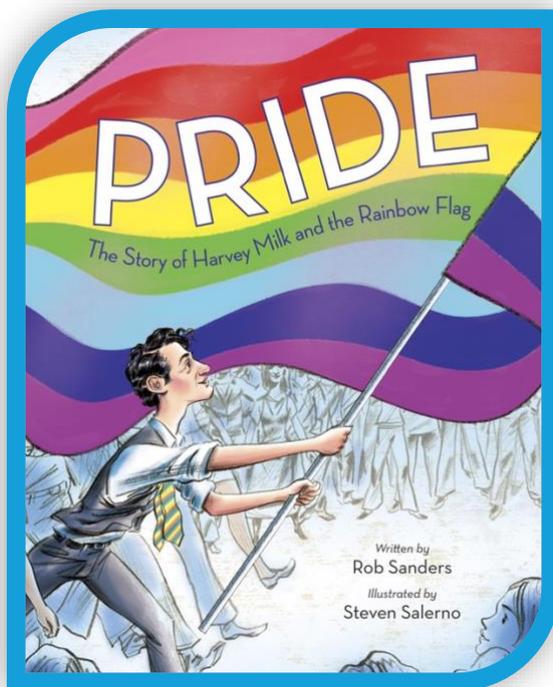




Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Department

About the Book of the Month Parent/Family Discussion Guide: This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A World of Difference® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

Rob Sanders (Author), Steven Salerno (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780399555312

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers

Year Published: 2018

Age Range: 5–8

Book Themes

LGBTQ Rights, Identity, Activism, Pride

About the Book

On June 25, 1978, history was made when a new flag unfurled in San Francisco. From that moment, forward, the flag and its rich, beaming colors of the rainbow would serve as a symbol of hope and pride for the millions of LGBTQ individuals across the world. Learn about the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world.

Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book along with your child or your child reads it on their own and you discuss it later, you can use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their

responses and to listen thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What is the book about?
- How does Harvey Milk try to bring about equity for the gay*/LGBTQ community?
- Why did Harvey think creating a symbol of hope was important?
- What are some symbols that are important to you?
- Have you ever seen a rainbow(s) used as a symbol for gay/LGBTQ pride? Where did you see it?
- Why do you think the rainbow flag made Harvey and others feel proud?
- How did the rainbow flag live on after Harvey died?
- If you could tell Harvey Milk or Gilbert Baker something, what would you tell them?
- Do you know why the White House has a rainbow flag design on it in June 2015 (that's the day the marriage equality law was passed)?
- What do you think is the overall message of the book?

**Note that the word "gay" is used throughout the book as was reflective of that time period; the term LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) is used today.*

Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

1. Why Pride?

Talk with your child about the meaning of the word "pride." Elicit/explain that **pride** is a feeling that you respect yourself and deserve to be respected by others. Ask them why they think the book is called *Pride* and why the rainbow flag is a "pride flag." Then ask about times they have felt proud of themselves—either for who they are or something they did; you can also share your own feelings of pride about your identity. Explain that many people feel a sense of pride about parts of their identity, which can include identity group(s) like race, ethnicity, religion, gender, etc. or pride can be based on one's hobbies, talents or accomplishments. Explain that often members of identity groups who are targeted in our society by bias have a strong need to feel and express pride. For example, this book shows how the LGBTQ community had to fight for their rights and in this way, the feeling of pride is especially important. You can discuss other examples like this from your own life.

2. LGBTQ Pride Month

Explain to your child that the month of June is LGBTQ Pride Month—an annual celebration of the history, achievements and contributions of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) people in the U.S. Explain to them that the reason a month is dedicated to honoring the LGBTQ community is because sometimes LGBTQ people are not well represented (in media, books, curriculum, etc.) or included when we discuss and teach history—due to bias. This is also true for other themed months such as Black History and Women's History Month. Talk with your child about overcoming obstacles, and how difficult that can be when faced with stereotypes (the false idea that all members of a group are the same and think and behave in the same way) people have about LGBTQ people, bias and homophobia/heterosexism. Discuss why stereotypes are unfair and explain

that it is important we work to challenge stereotypes and encourage all people to express themselves, explore their interests, and follow their dreams.

3. Activism

Talk with your child what activism is and discuss examples in the book where people engaged in activism to bring out positive social change. You can define an activist as “a person who uses or supports actions such as protests to help make changes in politics or society.” You can explain that people get involved in activism when they feel something is unfair or unjust and they want to do something about it. They often do this with other people. Elicit from them all the different ways in the book that Harvey Milk and others engaged in activism (e.g., attending marches, speaking out, trying to change laws, creating a symbol for gay pride) throughout different time periods to bring out equity for the LGBTQ community. Share with your child situations or times when you have engaged in activism and talk about something you might do together about an issue you care about. Convey the message that when we see something unfair, unjust or inhumane—whether it’s something small in our school/community or on a larger scale like homophobia or racism—we can do something about it. You can use ADL’s [10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism](#) to talk about different strategies, both large and small.

Other Books You May Like

Donovan’s Big Day by Leslea Newman, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/donovans-big-day

Enough! 20 Protesters Who Changed America by Emily Easton, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/enough-20-protesters-who-changed-america

Stella Brings the Family by Miriam Schiffer, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/stella-brings-the-family

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on LGBTQ rights, identity and activism.

Curriculum Resources

Who Am I? Identity Poems, www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/toys-and-gender.pdf.

Websites

10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in-activism

A list of ideas for bringing social activism into the classroom and outside of the school walls. These strategies can be acted upon individually, organized together as a group and young people can join with a larger effort that is taking place locally or nationally.

Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

The Question Corner: Early Childhood FAQs

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner

A collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members interested in promoting respect for diversity among young children.

Safe and Inclusive Schools for All

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/safe-and-inclusive-schools-for-all

Tips to foster a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment.

Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk

Provides the tools parents and family members need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Includes discussion guides containing a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources.

LGBTQ Pride Month

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/lgbtq-pride-month

A list of relevant K-12 curriculum, children's books and other resources to bring LGBTQ Pride Month to your classrooms.

Why Pride?

www.adl.org/blog/why-pride

This blog discusses the meaning of pride and the history of the LGBT Pride Movement.

Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

LGBTQ People & Homophobia/Heterosexism, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-6=1&tid\[194\]=194&tid\[195\]=195&tid\[196\]=196&tid\[197\]=197&tid\[198\]=198&tid\[199\]=199](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-6=1&tid[194]=194&tid[195]=195&tid[196]=196&tid[197]=197&tid[198]=198&tid[199]=199)

Social Justice, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-10=1&tid\[231\]=231&tid\[232\]=232&tid\[233\]=233&tid\[234\]=234&tid\[235\]=235&tid\[236\]=236&tid\[237\]=237](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-10=1&tid[231]=231&tid[232]=232&tid[233]=233&tid[234]=234&tid[235]=235&tid[236]=236&tid[237]=237)