

The Art of being Normal

For my visual representation I decided to use a specific quote with a deeper meaning. In the novel, "The Art of Being Normal" by Lisa Williamson, the main characters struggle to fit in to the "social norm". They are trying to navigate through high school as transgender teens. Kate Piper struggles with her identity throughout the book and only feels like herself when she is around Leo Denton. She puts all of her trust into someone she met that year. Leo and Kate's relationship strengthens throughout the novel, Kate chose to stay even when Leo did not want her there. Leo was angry with himself and took it out on Kate, "Go!" he yells, tears building in his eyes. "Leave me alone, David. Please just get lost!" I take a step towards him. "Go Away!" he yells one final time, before turning back to the railing gripping it hard. I follow him, put my hands on his shoulders, and try to turn him to face me. At first he resists, thrashing angrily against me. Undeterred I try again, and this time I feel his exhausted body slowly giving in, going limp in my arms, his head collapsing on my shoulder." (pg. 288)

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The concept that I wanted to prevail is trust. Leo trusted Kate enough to ask for money and a way out of town. Kate trusted Leo enough to open up and tell him that she didn't want to be David anymore and that she wanted to be called Kate. In my visual, I created a flag behind it, to represent the main characters being transgender. For the letters I wanted more gender neutral colours, so I chose purple and orange. The rectangles that touch in the center represent holding hands which brings a person a sense of relief. It makes the person think about Joe they love. The heart represents love and affection. It also shows that you can love someone without loving them fully. The doors that are only opened a crack represents the fact that you never truly can open up fully to anyone and the few people that get you to open up a little are the ones we should cherish.

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My model is a simple representation of ^{now} Kate and Leo's relationship ^{was} being built on trust. Pulling ~~them~~ into words, it ^{shows that} ~~we~~ ^{we} have to open up to form anything real with another being.