

two boys kissing david levithan

Two Boys Kissing David Levithan: Exploring Love, Identity, and Representation in YA Literature

two boys kissing david levithan is a phrase that resonates deeply within the landscape of contemporary young adult (YA) literature. David Levithan's novel **Two Boys Kissing** is more than just a story; it is a vibrant celebration of love, identity, and the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth. Through his poignant storytelling and bold themes, Levithan has crafted a work that not only entertains but educates and inspires readers to embrace diversity and empathy.

In this article, we'll delve into the significance of **Two Boys Kissing** by David Levithan, examine its impact on readers and the broader literary community, and unpack why it remains a crucial piece in conversations about representation and acceptance.

The Heart of Two Boys Kissing David Levithan

At its core, **Two Boys Kissing** is a narrative about love — love that transcends societal norms and fears. The novel centers around two high school boys, Harry and Craig, who embark on a 32-hour kiss to set a new world record. This simple act blossoms into a powerful statement about visibility, courage, and solidarity among LGBTQ+ youth.

David Levithan, known for his ability to write authentically about queer experiences, uses the story to highlight the diverse voices within the LGBTQ+ community. The novel features multiple perspectives, including those of other gay teens, their families, and even the narrators—two gay men from the 1970s who watch over the characters with wisdom and compassion.

Why the Kissing Scene is More Than Just a Kiss

The central event, the prolonged kiss between the two boys, symbolizes resistance against a world that often marginalizes queer love. It's a protest and a celebration rolled into one. This scene challenges readers to rethink preconceived notions about same-sex relationships and the power of public displays of affection in queer communities.

Moreover, the kiss is a beacon of hope and affirmation. For many young readers who may be struggling to come to terms with their identity, seeing two boys kissing openly and proudly can be profoundly validating.

David Levithan's Role in Shaping LGBTQ+ YA Literature

David Levithan has long been a pioneer in queer YA fiction. His works, including **Every Day**, **The Realm of Possibility**, and **Will Grayson, Will Grayson** (co-written with John Green), consistently

center LGBTQ+ characters and themes with nuance and heart.

Two Boys Kissing stands out in his oeuvre because it confronts the realities that many queer teens face: bullying, rejection, and the quest for acceptance. Levithan's storytelling style is empathetic and lyrical, helping readers connect emotionally with characters who might otherwise feel distant or marginalized.

The Importance of Representation in YA Novels

Representation matters. When young readers see their experiences reflected in literature, it fosters a sense of belonging and self-worth. For LGBTQ+ youth, books like **Two Boys Kissing** provide mirrors that reflect their realities and windows into others' lives, promoting understanding and empathy.

Levithan's novel has been praised for its authentic portrayal of queer teens, but it has also faced challenges and bans in some school districts due to its candid depiction of same-sex affection. This paradox highlights the ongoing cultural tensions surrounding LGBTQ+ content in education and media.

LSI Keywords and Themes in *Two Boys Kissing* David Levithan

When discussing **Two Boys Kissing** by David Levithan, several related themes and keywords naturally arise:

- LGBTQ+ young adult fiction
- gay teen romance
- coming out stories
- queer representation in literature
- young adult love and identity
- protest and activism in YA novels
- diverse voices in fiction
- bullying and acceptance

These topics enrich the conversation around the novel, emphasizing its layered approach to complex social issues.

How Two Boys Kissing David Levithan Inspires Readers and Educators

The impact of *Two Boys Kissing* extends beyond entertainment. Educators often use the book as a tool to foster discussions about identity, tolerance, and social justice in classrooms. It serves as a doorway to conversations about the challenges LGBTQ+ youth face and the importance of empathy.

For readers, the novel offers both solace and empowerment. The characters' struggles and triumphs mirror real-life experiences, making it easier for teens to feel seen and heard. The narrative encourages self-acceptance and the courage to love openly, no matter the obstacles.

