

How Life Is: Queer Youth Animated

ACTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR YOUTH (AGES 13-22)

Thank you for watching the first 10-episode season of *How Life Is: Queer Youth Animated*.

The Future Perfect Project believes that the self-expression of LGBTQIA+ Youth is a declaration of a better future for us all. It is our mission to create a world where every LGBTQIA+ person feels safe, seen, and celebrated in their homes and communities. We do this by amplifying the voices of LGBTQIA+ Youth & Allies through digital media content (short films & music) and offering free online workshops for these youth.

Our hope is that these animated videos can be seen as a springboard for further action and that the stories of these ten young give viewers like you more “permission” to speak about your own experience, like all good art does. After watching, *How Life Is*, here are some more things you can do:

Keep the Conversation Going

In small groups, online or in-person, chat with your friends and peers about the animations you just watched. Some overall questions include:

- What are you feeling after watching the animations?
- What are some things you identified within yourself while watching the animations? Seek to identify rather than compare.
- What are some ways you feel constricted within your own identity?
- What is one thing you are afraid to reveal about yourself?
- If you were to tell your own story, what would you like the world to know?

(Episode-by-episode discussion prompts are available on the following page)

Stay in the Loop

Sign Up for Our Monthly Mailing List (on our [website](#))

Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Youtube](#), and [TikTok](#).

Spread the Word

Share these animations with your own networks. Send them to the people in your life who you feel would benefit from learning more about LGBTQIA+ Youth.

Take Action

Ask yourself...

- How can I support other LGBTQIA+ young people in person or online?
- What are some of the resources for LGBTQIA+ youth and adults in my hometown?
- What are some ways I can connect with more LGBTQIA+ in my city, region, or state?

RESOURCES

[Questions And Answers For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, And Questioning Youth](#)

[The Trevor Project](#)

Viewing this guide in print?

Find a list of all the resource URLs and link to full film by visiting:

thefutureperfectproject.com/actionguides

EPISODE-BY-EPISODE DISCUSSION PROMPTS

CAL

- How would you want people to react to you choosing a different name than the one assigned to you at birth?
- If someone gets your name or pronoun wrong and you correct them, what response do you hope they would have?

BRIANNA

- Can you give an example of a time you saw someone courageously being themselves in public? How did it make you feel?
- Have you dealt with the experience of feeling “less than” because of your skin color or cultural background, gender, or sexual orientation?
- Is there someone in your life who ‘gets it’ and is 100% on board with who you are? How does that make you feel?

VIVI

- Name one thing that a person would not be able to tell about you by simply looking at you.
- Who was the first person you reached out to about being queer and why did you choose them?
- How have you changed since you first came out?

ZION

- What is something that has been normal to you, that you’ve had to explain to others? Do you know why it felt normal to you in the first place?
- How did family, friends, & environment shape your perception of normal?
- When people use the word “normal” what do you think they mean?

SARAH

- Where in the media have you been told that it was okay to have feelings for whomever you wanted to?
- What would you want to see changed about the portrayal of romantic relationships in the media today?
- Have you ever had romantic feelings for someone of the same sex or gender identity? If so, what was your queer “AHA!” moment?

KEN

- What does non-binary mean to you? What are some ways that you live or don’t live in the binary in your own life? Where did you learn that?
- What is something that you hide in public because you are afraid of what people might think?
- Have you ever been harassed on the street because of your identity? What happened and did it change the way you move through the world?

CHEYENNE

- If you could reimagine or queerify one narrative you’ve experienced in a novel or movie or TV show, what would it be and would you reimagine the narrative through a queer lens?
- How much has the online community helped you to embrace your queerness?
- How do you feel about queer representation in media as it stands today. Enough? Not enough? Why?

LOGAN

- List as many labels for yourself as you can in two minutes. Ready. Set. GO!
- What is one label that you wish you could use, but don’t feel ready for?
- What is one thing that people automatically assume about you based on your appearance that isn’t quite true?

WILL

- If you were giving advice to someone in a homophobic school, what would you say?
- Write about one adult in your life who has been a lifeline for you.
- What does it look like to be a bystander when someone is being harassed? What does it look like to be an advocate instead (when it’s safe to be one)?

JULIANA

- What does it look like when someone is an ally to you?
- What does it look like when you’re an ally to someone else?
- What is the importance of LGBTQIA+ allies?