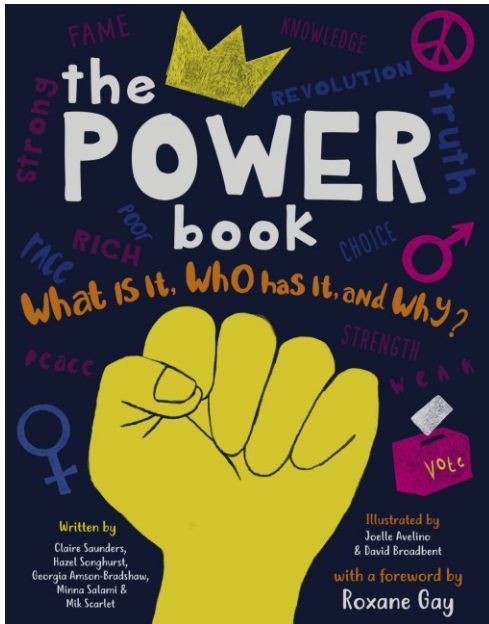


# THE POWER BOOK: WHAT IS IT, WHO HAS IT, AND WHY?



## Book Summary:

Teaches young children about social, cultural, and political power structures and how to use power to enact change.

## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains alternate gender ideologies; alternate sexualities; controversial social and historical commentary; and references to racism, sexism, and bullying.

*Juvenile*

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**Teen Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

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17	What do you think would happen if we got rid of government and the state? Do you think it would be a good thing or a bad thing?
24	In ancient Greece, all male citizens (but not women) were allowed to vote.
25	The right to vote is called suffrage. Today, most countries around the world allow all adult citizens to vote. But that hasn't always been the case. In the past, countries have stopped people from voting because of their race, gender, religion, or how much education they had. Even today, some countries don't allow certain people to vote. These people include: Prisoners Those with a disability Those in the police and army. Do you agree with these rules? ...Different countries have different rules about what age a person can start voting. For most countries it's somewhere between 16 and 21 years. At what age do you think young people should be allowed to vote?
26	'Civil disobedience'. This is when a group of citizens peacefully refuses to obey the laws or demands of a government, to try to persuade the government to change the way it does things.
29	We trust the media to tell us the truth. Do you think we can always believe everything we read and hear?
30	Rebels don't just accept things the way they are. They question what they see around them, and ask if its right or fair. They don't follow the rules, or care about what other people might think of them. They are brave enough to go against the flow, and to fight for what they believe in. Rebels can change things. ...When enough people rebel, it can bring down governments or monarchies.
31	ARE YOU A REBEL? TAKE THE TEST. Would you do something you thought was right, even if you knew it would make you unpopular with your friends? Yes/ No Do you look at the world around you and see things that you would like to change? Yes/ No Do you sometimes question what you are told to do, if you think it's not right or fair? Yes/ No Do you stand up for other people who are treated unfairly? Yes/ No If you answered 'Yes' to three or more questions, you have the makings of a rebel. ...One of the most famous rebels of all time, Che Guevara was born in 1928 in Argentina, where he studied to be a doctor. ...Many rebels and rebellions have used violence to overthrow power and make change. Do you think this can be justified?
33	It would be good to think that all people all over the world had the same amount of power. This would mean that they would have equal access to the same empowering things in life, such as going to school, or having a home and enough food to eat. Sadly, though, this isn't the case. Some people have more than other people. More money, more opportunity, more advantages—and this can give them more power than others. There are many reasons for this, and this chapter looks at some of them, including