Tips for Introducing Two Boys Kissing in Educational Settings

When incorporating *Two Boys Kissing* into a curriculum or book club, consider these tips to create a supportive environment:

1. **Provide context:** Start with a discussion about LGBTQ+ history and current issues to help frame the story.
2. **Create a safe space:** Encourage respectful dialogue and affirm the diversity of experiences in the room.
3. **Use supplemental materials:** Incorporate articles, interviews with David Levithan, or related LGBTQ+ resources.
4. **Encourage personal reflection:** Allow students to share their thoughts or relate the story to their own lives, if comfortable.

Such approaches maximize the novel's educational value and foster empathy among diverse groups of students.

The Broader Impact of Two Boys Kissing David Levithan on LGBTQ+ Visibility

Since its publication, *Two Boys Kissing* has contributed significantly to normalizing queer love in mainstream literature. It has been nominated for and won several awards, signaling its critical acclaim and cultural importance.

The book has also sparked conversations about censorship and the need for diverse stories in libraries and schools. By bravely depicting two boys kissing in a positive light, Levithan challenges stigmas and promotes a more inclusive literary world.

Readers and critics alike have praised the novel for its innovative narrative structure, its ensemble of voices, and its unflinching honesty. It stands as a testament to the power of storytelling in shaping societal attitudes and championing equality.

Exploring **Two Boys Kissing** by David Levithan offers a window into the lives of queer youth, showcasing their joys, fears, and resilience. Through vivid characters and a powerful central metaphor, the novel invites readers to celebrate love in all its forms and to stand in solidarity with those fighting for acceptance. Whether you're a long-time fan of YA literature or new to LGBTQ+ stories, this book is a compelling and heartfelt journey worth taking.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is David Levithan?

David Levithan is an American author known for writing young adult novels that often explore LGBTQ+ themes and relationships.

What is the significance of 'two boys kissing' by David Levithan?

'Two Boys Kissing' is a novel by David Levithan that highlights the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ youth, focusing on themes of love, acceptance, and the fight against AIDS.

What is the main plot of 'Two Boys Kissing'?

The novel follows several gay teenage characters, including two boys attempting to break the Guinness World Record for the longest kiss, while also exploring the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

Why is 'Two Boys Kissing' considered important in LGBTQ+ literature?

It provides representation for gay teens, fosters empathy, and addresses important issues such as HIV/AIDS, homophobia, and the power of love and friendship.

Has 'Two Boys Kissing' received any awards or recognition?

Yes, the book has been praised for its honest portrayal of LGBTQ+ lives and has won several awards, including the Stonewall Book Award.

What age group is 'Two Boys Kissing' appropriate for?

The novel is primarily aimed at young adults, typically readers aged 14 and up, due to its mature themes and content.

How does David Levithan portray the characters in 'Two Boys Kissing'?

Levithan portrays his characters with depth and sensitivity, highlighting their struggles, hopes, and the importance of community and acceptance.

Is 'Two Boys Kissing' based on true events?

While the story is fictional, it is inspired by real issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community, including the impact of the AIDS crisis and the importance of visibility and activism.

Where can I purchase or read 'Two Boys Kissing' by David Levithan?

'Two Boys Kissing' is available for purchase at bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and can also be found in many public and school libraries.

Additional Resources

Two Boys Kissing David Levithan: An Analytical Review of Queer Representation in Young Adult Literature

two boys kissing david levithan is more than just a phrase; it encapsulates a groundbreaking moment in young adult literature that challenges traditional norms and celebrates LGBTQ+ identity. David Levithan's novel, **Two Boys Kissing**, published in 2013, is widely recognized for its candid exploration of gay youth experiences, making it a cornerstone for queer representation in contemporary fiction. This article offers an analytical review of the novel, examining its thematic depth, narrative style, and cultural impact, while integrating relevant insights for readers, educators, and literary critics interested in LGBTQ+ themes in literature.

Exploring the Narrative and Themes of **Two Boys Kissing**

David Levithan's **Two Boys Kissing** is a unique narrative that centers on the lives of several gay teenagers, with a particular focus on the symbolic act of two boys attempting to set a world record for the longest kiss. The storyline interweaves multiple perspectives, giving voice to diverse experiences within the LGBTQ+ community. This multi-narrative approach allows readers to engage with various facets of identity, love, and struggle.

