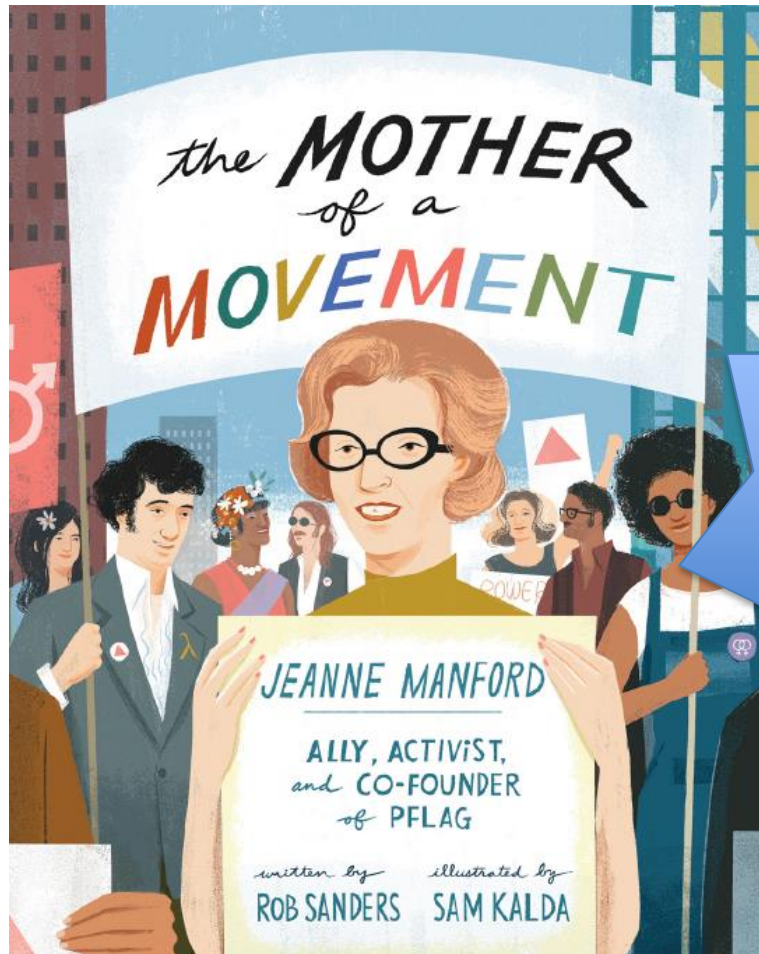




AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## Reading and Discussion Guide

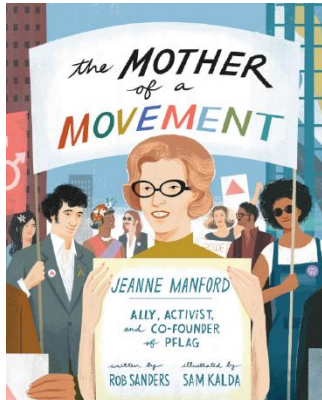


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***The Mother of a Movement** tells the story of Jeanne Manford, the founder of PFLAG. When her son Morty was beaten by New York City officials for handing out pro-gay leaflets, Manford wrote a powerful letter to the New York Post to complain about how Morty was treated. Morty invited his mother to march with him in the June 1972 Christopher Street March. While marching, she had the idea to form a group to help parents and families of LGBTQ+ people. That was the beginning of PFLAG.*

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STARRED REVIEW IN *KIRKUS*



## Book Themes:

LGBTQ+, movements, history, parenting, activism, pride, allyship

## Key terms:

Check out the resources in the back of the book to learn important terms that appear in the book. This book uses the term “LGBTQ+” several times. Here’s what that means:

**Lesbian:** A word used to describe a woman who loves and is attracted to other women.



**Gay:** A word used to describe a person who loves and is attracted to a person of the same gender. It is often used to describe men in the LGBTQ+ community, but it can be used for women too.

**Bisexual:** A word used to describe a person who loves and is attracted to people of genders that are the same and different from their own.

