



**EduCan Media**  
Collection Development Solutions

# Fierce & Fearless. Strong Fiction for Strong Girls

By  
Rachel Seigel  
Twitter-  
[@rachelnseigel](https://twitter.com/rachelnseigel)



## ***Traditional Gender Stereotypes.***

### ***Feminine.***

***Not aggressive.***  
***Dependent.***  
***Easily influenced.***  
***Submissive.***  
***Passive.***  
***Home-oriented.***  
***Easily hurt emotionally.***  
***Indecisive.***  
***Talkative.***  
***Gentle.***  
***Sensitive to other's feelings.***  
***Very desirous of security.***  
***Cries a lot.***  
***Emotional.***  
***Verbal.***  
***Kind.***  
***Tactful.***  
***Nurturing.***

### ***Masculine.***

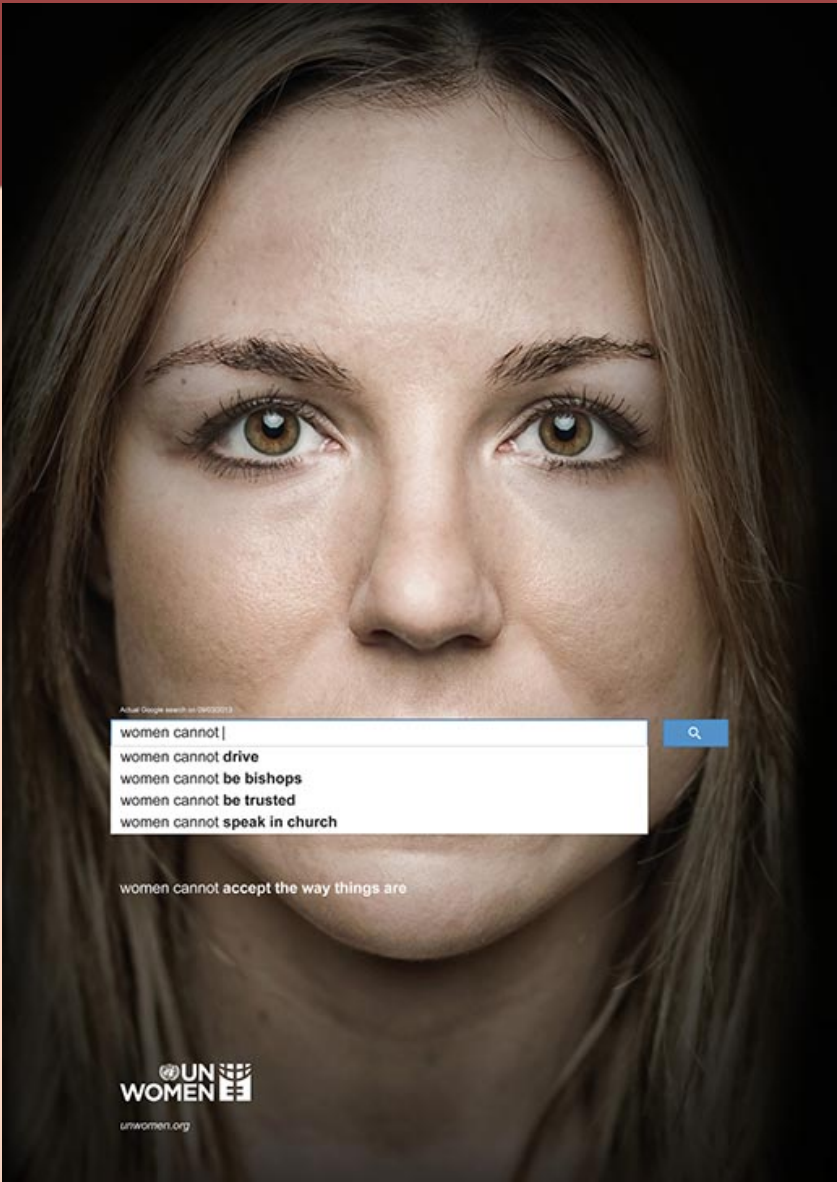
***Aggressive.***  
***Independent.***  
***Not easily influenced.***  
***Dominant.***  
***Active.***  
***Worldly.***  
***Not easily hurt emotionally.***  
***Decisive.***  
***Not at all talkative.***  
***Tough.***  
***Less sensitive to other's feelings.***  
***Not very desirous of security.***  
***Rarely cries.***  
***Logical.***  
***Analytical.***  
***Cruel.***  
***Blunt.***  
***Not nurturing.***



- Consider birthday cards and girls/boys magazines.



- What do these say about what it means to be a boy/girl? What do boys like and what do girls like?



