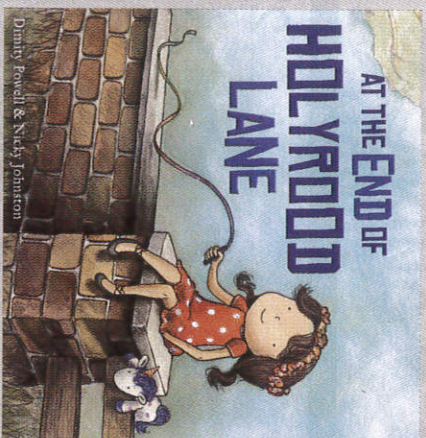


Books



At the End of Holyrodd Lane

by Dimity Powell and Nicky Johnston, EK, 2018.

This picture book deals with the trauma of domestic violence. It is a story about a sometimes delightfully happy child and at other times a highly anxious and fearful child. Why the change? Because without warning, home at the end of Holyrodd Lane becomes violent and dangerous.

Author Dimity Powell and illustrator Nicky Johnston use the metaphor of a malevolent and dangerous brooding storm to deal with the sensitive issue of domestic violence.

This insightful book is an important book for politicians to read because their decisions have huge ramifications on the lives of society's most vulnerable — its children.

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls

by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo, Particular Books, 2016.

This book celebrates the lives of more than 100 extraordinary girls and women in history and contemporary life who have changed the world. The short biographies inspire girls and women to be their own super hero, rather than position themselves as princesses waiting to be saved or loved by a man.

This book celebrates women who dare to be different; who dare to follow their dreams;



This book is sure to inspire young readers. I had a wonderful opportunity to lend this book to a year 7 student at a rural public high school who gave the following feedback: "This book goes to prove that you can do anything you put your mind to and that nobody can tell you what you can and cannot do. All girls should remember that if it is a good idea, go ahead and do it."

Women and Power: A Manifesto

by Mary Beard, Profile Books, 2017.

This brilliant short book highlights the history of misogyny that goes back to ancient Greece and Roman days.

Renowned British classicist Mary Beard carefully unpacks the deep prejudices embedded in our contemporary culture and how it continues to diminish and erode the status of women

who dare find their own voice; who dare to rebel against a world that tells them pay deference to a power elite that has different body parts.

The women in this book come from diverse backgrounds, countries and times. They are courageous, hardworking, exciting, brilliant, persistent and determined. Often they have never been heard of.

My favourite woman, for the moment, is Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717) who has been described as the most famous woman who ever lived, and was an outstanding naturalist, artist, adventurer, entomologist, ecologist and recognised the process of metamorphosis long before anyone else did.

as beings of authority, respect and power. Mary Beard shows how the poison of patriarchy reprehensibly entrenches violence and discrimination against women.

Women's voices in the public arena are more than often systematically dismissed, diminished, and devalued.

Beard's basic premise is that our mental, cultural template for a powerful person remains resolutely male. Possibly the reason we are on the cusp of destroying the planet.

The real cost of this patriarchy is that many women's voices of intellect, knowledge, and understanding are devalued as weak, emotional and not seriously worthy of consideration.

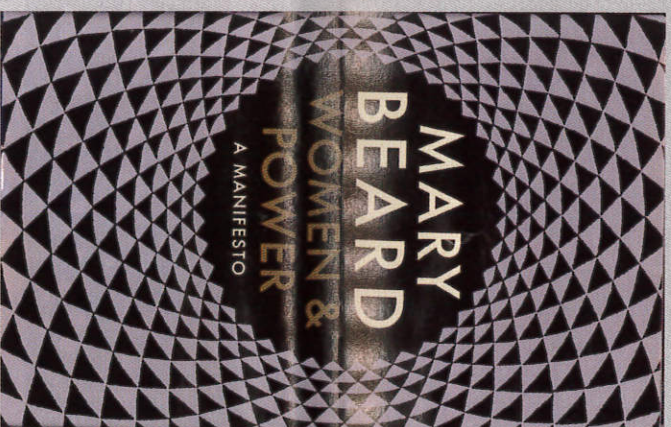
One wonders how many talented women have been bypassed or overshadowed by a mediocre man.

Beard shows how women in politics are particularly vulnerable to be threatened with verbal and even actual violence if they speak out too loud, through social media.

Finally Beard concludes — it is not women, that must change, but the nature of power.

All three books are all available from Federation Library. Look up suggestions for classroom activities in the digital edition of *Education*.

Janine Kitson is a Federation Life Member



This book guides readers through the process of making organisations inclusive of non-binary people and while it is aimed at people with responsibilities for equality and inclusion within the workplace, it has information and tools that anyone can utilise.

The book provides an understanding of the issue non-binary people face in society at large, and in the workplace. It begins with introducing the basics of who non-binary people are and what daily life is like for them. The book then moves into considerations for why an organisation or workplace should be inclusive of non-binary people and how this can be achieved.

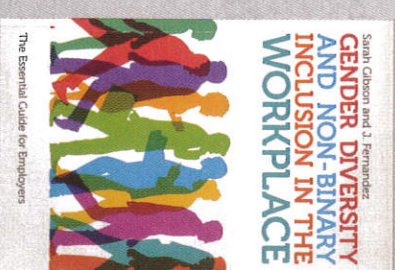
While the book does not provide templates for policies and processes, it does introduce some basic premises about inclusion and non-binary people, discusses why inclusion is beneficial, provides a snapshot of the current knowledge and key issues and (UK) legislation, and offers practical pointers on where to start change.

