable to be themselves, that light has a really hard time coming through.

Pride today is about encouraging everyone to shine as bright as can be, honoring AND celebrating what makes each of us special.

WHY
DO WE
CELEBRATE?

Well, for as long as
there have been people,
LGBTQIA+ people
have existed.

And many have been discriminated
against because of who they love,
even to the point of being kicked out
of their families, jailed, considered
mentally ill, or killed.

This community has been
fighting against discrimination
and demanding freedom to
be themselves since...
well, a really long time.

But on June 28, 1969,
the demand for freedom
was so great it could
not be ignored.

It all started at a place
called The Stonewall Inn
in New York City.

The Stonewall Inn
was a place where
members of the LGBTQIA+
community gathered
(and still do today).

They listened to music.

And danced.

And made friends.

And built community.

And felt accepted.

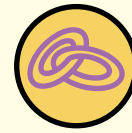


Why was this so important?

Because back then it was considered wrong, and even illegal, for members of the LGBTQIA+ community to do everyday things like:



**hold hands in public
with their partners,**



get married,



have a family,



**visit their partners
in the hospital,**



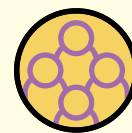
find jobs,



travel safely,



**wear clothes that reflected
their true gender identity,**



**or even just spend time
together in groups.**

One day, at the Stonewall Inn,
people were hanging out when
the police came.

They started to beat people up.

And they arrested them.

A group of transgender women decided they didn't want to take it anymore.

SO THEY

FOUGH T

BACK.

And more people came to support them. And even *more* people came after that.

This was the moment the **entire** LGBTQIA+ community said,

“We’re not going to take this anymore.”

They were tired of being beaten down, so they rose up against the people who hurt them.

So, every June, we honor that historical moment and celebrate the pride we have in being ourselves and letting our inner lights shine brightly.

How do we celebrate?

We throw a huge party!

We have parades.

We wear bright colors and glitter.

We fly rainbow-colored flags with colors that represent all of the members of our diverse community.

That day at Stonewall was an important moment in our history because it inspired people to protest together, work for recognition and protection, create change, and build community.

People like...



MARSHA P.
JOHNSON
and
SYLVIA
RIVERA,

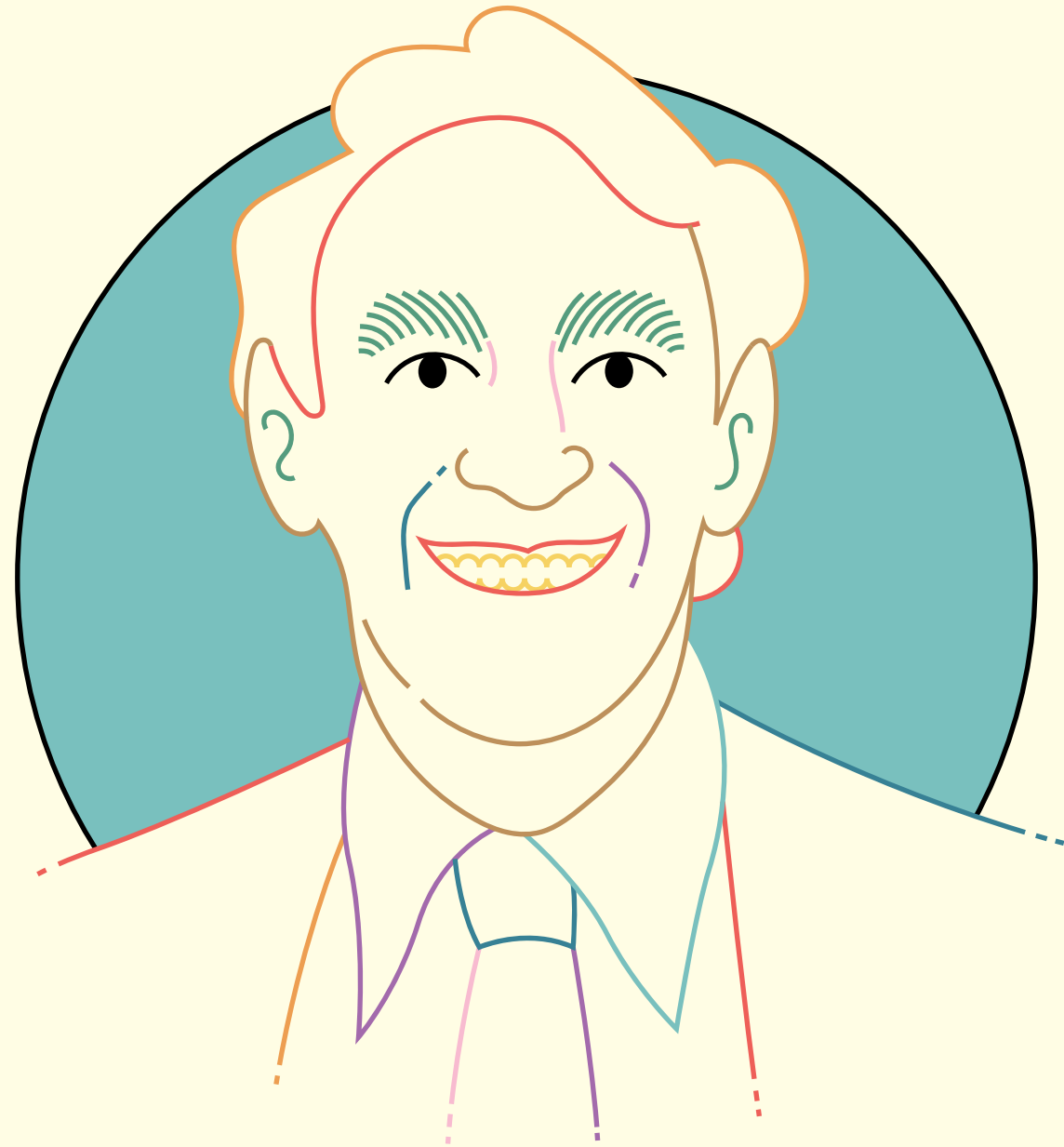
transgender women who were
leaders in the Stonewall Uprising.