Actual Google search on 09/02/2013

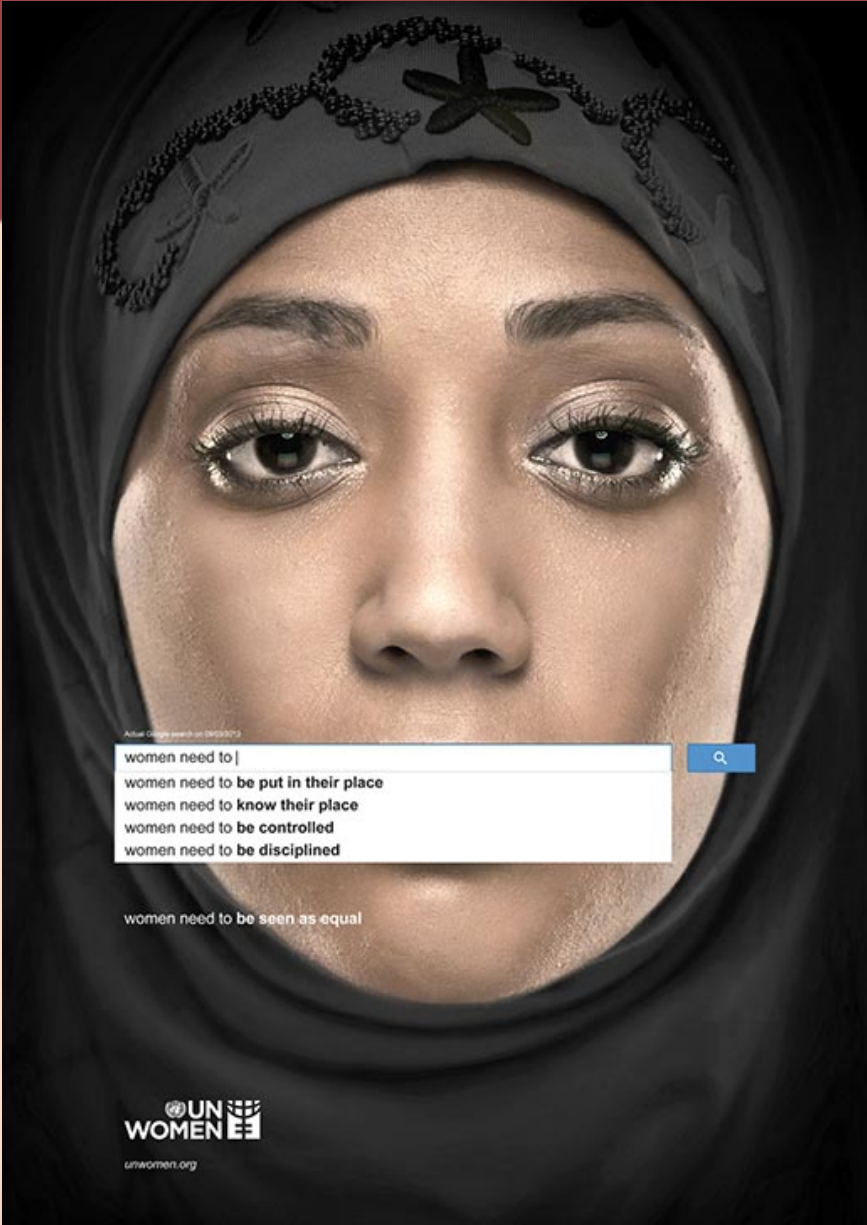
women cannot|

- women cannot **drive**
- women cannot **be bishops**
- women cannot **be trusted**
- women cannot **speak in church**

women cannot accept the way things are



[unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org)



Actual Google search on 09/23/2013

women need to |

- women need to **be put in their place**
- women need to **know their place**
- women need to **be controlled**
- women need to **be disciplined**

women need to **be seen as equal**



[unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org)





