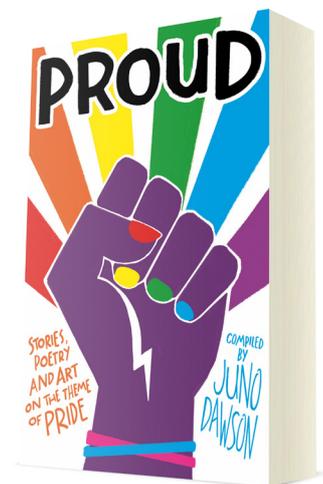


# PROUD

## Reader Discussion Notes and Activities



### Juno Dawson's foreword to *Proud*

- What was Section 28? What do you think the impact of the law was on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning + rights in the UK, and how have things changed in schools now?
- Why do you think it is important to read and share LGBTQ+ stories?

### Dive Bar by Caroline Bird

- *Dive Bar* is a poem that explores the personal journey of coming out, first to yourself and then to others. What other books or poems have you read that deal with the similar experiences?
- What does the history of bar culture and political movements of resistance mean to the LGBTQ+ community? Research Stonewall, Lavender Menace and the raid on Gay's The Word bookshop.

### Penguins by Simon James Green

- What does Kippie and Jingles' story says about the way media reports on LGBTQ+ news stories? How does this effect Cam?
- Discuss the visual parallels you can see in Alice Oseman's illustration. How do you think it captures the story's main themes?

### On The Run by Kay Staples

- In what ways does Kay write about expectation versus reality?
- How does Nicky explore their gender expression throughout the story? Discuss what it says about certainty.
- Take a photo of five objects that tell a story.

### The Phoenix's Fault by Cynthia So

- How does Jingzhi defy tradition, how does her family react?
- Have you read any other Chinese LGBTQ+ stories?

### As The Philadelphia Queer Youth Choir Sings Katy Perry's 'Firework'... by David Levithan

- Try performing the story out loud, assigning each person in the group a different voice.
- Compare the narrative style of his short story to the chorus in David Levithan's young adult novel *Two Boys Kissing*. How does having multiple perspectives convey the variety of experiences in the LGBTQ+ community?

### **Almost Certain by Tanya Byrne**

- How do you think anxiety and mental health issues are exacerbated in society's attitude towards the LGBTQ+ youth community? What ways can we support one another?
- What would be on your record shop playlist? Do you have a favourite Queer music artist?

### **The Other Team**

**by Michael Lee Richardson**

- What other teams can you think of that would build a support system in a similar way to a football team like Mosaic?
- Do the staff in charge of the team offer help when needed – how would you act in the same situation?

### **I Hate Darcy Pemberley**

**by Karen Lawler**

- Karen has reinterpreted a classic romance to make it Queer. What stories would you like to see retold? How would you change them?
- Discuss the meaning of pride in the story.

### **The Courage of Dragons by Fox Benwell**

- How does the fantasy world of Dungeons and Dragons offer an escape for Bor during his real life?
- How could you help make your school or library more gender neutral?

### **The Instructor by Jess Vallance**

- What roles does Patricia play in helping Lucy follow her heart?
- Jess examines the pride of achievement in passing a test, which is outside of her self-definition of her sexuality or gender. Have you achieved something of which you are particularly proud recently?

### **Love Poems to the City**

**by Moira Fowley-Doyle**

- Discuss the fight for marriage equality – in what ways do you think it's important, and what else do we need to achieve for equality for LGBTQ+ people?
- Have a think about the 'messages' in graffiti and signs throughout the book. What do they tell you? How do you think this relates to the idea of pride?

### **How To Come Out As Gay**

**by Dean Atta**

- Read the poem out loud.
- How does Dean challenge your preconceptions about coming out?

### **Proud**

- Talk about the anthology as a whole. What was your favourite story? Which piece of art did you like best? Did you learn something from what you read?
- Write your own short story on the theme of pride. What genre would you choose? How would you ID your character?
- An anthology is constrained by size, not every identification can be contained within its pages. What LGBTQ+ stories do you think still need telling? Are there further identities you would like to see more of in young adult fiction?