

# Why Don't You Accept Us?

*Wing and Jay have a special relationship that they must keep secret. Read the story and find out: Why can't they tell anyone?*

Let me tell you about Wing. He's the funniest person I know—he can always make me laugh, even when I feel blue. He works hard at his job, and all his co-workers think he's great. He's interested in movies and tennis and politics, just like me. He's the perfect partner—only I can't tell anyone.

Wing and I are a couple—a homosexual, or gay, couple. We've been together for almost six years. That's a lot longer than some marriages last. We try to spend as much time together as we can, but because we are gay, there is always a problem.

When we go to parties, I can't introduce Wing as my partner. I have to say, "This is a friend of mine." We never go to the same restaurant more than once or twice together because people

might notice us. We can't live together, as other couples do. No one wants to live near a homosexual couple.

I can't even tell my family about Wing. My parents don't know that I'm gay. They think there is something wrong with homosexuals, that we're not "normal." So my mother is always asking me, "When are you going to find a nice girl and get married?" I wish I could tell her that I've already found the right person for me. But my parents would never speak to me again. They would worry so much about what their friends would think of their homosexual son.

I know in some countries, like the United States, this is not such a big problem. But it is here.

I wonder why society isn't more understanding. Why can't people accept us? It's not fair. There is nothing wrong with Wing or with me. We are just like everyone else. We don't have a disease that other people might catch. We are normal, ordinary people who would like to be treated with respect.

Wing and I don't want any special treatment. We don't want to change the world. We just want to be together without hiding all the time. What's wrong with that?

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Should people like Wing and Jay be able to live openly as a homosexual couple? Check your opinion.

Sure. Gay people have the same right as everyone else to find a partner and be happy.



I don't know. I just don't think society is ready to accept gays.



I say no. It makes me really uncomfortable to be around people who are homosexuals.



I say yes. If more gay couples lived openly, it would be easier for society to accept them.



Absolutely not. Homosexuality is wrong.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

**TURN TO PAGE 89 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.**

**LOOKING AT THE ISSUE**

- What are some reasons for society to accept gay couples?

*Homosexuals deserve to have partners and be happy.*

- What are some reasons for society not to accept gay couples?

*Many people think homosexuality is wrong.*