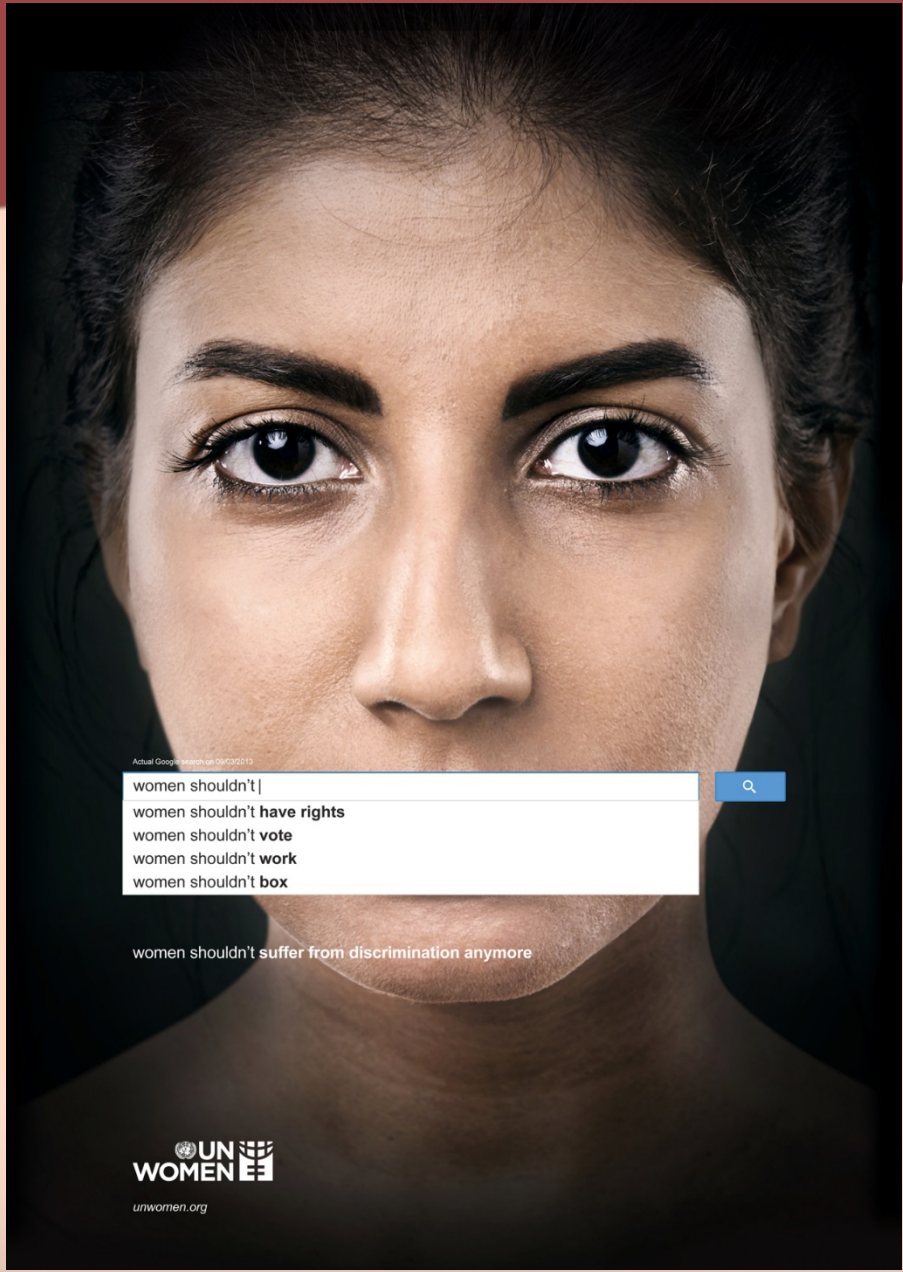
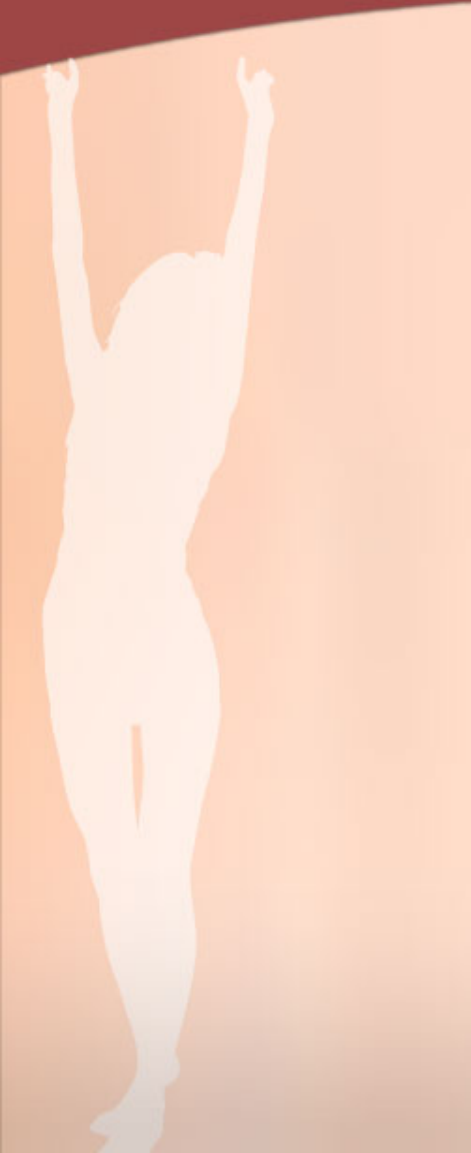
Advertisement search on 04/03/2019

women should |  
women should **stay at home**  
women should **be slaves**  
women should **be in the kitchen**  
women should **not speak in church**



women should have the right to make their own decisions

  
unwomen.org



Actual Google search on 10/13/2013

- women shouldn't |
- women shouldn't **have rights**
- women shouldn't **vote**
- women shouldn't **work**
- women shouldn't **box**



women shouldn't suffer from discrimination anymore



[unwomen.org](http://unwomen.org)




Girls should

- girls should
- girls should **love themselves**
- girls should **know their worth**
- girls should **empower each other**
- girls should **celebrate their differences**

Girls are the future of America: today's innovators, tomorrow's leaders.

girl scouts 




A white silhouette of a woman with her arms raised in a celebratory gesture, positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a gradient from light orange to dark red.

Join the Conversation on Twitter:  
#Womenshould




# What is Feminism?

It is the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities, and political, social, and economic equality for men and women.

A white silhouette of a girl with her arms raised in a celebratory gesture, positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a gradient from light orange to dark red.

What makes a good book for girls?

