

Book Resumés

How to build, tailor, and use them for your library's needs



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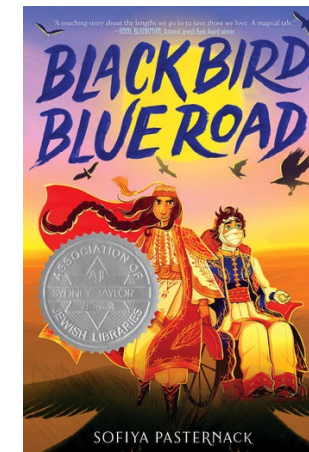
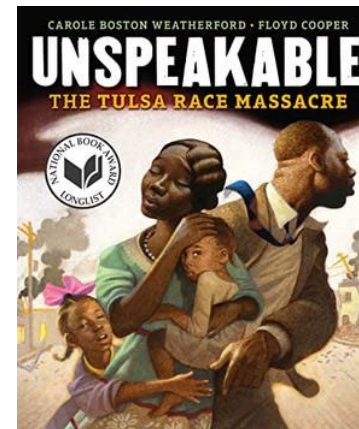
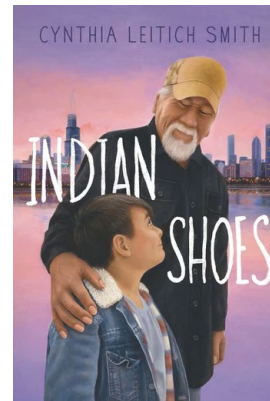
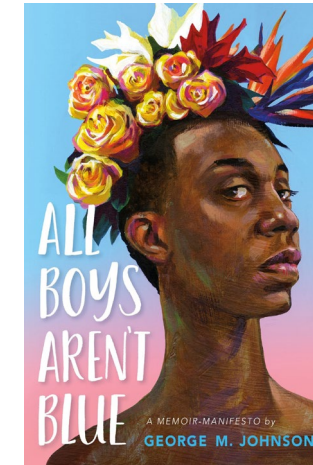
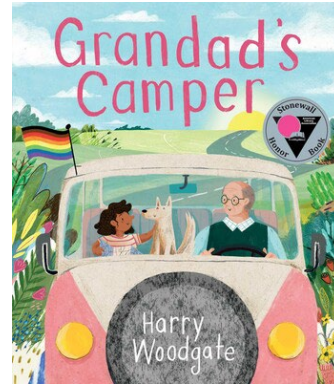


What is a book resumé?

- + Tells why a book is in the collection
- + Highlight the positives
- + A ready resource in hand

Include :

- + Favorable reviews
- + Awards or honors
- + Lists included on
- + How it meets your library's collection policy
- + Adapt for your needs



Gender Queer: A Memoir

Maia Kobabe

Simon & Schuster, 2019

Reviews

- [Publishers Weekly](#) (2 August 2019): "This heartfelt graphic memoir relates, with sometimes painful honesty, the experience of growing up non-gender-conforming ... Intermixed are lighthearted episodes relating Kobabe's devotion to LGBTQ-inspired *Lord of the Rings* fan fiction and hero worship of flamboyant ice-skating champion Johnny Weir. Kobabe is a straightforward cartoonist who uses the medium skillfully (if not particularly stylishly), incorporating ample cheery colors, with a script that's refreshingly smooth and [non-didactic](#) for the topic. This entertaining memoir-as-guide holds crossover appeal for mature teens (with a note there's some sexually explicit content) and is sure to spark valuable discussions at home and in classrooms."
- [School Library Journal](#) *Starred Review (30 June 2019): "Gr 9 Up—The muted earth tones and calm blues match the hopeful tone and measured pacing. Matter-of-fact descriptions of gynecological exams and the use of sex toys will be enlightening for those who may not have access to this information elsewhere. VERDICT A book to be savored rather than devoured, this memoir will resonate with teens, especially fans of Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* and Mason Deaver's *I Wish You All the Best*. It's also a great resource for those who identify as nonbinary or asexual as well as for those who know someone who identifies that way and wish to better understand."
- [Shelf Awareness](#) (28 June 2019): "Artist Maia Kobabe is genderqueer and uses pronouns e, em, and eir. In the gorgeous and candid graphic memoir *Gender Queer*, e illustrates an aching journey toward reconciliation with being nonbinary and asexual."

