



Pink Shirt Day

February 27, 2019



#DAYOFFPINK

KINDNESS
IS ONE SIZE
Fits All



SOGeducation.org

Pink Shirt Day - February 27, 2019

The original Pink Shirt Day was organized by David Shepherd and Travis Price of Berwick, Nova Scotia, who in 2007 bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after male Grade 9 student, Charles McNeill, was bullied for wearing a pink shirt during the first day of school. [Pink Shirt Day website](#)

International Day of Pink - April 11, 2019

International Day of Pink is a day against homophobic, transphobic, and all forms of bullying. Celebrate diversity by wearing pink and challenge stereotypes with special activities on that day.

[International Day of Pink website](#)

Whichever of these days your district or school chooses to celebrate, be creative, have fun, and most importantly make the day meaningful by exploring the origin of the day, how gender stereotypes affect all of us, and to speak up when we hear name-calling or discrimination.

Pink Day reminds students that they can:

- Play any sport/game or with any toy
- Play with children of any gender
- Wear any colour and style of clothes or hair
- Be who they are and help others to do the same
- Stand up to name-calling / discrimination and make a difference



Leading a Pink Day Discussion

After reading or summarizing the [CBC News Article - Bullied Student Tickled Pink by Schoolmates T-shirt Campaign](#), ask students these key questions to help create awareness of gender stereotypes/homophobia, make connections to other forms of bullying, and emphasize the importance of being an “upstander”. They can be adapted to suit the age of your students.

1. Why do you think the older students picked on the boy in the pink shirt?
2. What names do you think they called him? When people are called names because of the colour of their skin, what do we call that? What name do we give to this kind of name-calling?
3. Are there certain colours, activities, or even jobs that are only for people of a certain gender?
4. Do boys at our school usually wear pink? Why not? Are girls teased for wearing or doing boy things?
5. Can it be hard for kids who stand out, for any reason, even at our school? What are some of the differences that people at our school are teased/harassed about?
6. When David Shepperd and Travis Price saw what was happening and acted, some people said they were “bystanders”, while others said they were “upstanders”. Which name do you think is better based on how they reacted? Why?
7. What can we do as a school to help kids who might feel different? What would you do, if you saw someone being teased/harassed for being different?



Web links to proven lesson plans and activities to create meaningful learning on Pink Day:

- ATA PRISM Guide Lessons (Elementary)
 - We Are All the Same in Different Ways! Gr 1-3
 - What Makes a Family? Gr 1-3
 - My Own Circle of Support Gr 1-3
 - Exploring Gender Stereotypes Gr 4-6
 - It's All in the Message! Gr 4-6
 - Media and Stereotypes Gr 4-6
- ATA PRISM Guide Lessons (Secondary)
 - Gender Swap - English Language Arts 7-12
 - First Nations Perspectives of Gender - Social Studies 7 & 10
 - World Views in Conflict - Social Studies 8 & 30
 - Intersex Conditions - Science 9 & Biology 30
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- Intersex Conditions - Science 9 & Biology 30
- Gender Roles and Relationships - Health 7-12
- Inclusive Word Problems - Math 9-10-3
- Safer Sports Spaces - Physical Education 7-12
- Colours of the Rainbow - Art 7-12
- NoHomoPhobes.com
- Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities



Other Ideas and Activities to Create Understanding and Awareness on Pink Day

Ask leadership students to lead a Pink Day assembly to share the history of Pink Day and the role students can play in challenging homophobia, transphobia and all forms of discrimination (i.e. the role of allies in original Pink Day in Nova Scotia).

- Organize a **rainbow chalk-in** (draw chalk rainbows and write Pink Day messages).
- Organize a **flashmob dance** or Pink Parade along city streets near your school.
- Distribute **pink ribbons** for students and staff to wear. At the end of day tie the ribbons together and hang them in the front entrance.
- Distribute **Pink slips of paper in the shape of a T-shirt** where students can write something they learned on Pink Day and/or their Pink Day Pledge. Post these around the school or hang from a clothesline.
- Write **positive messages on colourful post-it notes** and put them on bathroom mirrors and doors.
- Make **pink day posters, banners, videos, pins and t-shirts**.
- Create a **"tree of kindness"** using pink leaf cut-outs for staff and students to write positive and encouraging messages on and attach.
- Host a **parent info session on sexual and gender diversity** and/or discrimination and bullying.
- Ask students to make **Pink Day messages** on the morning announcements and/or for the daily bulletin.
- Ask your librarian to display **books that challenge gender stereotypes**.
- Work with students to create a **skit about Pink Day** to present in classes and have a discussion afterwards.
- Bring in a **speaker, such as Out in Schools**, to talk about sexual orientation/gender identity (SOGI)
- Sing teacher, **Lora Bird's, "Rainbow"** song in your elementary classroom or at an assembly.