# Strong female characters who:

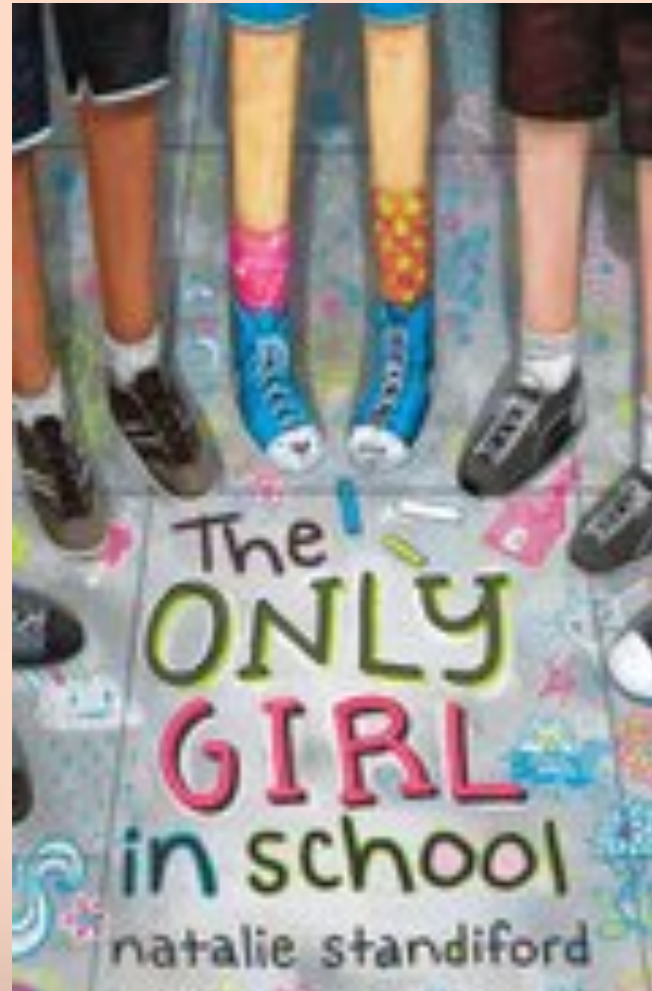
- 
- A white silhouette of a woman with her arms raised in a celebratory or powerful gesture, set against a light orange background. The silhouette is positioned on the left side of the slide.
- Are thoughtful and interesting
  - Are intelligent and determined
  - Don't let being a girl stop them from achieving what they want
    - Have real interests.
    - Are independent
    - doers, and dreamers
  - Don't need to act like boys to be considered strong

A white silhouette of a person with their arms raised, positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a gradient from light orange to dark red.

# Friendship/Peer Pressure

# The Only Girl in School

by Natalie Standiford



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Sailing is a big activity and she captains her own boat and has previously won the regatta.
- The boys are resentful for Clare getting a bathroom to herself, but Clare shows the lonelier side of it
- She wanted to be Scrooge in the school play of A Christmas Carol, but has to play all of the female parts because she's the only girl
- Friendship between male friend Henry and Claire is strained- peer pressure for boys
- No matter what she she perseveres and doesn't let them stop her
- She is smart, strong, and is courageous
- Girls will identify with her



