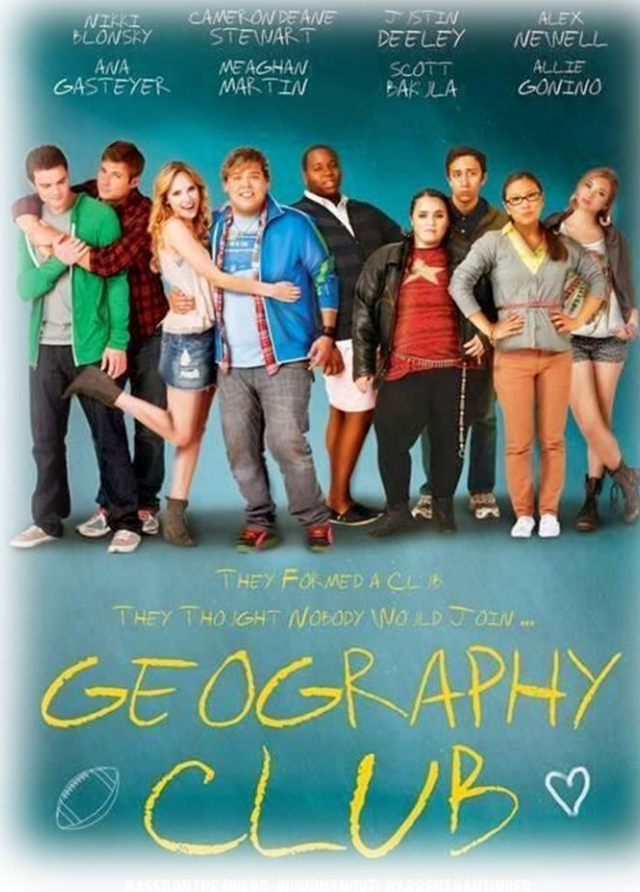


Sara Marini

Area di progetto on homosexuality
5H

Geography Club

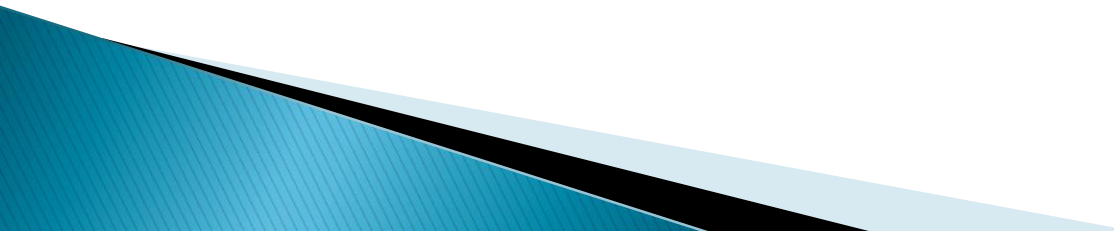


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQb2-a685sw>

The Plot

Russel is a teen guy that is not ready to accept his homosexuality.

One day at the park he meet another guy, Kevin, a football player in the school's team. They begin to hang out and finally they kiss. A girl saw them and they are both afraid of rumours and gossip about their relationship. At School they pretend not to know each other, as they are not ready to "coming out".



The girl, Min, is actually a member of the secret support group for homosexuals (together with her girlfriend and another boy), called the Geography Club, and invites Russel to be a part of it.

Even if he is suspicious, he finally accept and begin to feel comfortable in the club.


Meanwhile, Russel pretends to have a girlfriend, Trish, which is really interested in him, but he understands immediately that he is not comfortable with this situation

At the same time Russel get more involved (and seriously in love) with Kevin.

Kevin decides to place Russel in the team, in order to see him more, and he invites him at home too.

Russel finds out that Kevin's family is very open towards homosexuality (contrary to his parents), but he still doesn't want to tell them he's gay.

As the weeks go by, he feels really frustrated and uneasy and when some people start yelling at him "fag" because he didn't sleep with Trish, he decides to stop pretending, even if Kevin does not approve.



