

## TEACHABLE BOOKS

# Global Issues: LGBTQ2S+

By Jonelle St. Aubyn

**GRADE LEVEL:** Secondary (11-12)

**THEME:** Global Issues

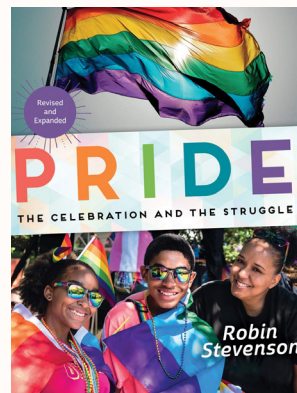
**SUB-THEMES:** LGBTQ2S+

## LEARNING FOCUS

This novel study unit will explore:

- The challenges faced by LGBTQ2S+ people when coming out
- What life is like for LGBTQ2S+ people around the world
- Understanding the complexity of intersectionality
- Empowering students to make meaningful change for themselves and/or others

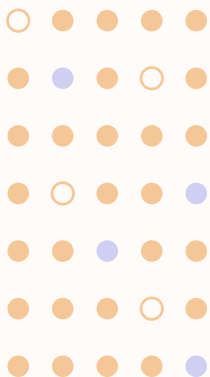
## FEATURED BOOKS



*Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle* by Robin Stevenson (Orca Book Publishers, 2020)



*The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali* by Sabina Khan (Scholastic Press, 2019)



## LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### MINDS ON PROVOCATION

Using the K-W-L chart provided [here](#), watch the following videos about what LGBTQ2S+ life is like around the world: [This Is What LGBT Life Is Like Around the World | Jenni Chang and Lisa Dazols | TED Talks](#) and [We Resist: A Queer Muslim Perspective | El-Farouk Khaki | TEDxUTSC](#).

After you fill out the chart, consider the following question, what challenges/barriers might LGBTQ2S+ people face when trying to come out?

### READ, PLAN, AND PRACTICE

Students will read “The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali” as either a book club or class novel. Given the length of the novel, this is a unit of study that will need to be done over the course of a few weeks in order to give students time to finish the novel and work through the follow-up activities provided.

Students will also read the following sections of “Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle” in preparation for their potential learning projects:

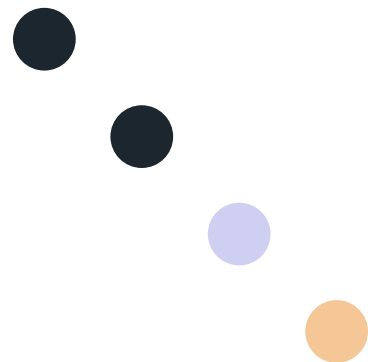
- From Chapter 2: Pride and Identity
  - What is Coming Out?
  - Being an Ally
- From Chapter 3: Celebrating Pride Today
  - Family Pride
  - Pride and Religion
- All of Chapter 4: Pride Around the World

These readings are great for class discussions in connection to the material that is covered in the novel. They will also help provide needed information as students complete the follow-up activities.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

These questions can be used for discussions with the class or students can complete them as journal entries either while they are reading the novel, or after the novel has been read:

- Why did Rukhsana not come out to her family prior to getting caught with Ariana?
- Do you think it would have been more or less difficult for Aamir to come out than Rukhsana, given his position within the family? Explain your reasoning.
- What were some of the differences between the coming out experiences of Ariana and Rukhsana?
- Why did Rukhsana choose to repair her relationship with her family rather than just leaving after she came back from Bangladesh?
- What are some challenges that people in the LGBTQ2S+ community might face when coming out in different countries?





## MAKE, TINKER, AND MODIFY

Students should select from one of the following options to demonstrate their learning. Although many options are provided, students should also be given the opportunity to come up with an option that works best for them.

**Public service announcements:** Either by poster, infographic, podcast or short video, based on the information learned, students will seek to educate other high school students about the challenges of coming out as a teenager and strategies to do so when ready.

**A coming out blog or vlog:** Students will conduct research and write of their findings about supports or community organizations that can help teenagers who want to come out. Students should try to provide a diverse list of organizations, taking into account the intersectionalities of those who want to come out.

**LGBTQ+ activism:** Many young people are leading the fight against homophobia and it is still illegal for people to be LGBTQ2S+ in many countries. Students will research what these activists are doing and come up with their own suggestions/solutions about what can be done to support people in these countries in their fight for equal rights. Students can also create a social media campaign to spread awareness and to share their ideas.

**Religion and LGBTQ+:** Many people fear coming out because they worry about losing connection to their faith or religious groups/organizations. Students will use Robin Stevenson's book to look at how religious organizations are supporting the LGBTQ+ community, then share their learning through a medium of choice (infographic, podcast, research report, film, etc.).

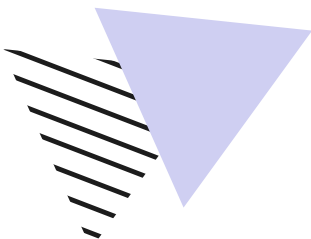
**Creative art piece:** Students can write a song or create a work of art that demonstrates the positive impact that coming out can have for an individual.

**Social media campaign:** Students will create a positive social media campaign to help educate others about the challenges of coming out and how to be a supportive ally. They will spread the word through Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and other social media platforms to demonstrate their learning and understanding.

## REFLECT AND CONNECT

With the products that students have created, they are encouraged to share their learning in the following ways:

- A community presentation
- Educating classmates through class visits or an assembly
- A gallery walk
- Virtual presentations



## ADDITIONAL CANADIAN BOOKS AND BOOK LISTS TO SUPPORT THESE SUB-THEMES



*You're You* by Mette Bach (James Lorimer and Company, 2017)



*Kings, Queens, and In-Betweens* by Tanya Boteju (Simon Pulse, 2019)



*We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir* by Samra Habib (Viking, 2019)



*Fire Song* by Adam Garnet Jones (Annick Press, 2018)

### BOOK LISTS:

- [2SLGBTQ+ Resources for All Ages](#) (Another Story Bookshop)
- [List of LGBTQ Books for Kids and Teens](#) (The Canadian Children's Book Centre)
- [Pride Month: K-12 Books](#) (49th Kids)

### ADAPTATIONS FOR THIS LESSON

- “Like a Love Story” by Abdi Nazemian (Balzer and Bray, 2019)

This book also does an excellent job of looking at intersectionality within the LGBTQ2S+ community and could be used with grade 9 to 12 classes.

### MORE RESOURCES

- Sabina Khan and Robin Stevenson both do author visits! Contact Sabina at [sabinawriter@gmail.com](mailto:sabinawriter@gmail.com) or Robin at her website: [robinstevenson.com](http://robinstevenson.com).
- [The Trevor Project](#): This website has a coming out guide that contains useful information and questions, as well as some excellent information about intersectionality, LGBTQ2S+ issues and racial justice.
- [Healthy Relationships Plus Program](#) by The Fourth R: This is a great resource document that educators can use to teach students about the importance of healthy relationships, as well as how to be a good ally.
- [Living My Truth | Tru Wilson | TEDxEastVan](#): Discover the power that is found when a 9-year-old girl discovers who she truly is and decides to live as her authentic self—regardless of the Catholic School that denies her identity. Hear Tru Wilson's journey of self-discovery and empowerment, in a world that sometimes doesn't know what to do with her...simply because she was born a boy.