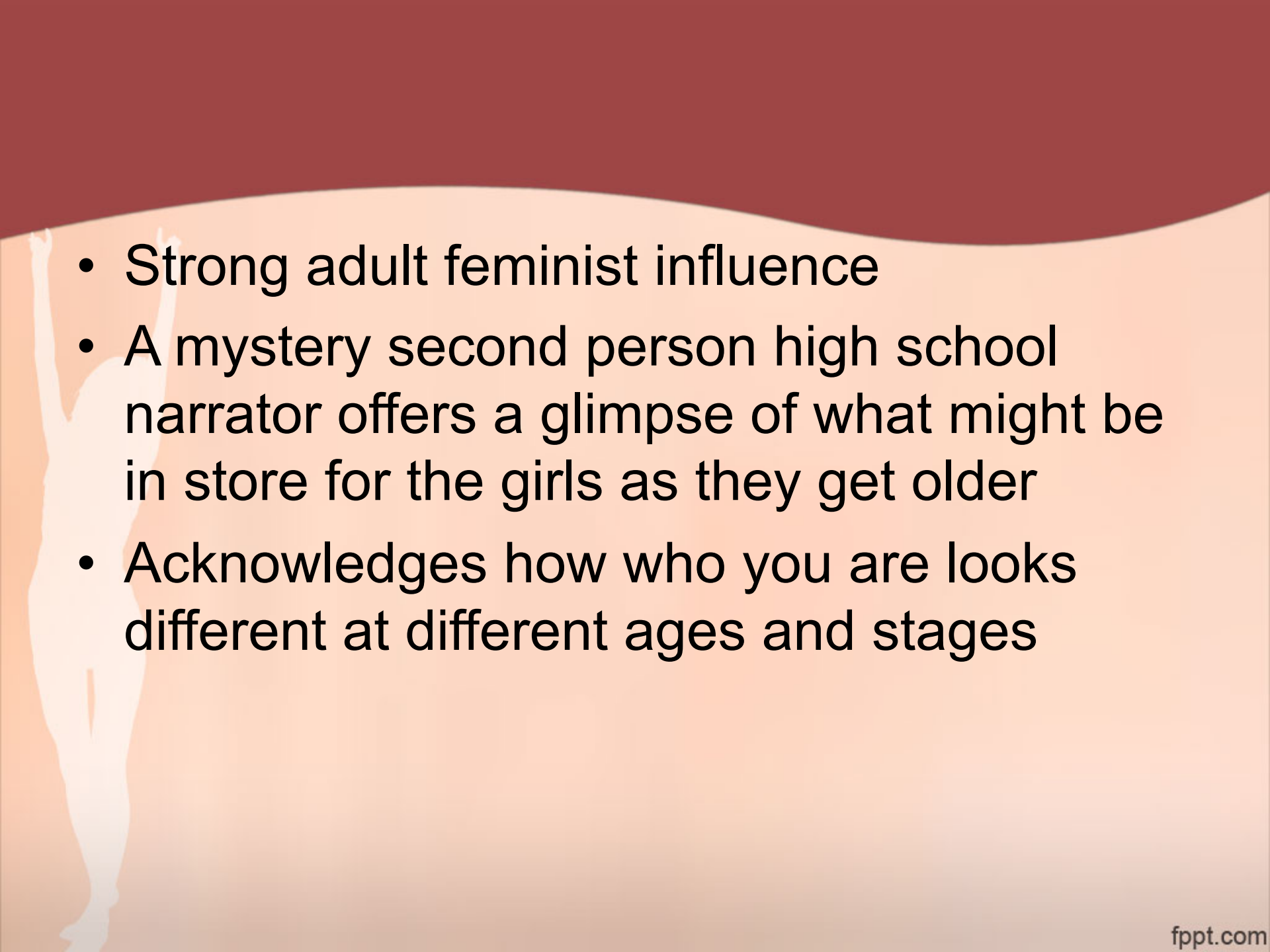
# Goodbye Stranger

by Rebecca Stead



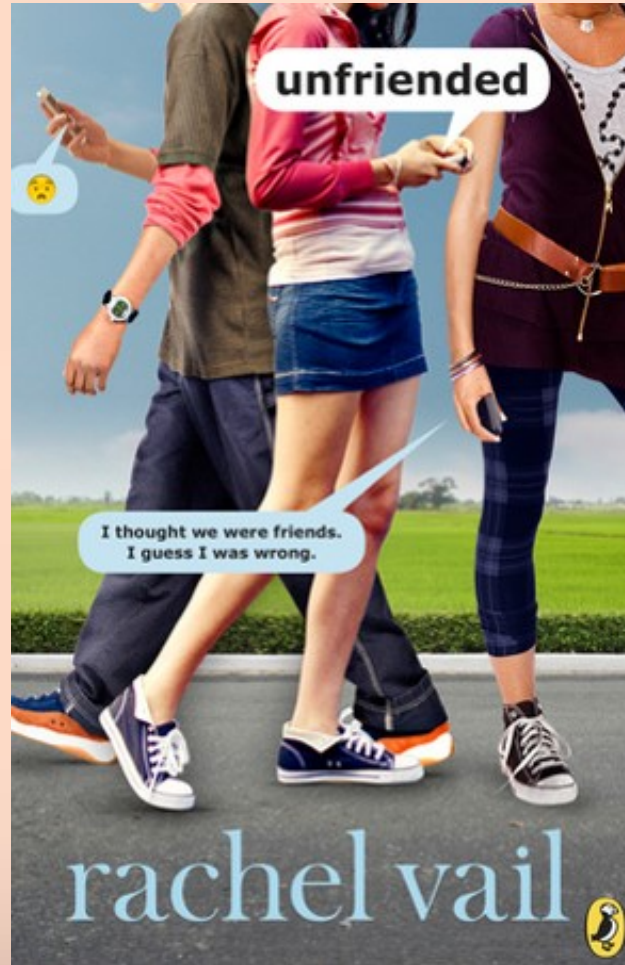
# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Covers that period in Jr. high where friendships start to change
- Bridge is a 3 dimensional, interesting character who is starting to wonder about bigger questions
- Looks at what happens when boys are added to the mix
- Looks at body image & confidence

- 
- A white silhouette of a woman in a long, flowing dress is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a gradient of red and orange, with a white wavy shape at the top. The text is in a black, sans-serif font.
- Strong adult feminist influence
  - A mystery second person high school narrator offers a glimpse of what might be in store for the girls as they get older
  - Acknowledges how who you are looks different at different ages and stages