BAYARD RUSTIN,

a gay man who organized the
March on Washington* with
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*The March on Washington was a huge march in
Washington, DC, to demand civil rights for Black people.



HARVEY MILK,

the first openly gay
elected public official.



AUDRE LORDE,

a Black lesbian who wrote books,
articles, and poems to protest racism,
sexism,* and homophobia.*

*Sexism is the discrimination against
someone on the basis of their sex.

*Homophobia is prejudice against homosexual people.



JEANNE MANFORD,

the mom of a gay son,
who started PFLAG (Parents,
Family, and Friends of Lesbians
and Gays), an organization
that supports grownups
with LGBTQIA+ kids.

So there are a lot of big ways
and big reasons we celebrate pride.

However, celebrating pride
doesn't end in June.

We can celebrate
pride all year long.

How?



By standing up for others.

By inviting other people
into your community.

And by believing in yourself,
even when it seems like
no one else does.

What makes you feel pride?

Tell your grownup a few things
about yourself that you're proud of.

Ask your grownup to tell you
what makes them proud of
themselves and proud of you too.

I know each of us is stronger
when we feel proud of the things
we do and how we show up
for other people.

I also know all people need
a space that feels safe to be
just who they are.

That's why we create
communities to celebrate
pride and celebrate
one another.

When you have pride,

ANYTHING

IS POSSIBLE.

And when all of us have pride,

EVERYTHING

IS POSSIBLE.

Each generation has heroes
who build on what those before
them have created.

Being a hero means using
your voice and standing up
for what you believe in.

