

RENT + ADL

Preview Activity

RENT Synopsis

The musical RENT takes place in the early 1990's in New York City during the AIDS epidemic. Aspiring filmmaker Mark and his HIV positive musician roommate, Roger, struggle to pay rent to their former roommate, now landlord, Benny. Meanwhile their friend Collins falls for a drag queen percussionist who is dying of AIDS, named Angel. Throughout the show these characters and many more grapple with love, artistic integrity and impact of HIV/AIDS.

We are here today to help inform PW students about some of the history and social issues in the show. This includes the AIDS epidemic in the 80's-90's in New York City and understanding some of the LGBTQ characters.

AIDS Facts

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome and it is caused by the HIV virus

The HIV virus is transmitted through blood and unprotected sex

<https://www.aids.gov/hiv-aids-basics/hiv-aids-101/statistics/>

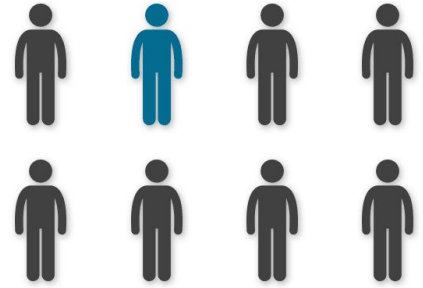
What do you know about the AIDS epidemic?

<https://play.kahoot.it/#/?quizId=144d327a-0a2ff4ad4a58>

You **can't** get HIV through
casual contact

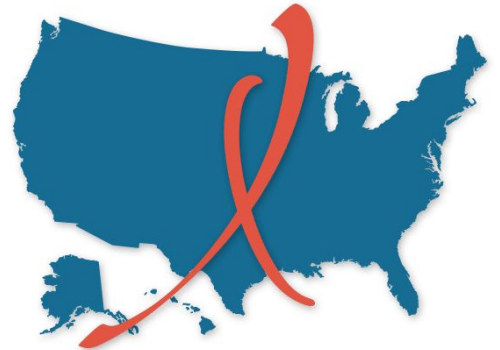


1 in 8 living with HIV



are **unaware** of their infection

More than **1.2 million** people in the US
are living with HIV infection



Interview

Listen to this two minute interview of David Barr, an activist who lived in the gay community of New York City in the 1980's

Link: <http://archive.adl.org/unheard-voices/audio/barr.mp3>

Partner Discussion Questions

What is something you did not realize about the AIDS epidemic?

Can you relate this to any current movements to change public opinion?

Perspective Activity

In this activity there will be 3 different scenarios. For each one we will pass out role cards with descriptions of that role. Read your card and consider how your roles would act specifically to the scenario. This doesn't have to be the morally right response, just a realistic reaction. Be creative in your response!

Different roles: Close Friend, Acquaintance, Teacher, Principal, Concerned Parent, Guidance Counselor, Parent/Guardian, Grandparent, Teammate, Classmate.

Scenario 1

A student was born HIV positive. Her mother struggled with drugs in the 90's and contracted the virus through an infected needle. She is sober now but feels bad for her daughter as she has grown up with HIV and there is no cure. As the student is now in high school, she thinks it is finally time to tell people that she has HIV. Her close friends, teammates and family already know, but she thinks it is time to tell everyone as she is comfortable with who she is.

Which person would have the most influence on the student?

How else might this person respond to the scenario.

Scenario 2

Every day as a student tries to get to lunch two aggressors bully him for being gay. They call him many homophobic slurs and mockingly ask how's their boyfriend. This has been going on for about two weeks now but he doesn't want to tell an adult because he is not yet out to his parents. He feels stuck.

Which response would be most helpful to the student?

How would you personally react to this situation?

Scenario 3

After years of feeling trapped in a man's body a student decides to come out as transgender. They identify as a girl and want others to see them as a girl as well. This is a big deal as it will be a long process to get their paperwork and name changed. The student is afraid of how others may react as they don't know many other trans students that are out.

What other actions, if any, should the student take in this situation? (ex. pronouns)

What should you absolutely not do in this scenario.

Recap

Why did we do this activity?

How did the different perspectives impact your responses

What did you learn from the responses that people gave?

What will you do differently in the future to help other students who may be in similar scenarios?

Come see RENT !

Come see RENT March 16-18!!!!

Performances are at 7:30 PM and there is also a 1:00 PM matinee on the 18th



Buy tickets at www.colonialplayers.org