

Educators' Guide

ULYSSE ALIAS EASY LOUP GALOP

Ulysse Alias Easy Loup Galop is a story for children in the second cycle of elementary school (grades 3 and 4). Ulysse Gagnon-Lopez is a 10-year-old boy like other boys of his age except...he has two mothers. The story highlights life in a family with same-sex parents and deals with subjects such as: diversity, differences, friendship, bullying, harassment, witnesses, bystanders and allies.

The book and activities in this guide can be tied in with the Ethics and Religious Culture Program (competency 3: engages in dialogue) in order to discern common values, attitudes and behaviours that foster community life.

The reading of this book can be used in conjunction with the following classroom activities:

- 1 **"Understanding What Lies Behind the Words"** (in the kit "For Older Kids: Learning Respect for Diversity")
- 2 **"Respecting Loving Relationships Between People of the Same Gender"** (in the kit "For Older Kids: Learning Respect for Diversity")
- 3 **"The Children's Stories"** (4th video clip on the yellow DVD "A Look at Homoparental Families" and DVD educators' guide).

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It's a fact: It goes without saying that youth with LGBT family members do not want to have to hear their loved ones spoken about in cruel ways. In addition these youth avoid disclosure about their families to protect themselves from harassment. As one student wrote, "I am not out about my family because people are so stupid that they think that if your parents are gay that means you are too."

In a recent Québec study, youth with gay and lesbian parents or siblings were proportionally more numerous to report having been the subject of rumours or gossip. These youth were also more numerous than those who didn't have a close gay family member, to report often hearing remarks and insults directed at their peers, in comparison with those who didn't have a close gay family member.

The data indicates that although youth with gay family members are not more likely to be victimized, they are significantly more aware of homophobia in their surroundings. This awareness can lead to greater stress for these youth.

KEY VOCABULARY WORDS:



Ally (n.)

A person who is on your side or helps you out in a situation

Bully (v.)

To threaten or try to scare someone with words or actions even though that person did nothing to provoke this behaviour

Bystander (n.)

A person who witnesses an act or event without participating in it

Diversity (n.)

A combination of people who differ in terms of their origins, sexual orientation, family structure, style, preferences, appearance, etc.

Friendship (n.)

A friendly bond between two people who have similar tastes or interests

Gay (n.)

A man who loves a man in a romantic way or a woman who loves a woman in a romantic way

Gays (n.)

Homosexuals (term used for both men and women)

Harass (v.)

To bother or upset someone repeatedly through words and actions

Homoparental family (n.)

A family where at least one of the parents is gay or lesbian

Homosexual (n.)

A person who loves someone of the same sex in a romantic way

Lesbian (n.)

A woman who loves a woman in a romantic way

Prejudice (n.)

A false idea about a person or situation based on ignorance, incorrect beliefs, fears, etc.

Stereotype (n.)

A description of someone that is based on an often-inaccurate assumption about a whole category of people

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND JOURNAL WRITING

- 1 In this book, four different kinds of families come up: Ulysse's, Max's, Clara and Carlo's, and Ramon and Richard's (the two plumbers). Do you know any families like these? Was there anything about these families that surprised you, made you mad or that you thought was funny? Why?
- 2 Ulysse and the twins are each in their own ways victims of bullying. Why was Ulysse bullied at camp? How did he react? Why were Clara and Carlos bullied in the schoolyard? How did they react? How would you have reacted in this type of situation (teasing about your family, your appearance, teasing about gays)?
- 3 In the beginning of the book, Ulysse doesn't speak to Clara and Carlos at school. What does Ulysse do when the twins are called owls? Does he help? Why not? What would you have done? What are bystanders?
- 4 In the book, the kids differ in terms of how they look (the twins' glasses), their interests (sports, videogames, archaeology), their families, their names (Carlo-Alfredo and Clara-Anita Cabral-Lorilo) their age, their size (Ulysse is small). In the story, these differences sometimes lead to harassment or bullying. Have you ever heard kids saying mean things to each other because of them being different? How did that make you feel? What did you do? What could you do if you heard that again? What are allies?
- 5 Why do bullies pick on people? What do you think about bullying and teasing?
- 6 In the book, the kids use different strategies when they are harassed (ignore the comments, tell their pet, yell back, tell the principal/teacher, help each other). What strategies could you use? Is there a strategy that the whole school could use?

SIGNIFICANT QUOTES:

Ulysse (page 20)

« Clara et Carlo sont un peu bizarres. Ils n'aiment aucun sport et ils adorent les musées. Clara et Carlo connaissent des tonnes de choses sur l'histoire, la géographie, l'astronomie et plein de sciences dont je ne me souviens même pas du nom. Ils ont l'air de savants avec leurs grosses lunettes rondes. Connaître des tas de choses, ça leur donne des bonnes notes, mais ça ne les rend pas populaires dans la classe ».

Carlo and Clara to Ulysse (page 37)

« Et pourquoi on te ferait confiance? Tu viens jouer chez nous quand tu es tout seul et que tu t'ennuies, mais à l'école, tu nous ignores. T'as honte d'être vu avec nous, c'est ça? »

Ulysse at school (page 52)

« Depuis ce jour, Clara, Carlo, Max et moi, nous avons fait un pacte. Nous ne laisserons personne se moquer de l'un d'entre nous sans que les trois autres réagissent. À quatre, nous sommes plus forts. »

Ulysse in the tent (page 81)

« Pour la première fois, j'ose raconter les histoires horribles sur les gays qu'ont inventées Jasmin et Muriel au camp, l'été dernier. Tous les jours, ces deux-là m'ont agacé parce que j'ai deux mères. Tout ça, c'est des préjugés, mais je ne savais pas quoi faire. Je ne voulais pas passer pour un stool. »

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ACTIVITY

Ask the kids to write down an example of when they saw someone being bullied or harassed without naming the kids involved. Ask them to imagine and then to write how they would have felt if had been them who had been teased or bullied. What would they have done?