# Unfriended

by Rachel Vail



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

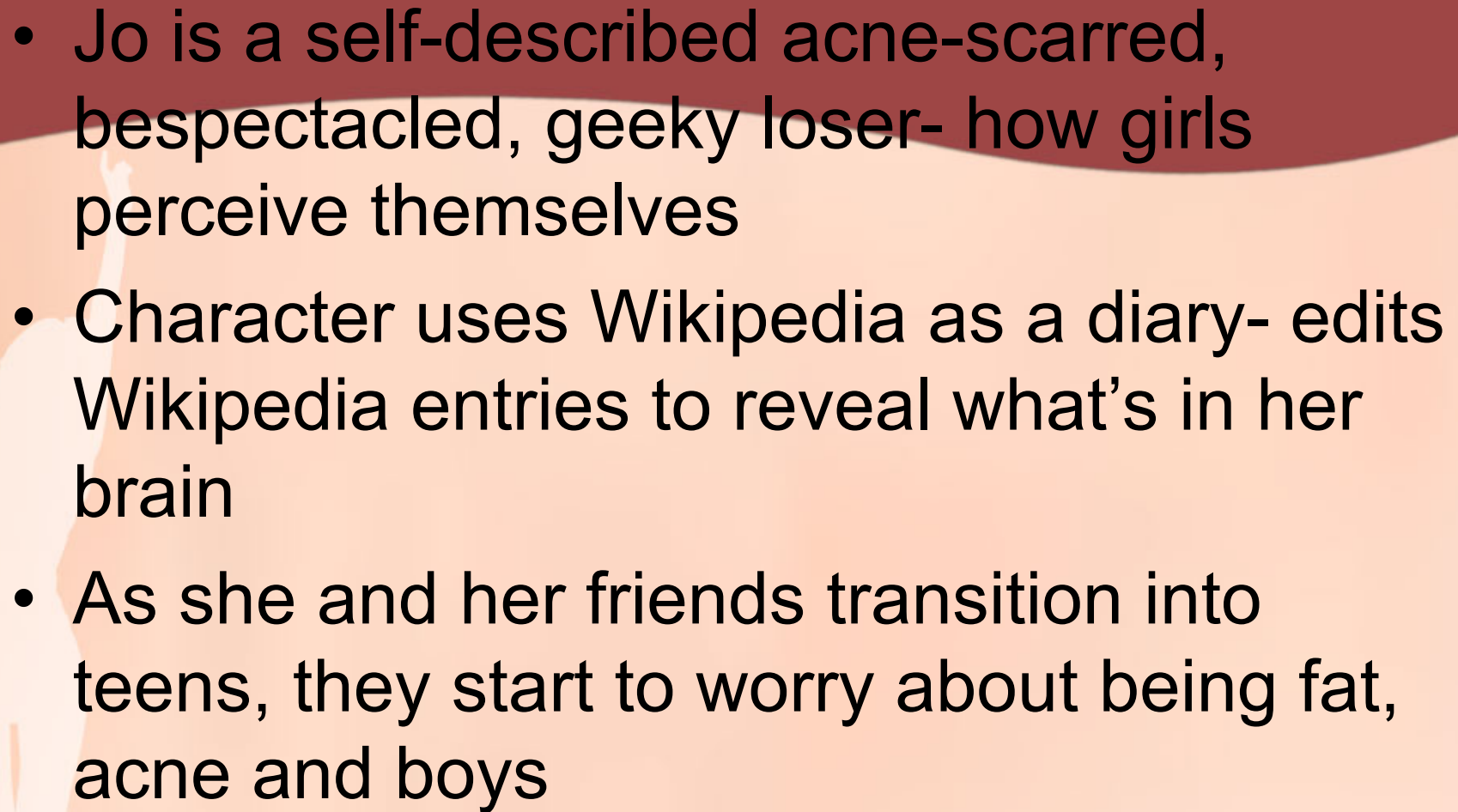
- Reveals internal struggle of uncertainty and self-doubt that plagues tweens regardless of popularity status.
- Authentic look at middle school dynamics and how social media amplifies them
- Encourages discussion of ethics, values and loyalty
- Multi-dimensional characters with real struggles and worries (even the popular girls)
- Looks at the pressure of being part of the in crowd

# Something Wiki by Suzanne Sutherland



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Jo has aspirations of being a writer- is named for Jo March from Little Women
- Sensitively explores the tween search for identity-struggles with how to express individuality without straying too far from the crowd
- Jo's best friend Chloe starts to pull away, spending time with other friends & leaving her out
- Confronts universal issues tweens and teens face
-

- 
- Jo is a self-described acne-scarred, bespectacled, geeky loser- how girls perceive themselves
  - Character uses Wikipedia as a diary- edits Wikipedia entries to reveal what's in her brain
  - As she and her friends transition into teens, they start to worry about being fat, acne and boys

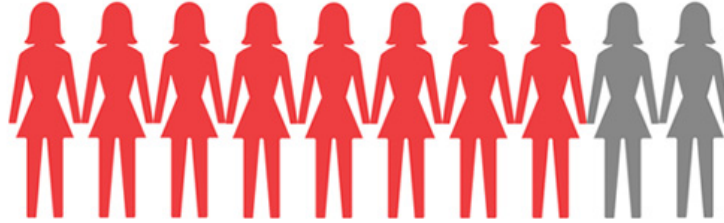


# Body Image/Self Image



# Body Image Statistics

**80%** of women say that the images of women on television and in movies, fashion magazines, and advertising makes them feel insecure.



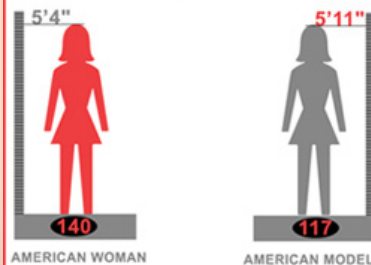
**42%** of girls first through third grades want to be thinner.



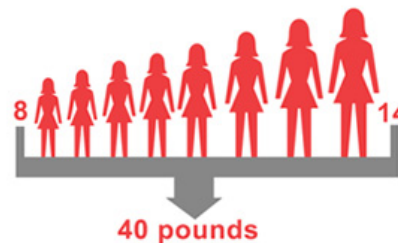
**81%** of 10 year olds are afraid of being fat.



The average American woman is **5'4"** tall and weighs **140** pounds, while the average American model is **5'11"** tall and weighs **117** pounds. Most fashion models are thinner than **98%** of American women.