Top Video Choices for Pink Day



▶ **Creating Gender Inclusive Schools**

- 2016 (Trailer 2min, Film 21 min) - Professional

This short film shows how elementary schools can talk about gender diversity and stereotypes in an inclusive, fun and age-appropriate way. Ideal for teachers, administrators, staff and parents.

▶ **Love Has No Labels**

- 2015 (3:20) - Prim/Int/Sec

Powerful video uses an X-ray screen to show that love doesn't depend on gender, race, religion, ability or age.



▶ **One Team**

- 2015 (1:50) - Int/Sec, Canadian

Canadian Olympic Committee video featuring LGBT athletes advocating for inclusion in sport.

▶ **Let's Get Real**

- 2004 (10:32) - Int/Sec

Youth speak frankly about issues that lead to taunting and bullying, including racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, learning disabilities, religious differences, sexual harassment and others.



▶ **Ivan Coyote's Ted Tx: We All Need a Safe Place to Pee**

- 2015 (12 min) - Sec, Canadian

In a poetically rhythmic TEDx talk, award winning Vancouver author Ivan Coyote highlights the need for gender neutral washrooms in all public places.

▶ **Handsome and Majestic**

- 2015 (12 min) - Upper Int/Sec, Canadian

A powerful portrait of BC transgender teen Milan, who bravely faces bullies in his small town high school. With incredible maturity, Milan articulates his gender identity and offers valuable insights that can help all kids find understanding and acceptance.



▶ **Holly Siz: The Light**

- 2014 (3:52) - Upper Int/Sec

In this powerful music video we meet a child designated a boy at birth, who enjoys stereotypical girl toys and clothing. The mom is accepting the father isn't until a beautiful moment in the video. Truly a wonderful music video!

▶ **Rise Against Homophobia/Transphobia films from Out in Schools**

- Upper Int/Sec, Canadian

BC's Out in Schools program includes award winning short films made by youth to help their peers understand SOGI issues, youth realities and perspectives.



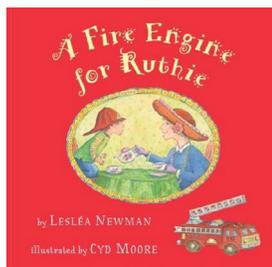
▶ **Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up**

- 2009 (Trailer 2:05, Film 67min) - Upper Int/Sec

From girls confronting popular messages about culture and body image to boys who are sexually active just to prove they aren't gay, the students in Straightlaced illustrate the toll that deeply held stereotypes and rigid gender policing have on all of our lives.

Top Book Choices for Pink Day

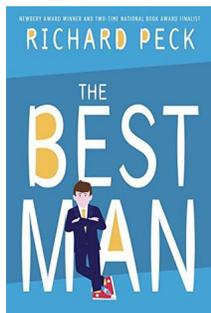
Picture Books to Discuss Gender Diversity and Identity



- ▶ **A Fire Engine for Ruthie** - Leslea Newman
- Henry Holton Takes the Ice** - Sandra Bradley and Sara Palacios
- I Am Jazz** - Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings
- I'm a Girl** - Yasmeen Ismail
- Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story About Gender and Friendship** - Jessica Walton
- Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress** - Christine Baldacchino
- Red A Crayon's Story** - Michael Hall
- William's Doll** - Charlotte Zolotow



Fiction Books for Intermediate Grades and Beyond



- ▶ **The Best Man** - Richard Peck
- The Boy in the Dress** - David Walliams
- George** - Alex Gino
- Gracefully Grayson** - Ami Polonsky
- The Misfits** - James Howe
- The Other Boy** - M.G. Hennessey
- Riding Freedom** - Pam Munoz Ryan
- Totally Joe** - James Howe



For secondary titles, please refer to the [Annual ALA Rainbow List](#).