Representation of Queer Youth

One of the novel's most significant contributions is its authentic portrayal of queer youth. Levithan does not shy away from the complexities and challenges that LGBTQ+ teenagers face, including

bullying, family rejection, and internalized homophobia. Through characters such as Harry and Craig—the titular boys kissing—the novel humanizes these experiences rather than reducing them to mere plot devices.

The inclusion of different characters who identify as gay, bisexual, and transgender broadens the scope of representation, making the novel a valuable resource for understanding the spectrum of sexual and gender identities. This diversity is crucial in young adult (YA) literature, where representation often remains limited or stereotypical.

Symbolism and Narrative Technique

Levithan employs a metafictional narrator, who acts as a collective voice of past gay men, providing historical context and commentary throughout the story. This technique situates the novel within a larger continuum of LGBTQ+ history and struggle, lending it a poignant gravitas.

The act of two boys kissing for an extended period is symbolic not only of love and affection but also of resistance and visibility. By using this act as the narrative's focal point, Levithan elevates a simple gesture into a powerful statement against societal marginalization.

Contextualizing *Two Boys Kissing* within YA Literature

The publication of *Two Boys Kissing* marked a pivotal moment in the trajectory of LGBTQ+ representation in YA fiction. It arrived at a time when visibility for queer characters was increasing but still limited, especially in mainstream publishing.

Comparisons with Contemporary Works

When compared to other notable YA novels dealing with LGBTQ+ themes, such as Becky Albertalli's *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* or Adam Silvera's *They Both Die at the End*, Levithan's work stands out for its explicit focus on activism and historical consciousness. While many YA novels center on coming-of-age romance, *Two Boys Kissing* expands the conversation to include societal challenges and the importance of community solidarity.

Impact on Readers and Educational Settings

The novel's frank depiction of queer relationships and struggles has made it both a celebrated and contested text in educational contexts. Many schools and libraries have included *Two Boys Kissing* in their collections to provide representation and foster empathy among students. However, it has also faced challenges and bans in certain regions due to its candid content.

Despite this, the impact on readers—especially LGBTQ+ youth—has been overwhelmingly positive.

The book offers validation and visibility, which are critical for mental health and identity formation during adolescence.

Features and Literary Qualities of *Two Boys Kissing*

David Levithan's writing style in *Two Boys Kissing* combines lyrical prose with a straightforward narrative voice, making the novel accessible yet emotionally evocative. The use of multiple narrators allows for a variety of voices and perspectives, enhancing the novel's richness.

- **Multiple perspectives:** Offers a comprehensive view of queer experiences.
- **Historical commentary:** Connects present struggles to past generations.
- **Symbolism:** The prolonged kiss as a metaphor for resistance and love.
- **Engaging prose:** Balances poetic language with clarity.

These features contribute to the novel's critical acclaim and make it a compelling read for both young adults and adults interested in LGBTQ+ narratives.

Pros and Cons of the Novel

While *Two Boys Kissing* has been praised widely, it is important to consider both strengths and limitations in any literary analysis.

1. Pros:

- Authentic and diverse representation of queer youth.
- Innovative narrative structure with a metafictional narrator.
- Strong thematic focus on love, activism, and history.
- Contributes to normalization and visibility of LGBTQ+ relationships in YA literature.

2. Cons:

- Some readers may find the narrative shifts disorienting.
- The metafictional narrator's voice can feel intrusive to certain audiences.

- Explicit content has led to challenges in some school districts.

These considerations do not diminish the novel's significance but rather highlight the complexities involved in addressing sensitive topics in youth literature.

The Cultural Significance of *Two Boys Kissing*

Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan transcends its narrative to serve as a cultural artifact that reflects and influences societal perceptions of LGBTQ+ identities. Its presence in literary discussions and educational programs underscores a growing acceptance and demand for diverse stories.

The novel also contributes to ongoing dialogues about censorship, inclusivity, and the role of literature in social justice. As debates around LGBTQ+ content in schools continue, *Two Boys Kissing* remains a touchstone for advocates who argue for the importance of queer visibility in literature.

