

# QUESTION BRIDGE

## QUESTION BRIDGE CURRICULAR TOOLS FOR GRADES 9-12

### MODULE 5 – Loving a Gay Son

*“WOULD YOU HAVE A PROBLEM IF YOUR SON TOLD YOU HE WAS GAY?”*

## STUDENT WORKBOOK

**Question Bridge: Black Males** was conceived by Chris Johnson. The project was *created by* Chris Johnson and Hank Willis Thomas, in collaboration with Bayete Ross-Smith and Kamal Sinclair. The Executive Producers are Delroy Lindo, Jesse Williams and Deborah Willis.

**Question Bridge Curriculum** written by Kamal Sinclair in consultation with Question Bridge Collaborators, Education Consultant Jinan Sumler, and scholarship advisors Dr. Joy Angela DeGruy, Dr. Deborah Willis.

The **Question Bridge Curricular Tools** were updated by Chris Johnson and James E. Ford.

**Question Bridge: Black Males** is a fiscally sponsored project of the Bay Area Video Coalition and supported in part by a grant from the Open Society Institute: Campaign for Black Male Achievement, the Tribeca Film Institute, the LEF Foundation, the Center for Cultural Innovation, and the California College of the Arts.

**Note:** If you encounter a broken link in our suggested readings you may still be able to find those resources by searching for the relevant titles with your internet browser.

## MODULE 5: A GAY SON

ART PROJECT QUESTION: “WOULD YOU HAVE A PROBLEM IF YOUR SON TOLD YOU HE WAS GAY?”

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*“How do we create a concept manhood and masculinity that includes all black men?”*

### LEARNING GOALS

- Students will reflect on ideas of manhood and sexuality by responding to critical questions.
- Students will investigate the variations in black masculinity by searching for visual examples and evaluating how they conform for societal norms.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Respond to question prompts based on Module content
- Engage in discussion regarding homosexuality and the black community
- Use sensory images to critique black masculinity

### ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1** (Observe) – Share Module # Video: Would You Love A Gay Son

**Activity 2** (Reflect/Discuss) – Engage in dialogue about the video

What does it mean to be a “real man” or be “masculine”?

How might life be more challenging or difficult for gay Black men in society?

Discussion questions:

*Please Note:* space is for personal notes. The “Deep Dive” questions are **optional**.

1. Of all the respondents, which one do you feel you most agreed with? Explain why?

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2. Why does sexuality seem to be such a difficult topic to discuss for Black men?

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3. What does it mean to be a “real man” or be “masculine”?

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4. How might life be more challenging or difficult for gay Black men in society?

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### Activity 3

#### Internet Scavenger Hunt/Jigsaw

Separate into groups of three.

Each person will be assigned a hashtag to investigate (#BlackBoyJoy, #CarefreeBlackBoy, and #BlackMenSmiling).

Go onto a search engine and see what sort of images appear.

Make careful note of your observations. Ask yourself a series of questions:

- How are they dressed?
- What activities are they engaged in?
- Do they fit the stereotypical image of black men?
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- Do they fit your understanding of masculinity?
- Is there one particular picture that stands out?

After doing your search and answering these questions, return back to your group and report out what you saw?

Share what you wrote in your notes.

As a whole group, respond to the question prompt, “How would you define Black Masculinity?”

*DEEP DIVE DIALOGUE*

A. If you heard people in your social circle engage in ‘homophobia’ (e.g. use anti-gay language, slurs, etc.) how would you respond?

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B. If you had friends or relatives that identify as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning) would you treat them any differently?

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*DEEP DIVE DIALOGUE*

C. The respondents in the video all had differing answers to the question. While they all seemed to support the idea of loving their son no matter what, there did seem to be some difficulty accepting the thought of a gay son. Why do you think some expressed disappointment?

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D. Regardless of personal beliefs, what can you do to make sure LGBTQ black men are acknowledged, respected and treated as full members of society?

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Extra Activity

Moonlight Scene | Boy Asks About Homosexuality and Drugs (explicit language)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMVTRkRsNTM>

1. What would you guess the little boy is so upset about at the beginning of the scene?
2. How does the older man describe the meaning of the gay slur used?
3. How do they adults respond when the boy asks, 'How will I know?' whether or not he's gay?
4. What stood out to you most about this scene?

## Talking Points

Toxic Masculinity is a concept that bases the ideas of manhood and machoism on negative traits (e.g. dominating women, and not being homosexual, etc.). As a group, make a list of characteristics that you would associate with being a “man”. These can be duties, responsibilities, style of dress, ways of talking, etc. After creating an exhaustive list, begin to engage in a discussion about whether these particular ideas of manhood are “toxic” or “healthy”. Draw a t-chart and begin to organize them accordingly.

## MODULE 5 RESEARCH RESOURCE LIST

### FILMS

- *Moonlight* Is a Stunning Deconstruction of Black Masculinity
- <https://www.spin.com/featured/barry-jenkins-moonlight-review/>
- Moonlight Scene | Boy Asks About Homosexuality and Drugs (explicit language)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMVTRkRsNTM>

### MUSIC

- Hip Hop is More Queer-Friendly Than Ever, But We Have a Long Way to Go
- <https://www.highsnobiety.com/p/hip-hop-queer-rappers/>

### ARTICLES

- What We Mean When We Say “Toxic Masculinity”
- <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/what-we-mean-when-we-say-toxic-masculinity>
- Carefree Black Boys: The Reconstruction of Black Masculinity
- <https://medium.com/black-feminist-thought-2016/carefree-black-boys-the-reconstruction-of-black-masculinity-d4cf3c4851b6>
- How Black Boy Joy Is Redefining the Image of Black Men In America
- <https://www.vix.com/en/pop-culture/527454/how-black-boy-joy-redefining-image-black-men-america>
- How Jaden Smith and the #CarefreeBlackBoy Movement Are Redefining Black Masculinity
- [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/05/jaden-smith-redefining-black-masculinity-n\\_7514846.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/05/jaden-smith-redefining-black-masculinity-n_7514846.html)
- Terry Crews Speaks on Toxic Masculinity

- <https://twitter.com/ajplus/status/1011746623725043715?lang=en>
- Jay-Z New York Times Interview
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbuQAbG2AZ0&t=24s>

## MODULE 5 GLOSSARY

**Homophobia** (noun): [uncountable] a strong dislike and fear of homosexual people.

**Familiarity** (noun): thorough knowledge or mastery of a thing, subject, etc.; friendly relationship; close acquaintance; intimacy; an absence of ceremony and formality; informality; freedom of behavior justified only by the closest relationship; undue intimacy.

**Perception** (noun): the act or faculty of apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind; cognition; understanding; immediate or intuitive recognition or appreciation, as of moral, psychological, or aesthetic qualities; insight; intuition; discernment: an artist of rare perception; *Psychology*. a single unified awareness derived from sensory processes while a stimulus is present.

**Representation** (noun): the expression or designation by some term, character, symbol, or the like; action or speech on behalf of a person, group, business house, state, or the like by an agent, deputy, or representative.

[www.QuestionBridge.com](http://www.QuestionBridge.com)

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