

Free to Be

books celebrating
non-traditional gender roles



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10-10

Allie's Basketball Dream
Barbara Barber / ages 4-8

Her girlfriends think basketball is a boy sport, but Allie has a new basketball and the determination to go with it.

Oliver Button is a Sissy
Tomie DePaola / ages 4-8

Preferring to dance, Oliver doesn't care about sports or other "boy" things.

Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt
Lisa Campbell Ernst / ages 4-8

Sam enjoys sewing but meets with scorn and ridicule when he tries to join a quilting club.

The Princess Knight
Cornelia Funke / ages 4-8

Despite the taunting of her brothers, Princess Violetta becomes a talented knight.

Elena's Serenade
Campbell Geeslin / ages 4-8

Elena disguises herself as a boy and learns to be a glass-blower like her father.

Seven Brave Women
Betsy G. Hearne / ages 4-8

A young girl recounts the brave exploits of her female ancestors, including her great-grandmother who came to America in a sailboat.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully
James Howe / ages 6-9

When the neighborhood bully gets on his case about liking the color pink and having a female best friend, Pinky falls prey to self-doubt.

Swamp Angel
Anne Isaacs / ages 5-9

As big a hero as Paul Bunyan, Angelica must take on a giant bear to save the water supply of some Tennessee settlers.

Max
Rachel Isadora / ages 4-8

Max is a great baseball player—but really wants to try ballet.

Little Granny Quarterback
Bill Martin / ages 4-8

Granny used to be a star football player, but can she make a comeback and save the team?

The Playground Problem
Margaret McNamara / ages 4-8

When the first-grade boys refuse to let Emma join their soccer game because she is a girl, Emma and her father teach them an important lesson.

Time to Get Up, Time to Go
David Milgrim / ages 3-7

From early morning to bedtime, a boy whirls through his day's activities, taking care of his stuffed blue doll.

*Mighty Jackie:
The Strikeout Queen*
Marissa Moss / ages 6-9

An account of the bravery of a teenage girl who took the mound against the likes of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in 1931.

The Paper Bag Princess
Robert Munsch / ages 4-8

In the process of outsmarting and vanquishing a dragon, a young lady finds that it is better to be a smart princess than a pretty one.

A Fire Engine for Ruthie
Leslea Newman / ages 4-8

Ruthie's Nana suggests playing tea party, but Ruthie is more interested in the vehicles that a neighbor boy is playing with.

*What Mommies Do Best,
What Daddies Do Best*
Laura Numeroff / ages 4-8

Mothers and fathers doing everyday activities show their love for their children in very similar ways.

*The Daddy Book and
The Mommy Book*
Todd Parr / ages 3-7

Mommies and Daddies are freed from traditional roles to do all kinds of jobs and activities.

My Pop Pop and Me
Irene Smalls / ages 4-8

A young boy loves to help his Pop Pop bake a cake and do the dishes.

Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter
Diane Stanley / ages 4-8

Rumpelstiltskin's daughter may not be able to spin straw into gold, but she is more than a match for a greedy king.

Free to Be You and Me [CD]
Marlo Thomas / ages 4-8

Songs and stories to help boys and girls feel free to express who they really are, no matter what.

I Want To Be a Cowgirl
Jeanne Willis / ages 4-8

A little girl tells her father she would rather have the active outdoor life of a cowgirl than that of a quiet girl who stays inside.

William's Doll
Charlotte Zolotow / ages 4-8

William's father gives him a basketball and a train but these do not make him want a doll less.