



Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Steven Salerno

Best for: 2nd-5th grade

Summary: This book traces the beginning of the Gay Pride Flag and the lives of social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker. When Harvey Milk entered political life, he asked Gilbert Baker to design a flag that could be a symbol of equality and pride. This book shares the story of that flag, as well as Harvey Milk's life and assassination alongside George Moscone.

Why we chose this book: We like that this book tells about the history of a flag that we see everywhere now. Students will definitely recognize the flag, but may not be familiar with Gilbert Baker or Harvey Milk. We also like that while it does not hide or diminish the assassination of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, the book focuses on the hope and persistence that came after the tragedy.

Central themes: social activism, American history, LGBT history, pride, symbolism

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about a flag. Does anyone recognize this flag? Where have you seen it? Do you know what it means?"

After Reading: Debrief with students

"Why was the flag important in the book? Why do you think the flag is important today?"

"Can you remember some of the different communities represented in the book? What communities are you part of in your life?"

"Why do people protest things? Have you ever been to a protest? What was it about?"

"Do you know what a symbol is? It's an image, or a flag, or a picture that means something to someone. In this book, the flag is a symbol of pride and LGBTQ rights. What are some other symbols you've seen?"