In conclusion, *Two Boys Kissing* encapsulates a vital moment in young adult literature where storytelling meets activism. David Levithan's novel not only offers readers touching and complex characters but also challenges societal norms by celebrating love in its many forms. Its enduring relevance reflects the evolving landscape of queer representation and the power of literature to foster empathy, understanding, and change.

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two boys kissing david levithan: Two Boys Kissing - Jede Sekunde zählt David Levithan, 2024

two boys kissing david levithan: *Two Boys Kissing - Jede Sekunde zählt* David Levithan, 2015-09-24 Poetisch, mitreißend und tief bewegend: David Levithans Meisterwerk jetzt als Taschenbuch »Harry küsst Craig und spürt etwas, das größer ist als sie beide, etwas, das über den Kuss hinausreicht. Er greift nicht danach – noch nicht. Aber er weiß, dass es da ist. Und damit wird dieser Kuss anders als all ihre anderen Küsse zuvor. Das weiß er sofort.« Craig und Harry wollen ein Zeichen für alle schwulen Jungs setzen. Dafür küssen sie sich. 32 Stunden, 12 Minuten und 10 Sekunden. So lange dauert es, um den Weltrekord im Langzeitküssen zu brechen. So lange dauert es, sich über die Gefühle füreinander klarzuwerden, nachdem man sich doch eigentlich gerade getrennt hat. So lange dauert es, das Leben aller schwulen Pärchen in der Umgebung für immer zu

verändern ... Geschickt verwebt David Levithan all ihre Geschichten zu einer großen Geschichte über queere Jugendliche von heute. Vor allem aber beschreibt er in poetischen Worten die Liebe in all ihren Facetten. Vielschichtiges Portrait queerer Lebenswelten Gefühlvoll und einzigartig erzählt
Favorit der Leipziger Jugend Jury

two boys kissing david levithan: Two Boys Kissing - Jede Sekunde zählt David Levithan, 2015-09-24

two boys kissing david levithan: Two Boys Kissing David Levithan, 2013-08-27 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • STONEWALL HONOR BOOK • LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD WINNER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD LONGLIST You have to read this." —Rainbow Rowell, bestselling author of Eleanor & Park and Carry On From the New York Times bestselling author of Every Day, this love story of shared humanity and history Hypable calls an interconnecting web that will leave you emotionally exhausted and absolutely thrilled to have read something so beautiful and unique. Based on true events—and narrated by a Greek Chorus of the generation of gay men lost to AIDS—Two Boys Kissing follows Harry and Craig, two seventeen-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teens dealing with universal questions of love, identity, and belonging.

two boys kissing david levithan: Defending Frequently Challenged Young Adult Books Pat R. Scales, 2016-09-08 A Day No Pigs Would Die, Speak, Thirteen Reasons Why These are some of the most beloved, and most challenged, books. Leaving controversial titles such as these out of your collection or limiting their access is not the answer to challenges. While ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom reports more than 4,500 challenges to young adult literature from 2000 through 2009. This authoritative handbook gives you the information you need to defend challenged books with an informed response and ensure free access to young book lovers. With a profile of each book that includes its plot and characters, related materials and published reviews, awards and prizes, and Web and audiovisual resources, you will be prepared to answer even the toughest attacks.

two boys kissing david levithan: Autobotography Christina Lauren, 2017-09-12 "This book is epic." —Cosmopolitan "A hopeful and moving love story." —Publishers Weekly Fangirl meets Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda in this "sensitive and complex" (BCCB) coming-of-age novel from New York Times bestselling author Christina Lauren about two boys who fall in love in a writing class—one from a progressive family and the other from a conservative religious community. Three years ago, Tanner Scott's family relocated from California to Utah, a move that nudged the bisexual teen temporarily back into the closet. Now, with one semester of high school to go, and no obstacles between him and out-of-state college freedom, Tanner plans to coast through his remaining classes and clear out of Utah. But when his best friend Autumn dares him to take Provo High's prestigious Seminar—where honor roll students diligently toil to draft a book in a semester—Tanner can't resist going against his better judgment and having a go, if only to prove to Autumn how silly the whole thing is. Writing a book in four months sounds simple. Four months is an eternity. It turns out, Tanner is only partly right: four months is a long time. After all, it takes only one second for him to notice Sebastian Brother, the Mormon prodigy who sold his own Seminar novel the year before and who now mentors the class. And it takes less than a month for Tanner to fall completely in love with him.

