

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

THE ATHENA PROJECT

A COMPILATION OF
LITERATURE PIECES

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PREFACE

THE ATHENA PROJECT PUBLICATION



About The Athena Project

By: Alifya Maheswari Putri Wibowo

The Athena Project is a mini e-booklet that contains a compilation of every literature piece I have previously published on my portfolio—but presented in a more unique and fun way to learn—as well as an explanation of two issues that I picked to be the topic of my portfolio: gender inequality and discrimination towards LGBT+ community. This e-booklet is created as a final part of my portfolio.

The word "Athena" in this project's name comes from the Greek goddess Athena. She is a goddess of wisdom, war strategy, reason, intelligence, as well as arts and literature. This e-booklet hopes to reflect all the virtues that Athena symbolizes and bring enlightenment to the readers.

Thank you and happy reading!



About Gender Inequality

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What is It?

Alifya Maheswari Putri Wibowo

Gender inequality, according to [savethechildren.org](https://www.savethechildren.org), means "discrimination on the basis of sex or gender, causing one sex or gender to be routinely privileged or prioritized over another". Gender inequality exists all around the world, and it's very easy to spot.

There are many forms of gender inequality. Sexual harassment/assault, domestic violence, gender wage gap, uneven access to education, oppressive gender role, menstrual taboo, the pink tax (items that are marketed towards women are generally more expensive), imbalance of representation in the government, lack of reproductive rights for women, motherhood penalty, the glass ceiling (where a man advances faster than a woman in the workplace), and so on.

Gender inequality can discriminate men and women, but in this e-booklet, I will focus on the discrimination towards women.

About Discrimination towards the LGBT+

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What is It?

Alifya Maheswari Putri Wibowo

Discrimination towards the LGBT+ community is still rampant and extremely common. Sadly, being on the spectrum of LGBT+ comes with a lot of disadvantages. By 2017, being gay was still illegal in 72 countries.

LGBT people also face many problems because of their sexual orientation, whether it's internal or external. For example, the difficulty of coming out, social stigma, bullying, abuse (verbal, mental, and physical), the risk of being disowned or kicked out by their family, corrective rape, conversion therapy, oppressive law, the risk of being fired from their job, and so on.

As a minority group, the LGBT+ community is vulnerable to unpleasant and oppressive treatment. This affects their mental health and even life expectancy.

Until We Could

Richard Blanco



FACT 1

It was written in 2014, back when same-sex marriage in the USA was still illegal.

FACT 2

The poem is about same-sex love and the freedom to marry.

FACT 3

Later, the poem was adapted into a short film in the same year.

FACT 4

Same-sex marriage was legalized in the USA on June 26th 2015, but the road to equality is still long.

Richard Blanco is an American poet, author, and civil engineer. He is also an immigrant, Latino, and openly gay. He has written many books and essays, including *City of a Hundred Fires* and *Directions to the Beach of the Dead*.

POCKET-SIZED FEMINISM

BLYTHE BAIRD



1

The poem was written and performed by Blythe Baird at Button Poetry in 2016.

2

Pocket-Sized Feminism is about the prevalent rape culture in society.

3

The title said "pocket-sized" because Blythe Baird felt ashamed of keeping feminism "in her pocket", or only talk about it in certain events.

4

Examples of rape culture are the abundance of rape cases, victim blaming, the lack of rapist that gets persecuted, feeling shame and guilt from being assaulted, being too scared to speak up, and so on.

5

Rape culture is pervasive and exists all around the world, and thrives under the patriarchal system.



B L Y T H E B A I R D

GIRL CODE

101

Girl Code 101 is a poem by Blythe Baird, about how some "female privileges" aren't actually privileges at all. Rather, they're oppressive customs that makes girls learn to use their bodies as a weapon since they were young. To avoid sexual harassment, to get away from detention, to please men around them. Their bodies become tools of survivals for these girls.



THE FIRST SUMMER

MATTHEW GRIFFIN

"THE FIRST SUMMER" IS AN EXCERPT OF
MATTHEW GRIFFIN'S DEBUT NOVEL, "HIDE".
IT WAS WRITTEN IN 2016.



The setting is North Carolina, around 1946, after the World War II. Frank Clifton and Wendell Wilson are in love, but they have to be in love in secret, because society are not accepting of gay people.

This story depicts the simple moments between a couple, who have to hide from other people because of homophobia. It clearly shows the difference between straight couples and same-sex couples, and how they're accepted in society.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe

by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

ADDSU is a coming-of-age novel about two Mexican-American teenage boys—Aristotle “Ari” Mendoza and Dante Quintana. The story is set in El Paso, Texas, around the year of 1987. The book revolves around the lives of these two boys (especially Ari’s) and how they navigate their teenage years. It’s about family, friends, and romance.

There are many issues discussed in this book, including the difficulty of coming out, the complexity of coming in, as well as abuse and harassment towards the LGBT+ community.





BECKY ALBERTALLI

Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda

Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda is a young adult novel about a gay teenage boy who tries to figure out family, friendship, and love. It was published in 2015. It is a highly relatable book for gay teenagers around the world. The book deals with issues such as coming out, blackmailing, bullying, acceptance from friends and family, and finding romance,



Kim Ji-young: Born 1982

CHO NAM-JU

Kim Ji-young: Born 1982 by Cho Nam-ju is a novel from South Korea that tells the story of Kim Ji-young's experiences as a woman in a patriarchal society and her struggles of being a mother. Some issues mentioned in the book are:



1

Son preference in families

2

Mental health disorder

3

"Boys will be boys"

4

Victim blaming

5

Sexual harassment in the workplace

6

Molka (spy camera installed in places like ladies' toilet)



The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo

TAYLOR JENKINS REID

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo is a novel published in 2017 about the life of a Cuban Hollywood actress named Evelyn Hugo. As the title said, she had 7 husbands, and the sections in the books are divided by her relationship with each of these men. However, the book isn't just about a woman who got married 7 times—far from that. This book is also about the discrimination faced by women and people on the LGBT+ spectrum on a regular basis, especially if they're a person of color (POC).

ISSUES TALKED ABOUT IN THIS BOOK

Discrimination towards Women

This is present in many ways: child abuse, sexual harassment, oppressive gender roles, etc.

Domestic Abuse

There is also domestic abuse in the book, where Evelyn suffered physical and emotional abuse from one of her husbands.

Homophobia and Biphobia

These two things are evident and persistent throughout the book.

THE ATHENA PROJECT

*Let's continue to
fight for equality*



DIMINISH DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS WOMEN

DIMINISH DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY