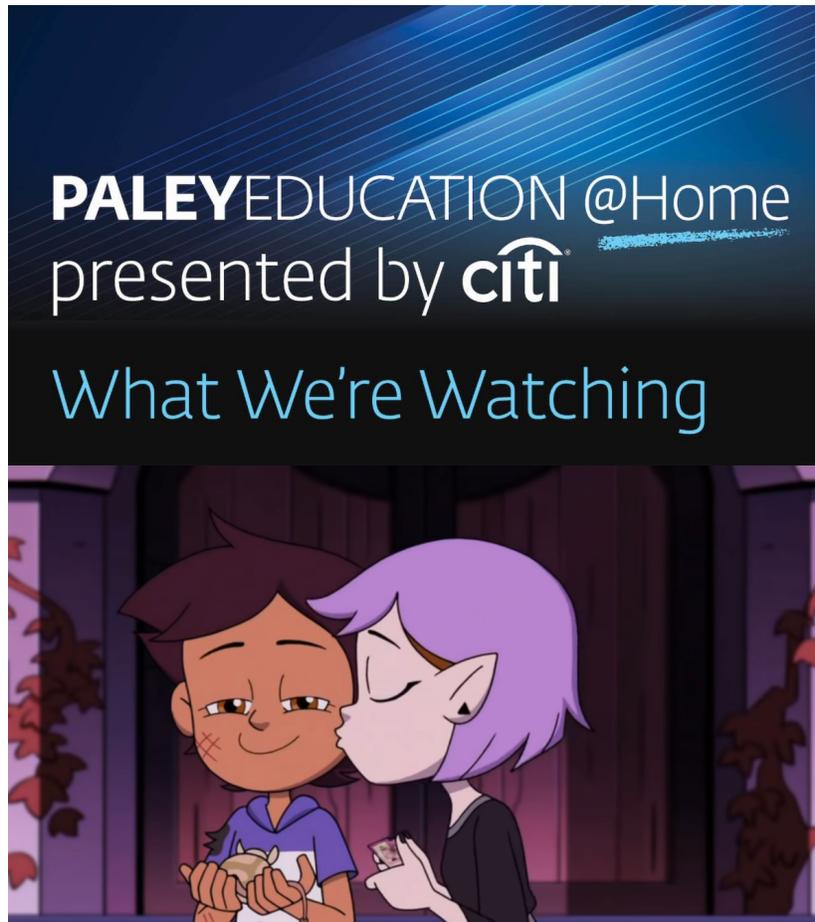


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**THE PALEY** CENTER FOR MEDIA



## **Greetings from The Paley Center for Media's Education Department!**

Welcome to the latest installment of "What We're Watching." Twice a month the education department reaches out to the community with tips and ideas for consuming media with kids by highlighting different themes that connect to two selected programs, one for younger viewers and one for older viewers, each with related activities and resources.

Watching media alongside your kids is a perfect jumping-off point to making media literacy a part of your everyday lives. Familiarizing yourself with the basics is a great first step. You can [view our first newsletter about media literacy best practices archived here](#). We also recommend the [National](#)

[Association for Media Literacy Education's Parents Guide](#)—it's a terrific introduction!

## What We're Watching: Pride

A universal truth about human development is that we all need to be seen, heard, and valued. For LGBTQ+ youth, finding acceptance at school and home can sometimes be a tough hill to climb. Being inclusive mentors means actively working to create safe, welcoming, and empowering spaces for all people through our words and actions. It's important for adults to let young people know that we see them and accept them for whoever they are or may turn out to be. Our recommendations for Pride month focus on two coming-of-age love stories which do an incredible job navigating complex romantic relationships we hope to see more of across children and teen television programming.

