

Not Weird. Queer

(A working title)

So... this is a work in progress. I will continue to work on it and make it a full game. Twinery syntax help can be found at <http://twinery.org/wiki/harlowe:links>

There's this character. You get to pick their gender. By picking pages male, female, nonbinary. But prototype will only have male/female because I'm lazy; sorry, my lovely nonbinary beauties; you are valid, too, but I'm lazy programmer and I have a deadline (also kinda ironic because I'm actually genderfluid, but game mechanics are hard, man).

`$gender`

```
(if: $gender is female)[(set: $misgender == he, $deadname == Owen, $pronoun == she)](if: $gender is male)[(set: $misgender == she, $deadname == Jessica, $pronoun == he)]
```

You also pick their name.

```
(set: $name to (prompt:"What is your name?"))
```

```
$deadname != $name
```

```
(if: $name == "Jessica" or $name == "Owen")[prompt again]
```

(set: \$happy to 0) how happy you're feeling at the moment. Resets at start of new day and the like.

(set: \$self to 0) how good you feel about your self-image. Doesn't reset unless you die or start over.

Choice 1

\$name is in middle school. \$name says hello to \$pronoun mother, who calls \$gender \$deadname, even though that isn't \$pronoun name. Don't explain it. Maybe \$pronoun feel a little sick but \$pronoun don't get an explanation.

\$name gets on the bus to go to school and (he/she/they) is presented with

1. If \$name picks sit next to a classmate, Ryan. (set: \$happy to it + 1)

- a. \$pronoun makes some kind of conversation and they misgender you but you don't say anything, (set: \$self to it - 1, \$ryan to true)
- 2. If \$name picks sit next to a stranger
 - a. \$pronoun and stranger don't really talk and \$name stares out the window. (set: \$ryan to false)
- 3. If \$name picks sitting alone, (set: \$happy to it - 1)
 - a. \$pronoun stares out the window. (set: \$ryan to false)

Choice 2

Either way, you make it to school.

- 1. If \$happy > 0, \$pronoun comments about the flowers being beautiful today.
- 2. Else if \$happy == 0, \$pronoun worries about hay fever
- 3. Else if \$happy < 0, \$pronoun doesn't want to be at school but whatever.

\$name goes to biology class. Reading about perfect flowers. "Flower genders are weird. Sigh."

Teacher asks a question.

- 1. You answer the question about flower parts.
 - a. Good job, \$deadname. (set: \$self to it - 1)
- 2. You whisper to Ryan about how weird flower genders are.
 - a. If you sat next to them on the bus (if: \$ryan)[Ryan agrees. When you say you wish people were like that, too, they think that'd be a weird but cool idea. (set: \$self to it + 2, \$happy to it + 1)
 - b. If you didn't sit next to them on the bus(if: not \$ryan)[Ryan laughs weakly. You look away and drop the subject. (set: \$self to it - 1)
- 3. You do nothing.
 - a. You stare at the window as someone you don't know the name of answers the question.

Choice 3

It's lunch now. You sit down at a table and start eating the sandwich your mom made you. Someone sitting at the table looks sideways at you.

1. (if: \$self < 0)[“What?” you say to him.
He laughs, saying, “Why you always dressed so funny?”
You frown. “What do you mean...?”
”You a (sissy/dyke) or something?” He laughs too loudly to be comfortable.]
 - a. (if: \$ryan)[“What the fuck are you doing, asshole? Come on, \$deadname, let's get [[out of here->Go to the field]].”(set: \$self to it + 1)]
 - b. (else:)[You burry your attention into your sandwich and when the roaring in your ears becomes unbearable you [[storm out of the cafeteria->Cry in the hallway]].(set: \$happy to it - 2, \$self to it - 1)]
2. (if: \$self > 1)[You ignore them. You try to enjoy your [[sandwich->Book club]].(set: \$self to it - 1, \$happy to it - 1)]

Choice 4

Go to the field

Ryan takes you to the field and asks you how you're doing.

1. You tell them you're feeling weird about yourself
 - a. “What kinda weird?”
”I don't know. I've always felt this way.”
”Like about...?”
”You know how everyone think's I'm a \$misgender?”
”Oh? What do you mean?”
”I'm actually a \$gender.”
”I see. That's really cool!”
”Oh?”
”Yeah! I think so.”
”Um, thank you.” They ask what you're doing afterschool and you say club.
 - b. (set: \$self to it + 3, \$happy to it + 2, \$talk to true)
2. You tell them you're doing fine.
 - a. “If you ever want to talk...”
”Thanks, Ryan.”
 - b. (set: \$self + 1, \$happy to it + 2, \$talk to false)

Cry in the hallway

You walk to the hallway and check that no one is there.

(if: \$self < -1)[Bad ending]

(else:)[The day's been rough but you calm down and make it to your next class. (set: \$talk to false)]

Choice 5

Book club

You go to book club (if: \$talk)[with Ryan] and you sit down and start writing (if: \$talk)[a short story about (if: \$gender == male)[racing](if: \$gender == female)[a story about something girly... I don't know yet]](if: not \$talk)[a dark poem about (if: \$self < 0)[knives](else:)arguments].

It's time to share your poem.

1. (if: not \$talk)

a. (if: \$ryan)[You share your poem with just Ryan and he listens but doesn't say anything.(set: \$self to it + 1)]

b. (else:)

i. [[Share->Share your story]]You share your story with the club and they clap quietly after an awkward silence. (set: \$happy to it + 1, \$self to it - 1)

ii. [[Do nothing->Do not share your poem]]You stare at your poem and feel angry at yourself but don't say anything. (set: \$self to it - 2)

2. (else:)

a. You share you story and the club members clap, with Ryan clapping the hardest for you. (set: \$happy to it + 1, \$self to it + 3)

After the club meeting, you go home. (if: \$talk)[Ryan says "Remember, you're super awesome, \$name!"](else if: \$ryan)[“If you ever need to talk...”](else:)[[]

(set: \$self to it + (\$happy / 2), \$happy to 0)

(if: something here...)[bad ending]

Choice 6

Tomorrow morning... to be continued...

Death / suicide / bad ending

At a checkpoint, (if: \$self < a certain amount that is slightly above the lowest possible value at that point)[The world crumbles around you and your vision turns black.
You died.
Game over.]