

Serving LGBTQ Teens

Presented for LibraryLinkNJ
by Megan Honig, November 16, 2011



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Today's Agenda



Gay Agenda by flickr user fyddlestyx

- Who are LGBTQ teens?
- Meeting LGBTQ teens' needs
- Addressing censorship
- Resources for and about LGBTQ teens

Grounding Assumptions, Part 1



-- spring in philly -- by flickr user bancroft&ivy

- As librarians, we serve all members of our communities.
- Serving marginalized communities sometimes means taking risks.
- In libraries, we must constantly re-examine our own practices. Sometimes, we will find that our practices need to change.

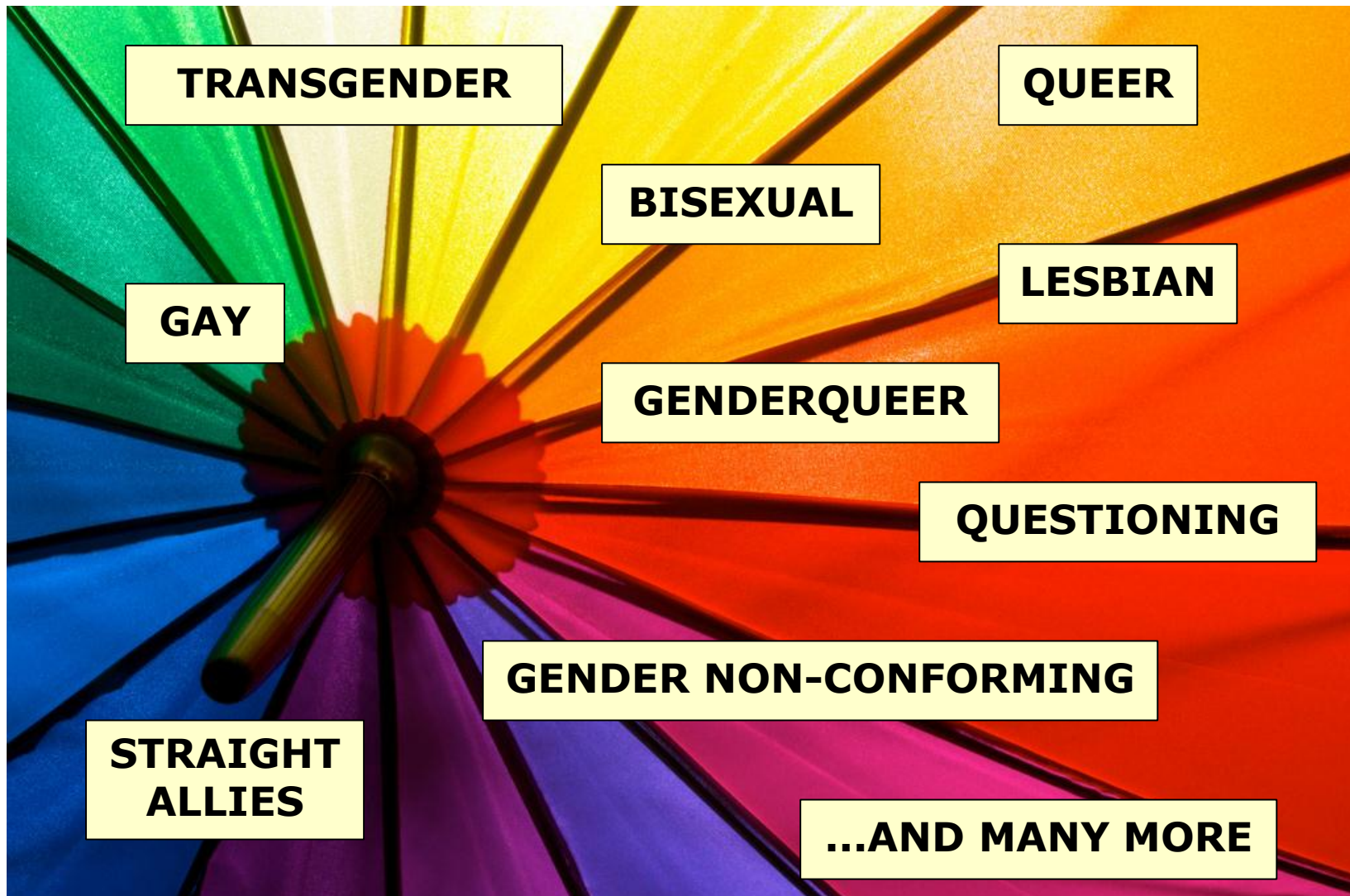
Grounding Assumptions, Part 2



-- spring in philly -- by flickr user bancroft&ivy

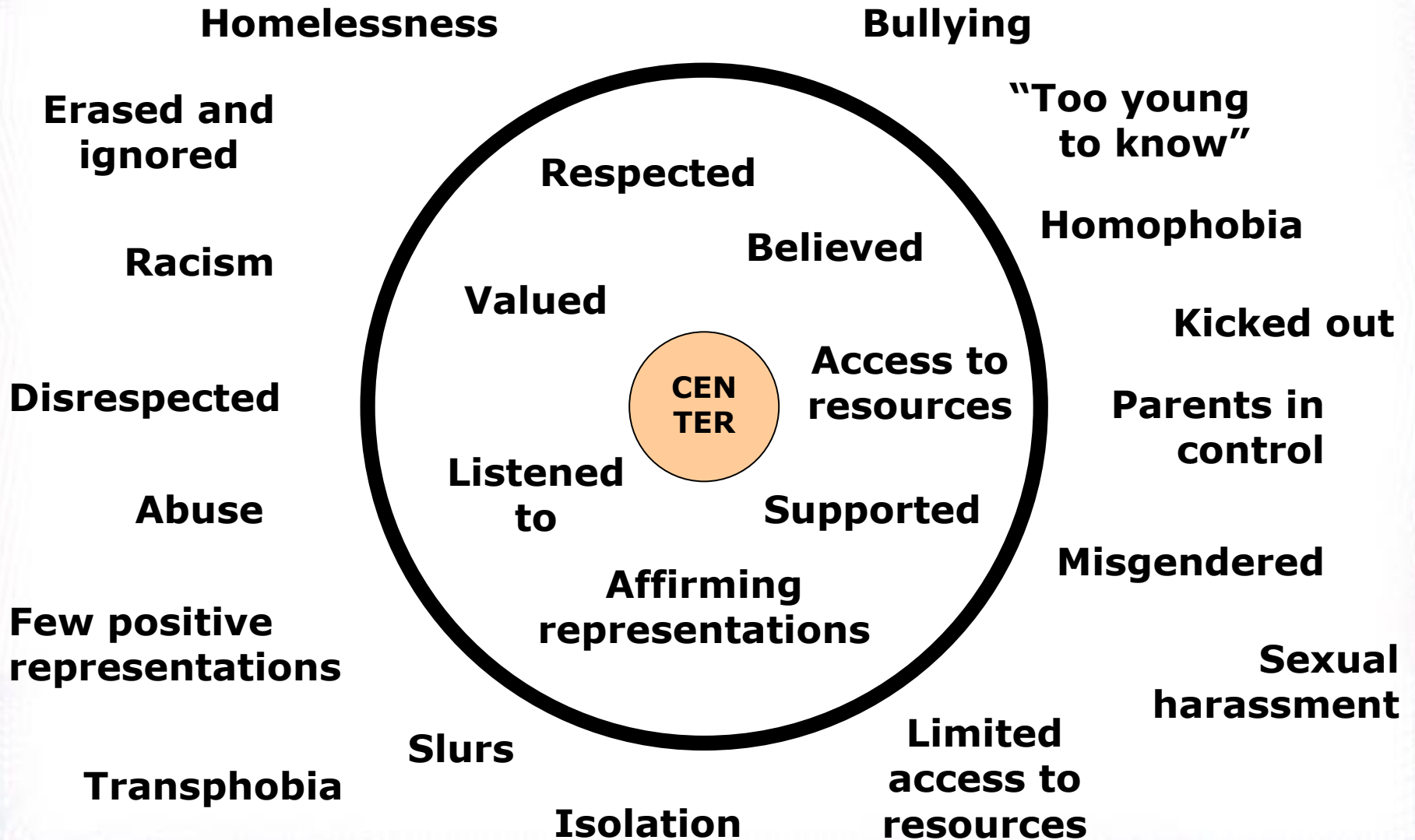
- People experience and express their gender and their sexuality in many different ways; we affirm and celebrate those experiences and expressions.
- Queer and transgender teenagers deserve excellent library service.
- Library service is EVERY interaction with the library.
- Meaningful teen services are centered on the needs of teens.

Who Are LGBTQ Teens?



Umbrella by flickr user tworm

Centering LGBTQ Teens



LGBTQ Teens Need...

