

Camp Lavender Hill sensitively portrays the children of gay and lesbian parents. It opens with scenes indistinguishable from any other camp: the music of Allan Sherman's classic "Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah" and kids riding on a bus, singing rounds and camp songs. For the first time, these kids, who share the same secret, can talk openly about their home lives without fear of shame or reprisal. Many have complicated birth tales to tell, e.g., of birth mothers, biological fathers, donors, partners, kind-of-sisters, really good friends, and sort-of uncles. They tell of the humiliation they suffer at school but are resolute about their situations; their maturity is striking. When the name-calling is discussed, faggot and queer are often reported. Many of these young people are suspected of being gay or lesbian by their peers. Fortunately, they also report positive support from teachers, counselors, and principals. What this video is more universally addressing is the contemporary need to redefine the word family. The video was produced with the support of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), The Alternative Family Project, and the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers' Network. Camp Lavender Hill meticulously provides a unique educational tool for classroom or discussion group. Highly recommended for all collections.

By Gerald A. Notaro, Univ. of South Florida Lib., St. Petersburg