He suggests to create the official club for gay and lesbian, and the geography club agrees immediately: they are all ready to show who they really are!

Russel gives an ultimatum to Kevin: if he won't join the club, they will be over. Kevin, too scared, decides to leave.

The film ends with Russel, finally free and sure of his choices, even if he has lost Kevin.

Understand and accept who he really was, made his life a lot better.



The Characters

RUSSEL: At the beginning of the film he is not sure of who he really is. He is in love with Kevin, the only one with whom he really feel himself and comfortable. He recibes a lot of pressure from his father (to go to a good university and have a traditional family). At the end of the film he accepts who he really wants to be, because is the only way to finally feel free and confidence.



KEVIN: Even if his family is very open on the issue, he is not ready to get out of the closet. He is very close to Russel but it is not enough to coming out. He is scared to be kicked out of the team and he wants to keep up appearances.

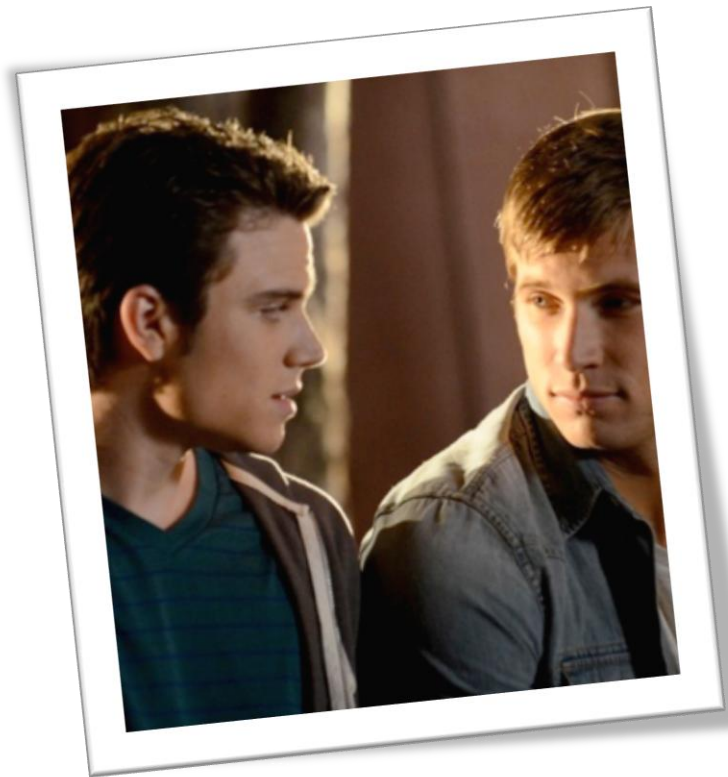


THE GEOGRAPHY CLUB: made by Min, her girlfriend Terese and Ike, an homosexual boy. They don't want to be labeled as "different" or "faggot", so they prefer to keep hidden. They create the club to share their experiences

OTHERS: Trish and Kimberly, two girls interested in Russel; Gunnar, Russel's best friend; Brian, a guy who is always mocked at school and will take part of the group later and Mrs Toles, a teacher very open in "complicated issues"

