

Different for Boys

AUTHOR

PATRICK NESS

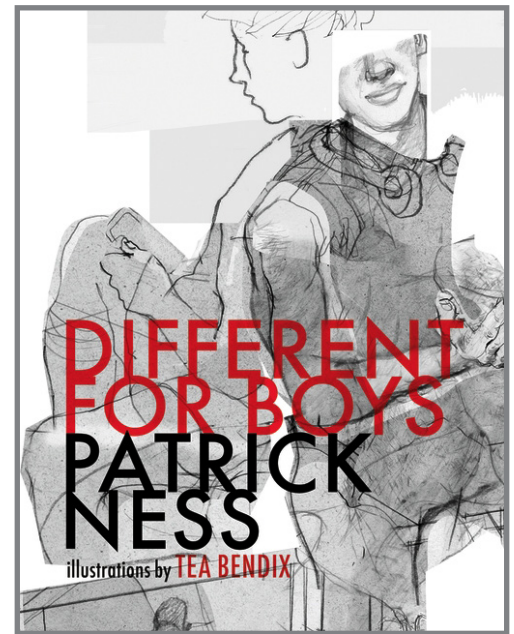
ILLUSTRATOR

TEA BENDIX

SCIS: 5441035

ISBN: 9781529509496

RECOMMENDED FOR: Upper Secondary
(Language, Sexual Content, Violence)



SYNOPSIS

Ant Stevenson has many questions, like when did he stop being a virgin? Are there degrees of virginity? And is it different for boys? Especially for boys who like boys? Ant tries to figure out the answers to his questions as he balances his relationships with three very different boys: Charlie, who is both virulently homophobic and yet close friends with Ant; Jack, whose camp behaviour makes him the target of Charlie's rage; and finally Freddie, who just wants Ant to try out for the rugby team.

From the bestselling author of the Chaos Walking trilogy comes a timely and important story about inclusivity, prejudice and friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patrick Ness is the award-winning and bestselling author of the Chaos Walking trilogy, which inspired a major motion picture. He is also the author of critically acclaimed novels *A Monster Calls*, *More Than This*, *Release*, *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*, *And the Ocean Was Our Sky* and *Burn*. He has won every major prize in children's fiction, including the Carnegie Medal twice. He has also written the screenplay for the film version of *A Monster Calls* and *Class*, the BBC *Doctor Who* drama.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tea Bendix is an award-winning illustrator, graphic designer, author and performer. She works across different media, including picture books, nonfiction, apps, children's radio and drawings for TV. Tea Bendix lives in Denmark.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book and identify the following:
 - The title of the book
 - The author
 - The publisher
 - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and

give them some idea of what the book is about.

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. As a class, discuss the following questions after reading the the opening scene of the novel:
 - Which character/s are we introduced to?
 - What mood is the author setting?

Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

- It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
 - Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?
- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw your own version of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words. Compare your descriptive words of that character with other people in your class. Did you choose the same person? Did you use the same words?
- Consider the world the author has created in this novel:
 - Can you describe it?
 - How is it different to the world you live in?
 - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?
- Is there any language used in this text that makes the novel more appropriate for an older reader? What is the purpose of this language?
- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
 - Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the opening first chapter. Were you surprised by where the story went?
- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have. Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.