## This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

### **The Owl House: "Through the Looking Glass Ruins" S2 E5 (2021)**

*Recommended for Grades 3+*

*Available on Disney+*

*The Owl House* follows Luz, a self-assured teenage girl who accidentally stumbles upon a portal to a magical world where she befriends a rebellious witch, Eda, and an adorably tiny warrior, King. The show has been praised for featuring several characters who are LGBTQ+, particularly the characters Luz Noceda and Amity Blight. The two girls represent Disney's first LGBTQ+ characters to be unambiguously portrayed as such. The beginning of the show's second season builds out the relationship between Amity and Luz, with Luz reciprocating Amity's feelings at the end of "Escaping Expulsion" and both blushing at each other. Although "Through the Looking Glass Ruins" focuses heavily on Gus's development as a character, the episode also deserves significant attention for taking Luz and Amity's growing relationship into serious romance territory. *The Owl House* was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Kids and Family Programming in 2021 and won a Peabody Award for "giving queer kids a welcome template ... to explore their own budding creative energies."

### **Viewing Questions**

- Why is Gus upset at the beginning of the episode? How does he feel about his magic?
- What do Luz and Gus see on the way to the library and how does Gus react?
- What are Bria, Gavin, and Angmar going to look for?
- When they invite Gus to join them, how does Luz help encourage him?
- How does Amity help Luz find Philip Whittebane's diary at the library? What is the risk for Amity? When they find it, what has happened to it?
- What does Amity say to her sister about Luz when she gets home?

- What does Gus do to protect the Galdorstones and save the day at Looking Glass Ruin?
- What does Luz do to get Amity back her job at the library?
- How does Amity express her thanks and how does Luz respond to the kiss?

## Extension Activity

[Play The Owl House: Witch's Apprentice](#)

## Additional Resources

### Read

*Lumberjanes Vol 1* by Grace Ellis, ND Stevenson, and Shannon Watters

*Season of the Witch* by Matt Ralphs

*Secret Spell* by Linda Chapman

*Witchlings* by Claribel A. Ortega

*Witches of Brooklyn* by Sophie Escabasse

### Watch

*Kiki's Delivery Service* (Max)

*Kipo and the Age of Wonderbeasts* (Netflix)

*She-Ra and the Princesses of Power* (Netflix)

*Steven Universe* (HBO Max)



## This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

### Heartstopper: "Meet" S1 E1 (2022)

*Recommended for Grades 8+*

*Available on Netflix*

This British coming-of-age romance is based on the graphic novel by Alice Oseman. It tells the story of Charlie Spring and Nick Nelson who fall in love after sitting next to each other in class. The show highlights the small things

that teenagers tend to go through when they first have a crush or start falling in love, like looking for a person in an entire room of people, small exchanges of “hi,” and finding ways to spend more time together, even though it means playing rugby. Although some parts can be a bit extra, there are plenty of moments in *Heartstopper* that will make you swoon as the actors brilliantly display the awkwardness of first love. We recommend watching the whole season which runs for about four hours but are focusing our questions on the first episode in case you only have thirty minutes. Season two drops on August 3.

### Viewing Questions

- How do we know Charlie and Nick like each other instantly from the first time they meet?
- What do makers of the show do to let us know the story has comic book roots, and what do those animated moments convey to the viewer?
- What is revealed about Charlie's secret relationship with Ben in the first episode? How does Ben treat Charlie?
- What do we learn has happened to Charlie in the past? Who is his support network of friends and allies?
- What does Charlie decide to do when he finds out Ben has a girlfriend?
- How does Nick help him out when Ben won't take no for an answer?
- How does the episode end?

## Additional Resources

### Read

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

*Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman

*I'll Give you the Sun* by Jandy Nelson

### Watch

*Booksmart* (2019)

*But I'm a Cheerleader* (1999)

*Love, Simon* (2018)

*Love, Victor* (2020)

*Young Royals* (2021)

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to us at [eduny@paleycenter.org](mailto:eduny@paleycenter.org).

Happy viewing,

**Rebekah Fisk**  
**Director of Education**

**Carlos Pareja**  
**Manager of Education**

Photos—*The Owl House*: Disney+; *Heartstopper*: Netflix

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