

## ABCs of LGBTQ Script for Captions



*In food court.*

Mae: Are you a boy? or a girl?

Carlos: (*To Alika*) Hey freak! She said, what are you, a boy or a girl!...Well maybe this will help you decide. *Knocks drink onto Alika and Laughs.*

*Alika trudges home.*

Alika: I don't understand why everyone wants to put me in a box and bully me because I'm different from them.

Rachel: *Alone in home office, typing on computer.* Hmmm...what do I even look for? I need help with this. Okay, gender non-conforming. I guess that describes my child. Hmmm... Gender and Sexuality Alliance...I wonder if Alika's school has a club like that.

*Alika walks into classroom.*

GSA Sponsor: Welcome to the GSA club!

Alika: Hi, I'm Alika. My pronouns are they/them. My mom said I should join this club because I have been getting bullied. Some people hate me because I don't feel like a boy or a girl.

Bex: Hi Alika, I'm Bex. I have been bullied in the past because I am a girl who likes girls. Welcome to our GSA club. You're safe here.

GSA Sponsor: Yes, this is a safe space. We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender-non conforming, queer and questioning students...and of course allies.

Dylan: Hi Alika, I'm Dylan. My older sister is trans and I'm an ally. We're planning an alternative prom for students who want a safe space to dance and be themselves. It is going to be fabulous.

Evie: Aloha Alika, my name is Evie. I am a trans girl. My mom is the chair of the local PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and offers support for parents if your mom needs someone to talk to.

Frank: Hey, I'm Frank. I'm a straight trans guy. I go by he him. Welcome to the club!

*Rachel and Sarah in Sarah's living room.*

Rachel: Why can't my kid just fit in and be like the other kids? I love Alika and want them to be okay. It's just hard to know what the best thing to do is. If being gender non-conforming makes them subject to bullying and violence, should I just make them conform to society's expectations? To keep Alika safe?

Sarah to Rachel: You love Alika and want them to be safe, but you don't know how they can be themselves and be free from bullying, harassment, or even worse, physical violence. That is an incredibly difficult position for you to be in as a caring mother. But, trying to keep Alika from being who they are will not help them. They need to know you support and will protect them. They need to know that their identity is their own, and that there is nothing wrong with how they identify. Getting Alika involved in the school GSA is the right step. They will get a lot of support and make friends there. You are going to need support too. Please consider joining our PFLAG, that's Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays group.



*Bex walking home alone.*

Alika: Hey Bex, wait up! Can I walk with you? How did you get involved with the G S A?  
Did your mom tell you about it?

Bex: Actually my mental health care coordinator told me about it when I went into foster care. So life was pretty hard. I told my mom that my uncle did this to me. Months later when I came out to my mom, she said I'm a sinner, choosing to be gay cuz of what my uncle did to me and that I'm going to hell. I felt so alone, I just wanted to disappear. I ended up cutting myself pretty bad, and then they put me in Kahi. Things are better now. I'm in a foster home with a great family. A therapist visits me a couple of times per week. Sometimes we do fun stuff like play cards or basketball. She has really been helping me. She told me that my sexual orientation has nothing to do with my history of abuse. Being abused doesn't turn people gay or trans.

Alika: Wow, thanks for telling me your story, Bex. It sounds like your therapist has really helped you. I'm glad you found a safe place to live too.

Bex: Great talking to you, Alika. So, I'll see you at the next G S A meeting?

Alika: Yep, see you then!

*Dylan at the playground.*

Carlos: Hey F (censored)! Why are you staring at those kids? Are you gay or something?

Dylan: Owww!!! Why would you say that? That's my sister. I'm not gay, but it wouldn't matter if I were. I am an ally. Gay and trans people deserve just as much love and respect as anyone else. Just because someone is labeled by society as one gender, it doesn't mean that is who they are on the inside. And people should be allowed to love who they love.

Carlos: My dad says you gotta be strong to be a man. He said queers just need someone to rough them up so they'll learn how to be tough. My auntie said that gay people are pedophiles. That's why I thought you were gay when you were watching those little kids.

