



[What My Mother Doesn't Know](#) by Sonya Sones

ISBN: 9781442493858 (Trade Paperback)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2013

*Age Range: 12+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 6-8 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

*It's not that I'm boy crazy.
It's just that even though
I'm almost fifteen
I've been having sort of a hard time
trying to figure out the difference
between love and lust.
It's like
my mind
and my body
and my heart
just don't seem to be able to agree
on anything.*

Get to know Sophie, a freshman in high school who's struggling through the daily grind and all the crushes that come with it, as she shares her innermost thoughts and feelings in this remarkably relatable novel in verse from Sonya Sones.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Drawing on the recognizable cadences of teenage speech, Sones (*Stop Pretending*) poignantly captures the tingle and heartache of being young and boy-crazy . . . With its separate free verse poems woven into a fluid and coherent narrative with a satisfying ending, Sophie's honest and earthy story feels destined to captivate a young female audience, avid and reluctant readers alike." — [Publishers Weekly](#), **starred review**

★ "The poetry is never pretentious or difficult; on the contrary, the very short, sometimes rhythmic lines make each page fly. Sophie's voice is colloquial and intimate, and the discoveries she makes are beyond formula, even while they are as sweetly romantic as popular song. A natural for reluctant readers, this will also attract young people who love to read." — [Booklist](#), **starred review**

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Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing
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“Romantic and sexy, with a happy ending that leaves Sophie together with Mr. Right, Sones (*Stop Pretending: What Happened when My Big Sister Went Crazy*, 1999) has crafted a verse experience that will leave teenage readers sighing with recognition and satisfaction.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Booklist Editors' Choice
- VOYA Top Shelf for Middle School Readers
- Junior Library Guild selection
- ALA Best Books For Young Adults
- ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers (Top Ten)
- Iowa Teen Book Award Winner (2005-2006)
- Michigan Thumbs Up Award Honor Book (2002)
- Texas Lone Star State Reading List Choice
- California Collections
- New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age
- Utah Children's Choice Beehive Award (2003–2004) Nominee
- Garden State Teen Book Award (NJ) (2003–2004) Nominee
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award (2004) Nominee
- Rhode Island Teen Book Award (2004) Nominee
- South Carolina Young Adult Book Award (2003–2004) Nominee
- Missouri Gateway Reader's Choice Award for Teens (2003–2004) Nominee
- Volunteer State Book Award (TN) (2004–2005) Nominee
- Wyoming Library Association Soaring Eagle Book Award (2003–2004) Nominee

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net Resources](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

AUTHOR STATEMENT

“Towards the end of *Stop Pretending*, there are some poems about my first love, a boy named John. I had such a good time writing about those first feelings of passion, that I knew I wanted to write some more about them. I wanted to explore all the firsts that happen to teenage girls: first bra, first period, first crush, first kiss, first love, second love, third love ... That’s when the poems for *What My Mother Doesn’t Know* began bubbling to the surface.” —Sonya Sones

“Despite that inner rebel of mine, I never intended to write controversial books. And I was stunned when people wanted to ban them. But I decided not to let the foolish accusations of self-righteous people stifle the voices of my characters. Though you’ve got to have thick skin to be a banned author.” —Sonya Sones

<https://www.sonyasones.com/FAQs/bannedbooks.html#:~:text=Despite%20that%20inner%20rebel%20of,to%20be%20a%20banned%20author.>

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***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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