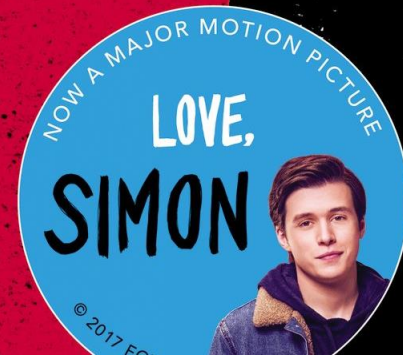


Coming Out – Simon vs the Homosapiens Agenda

SIMON *vs.* THE
HOMO SAPIENS
AGENDA



"The love child
of John Green and
Rainbow Rowell."
— *TEEN VOGUE*



What is coming out?

- Coming out of the closet, often shortened to coming out, is a metaphor for LGBT people's self-disclosure of their sexual orientation or of their gender identity.



Background

- Simon is a 16 year old high schooler who is coming to terms with being gay.
- He starts an online email correspondence under the name of 'Jacques' with another gay teen at his school who goes by the name 'Blue'
- They confide in each other about their experiences all while navigating school life.
- Simon's life is thrown into disarray when a boy at school discovers his email and threatens to 'out' him in front of everyone at school.

Why might Simon struggle with coming out?

Bullying

Family worries

Letting people down

Losing friends

Being treated differently





Extract

Comprehension questions:

- Why did Blue's post stand out to Simon?
- Blue's post was about 'loneliness' why might Simon empathise with this?
- Simon said Blue's email made him feel like 'a character in a movie', what does this mean?
- How do you think Simon feels right now?



Extract Simon coming out

- “I completely see the appeal of being someone else for the evening (or in general). Actually, I was a bit of a one-trick pony myself when I was little. I was always a superhero. I guess I liked to imagine myself having this complicated secret identity. Maybe I still do. Maybe that's the whole point of these emails.”

Someone comes out to you...

Imagine someone has sent an email confiding in you that they are struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity, write a response offering them support and acceptance. You don't have to be a member of the LGBTQ+ community to offer acceptance, but if you would like to write from the perspective of a queer person feel free.

Remember to write with compassion.

SS: Hi _____, Thanks for confiding in me...

To: johnjones@university.ac.uk

Subject: Conference update

Subject line

Dear John,

Addressing the recipient

Introduction

I am writing to give you an update on the conference we have been working to organise.

Main body

I have talked with several key organisations, departments and individual speakers who wish to present at the conference. Their answers have given me many ideas for how to organise the themes for presentations during the day, and who may be interested in becoming the keynote speakers. Please find attached a document in which I have compiled this information.

I would like to request a meeting with you to update you in more detail about this matter. I suggest Tuesday at 3pm. It would be great if you could let me know if that works for you before Friday.

Ask/action

Kind regards,

Closing phrase

Margaret

*Margaret Smith
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Email signature

Emails

Simon and Blue talk through email, let's review the structure of an email.