# Celebrating Queerness and the Future of LGBTQ+ Literature with Stonewall Award Winners



To honor Pride Month, Stonewall Award winners Leah Johnson, Kyle Lukoff, and Abdi Nazemian came together to discuss the celebration of queerness in their novels and the future of LGBTQ+ literature for young readers.

**Participants and Their Literary Wishes:**

* Abdi Nazemian expressed a desire to see more queer books in translation for young audiences, emphasizing the global nature of the queer community.
* Leah Johnson hopes for a Pride season that centers the voices of marginalized groups worldwide, particularly those in Gaza, and emphasizes community care.
* Kyle Lukoff wishes for more books that focus on internal conversations and dynamics within queer communities, and how these themes can be responsibly shared with broader audiences.

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**Changes in Celebrating Queerness:**

* Leah Johnson highlighted that Pride stems from resistance and now often incorporates community care into her writing.
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**Challenges and Inspirations:**

* Nazemian praised young people for continually reshaping the world and being a source of inspiration for truthful and diverse storytelling.
* Johnson noted that evolving publishing landscapes now allow for more diverse and whimsical portrayals of Black and queer children.
* Lukoff and Johnson emphasized the importance of creating stories free from external validation, reflecting the true essence of their communities.

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**Hope for the Future:**

* Nazemian and Johnson remain hopeful about the power of storytelling to bridge divides and foster understanding, despite the increasing challenges like book bans and censorship.
* Lukoff and Johnson celebrate the transformative power of love and its potential to redefine societal norms and boundaries.

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**Lukoff** and **Johnson** celebrate the transformative power of love and its potential to redefine societal norms and boundaries.

Through their dialogue, these authors underscore the significance of representation, community, and resilience in LGBTQ+ literature.