Dylan: Those are stereotypes that people make up because they were raised to think that way or they're afraid of someone who is different. I used to believe stereotypes too. When my sister came out as trans, I learned that you can't beat it out of somebody. She got beaten up plenty times, but she still became who she is. A lot of times people will try to pretend they're somebody they are not, because they're scared of what other people will think or do. It takes a lot of courage to be who you are. Luckily, now there is a law saying that kids age 14 and older can see a therapist on their own, without having to ask their parents' permission. This makes it easier for kids our age to talk to a trusted adult, if their parents are not accepting. Oh, there is my friend, Frank. You should meet him. Hey Frank, this is Carlos. Carlos this is Frank.

Carlos: Sup? So, how do you two know each other?

Frank: We're both in the GSA club.

Carlos: Oh, are you an ally too?

Frank: Well actually, I'm a trans male.



Carlos: Huh? Pfft, *sigh*. I gotta go.

*Carlos walks away.*

Frank: He seems confused.

Dylan: I think Carlos might be questioning what he has been taught and who he is.

*Carlos remembering.*

Carlos' Dad: I told you to stop acting like a queer!

Dylan: Gay and trans people deserve just as much love and respect as anyone else...kids age 14 and older can see a therapist on their own... easier for kids our age to talk to a trusted adult, if their parents are not accepting.

*In the classroom.*

Evie: Remember everyone, tonight we are meeting at the Rainbow Film Festival screening.

*In the theater.*

Carlos: Hey Dylan, hey Frank. Can I sit with you? I'm not gay, you know.

Frank: Okay. You don't have to be gay to join us. I'm straight too. I'm a guy who likes girls.

Carlos: So how did you know you're a guy? I mean, can't you just be a lesbian if you gotta be queer?

Frank: I have heard that a lot, actually. OK, let me explain. People can identify as cisgender, meaning they identify as the same gender they were assigned at birth, or they can be transgender, like me, meaning they identify as the opposite gender assigned at birth. Ever since I can remember, I always felt like I was the wrong gender. It never felt right being female. I've been so much happier and healthier since I transitioned to living as a male. But not all transgender people identify as male or female. There are people who identify as somewhere between male and female, and some might not identify as male or female at all. Kind of a 3<sup>rd</sup> gender that Hawaiian's called Mahu. Gender, like someone's sexuality, can be on a spectrum.

Carlos: Did you have a sex-change operation?

Frank: Not everyone who is transgender takes hormones or has surgery to change their body. Transitioning is a personal and a long process. The decision to have surgery or take hormones is a very private one. No one has any right to know that information unless I choose to tell them.

Carlos: If it takes so long why would anyone go through all of that?

Frank: It's an individual choice that each person has to make for themselves. Some people feel so wrong in their body that they feel like they will not want to continue to live if they can't change their physical body to match their gender.

Carlos: How would someone know if they're gay?



Frank: I'm really glad you're asking these questions Carlos. Please just try to be respectful when you ask. It is important to learn about sexuality and gender. The movie is getting ready to start. Why don't you join us at the next G S A club meeting so you can learn more of the ABCs of LGBTQ?

Carlos: Hmm...maybe.

*Carlos meets with therapist at food court.*

Therapist: What brings you to see me, Carlos? *Carlos reflecting.* I see...It sounds like you are questioning a lot and you need some support. We can work through these issues together and over time maybe we can help your dad to understand, too.

*In the Classroom.*

Carlos: Hey Dylan, hey Frank. Hi everyone, I'm Carlos. I know you might wonder why I'm here. I'm sorry I took out my anger on some of you before. For the past few months, I have been talking to someone who helped me realize that I was wrong. I want to join your club.

Frank: Hey Carlos. I'm glad you found someone to support you in working through your anger. It may take some time for you to gain the trust of those you have bullied, but it means a lot that you are here.

*All of the kids including Carlos are later at the alternative prom, dancing.*