

Think Like the Banned

Title: *This Day in June*

Author: Gayle E. Pitman

Publication Date: 2014

1. *What is the title, author, publication date, and plot (in 1-2 sentences) of this picture book.*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: The title of this book is *This Day in June*. It was written by Gayle E. Pitman and published on May 5th, 2014. This book delves into the LGBTQ+ community and how it celebrates Pride during June.

2. *Were you aware of the existence of this book prior to starting this project?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: I was not aware of this book prior to this project, but was very intrigued by the cover.

3. *This book was challenged and/or banned in America frequently enough for it to be included in The Top 100 Challenged Books Lists (between 1990-2021) compiled by the American Library Association. Why do you think this book was targeted?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: I believe this book was banned because many people in 2014 opposed the celebration of the LGBTQ+ community because they deemed it as “unnatural”.

4. *Think like a Book Prosecution Lawyer: If you were arguing in favor of banning this book, what would your argument be?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: If I was arguing against this book, I would state how the teachings are not suitable for the young age group or that they go against the teachings of various religions, making the topic controversial.

5. *Think like a Book Defense Lawyer: If you were arguing against banning this book, what would your argument be?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: If I was arguing in favor of this book, I would explain that this book is an excellent tool for teaching respect, acceptance, and understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

6. *The contents of this book may be inflammatory to some people. Do you think the information/plot of the book is presented in an unbiased way, or do you feel like it is pushing an agenda (if so, is it a positive or negative agenda)?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: I believe the book was unbiased and had an extremely positive agenda in wanting to educate its audience about accepting people of the LGBTQ+ community as people just like everyone else.

7. *This book presents information that may be useful and uplifting for some people. Can you cite any positive information or messages in the book?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: One positive message that was included in the book is how lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people deserve respect just like any other human being. While others may not agree, it should not affect the way they are treated.

8. *Children’s picture books are typically written for 2 to 8 year olds. One of the most frequent reasons children’s picture books are challenged or banned in the United States is that they are considered to be “Unsuited for Age Group.” What age group do you think this book is appropriate for?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: I believe this book is suitable for elementary aged children because they are able to understand the complexities of different people and their actions.. Overall, I think this book does a good job at teaching young children about the LGBTQ+ community, and even if children and others do not agree with this, they should treat everyone with kindness and respect.

9. *Think about the picture books you read as a child: Would this book fit into the themes of what you read back then, or would it stand out as an anomaly?*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: Based on the books I read as a child, this book would be an anomaly because there was not much LGBTQ+ representation when I was younger. I was not as exposed to this topic as a kid, and often picked books that were fairy tales or fantasy.

10. *Pretend you are a Parent: If you were in a library, would you pick out this book and read it to your child; why or why not? Explain your answer.*

Zahra V., 8th Grade: If I were a parent, I would probably read this book to my child so that they would be more aware of the different types of people and the different types of feelings that occur between people. I think educating children on this topic is important because it teaches children to be respectful and accepting of others regardless of having different views on opinions and beliefs.

BONUS QUESTION: Can you think of another book that you have read (picture book or novel) that contains the same themes as this book?

Zahra V., 8th Grade: One book that is similar to this book is *Love Makes a Family* by Sophia Beer. This book also delves into LGBTQ+ representation as it shows the many different variations of people and how they can be a family.