Kobabe grew up in a progressive home, with parents who didn't enforce gender roles, but such things are socialized early in places like school and neighborhoods. The dysphoria e experienced became more acute with age; e frequently felt out of step with eir peers. There were awkward Tinder dates and excruciating Pap smears. All the while, Maia searched for an explanation, a language to assign to this internal trauma and confusion.

Midway through the book lies a two-page spread of weighted scales. Each side of holds a gender assigned at birth, as a frantic Maia piles pronouns, clothes, hair style, hormones, etc., on the other. "The end goal wasn't masculinity," e writes, "the goal was balance." Had e been assigned male at birth, e would be playing with makeup and nail polish every day.

Kobabe's drawings, colored by sister Phoebe Kobabe, casts eir life and truths in splendid, vivid light. And the relationship between the siblings on the page is one of *Gender Queer's* sweetest elements. Often scared of what lies ahead,

Maia confides in Phoebe, a lesbian, about eir queer hopes and fears, and is met each time with the gracious enthusiasm of a sister who has eir back: "I lucked out so hard in the sibling lottery." A challenging yet heartwarming memoir, *Gender Queer* succeeds on all fronts."

Awards

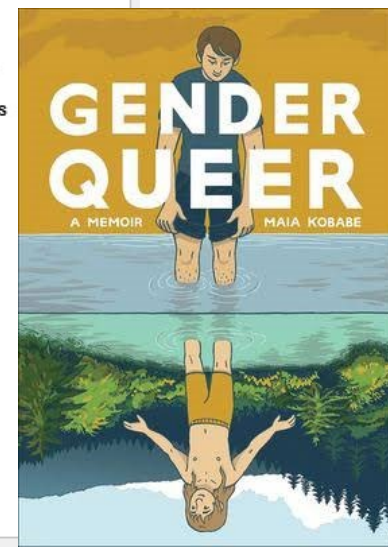
- [Stonewall Book Awards List](#), Stonewall Honor Books in Non-Fiction, 2020
- [Alex Awards](#), Winner, 2020
- YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens: 2020
- Rainbow Lists 2020 (ALA's Rainbow Roundtable)
- School Library Journal Best Nonfiction Books: 2019

Lists

- Great Summer Reads for Educators- NEA Today (5 June 2023)

Where it meets Collection Development criteria

- Favorable reviews found in standard selection sources- Publisher's Weekly, School Library Journal (starred review), Shelf Awareness
- Contribution of representative viewpoints on controversial issues- the author wrote this book because there were no books to explain eir gender to share with family and friends ([interview here](#)). Most challenged book of 2021 and 2022.
- High degree of potential user appeal- relevant to teens and adults. Two copies have circulated 42 times in two years in the library system.
- Diverse authors and perspectives- this is a memoir written by an asexual, non-binary author about eir experiences around gender while growing up and into young adulthood. Spans eir lifetime from 3 years old to early thirties. This makes it a unique resource for readers.



Bodies are Cool

Tyler Feder

Reviews

School Library Journal:

- */* Starred Review */* “With colorful pages of people in all shapes and sizes, this book both serves as a joyous read-aloud for small and large groups and as a book for individual study and discovery. It works as an introduction to diversity without being explicitly about that, which is a gloriously refreshing take on the universality of the human experience. Young readers can look at the full-page color cartoon drawings for true-to-life representation of people in everyday group situations, such as a public swimming pool, the park, dance class, movie theater, and public transit. Displayed is a richly detailed tapestry of people with many skin tones, hair colors, shapes and sizes, clothing choices, and abilities; examples include wheelchairs, a hijab swimsuit, prosthetics on adults and kids, diabetics with insulin pumps, etc. More importantly, in a book about body positivity, the drawings represent people as they are in real life, “tall, short, wide, or narrow.” The approach to both body image and body concepts is to use people-centric language and imagery that doesn’t divide along explicit lines. Each spread with its dense drawing of people joined together in a group activity focuses on traits (body shape, skin tone, hair, eyes, faces, etc.) in a repetitive, rhythmic sequence. Feder includes representations of Africans, Asians, Muslims, and whites from small sizes to plus sizes in all positions... VERDICT With lilting dancelike rhythm through word repetition and brightly colored detailed images, this is a timely and worthy addition for every collection.”—Vi Ha, Los Angeles P.L. --Vi Ha (Reviewed 07/01/2021) (School Library Journal, vol 67, issue 7, p47)