two boys kissing david levithan: The Reporative Impulse of Queer Young Adult Literature Angel Daniel Matos, 2024-10-01 The Reporative Impulse of Queer Young Adult Literature is a provocative meditation on emotion, mood, history, and futurism in the critique of queer texts created for younger audiences. Given critical demands to distance queer youth culture from narratives of violence, sadness, and hurt that have haunted the queer imagination, this volume considers how post-2000s YA literature and media negotiate their hopeful purview with a broader—and ongoing—history of queer oppression and violence. It not only considers the tactics that authors use in bridging a supposedly "bad" queer past with a "better" queer present, but also offers strategies

on how readers can approach YA reparatively given the field's attachments to normative, capitalist, and neoliberal frameworks. Central to Matos' argument are the use of historical hurt to spark healing and transformation, the implementation of disruptive imagery and narrative structures to challenge normative understandings of time and feeling, and the impact of intersectional thinking in reparative readings of queer youth texts. The Reparative Impulse of Queer Young Adult Literature shows how YA cultural productions are akin to the broader queer imagination in their ability to move and affect audiences, and how these texts encapsulate a significant and enduring change in terms of how queerness is—or can be—read, structured, represented, and felt. The Open Access version of this book, available at <http://www.taylorfrancis.com>, has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives (CC-BY-NC-ND) 4.0 license.

two boys kissing david levithan: Representing the Rainbow in Young Adult Literature Christine A. Jenkins, Michael Cart, 2018-03-20 Discussions of gender and sexuality have become part of mainstream conversations and are being reflected in the work of more and more writers of fiction, particularly in literature aimed at young adult audiences. But young readers, regardless of their sexual orientation, don't always know what books offer well-rounded portrayals of queer characters and situations. Fortunately, finding positive role models in fiction that features LGBTQ+ themes has become less problematic, though not without its challenges. In Representing the Rainbow in Young Adult Literature: LGBTQ+ Content since 1969, Christine Jenkins and Michael Cart provide an overview of the literary landscape. An expanded version of The Heart Has Its Reasons, this volume charts the evolution of YA literature that features characters and themes which resonate not only with LGBTQ+ readers but with their allies as well. In this resource, Jenkins and Cart identify titles that are notable either for their excellence—accurate, thoughtful, and tactful depictions—or deficiencies—books that are wrongheaded, stereotypical, or outdated. Each chapter has been significantly updated, and this edition also includes new chapters on bisexual, transgender, and intersex issues and characters, as well as chapters on comics, graphic novels, and works of nonfiction. This book also features an annotated bibliography and a number of author-title lists of books discussed in the text that will aid teachers, librarians, parents, and teen readers. Encompassing a wider array of sexual identities, Representing the Rainbow in Young Adult Literature is an invaluable resource for young people eager to read about books relevant to them and their lives.

