



CHECKED OUT

TEACHER GUIDE

Thirteen-year-old Seth discovers a love for queer teen literature, and he and a new friend set up a Pride display in their middle-school library. But when a conservative classmate checks out all the queer books to keep them out of students' hands, Seth and his friend decide to take a stand and stage a protest of their own.

THEMES

Book Banning | Identity | Free Speech | Social Media | LGBTQ+ | Peer Pressure | Effecting Change

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the past Seth has been targeted by another student because of how he dresses. Have you, or someone you know, received negative attention from another person because of how you dress or act? How did that make you feel? What did you do about it?
2. The school librarian encourages Seth to put down his phone and pay more attention to the people around him in real life. Has your screen time ever prevented you from doing something you needed to do or affected a relationship with a friend or family member?
3. Have you ever read a book that was so good, you couldn't stop reading it until you got to the end? If yes, what was the book and why couldn't you put it down?
4. Rebecca checks out all the queer-themed books from the school library because she doesn't think they're appropriate for her age group. Do you think she was right to do what she did? Why or why not?
5. Think of your favorite book, movie or television show. What would you do if someone prevented you from accessing those stories? Do you think your life would be different if you didn't know those stories existed?



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6. Can you name a banned book? Have you ever read a banned book? If so, did you feel that book should have been banned?
7. Should books be banned from school libraries? Who do you think should get to decide what books you can read?
8. Seth is afraid to get involved in Pluto's plan to get the books back from Rebecca because he's afraid of what her friends might do to him. Has there been a time when you had to decide if you were going to get involved in a situation that directly or indirectly affected you? What did you do? Did you feel it was the right decision?
9. Seth, Pluto and Rebecca each take a matter that affected the whole school into their own hands. Was this the right thing to do or did they make the situation worse?

WRITING EXERCISE

Think of a rule you disagree with. List the reasons why you disagree with the rule. Now list the reasons why you think that rule was put into place. Write a letter or email that would convince the person in charge of the rule to remove the rule.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tony Correia is a proud queer man who lives in Vancouver. He is the author of four hi-lo novels for young adults: *Same Love*, *True to You*, *Prom Kings* and *Walk This Way*. In 2023 Tony published his first full-length YA novel, *One Summer in Vancouver*, a historical novel for queer youth.



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