

# Queer Representation in YA Books: Database Creation & Statistical Analysis

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# Goals

Using abstraction to study real-life topics that are deeply nuanced

Create a comprehensive database of queer YA books that is easily accessible to all users

Use data visualization to make analysis easy & quick

# The Project

## Discussion

I held a discussion with people from different disciplines to get an interdisciplinary look at how this data might be used

## Survey

I created a crowd-sourced database of information about Queer YA books, then use data cleaning strategies to ensure the data can be looked at and analyzed

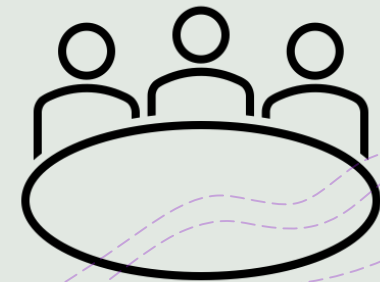
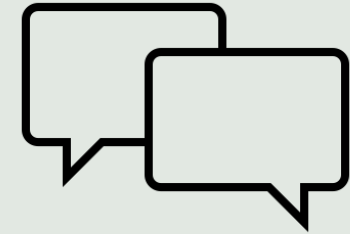
## Analyze

Lastly, I looked at the data I've obtained and discussed the conclusions the data show about Queer YA books & publishing

# Interdisciplinary Discussion

+ My discussion included students from the following disciplines:

- + Mathematics
- + Peace Studies
- + Literary Studies
- + Creative Writing
- + Sociology
- + Economics
- + Anthropology
- + Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



What is the queer protagonist's sexual identity? Select all that apply. If you don't know specifically, you can choose "Queer."

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Pansexual
- Demisexual
- Queer
- Questioning
- Unsure
- Other:

## Survey Design

- + Focus largely on queer characters' & the authors' identities
- + In designing my survey, I had a few points in mind at all time:
  - + As comprehensive as possible
  - + At the same time, more vague data is better than less detailed data
  - + Make the questions as open-ended as possible

What is the queer protagonist's age? You can estimate if you aren't sure.

Your answer

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- Pansexual
- Demisexual
- Queer
- Questioning



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General

Conditional Formatting Format as Table Cell Styles

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Sort & Filter Find & Select

Analyze Data Sensitivity

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Book Name	Author(s) (if this is an anthology/collection, put the ec	Publication Year	Is this book part of a s	Is this book explicitly queer or is the queerness just hinted at?						
2	A Blade So Black	L. L. McKinney	2018	Yes	No						
3	A Neon Darkness	Lauren Shippen	2020	Yes	Yes						
4	All for the Game	Nora Sakavic	2013	Yes	Yes						
5	All Out: The No-Longer-Secret Stories of Queer Teens through	Saundra Mitchell	2018	No	Yes						
6	Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe	Benjamin Alire Sáenz	2012	Yes	Yes						
7	As Far As You'll Take Me	Phil Stamper	2021	No	Yes						
8	At the Edge of the Universe	Shaun David Hutchinson	2017	No	Yes						
9	Autoboyography	Christina Lauren	2017	No	Yes						
10	Avi Cantor Has Six Months to Live	Sacha Lamb	2017	No	Yes						
11	Beast	Brie Spangler	2016	No	Yes						
12	Before I Let Go	Marieke Nijkamp	2018	No	Yes						
13	Beneath the Citadel	Destiny Soria	2018	No	Yes						
14	Beyond Magenta	Susan ...	2014	No	Yes						
15	Beyond the Black Door	A. M. ...	2019	No	Yes						
16	Birthday	Meredith ...	2019	No	Yes						
17	Blanca & Roja	Anna Marie ...	2018	No	Yes						
18	Bloom	Kevin ...	2015	No	Yes						
19	Carry On	Rainbow Rowell	2015	Yes	Yes						
20	Cemetery Boys	Aiden Thomas	2020	No	Yes						
21	Cheerleaders from Planet X	Lyssa Chiavari	2017	No	Yes						
22	Cool for the Summer	Dahlia Adler	2021	No	Yes						
23	Crier's War	Nina Varela	2019	Yes	Yes						
24	Darius the Great is Not Okay	Adib Khorram	2018	Yes	No						
25	Date Me, Bryson Keller	Kevin van Whye	2020	No	Yes						
26	Death Prefers Blondes	Caleb Roehrig	2019	No	Yes						
27	Dog Sees God	Bert V. Royal	2007	No	Yes						
28	Dread Nation	Justina Ireland	2018	Yes	Yes						
29	Dreadnought	April Daniels	2017	Yes	Yes						
30	Dreamer Trilogy	Maggie Stiefvater	2019	Yes	Yes						
31	Elatsoe	Darcie Little Badger	2020	No	No						
32	Every Day	David Levithan	2012	Yes	No						
33	Felix Ever After	Kacen Callender	2020	No	Yes						
34	Feverwake	Victoria Lee	2019	Yes	Yes						
35	Final Draft	Riley Redgate	2018	No	Yes						
36	Fire	Kristin Cashore	2009	Yes	No						
37	For a Muse of Fire	Heidi Heilig	2018	Yes	No						
38	Fourth World (Iamos Trilogy)	Lyssa Chiavari	2015	Yes	Yes						
39	Gena/Finn	Hannah Moskowitz, Kat Helgeson	2016	No	Yes						
40	Girls of Paper and Fire	Natasha Ngan	2018	Yes	Yes						