More than half of teenage girls are, or think they should be, on diets. They want to lose some or all of the **40** pounds that females naturally gain between ages **8** and **14**. About **3%** of these teens go too far, becoming anorexic or bulimic.



# Dear Opl by Shelley Sackier



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Conveys a subtle message about healthy habits without lecturing
- Opl's adventures in cooking and yoga alter her perspective reflecting physical and emotional transformation
- Complex mother diet relationship- mom wants her to diet, promises to buy her skinny jeans
- It's about self-discovery and acceptance- not losing weight or being skinny
- Honest voice & positive role model for girls

# Future Perfect by Jen Larsen

## Dumplin' by Julie Murphy



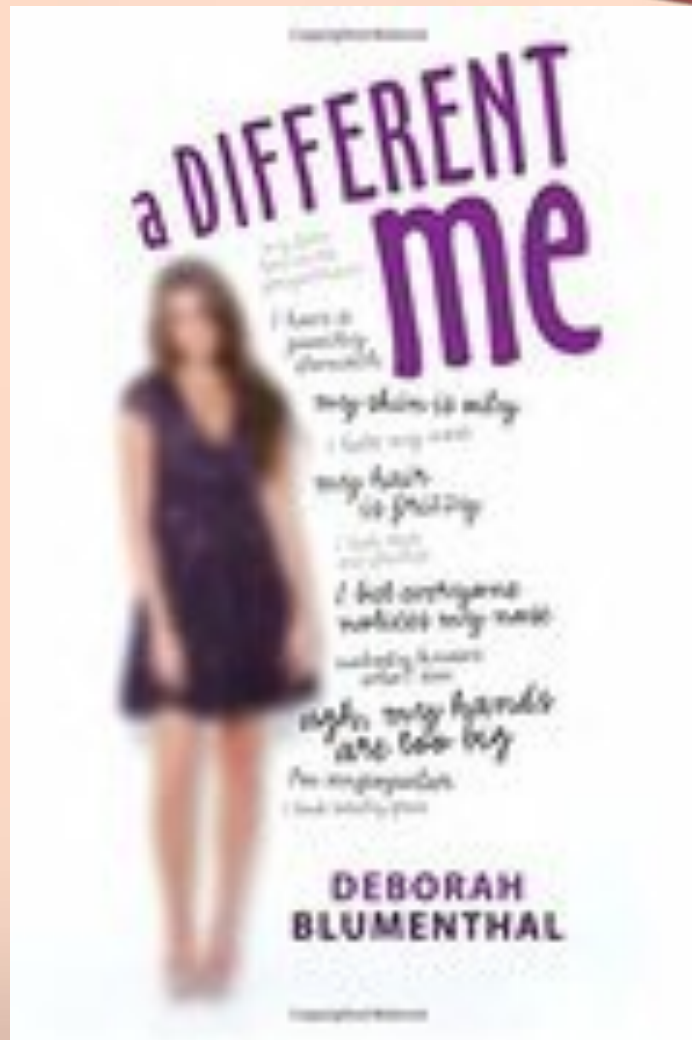
# Why Girls Should Read These Books

- WillowDean is comfortable in her body. She doesn't want to diet or lose weight-
- Maintains an attitude that no body type should be ridiculed.
- Challenges cultural ideas about beauty

- Struggles with self image and doubt
- Changing
- Rare to see a plus size heroine in a novel & in a positive frame work
- Asserts thinness is no requirement for doing and deserving great things

# A Different Me

by Deborah Blumenthal





# Why Girls Should Read This Book

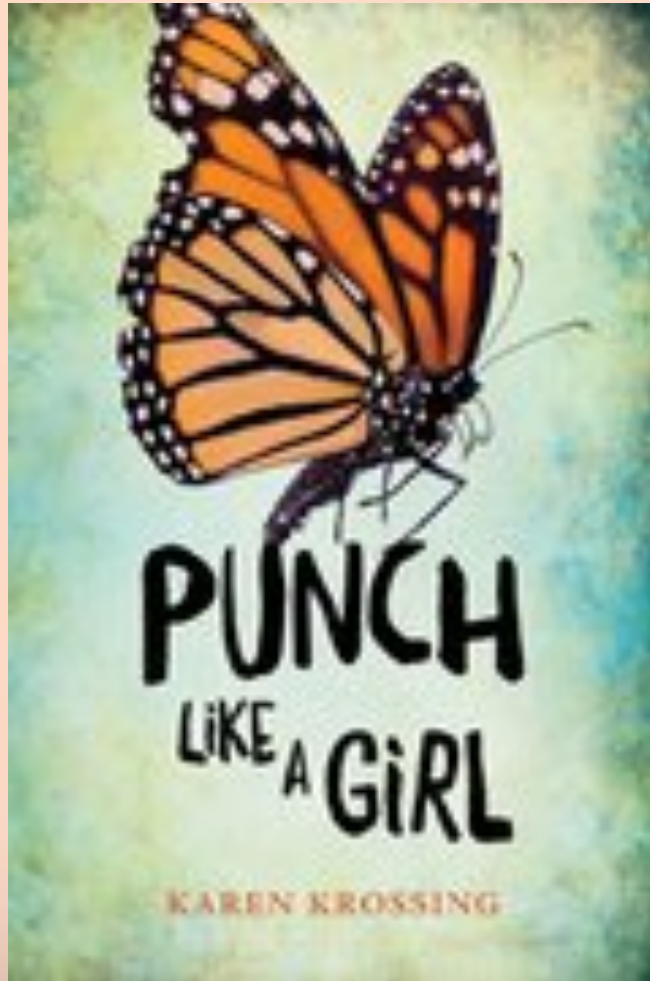
- Captures the voice of an insecure teenage girl who thinks changing something about her body is the key to happiness
- Big ideas- what true beauty and self-confidence are
- Exploration of what plastic surgery actually does to you
- Through the web group. Allie realizes she's not alone- other girls feel the same way about themselves
- Every girl who has ever felt insecure about some part of herself will identify

