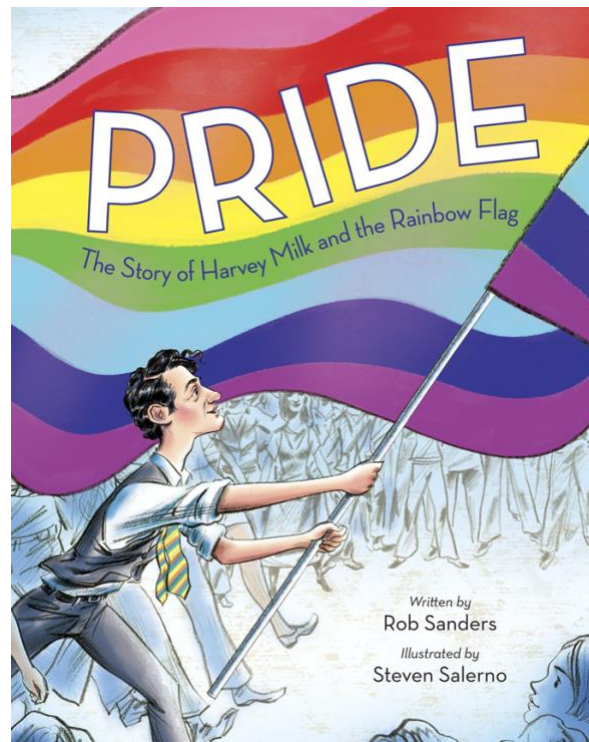


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## **Review of *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* Written by Rob Sanders & Illustrated by Steven Salerno**

**Adult/Educator Reviewer:** Christiani Dwi Putri  
The University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany  
**Child/Student Reviewer:** Avantika Das, Pre-K



Sanders, R., & Salerno, S. (Illustrator). (2018). *Pride: The story of Harvey Milk and the rainbow flag*. New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers.

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### Adult Review: Christiani Dwi Putri

*Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* portrays Harvey Milk's empowering movement and fight for LGBTQ rights as well as the history of the rainbow flag. At the beginning of the story, Harvey is described as an ordinary man with an extraordinary dream that would change the history of human rights of the LGBTQ community. He wanted equality for all people, and so he became a social activist leader and voiced his dreams to the people. However, it was not easy for Harvey to change laws.

He realized that it would be easier to change the unfair laws if he could advise the governing lawmakers. He then decided to run for a member of San Francisco Board of Supervisors. During his campaign, he thought that he needed a symbol for his campaign to carry during the march; something to unite all people. Therefore, he asked his friend who was an artist, Gilbert Baker, to make a flag to represent the movement. Gilbert sewed together eight different colors, creating the iconic rainbow flag. Here comes the rainbow flag!

Pride, hope, and courage are the three things that make this book worthy of discussion for all people. The story inspires us to keep fighting and be courageous to reach our goals. Some people may not align with our dream, but it does not mean that we have to stop pursuing it.

As an adult who has worked on LGBTQ issues for almost six years now, I thought I knew the history of Harvey Milk. In fact, I did not know much about him and, in particular, the origin of the rainbow flag and who created it. After reading this book, I was surprised that it was Gilbert Baker who designed the Rainbow Flag and now we see it everywhere. The story behind the flag is also so much deeper than I thought. From this book, I also learned that the contemporary

rainbow flag has different colors than Baker's original version. *Pride* is an inspiring and perfect way to introduce children to the rainbow world. The most valuable information about this picture book is the heartwarming story of Harvey Milk, someone who brought justice for LGBTQ community, and the history of the rainbow flag. This book is also accompanied by colorful pictures and a very simple storyline, making Harvey Milk's story easy for children to understand. What makes the book even more pleasing is that it provides a timeline of both the rainbow flag and Harvey Milk's movement from the beginning until the end of his life.

I think this book will appeal to a lot of children who are interested in colorful illustrations, especially the ones who like the rainbow flag, like Mimi, a nickname for Avantika Das, who is the daughter of my friend. She does not read yet, so I read the book to her. During our reading session, she mostly focused on pictures and colors of the book.

This book is also great for adults, including teachers and parents who are interested in LGBTQ issues or aim to introduce their children to the history of LGBTQ movement.

However, I noticed something is missing in the story. The book does not explain why the color of the rainbow flag was changed from eight to six colors. Perhaps, educators might to do further research about the change, just in case students ask about it.

### Student Review: Avantika Das (Mimi)

I like the book because it has rainbow colors, colorful and rainbow is my favorite!