



Title: Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights

Author: Ann Bausum

Imprint: Speak

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

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Format: Paperback

Age Range*: 12 and up

Grade Range: Gr 9 Up

BOOK RESUME: STONEWALL: BREAKING OUT IN THE FIGHT FOR GAY RIGHTS

BOOK SYNOPSIS

The first history of gay rights for teen readers, written by award-winning nonfiction author Ann Bausum.

A vivid retelling of a decades-long struggle for gay rights in America's recent history, when being gay meant living a closeted life or existing on the fringes of society. Laws throughout the country criminalized homosexual behavior, the medical community viewed being gay as a sign of mental illness, and coming out could lead to being fired, shunned, and disowned. Until the Stonewall riots of 1969 occurred . . . and everything began to change. This narrative, illustrated with archival photographs, demonstrates how far the battle has come in the past four decades and yet how universal the struggles remain as young people of any era grow into their sexualities. With new content from the author!

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Bausum writes with the precision of a journalist; there is never any doubt as to what she wonders, what she conjectures, and what she knows. The resulting narrative integrity makes her observations and her conclusions about the persecution and resilience of the LGBTQ community all the more powerful."

—*Horn Book*, starred review

★ "Powerful, well-researched. . . An essential purchase" —*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "A powerful and moving account. . . Bausum's conversational storytelling whisks readers back to an era when homosexuality was criminalized"

—*Publisher's Weekly*, starred review

★ "Readers coming of age at a time when state after state is beginning to celebrate gay marriage will be astonished to return to a time when it was a crime for a man to wear a dress. Enlightening, inspiring, and moving." —*Kirkus*, starred review

Bausum's account of the gay rights movement, from Stonewall through the AIDS crisis to the present, is told with heartbreaking candor, and Tim Federle's narration wrings all the emotion from this gripping history."

—*AudioFile Magazine*

Updated 6.20.2025

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Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

"Comprehensive in its coverage, filled with important information, and compassionate in its tone. It sheds welcome light on a subject that deserves greater coverage in YA literature." —*Booklist*

"This sobering history easily accommodates the complexity of a turning point in LGBTQ history, documenting 50 years of dramatic social change." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"The writing is concise and clear, with a narrative style that is both compelling and passionate. . . This important book by an award-winning author is an essential purchase." —*VOYA*

"This illustrated history lifts Stonewall from its customary footnote or chapter status into the YA book-length treatment it deserves." —*BCCB*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A CCBC Choices selection
- A Junior Library Guild, History selection
- A *School Library Journal* Best Books of the Year selection
- A New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award Non-Fiction for Grades 6-12 selection
- A New York *On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!* Summer Reading selection

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)
- [Author Resources](#)
- [Teaching Ideas from SLJ Classroom Bookshelf](#)
- [The Pirate Tree interview with Ann Bausum](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net interview with Ann Bausum](#)
- [SLJ Article: Author of Young Adult LGBT History Book on Gay Rights and Marriage Equality](#)
- [The Horn Book interview with Ann Bausum](#)
- [SLJ interview with Ann Bausum](#)

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