The book is a great overview for those who are faced with a new area to learn about in order to be inclusive in their work environment that can be broadened to organisational practices generally (such as schools). It also provides practical steps for those who might be understanding of non-binary issues but not know where to start to be more inclusive.

Mel Smith is the Officer attached to the LGBTIQ Special Interest Group

Gender Diversity and Non-Binary Inclusion in the Workplace: The Essential Guide for Employers

by Sarah Gibson and J. Fernandez — Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018



This book guides readers through the process of making organisations inclusive of non-binary people and while it is aimed at people with responsibilities for equality and inclusion within the workplace, it has information and tools that anyone can utilise.

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< PAGE 27 FILM

Boy Erased

MA ★★★★★

Joel Edgerton's screenplay for *Boy Erased* is based on Garrard Conley's true-life memoir *Boy Erased: A Memoir of Identity, Faith, and Family*, which details the author's own experiences of "conversion therapy". Conley and his family collaborated with Edgerton, his cast and production team, thus adding veracity to the project.

Marshall and Nancy Eamons (Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman) have the future mapped out for their only child Jared (Lucas Hedges). He will marry his high school girlfriend and eventually take over Marshall's car dealership. However, Jared is gay. When he is outed to his parents by a college acquaintance, Marshall, himself a Baptist minister, is advised by the church elders to enrol Jared in a conversion therapy course at Love in Action, an establishment run by Victor Sykes (Edgerton) who, like many of his staff, professes to be "ex-gay".

The basic tenet of Sykes' methods is

that being homosexual is behavioural, a matter of choice. Being the son of devoutly religious parents, born and bred in Arkansas, Jared commences the course in good faith.

But as he witnesses and personally experiences various abusive practices, such as literal bible bashing, he stands up to Sykes and questions the legitimacy of his so-called therapy. Edgerton's edgy portrayal of Sykes reveals the man's inner conflict and self-doubt, especially in the scene where a newly assertive Nancy Eamons eventually confronts him. Her transition from submissive, supportive wife into an assertive, fiercely protective mother is a positive product of Jared's non-conversion.

Sadly, it takes a tragedy to bring Love in Action to the scrutiny of the authorities. However, such beliefs and practices still exist. Ironically, the perpetrators are the ones who need to carry out a "moral inventory" and change. As Dr Muldoon (Cherry Jones) tells Jared early on, "It's not my place to say that your parents are wrong, but they are."

Not only the four lead actors, but

the entire cast give outstanding performances. Similarly, the production values are top-notch. The credits are accompanied by photos of the Conley family, illustrating the remarkable attention to detail by the design team.

Fahrenheit 11/9

M ★★★★★

This latest enthralling documentary from Michael Moore reveals the bizarre background to Donald Trump's decision to run for the highest office in the land. What is even more alarming, however, are revelations about the way the Democratic Party hierarchy manoeuvred Hillary Clinton into position as the Democrats' presidential nominee, basically, denying Bernie Sanders the nomination that he had actually won.

Although the 2016 election provides the spine of *Fahrenheit 11/9*, it also highlights the emergence of political activism in colleges and schools. Scenes of mass rallies organised by the youth of America, where teenagers speak eloquently and passionately against

the administration and the gun lobby in the light of mass shootings, provide some glimpse of hope for the future, as do scenes of teachers taking successful industrial action.

A clear message throughout the film is that intolerable behaviour, individual or institutional, must be denounced. *Fahrenheit 11/9* is an incisive, alarming, wake-up call that is leavened throughout by Moore's idiosyncratic manner and wry commentary.

Lean on Pete

M ★★★★★

A clear illustration of the adage "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger" is this film from director Andrew Haigh. Based on the novel *Lean on Pete* by Willy Vautin, the film depicts 15-year-old Charley Thomson's (Charlie Plummer) indelible quest for emotional security. Charley lives with his dad Ray (Travis Fimmel), his mother having abandoned him as an infant. Because they move frequently to wherever Ray can find work, Charley is a loner.

Despite his failings in the parenting

stakes, Ray does love his son. Unfortunately, his penchant for alcohol and women lands him in hospital, after an irate husband beats him up. Luckily, Charley has landed a job at Portland Downs horse racing track, with gruff Del Montgomery (Steve Buscemi) who runs quarter horses. Despite advice from Del and jockey Bonnie (Chloe Sevigny) to the contrary, Charley forms a special bond with one of Del's horses, Lean on Pete. Learning that Pete is destined for the slaughterhouse, Charley sets out with the horse to find the one person he believes can save them — his Aunt Margy (Alison Elliott).

Lean on Pete is a gritty, realistic portrayal of ordinary people whose existence is a continual battle for social and economic survival in a harsh landscape. Nevertheless, Haigh and Vautin reveal glimpses of good in even the least savoury characters whom Charley encounters, which enables him to retain hope even in the face of devastating tragedy. Life-affirming without being sentimental.

Tricia Youlden is on extended LSL