

Sparking Connections and Possibilities

Opening Keynote with Alex Gino



Learn from Alex how they got into writing as a child in the crossroads of finding a home in reading while also not seeing themselves in the books available at the time. Alex will also discuss some of the issues facing children and young adults today and the support that they both need and deserve and share both the writing process and product of their middle-grade books on LGBTIAP+ kids and the reflects the racially, economically, physiologically, and otherwise diverse world we inhabit.

About Alex:

Alex Gino loves glitter, ice cream, gardening, awe-ful puns, and stories that reflect the complexity of being alive. Their debut middle-grade novel, *George*, about a fourth-grade transgender girl named Melissa won Stonewall, Lambda, and Children's Choice Debut Awards, and has been translated into fourteen languages. They are also the author of *Julian*

You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!
And
Rick
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Born and raised on Staten Island, NY, Alex is still prouder to have graduated from Stuyvesant High School than the University of Pennsylvania. They have lived in Oakland, CA since 2008, except for when they embarked on an unforgettable eighteen-month road trip through forty-four states before engine troubles led to some unexpected stays, tow truck-related hijinks, and the purchase of a clunker pickup truck in Western Kentucky to get home. Alex has been an activist and advocate for LGBTQIA+ communities since 1997 as an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania. They are proud to have served on the board of NOLOSE, a queer, feminist organization dedicated to supporting radical fat acceptance and culture. They are a part of We Need Diverse Books and a member of PEN America.

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