



## STONEWALL LESSON PLANS – LGBT History Month Poetry

This LGBT History Month, we're focussing on poetry and designed these lesson plans to help you celebrate with your students. LGBT History Month was founded by Schools Out, who have been campaigning for LGBT inclusive education for 46 years. Adapt the lesson plan to best suit the needs of your class and to fit the amount of time you have available. We have also developed lesson plans on this theme for students with SEND – these can be found on our website. Other suggested resources are noted in each lesson plan. This lesson is based around two poems: *In the bath* by Soofiya Andry can be found in their book *Radical Softness* or from the source listed below. The poem *Sing it to my body* is available from the source below, other poems by Travis Alabaza are available in their book *Before I step outside [you love me]*.

### Who are Stonewall?

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people. At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full. Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. To find out more about our work, visit us at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk).

Enjoyed this resource? Join us today!

Our expert team of qualified teachers and trainers have supported hundreds of settings in their inclusion journeys to make sure all children and young people are free to be themselves. [Our membership programmes for schools and colleges, and for children and young people's services, have something to offer every setting.](#) Join us today and benefit from:

- CPD-accredited e-learning modules
- Regular professional development webinars
- Access to our award schemes
- Personalised support from our team

All this, and more, is included in the price you pay for membership.



Looking for custom training? Our experienced trainers can provide quality training sessions for ITT providers, teaching schools, professional development networks and many other providers. Email us [education@stonewall.org.uk](mailto:education@stonewall.org.uk) to find out more and discuss your needs.

## Post-16

**Learning objective:** To be able to explain how the context influences the meaning of a poem

Activity	Details	Resources
<p>Pairs: Compare the poems</p>	<p>Give the students some context for the two poems that they are going to be comparing. They are both written by trans people. It is essential to note that both poets use they/them pronouns, and that students should ensure that they use the correct pronouns when referring to the two poets.</p> <p>Students work in pairs to read and then compare the poems <i>In the bath</i> by Soofiya Andry and <i>Sing it to my body</i> by Travis Alabanza.</p> <p>You can find the poems here:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlbbpPtRNLs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlbbpPtRNLs</a> from 0:38  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RadicalSoftnessPoetry/photos/a.387640601614184/389808438064067/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/RadicalSoftnessPoetry/photos/a.387640601614184/389808438064067/?type=3&amp;theater</a>,</p> <p>They should identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the poems tell you about each poet's relationship to their body.</li> <li>• What the poems tell you about society's relationship to their body.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PowerPoint:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poetry Comparison PowerPoint – Post-16</li> </ul> <p><b>Other resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the bath by Soofiya Andry (available at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RadicalSoftnessPoetry/photos/a.387640601614184/389808438064067/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.facebook.com/RadicalSoftnessPoetry/photos/a.387640601614184/389808438064067/?type=3&amp;theater</a>)</li> <li>• Sing it to my body by Travis Alabanza (available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlbbpPtRNLs64067/?type=3&amp;theater">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlbbpPtRNLs64067/?type=3&amp;theater</a>)</li> </ul>



<p>Whole group: Discussion</p>	<p>Students share their initial thoughts on the two poems.</p> <p>Discuss that Soofiya Andry's poem is mainly focused on their own relationship to their body – discuss what their relationship might be? Wholly negative? Wholly positive? Discuss that lots of trans people have a difficult relationship with their body, which often involves very mixed feelings. It is essential to note that not all trans people hate their body, but also important to acknowledge the impact that <a href="#">gender dysphoria</a> can have on a trans person.</p> <p>How is Travis Alabanza's poem different in style and in focus? Discuss that Travis' poem focusses on society's relationship to – and rejection of – their body. Discuss the impact of transphobia, you could refer to statistics from the <a href="#">LGBT in Britain: Trans Report</a>. For example, more than two in five trans people (44 per cent) avoid certain streets altogether because they don't feel safe there as an LGBT person. Highlight that trans feminine people of colour are at disproportionate risk of transphobic violence. As a trans femme of colour, how does Travis portray their fear of that?</p> <p><i>Note: When referring to two or more people who use they/them pronouns, it is useful to say that 'they both' or 'they all' so that students are clear that you are referring to both/all of the people you are talking about.</i></p>	
<p>Individual: Poem comparison</p>	<p>Students answer the question: How do the poems <i>In the bath</i> by Soofiya Andry and <i>Sing it to my body</i> by Travis Alabanza communicate the poets' lived experiences with the reader?</p>	
<p>Plenary: Self-assessment</p>	<p>As a class, identify the key points that students needed to put in their answer. Students self-mark.</p>	