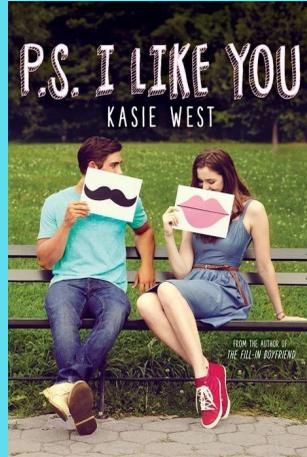


### *P.S. I Like You*

Kasie West

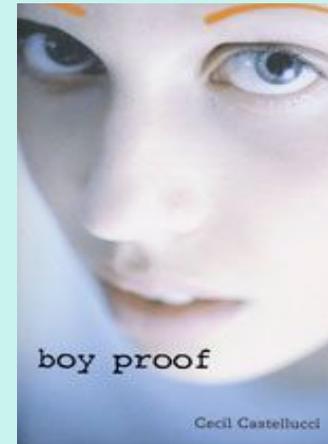
Everyone seems to be in a relationship except Lily. When she begins to correspond with a mystery pen pal, she discovers that she is really attracted to the writer. She is disappointed to find that he is Gabe, the guy who has been a thorn in her side for years.



### *Boy Proof*

Cecil Castellucci

In her last year of high school, Victoria has no interest in boys or romance. She is focused on her cosplay fan-girldom. She comes to learn that life is sweeter when her true self engages with her parents, her friends and the new boy in school.



### Sample Questions to Guide Discussion:

How are adolescent relationships portrayed in these texts? Discuss the way adolescents involved in relationships are characterized through the things they do and say, and what others say about them.

How are romantic relationships valued by the protagonists, their peers, their parents and their communities?

### Learning Goal:

- Reflect in a critical manner on adolescent romantic relationships
- Become aware of the challenges involved in first dating relationships

### *Hard Love*

Ellen Wittlinger

John is “immune to emotion” and is not looking for a relationship. When he meets and befriends a fellow zine\* enthusiast named Marisol he mistakes intimacy for love and develops deep feelings for her.

\*A small-circulation, self-published work



### *Everything, Everything*

Nicola Yoon

Sheltered Maddy meets her funny and sweet next-door neighbour Olly from her bedroom window and is immediately attracted to him. They develop a close relationship despite Maddy's medical condition and come to learn more about themselves.



### Sample Activities to Complement Discussion:

Initiate an inquiry to explore the issues surrounding a question stemming from the text(s). Create an inquiry question and research the way adolescent romantic relationships are portrayed in popular young adult texts. Share the findings through a spoken or written presentation.

Reflect on the characteristics of relationships in the texts. Share this reflection with other groups, and identify the conventions of young adult romance novels in a class list or anchor chart.

**Suggested Keywords:** first love, romantic relationships, self-identity, self-actualization, self-esteem, sexual identity, LGBTQ.