

Identity and Society: Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda

Context: Youth Language and LGBTQ+

Unit 2 focuses on identity. We analyze Becky Albertalli's *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* (adapted as the movie *Love, Simon*).

Style and Register Analysis

Simon's narrative is known for its authentic teenage voice.

- * **Colloquialisms:** "The thing about...", "I mean...", "It's like...", "freaking", "lame".
- * **Sentence Structure:** Short, often elliptic sentences ("But yeah.", "Honestly.").
- * **Adjectives:** awesome, epic, hilarious, weird, awkward.

Listening Preview: Advice to Parents (Track 4)

According to teenagers, what should parents do to improve the relationship?

1. Admit when you are wrong.
2. Praise me once in a while.
3. Don't dismiss my feelings as "moods".
4. Ask my opinion.
5. Just be honest.

Writing Task: Diary Entry

Imagine you are Simon. Write a diary entry (approx. 180 words) about the fear of "coming out" to your parents and your need for a "safe haven".

Solutions / Teacher Notes

- * **Vocabulary:** Note the difference between *gender* (identity/expression) and *sex* (assigned at birth/surgery).
- * **LGBTQ+ Terms:** cisgender, genderfluid, genderqueer, gender binary.