

The Book Review

PROFESSIONAL READING

CART, Michael & Christine A. Jenkins. *Top 250 LGBTQ Books for Teens: Coming Out, Being Out, and the Search for Community*. 184p. ALA Editions. 2015. pap. \$21.95. ISBN 9781937589561. LC 2014031572.

On the heels of the conversations happening as a result of the We Need Diverse Books movement, acquiring quality LGBTQ titles for young adult collections is more important than ever. Enter *Top 250 LGBTQ Books for Teens*, in which even dedicated fans of LGBTQ teen titles will find new favorites to enjoy and classic selections to explore. Here, one can peruse an exhaustive collection of the best fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels this niche has to offer. Each title is painstakingly annotated and given equal space within. Books are arranged by author, though the coding system is slightly awkward; readers may have been better served by separate sections for each genre. In addition, a section of professional resources for teachers, librarians, and counselors is included. This title is current through 2013 and includes Sara Farizan's Lambda Award-winning *If You Could be Mine* (Algonquin, 2013). Only a few 2014 titles appear and the two most recent and significant Printz Award and Honor titles, Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun* (2014) and Andrew Smith's *Grasshopper Jungle* (2014, both Penguin), both of which prominently feature queer protagonists, are missing. Despite its excellent attention to detail and clear celebration of LGBTQ literature, it's sadly a book that will be dated rapidly as new titles hit the market. **VERDICT** An additional purchase, best used for backlist collection development.—*Ingrid Abrams, Brooklyn Public Library, NY*

ERNST, Linda L. *The Essential Lapsit Guide: An Multimedia How-To-Do-It Manual and Programming Guide for Stimulating Literacy Development from 12 to 24 Months*. 288p. Neal-Schuman. 2015. pap. \$72. ISBN 9781555707613. LC 2014001003.

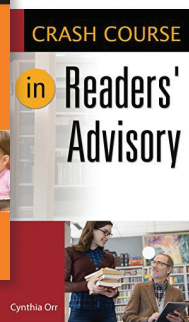
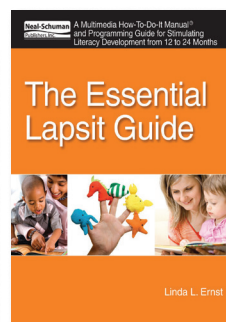
Ernst has updated and revised two of her older works: *Lapsit Services for the Very Young* (1995) and *Lapsit Services for the Very Young II* (2000, both Neal-Schuman) into this new resource. This is meant as a guide for youth librarians new to the field of early childhood programming, although it also stands as a solid refresher for those more experienced librarians who might have missed hearing about the latest research and developments in early learning and early childhood brain development. This new version is

well organized and flows well. Ernst starts with offering a brief yet informative look at the facts of early learning and what we have learned recently via advances in research—such as the fact that “children’s brains develop over time, with certain areas of the brain developing at different times and at different paces” or “at three years of age, the child has about twice as many connections in the brain as an adult does.” She addresses the topics of in-library programming and outreach, as well as reaching out to special needs audiences and the adaptations that might make a traditional lapsit program more comfortable for children and their caregivers within that audience range. The book contains five chapters, and is broken into a section of “program foundations” and then the more practical section of “program building blocks” which lays out, step-by-step, what the staff member needs in order to put together a successful lapsit program. Included is advice on age breakdowns, whether to make the program registered or not, how to handle attendance issues, and proper pacing for a successful lapsit program. Chapter four is the

bread and butter of the manual, offering sample programs, books that work in programs, thematic lists of ideas, and nursery rhymes. Some of the rhymes contain a video symbol; these selections are available as online videos at alaeditions.org/webextras. They feature the author performing the rhyme or fingerplay. Ernst is generous with her information, including bibliographies of additional readings and materials at the end of each chapter. A healthy appendix is filled with handouts and templates that are also available online for folks to customize and print out. **VERDICT** This is a necessary resource with a wealth of updated information and resources for public libraries to have available for staff use and training in the field of early literacy.—*Lisa Kropp, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY*

ORR, Cynthia. *Crash Course in Readers' Advisory*. 125p. (Crash Course). Teacher Ideas Press/Libraries Unlimited. 2015. pap. \$45. ISBN 9781610698252; ebk. \$45. ISBN 9781610698269. LC 2014027064.

Orr, one of the most respected voices in public library reader services, has put together a strong overview of the major motivations, strategies, and tools for offering strong readers' advisory (RA) services for adult library customers. The first half of the book focuses on establishing RA as a vital library service, offering introductory explorations of types of readers, types of literature, and existing research in reading. Library staff looking for more practical guidance will find the second half of the book most useful. Here Orr clearly



describes her “Golden Rules of Readers' Advisory Service”; outlines strategies for assisting both difficult RA customers and casual browsers; and provides comprehensive lists of go-to resources for use in RA interviews as well as resources for staff to keep abreast of goings-on in literature and publishing. Professionals looking to delve into strategies for talking about books in traditional RA interviews should continue to look to Saricks's *Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library* (ALA Editions, 2005), but Orr's book should serve as the go-to for anyone looking for an overview or a refresher in providing quality RA for adult readers. **VERDICT** Ideal for those seeking basic training in readers' advisory services for adults.—*Amy Koester, Learning Experiences Department, Skokie PL*

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