two boys kissing david levithan: *Buchgenres kompakt* Anette Huesmann, 2019-02-26 Sie möchten Ihr Buch gewinnbringend verkaufen? Finden Sie das richtige Genre für Ihr Buch und wecken Sie das Interesse von Agenturen, Verlagen und Leser*innen. Eines der wichtigsten Verkaufsargumente für ein Buch ist sein Genre. Leserinnen und Leser greifen lieber zu Büchern, die sie anhand des Genres schnell einordnen können. Für Agenturen und Verlage ist deshalb das Genre die wichtigste Information bei einem angebotenen Manuskript. Passt das Genre, sind die Buchprofis bereit, sich auch das Exposé anzusehen. Erhöhen Sie Ihre Chancen, aus dem Stapel der zahlreichen Manuskripte herausgefischt zu werden. Wählen Sie das richtige Genre für Ihr Buch und zeigen Sie Agenturen und Verlagen, dass Sie wissen, was Sie tun. Dr. Anette Huesmann ist Germanistin und Schreibtrainerin. Zahlreiche Autor*innen hat sie bereits auf ihrem Weg zum ersten veröffentlichten Buch begleitet. Sie hat etliche Bücher geschrieben, veröffentlicht und erfolgreich auf dem Buchmarkt positioniert. Ordnen Sie Ihren Roman / Ihr Sachbuch dem richtigen Genre zu und erhöhen Sie Ihre Chancen auf einen Buchvertrag. Stimmen zu diesem Buch: Wer sein Buch erfolgreich positionieren will, sollte die Spielregeln des Marktes kennen. Wenn ein Manuskript für Agenten, Verlage, Buchhandel und Konsumenten einzuordnen ist, verbessern sich die Chancen des Autors, einen Buchvertrag zu bekommen und nachfolgend das Buch erfolgreich zu vermarkten. Dr. Anette Huesmann ist es geglückt, eine strukturierte Übersicht über den Genre-Dschungel zu geben. Ein Must-have für alle Autoren, die nicht nur für Tante Frieda und Onkel Heinz schreiben, sondern die strukturiert ihr Werk positionieren wollen. Wer sich an diesen Leitfaden hält, wird von Agenten und Verlagen verstanden und kann sein Werk strategisch am Buchmarkt positionieren. Nichts schlimmer, als wenn das Herzblut-Manuskript mit der Absage passt in kein Genre für nicht

publizierbar befunden wird. Eine klare fünf Sterne Kaufempfehlung! (Kontiki) Sowohl eine interessante und erhellende Lektüre als auch ein Nachschlagewerk. Ich bin wirklich hellauf begeistert. In meinen Augen ein Muss für Buchliebhaber, Leser und besonders für Buchblogger. (Buchvogel_Bücherblog)

two boys kissing david levithan: *Queer and Trans Perspectives on Teaching LGBT-themed Texts in Schools* Mollie V. Blackburn, Caroline T. Clark, Wayne J. Martino, 2018-12-07 This book focuses on queering texts with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender (LGBT) themes in collaboration with students - young to young adult - and their teachers - both pre- and in- service. It strives to generate knowledge and deeper understandings of the pedagogical implications for working with LGBT-themed texts in classrooms across grade levels. The contributions in this book offer explicit implications for pedagogical practice, considering literature for children and young adults, and work in elementary school, high school, and university classrooms and schools. They give insights on exploring how queer and trans theories might inform the teaching and learning of English language arts with great respect to people who live their lives beyond hegemonic heteronormativity and cisnormativity. They provide wisdom on how to provoke, foster, and navigate complicated conversations about sexuality, queer desire, gender creativity, gender independence, and trans inclusivity. In addition, they show how all of these are informed by an epistemological and ontological understanding of gender embodiment as a process of becoming. They offer insights into how queer and trans theories, as informed and driven by trans, non-binary and gender diverse scholars themselves, can move all of us beyond LGBTQ-inclusivity and inform reading, discussing, teaching, and learning in all of the classrooms and school contexts where we live and work. This volume was originally published as a special issue of *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*.

two boys kissing david levithan: *The Palgrave Handbook of Literature and Aging* Valerie Barnes Lipscomb, Aagje Swinnen, 2024-04-16 This handbook offers a comprehensive survey of the growing field of literary age studies and points to new directions in scholarly research. Divided into four sections, the volume reflects the current conversations in the field: intersections and intersectionalities, traveling concepts, methodological innovations, and archival inquiries. It encompasses the spectrum of critical approaches that literary age studies scholars employ, from environmental studies and postcolonial theory to critical race theory and queer studies. While close reading continues to be a mainstay of literary criticism, the handbook highlights alternative tools and routes in both data elicitation and analysis. The final part of the book shows the burgeoning interest in the field from literary scholars across historical periods, extending the scope of literary age studies beyond contemporary texts. This is an essential reference work for advanced students and scholars of literary studies, gerontology, age/aging studies, interdisciplinary studies and cultural studies.

