

# VIOLET AND JUNE

DIR: Linnea Ritland, 2017.

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## Synopsis:

Rescued from the depths of an existential crisis by a butt joke, Violet falls in love with her best friend June. Violet tries to confess, but it's never the right time: June's boyfriend is there, June stands her up, Violet's away for a month animating bug fights—but her feelings keep coming back. And back. And back.

## Run Time:

6:26

## Suggested Grades:

7+

## The Takeaway/ Learning Objectives:

- A sweet and light-hearted film great for starting the unit/ opening topics of attraction, relationships and consent.
- Queer stories often centre on the idea of coming out, and how awful your life will be once you do. "Violet and June" is refreshing because it steers clear of that narrative, as well as common tropes we are used to seeing about queer people. It offers an opportunity to be reflective of stereotypes.
- It also has a happy ending, which is rarely the case with queer characters in the media!

## Content Flags:

A kiss with no consent that goes unaddressed in the film.

## Key Words:

lesbian, queer, attraction, bisexual, femme

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## Pre-viewing Questions:

- Who here has had a crush?
  - You don't have to say who!
- What does it feel like to have a crush?
  - Silly, excited, stressful, shy, anxious etc.
- What does it feel like when you are unsure if they like you back or not?
  - Worried about rejection/ worried they will find out!

## Post-Viewing Questions:

- Who are love stories most often between?
  - Boys and girls, a man or woman
- How was this love story different than most of the ones we see?
  - It's queer/ gay / it's two girls.
- When we think of queer people in movies and books, how are they most often portrayed? Are there "tropes"?
  - Gay best friend, a tragic character, a coming out story, a punchline.
- Does this story use any tropes? Explain.
  - Justin is a trope of a mean boyfriend, for example.
- Do the genders of the characters in this film affect the story? Explain.
  - They DON'T! The story is about someone who has a crush, and that crush is already dating someone else. It could be 3 girls, or 3 boys, or 2 girls 1 boy, or 2 boys 1 girl, or they could all be *non-binary*... you get the idea.

## Common Questions:

- What happened to the boyfriend?
  - He fell into the void! Just kidding. They broke up.
- Why did Violet kiss June without permission?
  - That's a big problem actually! You should ALWAYS ask permission before touching another person- even if all you want is a high five!