



Book Resume: A Queer History of the United States for Young People

A Queer History of the United States for Young People by Michael Bronski, adapted by Richie Chevat

Beacon Press, 2019

ISBN: 9780807056127 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Range: 7 and up

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Through engrossing narratives, letters, drawings, poems, and more, the book encourages young readers, of all identities, to feel pride at the accomplishments of the LGBTQ people who came before them and to use history as a guide to the future. The stories he shares include those of:

- Thomas Morton, who celebrated same-sex love in Boston's Puritan community in the 1620s.
- Albert D. J. Cashier, an Irish immigrant and Civil War hero, who was assigned female at birth but lived as a man for over a half century.
- Gladys Bentley, an African American blues singer who challenged cross-dressing laws in 1920s Harlem.
- Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King Jr.'s close friend, civil rights organizer, and an openly gay man.
- Sylvia Rivera, who along with Marsha P. Johnson, founded the first transgender political group in the United States in 1970.
- Harvey Milk, a community organizer and the first openly gay politician to win an election in California.
- Jamie Nabozny, a teen who brought national attention to the issue of LGBTQ bullying by bringing his case to the Supreme Court in the 1990s.

With over 60 illustrations and photos, a glossary, and a corresponding curriculum, *A Queer History of the United States for Young People* will be vital for teachers who want to introduce a new perspective to America's story.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

☆ "Readers will find a straightforward, documented, nonsensational celebration of the contributions of LGBTQ people in the US . . . Above all, there is continuous reassurance that the definition of 'normal' has always been in flux, that numerous LGBTQ people have been important figures in American history, and that young LGBTQ people of today will make crucial contributions to future queer history."—*Booklist*, starred review

"Alongside watershed moments like the 1969 Stonewall uprising and the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s and 1990s, the text brings to light less well-known people, places, and events: the 1625 free love colony of Merrymount, transgender Civil War hero Albert D. J. Cashier, and the 1951 founding of the Mattachine Society, to name a few."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Readers seeking role models from the past will find an edifying resource and invitation for further exploration into untold stories."—*Publishers Weekly*

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*A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

"An invaluable and eminently readable history of queer people in the United States, told through the fascinating biographies of real people and bolstered by sidebars that provide welcome context for contemporary readers. I wish I'd had this book to read as a teen—every young person, no matter their sexual orientation, should know these stories."—Malinda Lo, author of *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- *School Library Journal*, “Best Nonfiction 2019”
- Paterson Prize Books for Young People Awards, 2020 Honor Book

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Teacher’s Guide](#)
- [The ‘Counter-Textbooks’ Offering Kids a Radical Look at History](#) (*TIME*)
- [The Advocate](#) feature of books for LGBTQ+ Youth

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