

Exploring Gender

[Link to our Wakelet](#)

Questions to discuss

1. How do gender stereotypes harm our students in their learning and personal lives?

- Gender stereotypes influence future career paths from the beginning (84% of men go into STEM)
 - Men are more likely to make more money
- Being exposed to strong gender stereotypes can keep students from branching out
- Students may feel restricted in what topics they can explore in reading, projects, etc. Boys may feel embarrassed to want to learn more about more feminine topics, and vice-versa with girls, so this may restrict their learning experience because they don't want to break the stereotype in fear of response from peers.

2. What types of gender stereotypes do you see most often in “the classics” of YA literature? How do YA books contribute to or defy gender stereotypes?

- We generally see male characters carrying the stereotype of machismo, and being egotistical.
 - As well as emotionless
- Some YA books will show male characters defying these roles as they are caring and kind. They often defy male stereotypes using same sex relationships, or cisgendered people have friendly relationships of those part of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Usually the man is the “hero” and the woman often is the one to be saved.
- The princesses in books are not able to do anything for themselves

3. How did the characters play a role in gender stereotyping others?

- In the book Restart Shoshanna had a hard time accepting that Chase could change and become a better person. She thought he could only be a boy who is a jock and a bully.
- In the book Restart, Chase's friends Aaron and Bear are both very masculine. They are athletes and don't show much emotion. They are also big bullies. After Chase loses his memory, Aaron and Bear try to get Chase to go back to his old self like them. They try to conform Chase back to the old stereotype but Chase ends up choosing his own path.
- In my book, Joseph is a young father who cares for his daughter and wants to find a way to meet her. He follows gender stereotypes because he refuses to show his emotions and shuts everyone out.

4. Why is it important to discuss gender stereotypes and how to overcome them?

- By discussing gender stereotypes we can work to disrupt them by showing facts about males who contribute to gender stereotypes. We see males have a much higher percentage of suicide than

females. Men are more likely to engage in aggressive behavior resulting in them being put in jail more often than women.

- It is important to discuss gender stereotypes because it is important for kids to recognize the stereotypes they face so that they can break them. Also to let them know that it is ok to not follow gender stereotypes.
- It helps show students that there is not one wrong and one right way to be who you are just because of your gender. Everyone is their own person and they shouldn't be forced to conform to a stereotype
 - Knowing how to overcome stereotyping allows for everyone to be them true selves and to know how to properly respect and accept others for who they are and their interests

5. How can we use books that break gender stereotypes in the classroom?

- We can incorporate literature that shows a large variety of gender roles within characters. Giving more representation to characters who are gay, transgender, non-binary, etc. spreads awareness and helps to break the stereotype that students may come into the classroom with.

6. Did the characters in the books offer an accurate representation of that gender?

- Chase from Restart was an accurate representation of gender after his accident because he lost his memory. He had a chance to restart his life with no prior knowledge of gender stereotypes, so he was able to be his full authentic self.