

Lack of representation in libraries

By: Bernice George

Books promoting LGBTQIA+ awareness are being abolished from library shelves because adults believe sexual orientation and exploration of identity are explicit topics to be presented to young children. According to them, it is wrong that they are allowed to freely explore such a touchy subject that their parents aren't comfortable with them viewing on their own; some do not even tolerate the subject at all. I will not fault parents for caring about what their children are exposed to, especially without their guidance, but I believe that taking away such comforting stories from libraries is inexcusably wrong.





I believe that people should be able to have book characters that they can sympathize with and see themselves in, specifically because youth are very impressionable with platforms reaching out far beyond just books. Because LGBTQ+ related topics are often shut down in elementary schools and because parents try their best to shield their child from such topics until junior high, if a child discovers that they are “different”, they may feel ashamed of it because they don’t have any representation and may not even talk to their parents about it. By keeping these books in libraries, children can see that being “different” is perfectly fine and it should be a quality that they should be acknowledged for, not alienated for.

Making this change has the potential to even benefit those who are “normal” allies of the community like myself. Children who do not associate with the community’s variety of identities should be educated on the topic so they do not alienate those who do conform with them. All children should know that they are all unique but no matter what their identity may be, they are all human beings and should be treated as such.

