

## Stigmatization Theory

In the education system, many LGBTQIAP+ youth are socially stigmatized because of their sexual orientation. This is due to the societal stigma of heterosexism. Joe was outcasted and bullied due to the fact that he was different from most of the other students in the school. However,

Joe was able to overcome the challenges and find a group of friends in the theater club at school.

Additionally, with the help of his parents, Joe was able to go to meetings at a LGBTQIAP+ center and attend camps for theater with other LGBTQIAP+ youth. This allowed Joe to grow friendships and a support system bigger than his family.

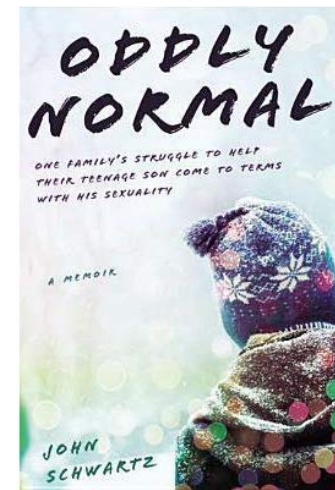
## Citation



“I can be gayer, if you want”

~Joseph Schwartz

Schwartz, J. (2013). *Oddly normal: one familys struggle to help their teenage son come to terms with his sexuality*. New York: Gotham Books.



Oddly Normal

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## Summary

John and Jeanne Schwartz have three children; a girl and two boys. Their youngest, Joseph (Joe), showed signs of being different at an early age. As time progressed, the couple with advice from a team of his uncles, discovered that Joe was gay. John and Jeanne were extremely supportive of Joe and fought continuously for his equal treatment at school. Throughout Joe's journey of discovering himself and coming out, his parents were always there by his side.



## Cultural Humility:

### Respectful Partnerships

After Joe's suicide attempt, his therapist built an extremely strong relationship with him. The relationship showed a strong balance of respect for Joe's needs while also giving him space in order to grow. Additionally, the relationship that is shared between John, Jeanne, and the middle and high school administrations is one of great respect. The school is working towards helping Joe in any way to be successful. In conclusion, the relationships and acceptance among authority figures that Joe builds are influential to how he is able to thrive as a young adult.

## Cultural Humility:

### Institutional Accountability

Throughout the memoir, John describes the struggles he and Jeanne had with the school district. In the elementary school, Joe faced many complications when interacting with teachers. Specifically, Joe's fourth grade teacher (Mr. Fourth) gave him an extremely difficult time in terms of singling Joe out and disciplining him publicly. After many discussions with the administration, the problem was still not resolved. The school should have held Mr. Fourth accountable for his actions and protected Joe, but that was not the case; instead the administration turned a blind eye to the situation. However, in middle school, the Schwartz's and the administration were able to work together to help Joe. They drafted him an IEP (Individualized Education Program) to help guide the teachers on the best ways to help Joe affectively learn. In addition, Joe was protected as much as possible from the bullying as a result of coming out.