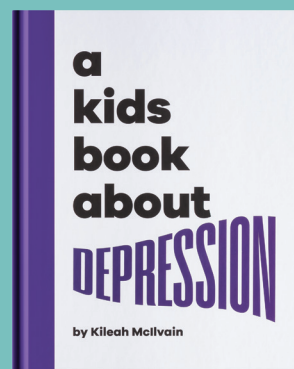
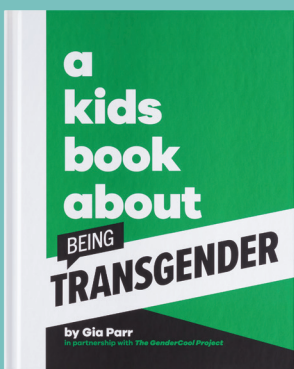
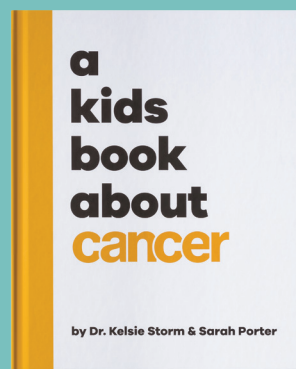
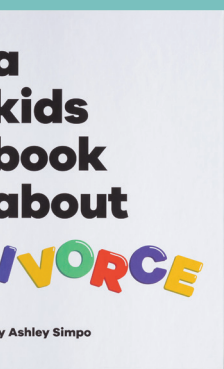
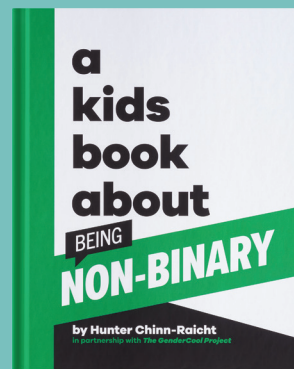
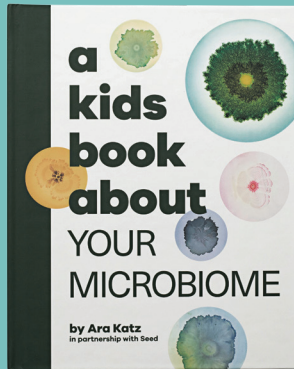
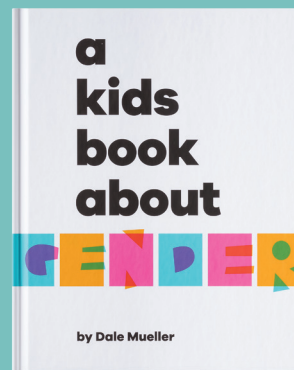
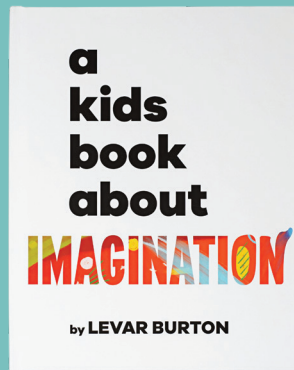
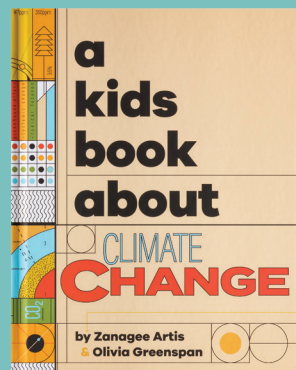
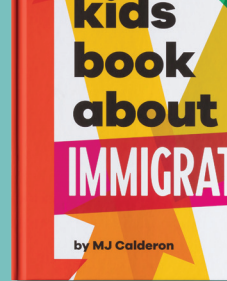
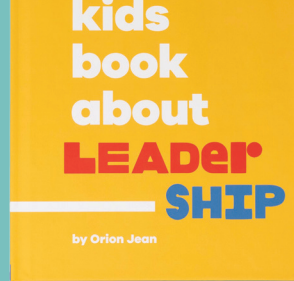
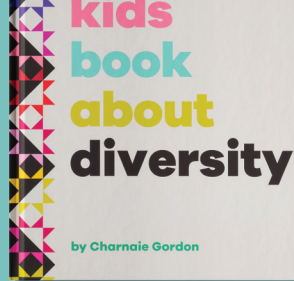
Maybe you are that person
for your generation.

HOW BRIGHT
WILL YOUR
LIGHT
SHINE?

Outro

Hey there! Now that you have finished this book about Pride, I hope you will celebrate all year long. As you continue talking about the meaning of Pride, I invite you to try out a few things to keep that feeling of Pride going.

1. Tell each other, frequently, what makes you feel pride. Did you show kindness to someone today? Did you stand up for yourself or a friend? Saying what makes you feel pride keeps that feeling alive!
2. Remind yourselves about Pride with an art project. Whether it's making rainbows, or drawing a picture of the light shining inside you, use art as a way to keep the spirit of Pride strong no matter what time of the year it is!
3. Join in the Pride celebration. If there is a Pride parade or a special Pride event in your community, gather your friends and family and join in the fun. Pride is filled with lots of folks who would love to see you there! And don't forget to tell them, "Happy Pride!"



a kids book about THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE

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