



[ALL BOYS AREN'T BLUE: A MEMOIR-MANIFESTO](#) by George M. Johnson

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2020
ISBN: 9780374312718 (Hardcover); 9781250895561 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 14-18

Grade Range: Grades 8 and Up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson's *All Boys Aren't Blue* explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia.

From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

Both a primer for teens eager to be allies as well as a reassuring testimony for young queer men of color, *All Boys Aren't Blue* covers topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, structural marginalization, consent, and Black joy. Johnson's emotionally frank style of writing will appeal directly to young adults.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "This title opens new doors, as the author insists that we don't have to anchor stories such as his to tragic ends: 'Many of us are still here. Still living and waiting for our stories to be told—to tell them ourselves.' A critical, captivating, merciful mirror for growing up Black and queer today." —*Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

"An exuberant, unapologetic memoir infused with a deep but cleareyed love for its subjects." —*The New York Times*

"An absolute necessity . . . the personal stories and the healing and reconciliation of self in this title are all undeniably honest and relatable—a reminder of our shared imperfection and humanity." —*Booklist*

"The conversational tone will leave readers feeling like they are sitting with an insightful friend . . . This young adult memoir is a contemporary hallmark of the blossoming genre. Johnson anchors the text with encouragement and realistic guidance for queer Black youth." —*School Library Journal*

"Johnson's debut is a collection of heartfelt personal essays revolving around themes of identity and family... In a publishing landscape in need of queer black voices, readers who are sorting through similar concepts will be grateful to join him on the journey." —*Publishers Weekly*

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"Powerful . . . Johnson's book is geared toward young adults—a market that needs this level of realness about everything from finding and harboring joy to bullying to navigating queerness. All Boys Aren't Blue is a game changer." —*Bitch Magazine*

"A personal examination of what it's like to grow up as a black and queer young man . . . a can't-miss collection."
—POPSUGAR

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
- Optioned for television by Gabrielle Union
- Featured on Good Morning America, NBC Nightly News, Today Show, MSNBC and Fox Soul
- Velshi Banned Book Club
- Amazon Best Book of the Year
- CNN Summer Read Pick
- Teen Vogue Recommended Read
- BuzzFeed Recommended Read
- People Magazine Best Book of the Summer
- An Indie Bestseller
- An ALA Rainbow List Pick
- A New York Library Best Book of 2020
- A Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2020
- A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2020
- Publishers Weekly Anti-Racist Reading List Pick
- 2021 Texas Topaz Nonfiction Reading List Pick
- A Kids' Book Choice Award Finalist
- #1 YALSA Teens Top Ten List Winner
- A Texas TAYSHAS Reading List Title

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [CBSN Interview with George Matthew Johnson](#)
- [Short film trailer](#)
- [MacKids School & Library Interview](#)
- [The New York Times Review](#)
- [Shondaland Interview](#)
- [NPR Interview](#)
- [Publishers Weekly Interview](#)
- [Los Angeles Times Interview](#)
- [The Griot Interview](#)
- [ABC News Interview on Censorship](#)
- [TIME Magazine Interview on Censorship](#)
- [WNYC Interview on Censorship](#)
- [NPR Morning Edition Interview on Censorship](#)

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- [Yahoo Entertainment Interview on Censorship](#)
- [Buzzfeed.com Story on Retaining *All Boys Aren't Blue*](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Review successful defenses of *All Boys Aren't Blue* online [here](#).

*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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