Publishers Weekly:

- */* Starred Review */* “In an act of resistance against ubiquitous, homogenous images of human figures, artist Feder (Dancing at the Pity Party) offers up an inclusive celebration of endless variation in rousing verses and group settings, including public transit, a seasonal market, and a pool. Feder employs bold black linework and a luscious palette of candy colors. Bouncy text, on each page ending with the refrain “bodies are cool,” attends people of varying abilities, ages, body shapes, religions, skin tones, and hair textures; a range of gender identities and sexual orientations are shown throughout... With such a joyfully inclusive range of humans, all taking part in community and taking pleasure in each other’s company, it’s hard to imagine a stronger statement of body affirmation and pride.” Ages 3–5. (June) --Staff (Reviewed 04/26/2021) (Publishers Weekly, vol 268, issue 17, p)

Kirkus:

- */* Starred Review */* “A bustling celebration of body positivity that lovingly features bodies, skin, and hair of all kinds. With shared public spaces as the backdrop of her full-bleed spreads—and a refreshing lack of fanfare—author/illustrator Feder depicts people of many races, genders, disabilities, and physical attributes enjoying one another’s company, emphasizing connection rather than explanation. Whether riding a crowded bus, painting a community mural, or playing in a public park, no individual’s body is on particular display. Instead, young readers are able to people-watch through the pages,

observing difference within the context of community. Most notably, Feder chooses clear and unapologetic language to describe body characteristics, challenging the negative connotations that are often attached to those bodies... Expanding visually beyond her celebration of the body, Feder also takes care to include queer families and characters wearing headscarves and turbans as well. Depicting societally marginalized human bodies in all their joyful, normal glory, this book is cool. (Picture book. 3-10) (Kirkus Reviews, May 1, 2021)

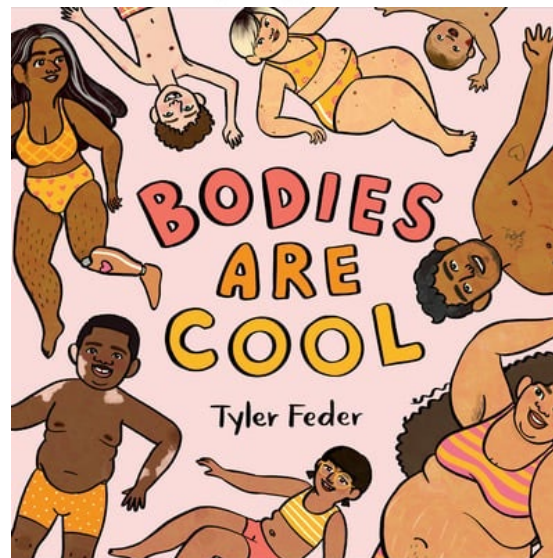
Awards

- Rainbow Lists: 2022
- Rise: A Feminist Book Project - Beginning Readers Fiction: 2022

Collection Development

- Favorable reviews found in standard selection sources: See above reviews.
- Validity, currency, and appropriateness of material: “...No individual’s body is on particular display. Instead, young readers are able to people-watch through the pages, observing difference within the context of community.” (Kirkus).
- Contribution of representative viewpoints on controversial issues: “Displayed is a richly detailed tapestry of people with many skin tones, hair colors, shapes and sizes, clothing choices, and abilities...” (School Library Journal).
- High artistic quality and/or literary style: “Feder employs bold black linework and a luscious palette of candy colors.” (Publishers Weekly).

Updated July 20



When to use it:



In conversation with a patron, community member, or other informal challenge



In response to a formal request for reconsideration

OIFC is here for you!

Intellectual Freedom Toolkit

Information and resources to prepare for and deal with intellectual freedom issues at your library. From the OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

- Home
- Respond to a Challenge
- Prepare for a Challenge
- Learn about Intellectual Freedom
- Advocacy and Support
- Contact the IFC

Welcome to the Intellectual Freedom Toolkit

Here you will find information and resources to prepare for and deal with intellectual freedom issues at your library.

- **Respond to a challenge:** What to do when your library has a challenge
- **Prepare for a challenge:** Tips, sample policies, and more
- **Learn more:** Training resources related to intellectual freedom issues
- **Advocacy:** Resources for library workers and communities to protect the freedom to read

This toolkit was developed and is maintained by the [OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee](#).



<https://www.olaweb.org/if-home>