A white silhouette of a person with their arms raised, positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a gradient from light orange to dark red.

# Sex & Relationships

# Punch Like a Girl

by Karen Krossing

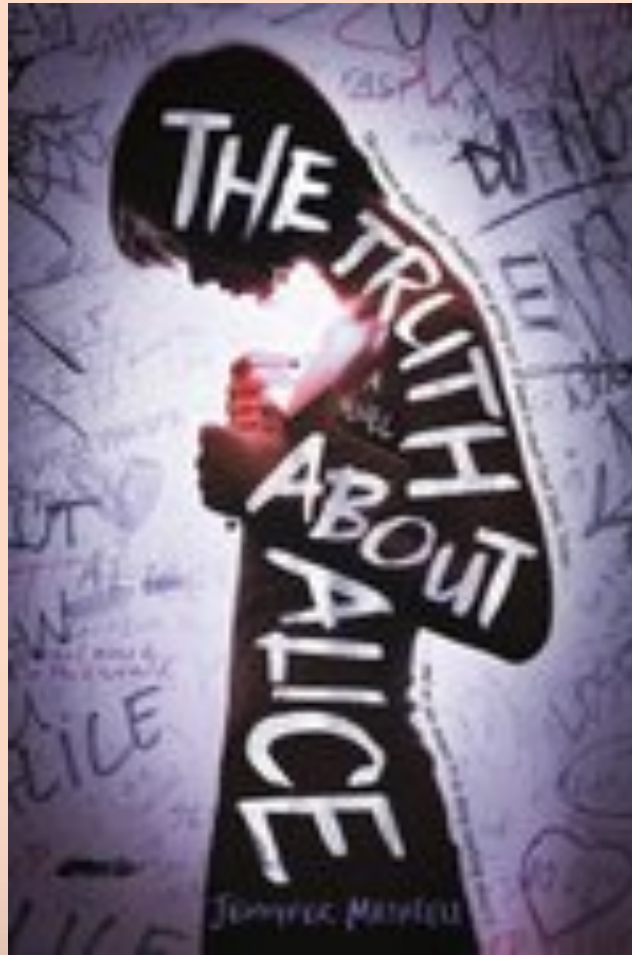


# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Deals with Sexual Assault/Rape/Consent
- Tori has to learn that speaking out is another way of fighting back
- Opens discussion about what makes a person strong
- Emphasizes the need to speak out against violence
- Realistic characters & realistic portrayal of relationships
- Refutes the idea that girls are weaker than boys
- Provocative title- what does it mean?

# The Truth About Alice

by Jennifer Mathieu



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Looks at culture of Slut Shaming- Shows how it's "different" for girls
- Raw look at high school reality
- Demonstrates the negative implications/power of rumours & gossip
- Authentic and realistic portrayal of being a high school girl- unfortunately gets a lot of things "right"
- Key book for opening dialogue around these issues

# Breaking Barriers



# The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency by Jordan Stratford





# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- The girls are smart and witty
- Ada is an inventor & a doer. Mary is adventurous- not content to just sit around and be demure.
- Themes about inequality for boys and girls & unfairness
- Detective Agency Named for Mary's Mother- A feminist writer
- Pro science, math, history and literature and adventure novel about girls- use their education to solve mysteries

# The Green Bicycle

by Haiffaa Al Mansour



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Middle-Eastern Coming of Age
- Highlights the struggle of women & Girls in other countries
- Strong & Spirited heroine who doesn't let barriers stop her
- Book version of movie [Wadjda](#)
- Messages about family, friendship, loyalty, hard work, determination and following your dreams
- Full of optimism and hope for all girls

# Glory O'Brien's History of the Future by A.S. King



# Why Girls Should Read This Book

- Glory is witty, insightful, sensitive and sarcastic-an honest and authentic character
- Uses a futuristic setting to discuss women's rights, chauvinism, mysogony, slut shaming
- Features a strong, powerful girl
- Looks at pressures society puts on teenagers-especially girls
- Feminism is at the core
- Encourages Activism

# Additional Resources:

- <http://www.unwomen.org/en>
- <http://blog.girlscouts.org/2013/12/girls-can.html>
- <http://www.heforshe.org/en>
- <http://tothegirls2016.tumblr.com/>
- <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2011/9/the-21st-century-will-be-the-century-of-girls-and-women>
- <https://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/>
- <http://www.amightygirl.com/>
- <http://always.com/en-us/about-us/our-epic-battle-like-a-girl>