

Asexuality in Sex Education

Age suggestion: 16+

Watch **Netflix's Sex Education Season 2 Episode 4** paying particular attention to Florence and her story arc.

SPOILERS

The episode explores Florence's sexuality. Florence is shown to be anxious about the fact that she does not feel sexually drawn to other people. After receiving some pressure to have sex from friends, Florence is upset and seeks advice from Otis and then Dr Jean Milburn. Dr Jean Milburn suggests that Florence is asexual.



Prompt questions:

1. What is asexuality?
2. What is aromantic?
3. What events make Florence feel like she is 'broken'?
4. Why was Otis' advice to Florence 'a bit crap'?
5. How does Jean validate Florence's experience?

Activity 1:

From the conversation that Florence had with Otis and her friends, can you identify five things not to say to someone who is asexual? You could look up videos of asexual (Ace) YouTubers for further advice!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Why not try turning all of your points so far into a quickfire asexuality explainer video for Tiktok?

Activity 2:

Write a script depicting an additional scene at the end of the episode where Florence discusses her sexuality with her friends.

Think about:

- What could her friends say to make Florence feel supported?
- How could her friends acknowledge the pressure everyone feels to have sex?

For some further information, check out advice from [Stonewall](#).

Activity 3

Watch this film, '[Ace and Anxious](#)' 2017, written and directed by Bri Castellini.

Consider:

- What are the key messages from this film?
- What different relationships with sex does this film convey?

Essay questions

'Sex positivity is about accepting the full spectrum of sexuality. Even though sex is healthy and 'normal', it's not a necessary part of a healthy and normal life.' Discuss how this relates to asexuality.

'Mainstream films and television shows are not representative of asexual people of colour.' Discuss.

Examine ways in which *Sex Education* illustrates that sexuality is fluid.

Asexual people are sometimes told 'It's just a phase.' and 'You just need to meet the right person.' Discuss why society pushes allosexual normativity.

Definitions

Asexuality is when someone does not feel sexually drawn to other people. They may still feel arousal and masturbate. Someone may be asexual but still feel romantically drawn to other people and want relationships.

Aromantic is when someone does not feel romantically drawn to other people. They may still want sexual intimacy with other people.

Sex positivity is about recognising and affirming the sexual aspect of each person's identity with all its nuances, wants, questions and needs – shame- and stigma-free.

Allosexual is people who regularly experience sexual attraction and desire towards others.

Further reading

1. [AZE](#) - Journal publishing asexual, aromantic, and agender writers and artists
2. [The Asexual Community is Predominately White. Why? - Michael Paramo](#)
3. [What is sex positivity?](#) - Blog by Sexplain's Sophie Whitehead
4. [Asexual People of Color On Their Experiences](#)
5. [LGBTQ+ People of Color More Likely to Live In Poverty Than Whites](#)

Sources of support

1. [The Trevor Project](#) - Provide crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people under 25.
2. [Galop](#) - Information about Asexuality from Galop
3. [The Mix](#) - Provide advice and support for young people under 25. This links to information about Asexuality from The Mix
4. [Stonewall | Acceptance without exception](#) - Stonewall campaigns for the equality of LGBTQ people across the UK.