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	<p>issues such as inequality and discrimination. You'll discover what can affect your power, what your own privileges are, and be inspired to challenge injustice and EMPOWER yourself and others.</p>
35	<p>Between the 16th and 19th centuries, over 11 million Africans were kidnapped from their countries and sent on ships across the Atlantic Ocean to be sold into slavery in the Americas. The people who carried out this horrible slave trade justified their actions by their religious views, which said that the black race was not as good as the white race.</p>
36	<p>The most common type of racism is when white people believe they are superior to people who have darker skin than them.</p> <p>...During the hundreds of years that the slave trade lasted, millions of black people were enslaved and bought, sold or killed by white people. More recently, from the 1940s to the 1990s in South Africa, the white ruling class had a system called apartheid, in which black and white people were separated. The white people had the best housing, education and jobs, and black people had a limited right to vote in elections.</p> <p>...Under the apartheid system in South Africa, which lasted from 1948 to the early 1990's, white people had their own beaches, transport, cinemas, restaurants and even hospitals that black people were not allowed to use.</p> <p>...Indian South Africans also suffered from racism during apartheid. They had to stay in designated living areas and were not allowed to move freely. Many Indian South Africans played an important part in protesting and changing the injustice of apartheid. Racism still affects people all over the world today. People are still discriminated against because of their skin colour or because they have different cultural or ethnic backgrounds.</p>
37	<p>People have always fought to end racism. For example, when an innocent seventeen-year-old black teenager named Trayvon Martin was killed by a police officer in Sanford, USA in 2012 because of his race, his murder led to a huge anti-racism movement called #BlackLivesMatter, which eventually became a worldwide movement.</p>
38	<p>Did you know that for many people, their gender affects their power? Across the world, many women are treated differently from men because they are women. For example, they earn less than men, even when they do the same job.</p>
39	<p>Today, things have changed for many people, but there are still millions of women and girls across the globe who don't have the same rights as men and boys and this limits their power to make choices. Some women can't choose who they want to marry and some girls aren't allowed to go to school.</p> <p>...Malala was born in Pakistan in 1997 and went to school with other girls. However, when a group called the Taliban took over the area she lived in, girls were forbidden to go to school. When Malala spoke up against this, she was sought out and shot by the Taliban—but she survived.</p>
40	<p>People can love each other in many ways. Romantic relationships can be between a woman and a man. Or, two people of the same gender—a woman and a woman, or a man and a man—can love each other.</p> <p>A relationship between a woman and a man is known as heterosexual. A relationship between two people of the same gender is known as homosexual. A woman who is attracted to another woman is lesbian. A man who is attracted to another man is gay. Some people are attracted to both men and women—this is known as bisexuality. Negative feelings towards gay people, such as hatred, fear or prejudice, are known as</p>

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	<p>homophobia. This can include the views that heterosexual relationships are 'better' than homosexual ones, or that gay people are 'unnatural' or not normal. In many countries, gay people are not allowed to get married or have children, and are discriminated against at work and in society. In some countries, being homosexual is illegal, and gay people can be attacked violently or killed simply because of who they love.</p>
41	<p>The LGBTQ movement fights for the rights of gay people and other people who don't fit into traditional gender roles. This includes people who feel they are a different gender to the one they were born in. Through activism and education, the movement aims to change people's attitudes and gain equal rights for everyone, everywhere. Its symbol is the rainbow flag.</p> <p>...1952, Turing was arrested and found guilty of the crime of being homosexual, which was against the law in Britain at the time.</p> <p>...Two years later, he killed himself.</p> <p>...Many fairytales feature a princess and a prince, who fall in love and live happily ever after. These stories are almost always about heterosexual love. But in real life, fairytale endings can be between people of the same gender, too. Imagine if Snow White and Cinderella fell in love, for example. Do you think that would be a magical ending?</p>
46	<p>Social norms are useful because they make people behave, but they can also discriminate against anyone who is seen as 'abnormal'. For example, think about the social norm in most Western countries that only girls wear skirts. Some boys may want to wear skirts too, but in many places they would be teased for this. In other cultures, however, it is the social norm that boys can wear skirts. In Scotland, for example, boys sometimes wear kilts, and in Bali in Indonesia, both boys and girls can wear a kamben, a skirt-like piece of fabric wrapped around he waist.</p>
57	<p>LETTERS Writing a letter can be a powerful way to let people in charge know how you fell about an issue. For example, you might be unhappy about the way that many girls' toys are coloured pink and boys' toys are blue. If enough people write to the people who make the toys, explaining why they think this is wrong, the manufacturers might change the way they do things.</p>
59	<p>The village where she lived was very poor. Not all children went to school and some girls were forced to get married while they were still young.</p>