**Transgender:** A word used to describe someone who doesn’t identify with the sex they were assigned when they were born.



**Queer:** A word used by some people in the LGBTQ+ community to identify themselves as a member of the community. This was a word that was (and still can be) used in a hurtful way, but for many people, it is now a positive term.

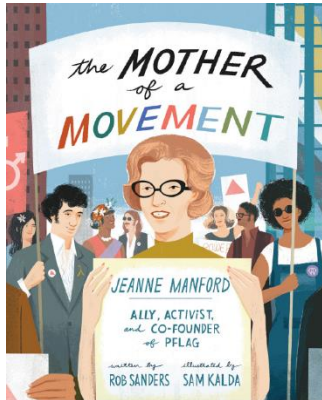
**Plus (+):** The + represents all the other identities of those in the LGBTQ community.

**Parades:** This book also talks about the Christopher Street March, which was one of the earliest Pride parades and took place in New York City. That march continues today as the annual NYC Pride March. A parade is an event for LGBTQ+ people (and their allies!) to come together to celebrate each other, the progress they have made, as well as push for more inclusion and progress in the future.





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



**In the beginning of the book, as you start to learn about Jeanne Manford there's a description about what moms do.**

- Think about your family. What are some of the things that you think your family has done to care for you? Do they do the kinds of things that Jeanne did?

**Part of the story is about Jeanne's son, Morty, telling his mom that he was gay.**

- Have you ever had to talk to someone about something that was difficult for you to say?

- How did you feel before you shared? What about after you shared?
- Has someone ever talked to you about something that was difficult for them to say?
- How did you feel before they shared? What about after they shared?

**Jeanne knew that her son and other people in the LGBTQ+ community needed people to support them.**

- Has there been a time where you have defended someone else? How did it feel?

**One of the things Jeanne did was bring other parents and families together to support LGBTQ+ people. They wrote letters, made phone calls, and marched in parades.**

- What are some ways that you think people can come together to show their support for others?

**Jeanne and her son attended a Pride parade together.**

- Have you ever attended a Pride parade? Did you enjoy it?
- If you haven't, do you think this is something you'd like to do someday?

**Jeanne Manford is considered to be a good example of an ally.**

- How would you describe an ally to someone? What do they do?
- Has anyone ever been an ally to you? How did it feel?
- Have you ever been an ally to someone else? How did it feel?



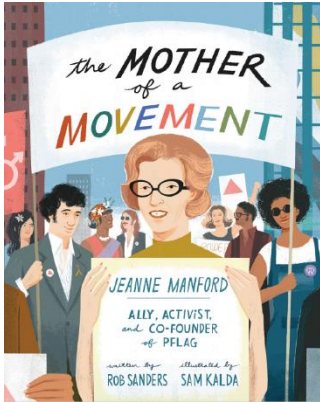


## ACTIVITIES

### Activity: Create your own ally sign!

When Jeanne walked in the Christopher Street March, she carried a sign that said, “Parents of Gays: Unite in Support for our Children.”

Think about an issue that you care about. What would your sign say and look like? Design your own sign here. *(create space on page for drawing)*



### Activity: Understanding symbols of support

In this book, there are a lot of symbols used that represent the LGBTQ+ community. Here are a few of them and what they mean:

- **Rainbows:** The rainbow Pride flag was invented by Gilbert Baker in 1978 to give LGBTQ+ people a way to show people who they are and their pride. There are numerous flags that LGBTQ+ people may use to identify themselves.
- **Red ribbons:** The red ribbon is a symbol for the solidarity of people living with HIV/AIDS. It was first used in 1991.
- **Pink triangles:** The pink triangle first appeared in the 1930s in Nazi Germany and was used to identify gay men. But many people in the LGBTQ+ community revived the symbol and now use it as a symbol of LGBTQ+ liberation, perhaps most prominently by an organization called ACT UP.



Think about an issue that you care about. Are there symbols to represent that issue? What are they? If not, what do you think could be a symbol people could use? Draw it here: *(create space on page for drawing)*