two boys kissing david levithan: *Read These Banned Books* American Library Association (ALA), 2022-09-20 The American Library Association presents a must-read banned book for every week of the year in this beautiful book lover's reading log. Expand your reading list and stand against literary censorship with this one-year reading challenge and book journal! Featuring 52 modern and classic books that have been challenged or banned, from *The Hunger Games* to *Maus*, this book log includes ALA's insights into each title as well as writing prompts for further reflection. A perfect holiday stocking stuffer, birthday present, or gift for bibliophiles, librarians, teachers and educators, activists, and rebel readers of all genres! Includes: 52 banned, censored, or challenged book recommendations and the reasons they were banned Room to reflect on each book and how you can relate to it as you complete the challenge Pages for your personal reading log, perfect for sharing on social media or with friends An appendix highlighting the 100 Most Banned and Challenged Books from 2010-2019 and information about how YOU can help fight book banning.

two boys kissing david levithan: *Queer Anxieties of Young Adult Literature and Culture* Derriitt Mason, 2020-12-28 Selected as the Children's Literature Association's 2023 Honor Book Young adult literature featuring LGBTQ+ characters is booming. In the 1980s and 1990s, only a

handful of such titles were published every year. Recently, these numbers have soared to over one hundred annual releases. Queer characters are also appearing more frequently in film, on television, and in video games. This explosion of queer representation, however, has prompted new forms of longstanding cultural anxieties about adolescent sexuality. What makes for a good “coming out” story? Will increased queer representation in young people’s media teach adolescents the right lessons and help queer teens live better, happier lives? What if these stories harm young people instead of helping them? In *Queer Anxieties of Young Adult Literature and Culture*, Derriett Mason considers these questions through a range of popular media, including an assortment of young adult books; *Caper in the Castro*, the first-ever queer video game; online fan communities; and popular television series *Glee* and *Big Mouth*. Mason argues themes that generate the most anxiety about adolescent culture—queer visibility, risk taking, HIV/AIDS, dystopia and horror, and the promise that “It Gets Better” and the threat that it might not—challenge us to rethink how we read and engage with young people’s media. Instead of imagining queer young adult literature as a subgenre defined by its visibly queer characters, Mason proposes that we see “queer YA” as a body of transmedia texts with blurry boundaries, one that coheres around affect—specifically, anxiety—instead of content.

two boys kissing david levithan: *The Fight against Book Bans* Shannon M. Oltmann, 2023-06-30 Book bans and challenges frequently make the news, but when the reporting ends, how do we put them in context? *The Fight against Book Bans* captures the views of dozens of librarians and library science professors regarding the recent flood of book challenges across the United States, gathered in a comprehensive analysis of their impact and significance. It also serves as a guide to responding to challenges. Chapter authors provide first-hand accounts of facing book challenges and describe how they have prepared for challenges, overcome opposition to certain books, and shown the value of specific library materials. Library science faculty with a range of specialties provide relevant background information to bolster these on-the-ground views. Together, the chapters both articulate the importance of intellectual freedom and demonstrate how to convey that significance to others in the community with passion and wisdom. This volume provides a timely and thorough overview of the complex issues surrounding the ongoing spate of book challenges faced by public and school libraries.

two boys kissing david levithan: *Digital Citizenship in Twenty-First-Century Young Adult Literature* Megan L. Musgrave, 2016-10-11 This book is a study of the evolving relationships between literature, cyberspace, and young adults in the twenty-first century. Megan L. Musgrave explores the ways that young adult fiction is becoming a platform for a public conversation about the great benefits and terrible risks of our increasing dependence upon technology in public and private life. Drawing from theories of digital citizenship and posthuman theory, *Digital Citizenship in Twenty-First Century Young Adult Literature* considers how the imaginary forms of activism depicted in literature can prompt young people to shape their identities and choices as citizens in a digital culture

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