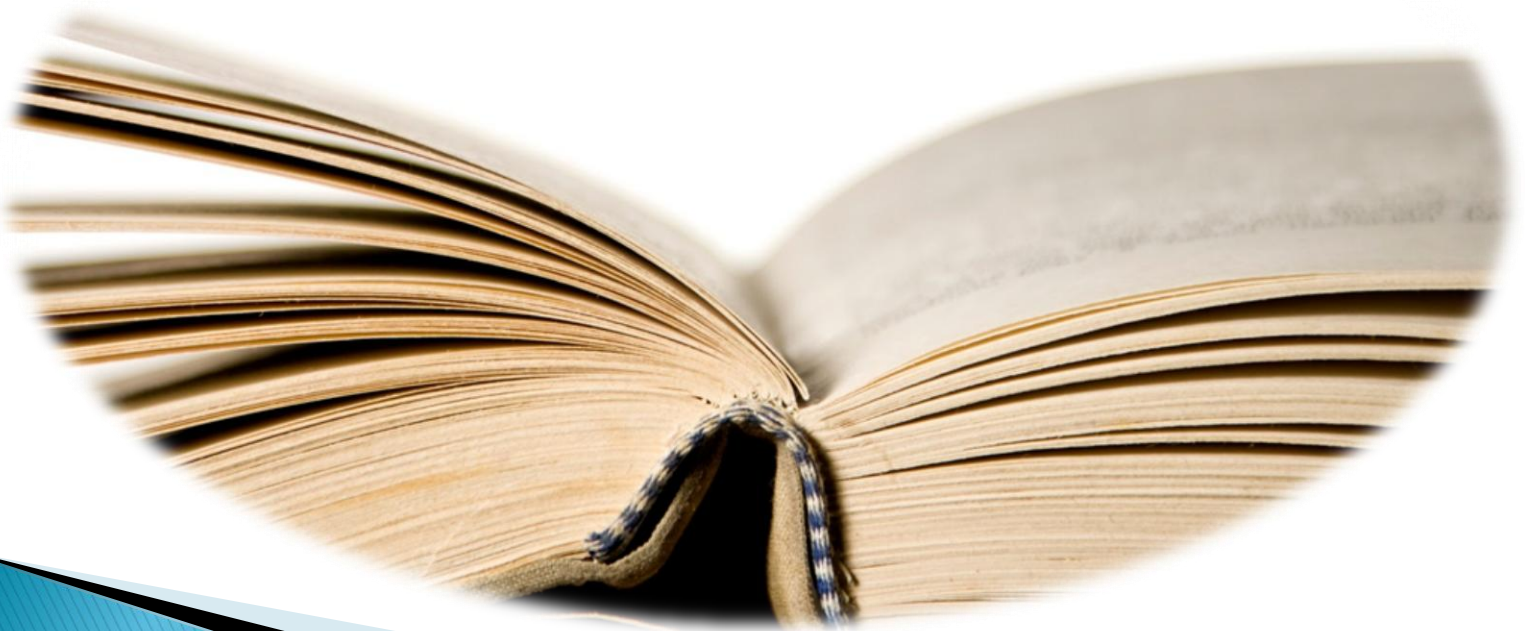
Main Themes

- ▶ Sexual orientation
- ▶ Homosexuality
- ▶ Coming out
- ▶ Prejudices
- ▶ Bullying
- ▶ Discrimination
- ▶ Outsider
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Fear of failing in society
- ▶ Brotherhood and friendship
- ▶ Relationship with parents
- ▶ Open mind
- ▶ Apparences



The Book

- ▶ Based on “The Russel Middlebrook Series” written by Brent Hartnger
- ▶ **Genre:** Coming of age story/ Gay Teen Fiction



Curiosify...

- ▶ The film rotates on two-way sentences, like “Come clean”, “Kick ass”, “Where have you been hiding”... To highlight the continuous pressures that homosexual teens and people confused towards their sexual orientation have to face everyday
- ▶ During the film Min says “In every school there are gay people, it’s time to let the world know ours” as to point out that nowadays we have to consider this reality as a “New normal”

Quotations

Feelings & Emotions

- ▶ “I feel hurt”
- ▶ “I am a Joke”
- ▶ “I just wanna be normal”
- ▶ “Confused”
- ▶ “I don’t want people to be suspicious”
- ▶ “I don’t want to risk anything

Insults and abusive words towards homosexuals

- ▶ “Faggot”
- ▶ “#1 Homo”
- ▶ “Kiss ass”



My Personal Opinion

- ▶ I really liked this film, because it deals in a very realistic way the issue of homosexuality, search of sexual identity and other adolescent problems.
- ▶ Even if it was sad, i “liked” that Kevin and Russel broke up, because most of the times in movies relationship are far from reality,wherease here it was feasible.
- ▶ I appreciate the way the pressure and Russel’s frustrations, caused by his father, were perfectly described even if the spectator has never seen him.