



***The Pants Project* by Cat Clarke**

Sourcebooks Young Readers, Sourcebooks, 2017

9781728215525: (Paperback)

*Age Range: 9-13 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 3-6 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A touching, humorous story of strong-willed eleven-year-old Liv, who is determined to challenge his school's terrible dress code and change his life. Inspire empathy and compassion (and a few laughs!) in young readers with this stunning middle-grade novel.

"My name is Liv (Not Olivia)... I'm not technically a girl. I'm transgender. Which is a bit like being a Transformer. Only not quite as cool because I probably won't get to save the world one day."

Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but with his new school's terrible dress code, he can't even wear pants. Only skirts.

Operation: Pants Project begins! The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself. But to Liv, this isn't just a mission to change the policy—it's a mission to change his life. And that's a pretty big deal.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "From the start, readers are drawn into the story by 11-year-old Liv's believable, humor-tinged narration: 'Little brothers can always be counted on to reach peak levels of annoying at exactly the wrong moment. It must be part of their job description.' Throughout, Liv's voice is convincing and a pleasure to read...Liv's two moms add further dimension to a tale that unabashedly affirms the importance of accepting and celebrating differences." [—Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review](#)

"A wonderfully sweet middle grade story with a satisfying ending...The hopeful tone makes it easier for readers to grapple with the serious issues discussed, and the happy-ever-after ending will not fail to satisfy. Give to fans of Tim Federle's *Better Nate Than Ever* and Alex Gino's *Melissa*." [—School Library Journal](#)

"Strong-willed, introspective Liv is a likable and relatable protagonist; in many ways he's like most tweens, navigating friendships, his own identity, and his relationships at home. Supported by his two moms, Liv tries various methods of protest (wearing pants under the skirt, organizing a petition); he doesn't get any traction, however, until he makes some new friends, and they join the cause... this is a touching novel on a timely subject." [—Horn Book Magazine](#)

"Clarke artfully twists together LGBTQ concerns and disability issues with self-esteem, respect, and compassion. This book is a current day Beverly Cleary or Judy Blume, delving into issues faced by kids, like bullying and tolerance, but with an issue experienced by many kids today." [—The San Francisco Book Review](#)

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AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2018 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
- 2021-2022 Massachusetts Children's Book Award
- 2020 Pacific Northwest Young Readers Choice Awards Nominee
- 2018 Amelia Bloomer Project Nominee

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide for *The Pants Project*](#)
- [Cat Clarke on OverDrive's Professional Book Nerds Podcast](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

[Stamford CT School District Spokesperson](#): The book was selected from a suggested book list to the Teaching and Learning Department who then further vetted books, along with LGBTQ+ Collaborative members, to determine which books could be used in classrooms as a read-aloud...Our staff takes a thoughtful and pragmatic approach when introducing any new texts to our schools. As we introduce books, we endeavor to provide professional development training that gives our educators a deeper understanding of the intricacies, challenges and nuances of sensitive subject matter, including gender identification, sexual orientation and inclusiveness.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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.

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