Allied

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth in the Library

LGBTQ+ Youth in Utah

Highly rejected youth were:

- 8x as likely to attempt suicide
- 6x as likely to report high levels of depression
- 3x as likely to use illegal drugs
- 3x as likely to be at high risk for HIV and STIs



Utah School Climate Survey

LGBTQ youth were more likely than their straight, cisgender peers to report:

- Experiencing frequent verbal harassment
- Missing school due to feeling unsafe
- Feeling unsafe in school more frequently
- Considering suicide



Allies

The Do's and Don'ts of Support



Allies...

- Quiet your voice and listen better
- Do your own research
- Accept criticism and work to better yourself
- Recognize your privilege
- Use your privilege to lift others up
- Don't expect praise or recognition for being an ally

Allied at the Library

Supporting Youth in the Library



Make the library welcoming to all!

- Remind staff that the library is for everybody
- First impressions matter
- Use gender neutral language
- Always ask for preferred name and pronoun
- Review your forms, policies, and procedures
- Put privacy and safety first
- Learn the lingo
- Don't police patrons' prejudices
- Ask for help!



Normalizing vs. Celebrating

Normalizing LGBT+ Culture:

- Include LGBT+ Books in Storytimes and Bookclubs
- Alter Pronouns When Reading Aloud
- Add LGBT+ Literature to Displays
- Bring LGBT+-Interest Booklists to Outreach
- Add LGBT-Specific Info to Existing Pamphlets, Booklists, Resource Sheets, etc...

Celebrating LGBT+ Culture:

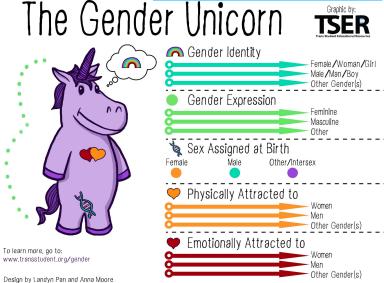
- Rainbow Storytime or Rainbow Bookclub
- GSA or PFLAG Group
- Teen Drag Night
- Trans Job Fair
- Pride Month Displays
- LGBT-Interest Pamphlets, Booklists, Resource Sheets, etc...

#Pride #LoveIsLove #LoveWins #HateFreeZone





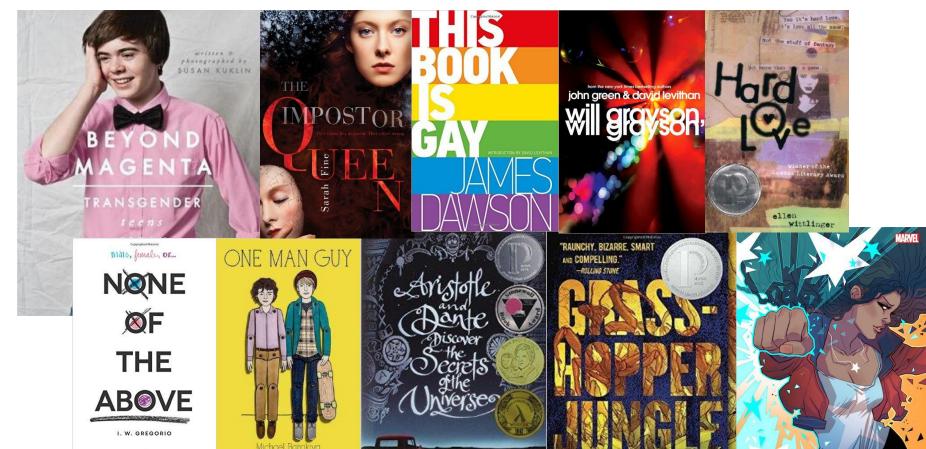








Use Visual Clues to Create a Comfortable Environment



"THIS BOOK TOOK MY BREATH AWAY"

BENJAMIN ALIRE SÁENZ

ANDREW SMITH

Create a Diverse Collection







MAMA DRAGONS



ENCIRCLE

Gender and Sexuality Alliances

Support Groups and Clubs



Keeping in mind for GSA's

Roles within the GSA

- Libraries
- Member Patrons
- Librarians
- Non-member Patrons

So, You May Be Wondering...

- Where do I start?
- What do I do?
- What are examples of other libraries starting this?

Questions?

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Additional Resources





