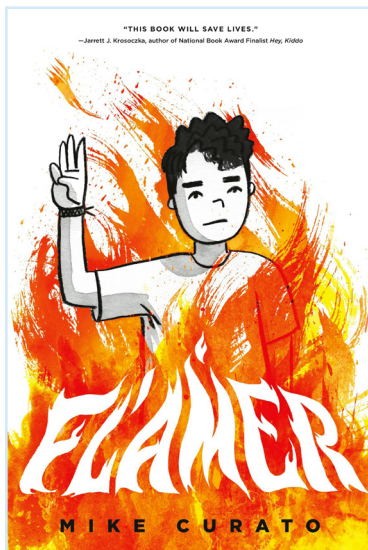


**BANNED
BOOKS
FOR ALL**

TEEN BANNED BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION GUIDE



Read *Flamer* Now!

Find out how you can get hold of a free copy of *Flamer* to start reading now:



nyp1.org/bannedbookclub

Flamer by Mike Curato

The latest title in The New York Public Library's Teen Banned Book Club is an acclaimed, award-winning graphic novel about growing up, friendship, and self-discovery and acceptance.

Discussion Questions

1. Aidan struggles with language and labels, specifically what it means to be gay as a Catholic and as a Filipino American. How do you know who you are? How does language help capture how you feel?
2. While at camp, Aidan learns a lot about himself. He makes new friends, struggles with bullies, and plays his own part in the wider community. How can a place be both harmful and helpful or healing at the same time? What places or experiences have shaped you in different ways?
3. Aidan finds a role model in Ted, a camp counselor. Who is someone you admire and see yourself in? What about you might make you a role model to someone else?
4. Transitioning from middle school to high school can be difficult. What were some ways that high school was different or similar to what you imagined? What advice would you give your younger self?
5. Throughout *Flamer*, different colors are used for different panels. What emotions do you think they are meant to elicit?

**Online Author
Talk with
Mike Curato**

**Thurs, Nov 21
3 PM ET | 2 PM CT
12 PM PT**



New York
Public
Library



ALA American
Library
Association

#FreedomToRead

Activities & Digital Resources

1. Aidan finds strength through his friendships beyond camp, and writes letters to Violet. Write a letter or an email to a friend or family member who is far away. What kind of details do you want them to know about your life right now?
2. At the end of the story, Mike has a vision that helps change his mind at a crucial moment and shows him that he is valued and loved. Draw your own vision of the people and things in your life that make you feel good about yourself.
3. Aidan's friend Violet offers him a lot of kindness which goes a long way for him; she's a real ally. Groups like The Trevor Project have great resources on how to be an ally. Check them out and see how you can have an impact on other people's lives: thetrevorproject.org/resources/guide/allyship-in-action
4. There's a whole world of books by authors who identify as LGBTQ+ (and many allies, too!) that center LGBTQ+ voices and experiences. Check out titles from your local library to find out more. Make a start with this list from NYPL that highlights transgender, nonbinary, and gender nonconforming voices: nypl.org/transnonbinaryreads
5. Enter NYPL's national teen art contest! We're inviting teens from across the U.S. to submit their artwork, in a range of visual media, about the power of reading and the importance of the freedom to read. Deadline: Friday, December 6. Learn more: nypl.org/teencontest

TEACHING INFO

Grade Level: 8–12

Page Count: 368

Genre: Realistic, Semi-Autobiographical

Themes: Coming of Age, Coming Out, LGBTQ+

FURTHER READING

Honor Girl

Maggie Thrash

Darius the Great

Is Not Okay

Adib Khorram

The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School

Sonora Reyes

Spinning

Tillie Walden

Homebody

Theo Parish

More Ways to Get Involved!

In response to the rise in book bans and challenges across the U.S., The New York Public Library (NYPL) and the American Library Association (ALA) are partnering to protect the freedom to read in our communities. Discover everything NYPL offers, including access to banned and challenged titles, a major online exhibition about the history of censorship, a supporting curriculum for educators, and more: nypl.org/freedomtoread

Join the fight against censorship with ALA's United Against Book Bans campaign: uniteagainstbookbans.org/take-action



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