# Survey Results



# Issues Using Tableau

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”Fitting” the data

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How to sort qualitative  
& categorical data

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Inherent bias



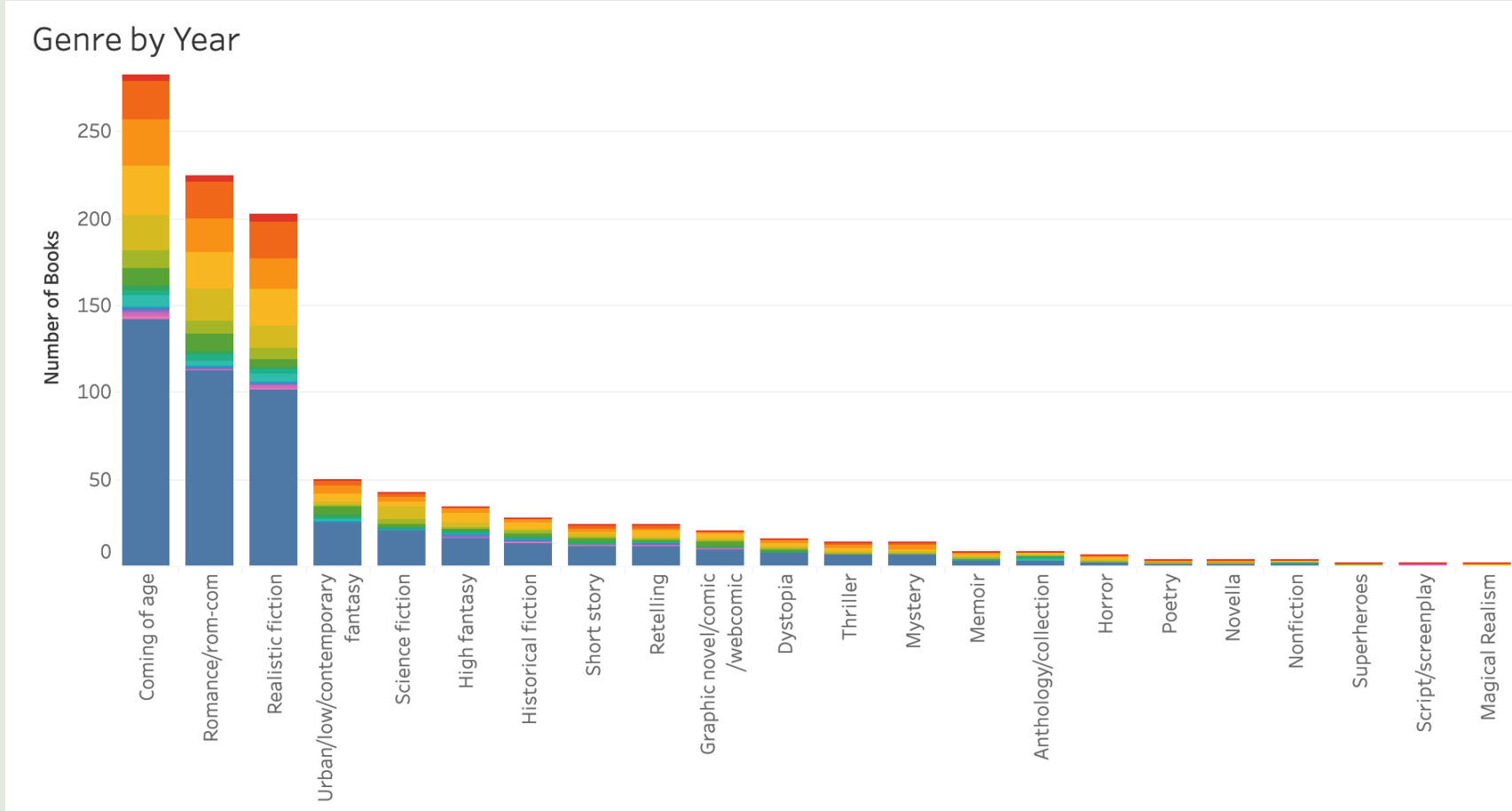


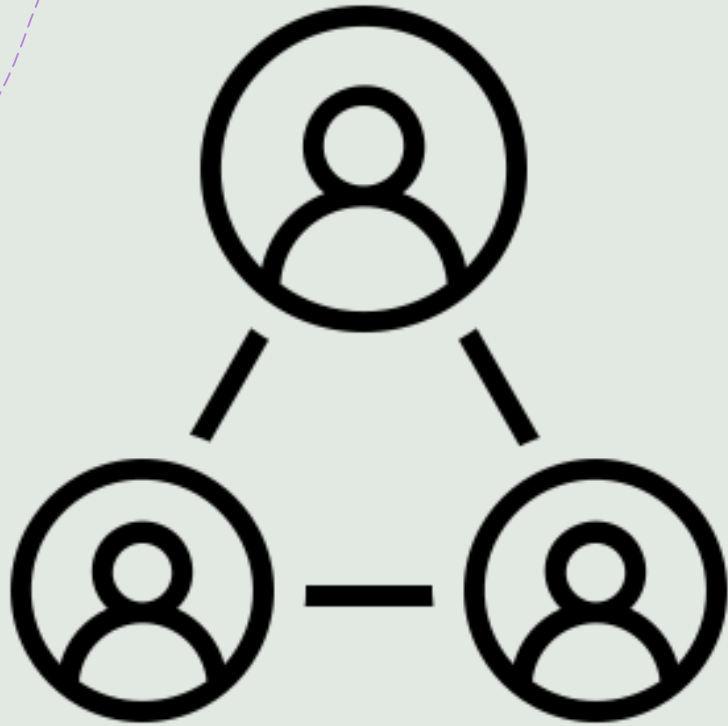


# Asking Questions

- + Using this data to answer basic questions about the relationships between author, character, and books
  - + Ex: What is the gender breakdown of authors writing queer YA?
  - + Do authors or color mostly write protagonists of color?
  - + How have different identities become more prominent over time?

# Survey Review





## From the interdisciplinary discussion

- + Creatives feel pressure to make art that represents their own identities
- + Where in publishing is representation important?

# Limitations



Lots of publishing data isn't public



Connection between Google Forms, Excel, and Tableau



Publication data outside of authors & characters



Survey takers & sample size

# What I Learned



SURVEY DESIGN &  
IMPLEMENTATION



DATA VISUALIZATION &  
COMPLICATIONS



HOW TO USE MY DATA TO  
ANSWER ESSENTIAL PUBLISHING  
QUESTIONS