Information Needs	Sex and relationship info Religious perspectives Health resources Info about local groups and services ...and much more
Emotional Needs	Privacy Affirmation of identity "People like me" Caring, trustworthy adults Freedom from harassment ...and much more
Physical Needs	Shelter Food Bathroom Freedom from violence ...and much more

Providing Safe Bathrooms



Noticing & Checking Our Assumptions

**"Excuse me,
young man."**

**"Boy books" and
"girl books"**

**"The opposite
sex"**

**"This young lady is
looking for..."**

"Good afternoon, ladies."

**Mother's name _____
Father's name _____**

Building a Culture of Respect



reciprocal roof decking by flickr user ziggy fresh

Enabling Under-the-Radar Access



Secret Stacy #2 by flickr user Hysterical Bertha

Addressing Censorship



Banned Books Display by flickr user Muskingum University Library

Debunking Myths

MYTH: LGBTQ content is sexual content.

MYTH: School libraries and YA collections do not typically include LGBTQ content.

MYTH: There are no queer or transgender teens in my community.

Resources Across the Collection

A word cloud featuring various media and resource categories. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with some words appearing larger than others. The colors of the words range from dark blue to brown. The background consists of a grid of thin, overlapping lines in shades of blue and red, creating a textured, wireframe effect.

music
realistic fiction movies
hi-lo apps graphic novels
ebooks audiobooks coming out stories
adventure mental health resources
mysteries community information
classics personal narrative romance
zines websites science fiction
humor manga
sex ed

Titles to Know



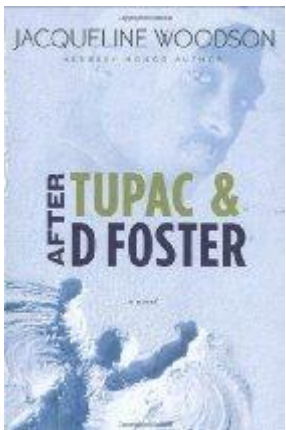
I Am J
by Cris Beam



Brooklyn, Burning
by Steve Brezenoff



Kicked Out
by Sassafras
Lowrey (ed.)



***After Tupac
and D Foster***
by Jacqueline
Woodson

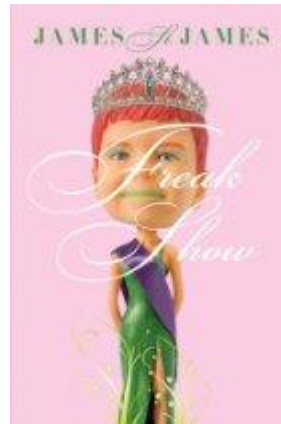


Crush
by
Carrie Mac

More Titles to Know



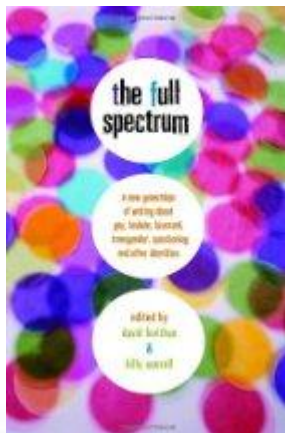
Hello, Cruel World
by Kate Bornstein



Freak Show
by James St. James

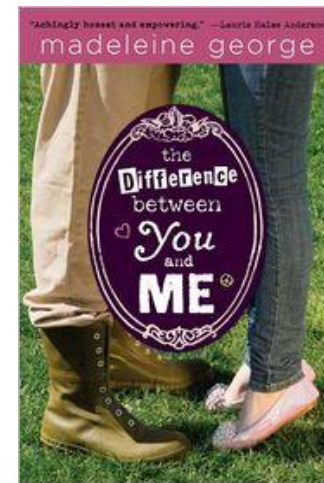


Ash
by Malinda Lo



The Full Spectrum
by David Levithan and Billy Merrell (eds.)

The Difference Between You and Me
by Madeleine George



Web Resources



Keeping Up

Blogs

- [Diversity in YA](#)
- [I'm Here, I'm Queer, What the Hell Do I Read?](#)
- [QueerYA](#)
- [PrettyQueer series on YA lit](#)

Awards & Lists

- [Rainbow Books](#)
- [Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults](#)
- [Lambda Literary Awards](#)
- [Stonewall Book Award](#)

Final Thoughts

Teens are the experts on their needs and identities.

Be prepared to take risks.

There is always more to learn.