



# just like us

EMPOWERING LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE

Being yourself - Anne Lister's code  
@JustLikeUsUK



## Aims for this activity:



understand who Anne Lister was and why she was unusual in Victorian Britain



understand why she had to write in code

## What do I need for this activity?

- A computer for the presentation
- To make the code:
- A sheet of card
- Compass to draw circles
- Scissors
- Two paper fasteners
- Protractor to mark off degrees
- Pencil



# Anne Lister



# Anne Lister



Anne was born in 1791 in Halifax.

Anne was a lesbian. This meant she had relationships with women.

She often dressed in neutral or male clothes. She was teased by people in the local town and they called her 'Gentleman Jack'.



**Helena  
Whitbread,  
historian and  
editor of Anne's  
diaries, tells us  
about how she  
found the  
diaries.**

**Anne lived from  
(1791 – 1840) at  
Shibden Hall, in  
Halifax.**

A portrait of Anne Lister, a woman with dark, curly hair, looking slightly to the right. The portrait is overlaid with text.

The story of  
**Anne Lister**  
and Shibden Hall



# Vocabulary help

<b>archives</b>	A collection of historical documents
<b>archivist</b>	Someone who looks after a collection of historical documents
<b>intellectually</b>	With your mind and mental powers
<b>emotive</b>	Something which makes people feel emotion
<b>voluminous</b>	Very long and detailed
<b>astounding</b>	Impressive and surprising
<b>mores</b>	The rules of a society or community
<b>explicit</b>	Stated clearly and in detail
<b>interpret</b>	To make sense of or explain the meaning of

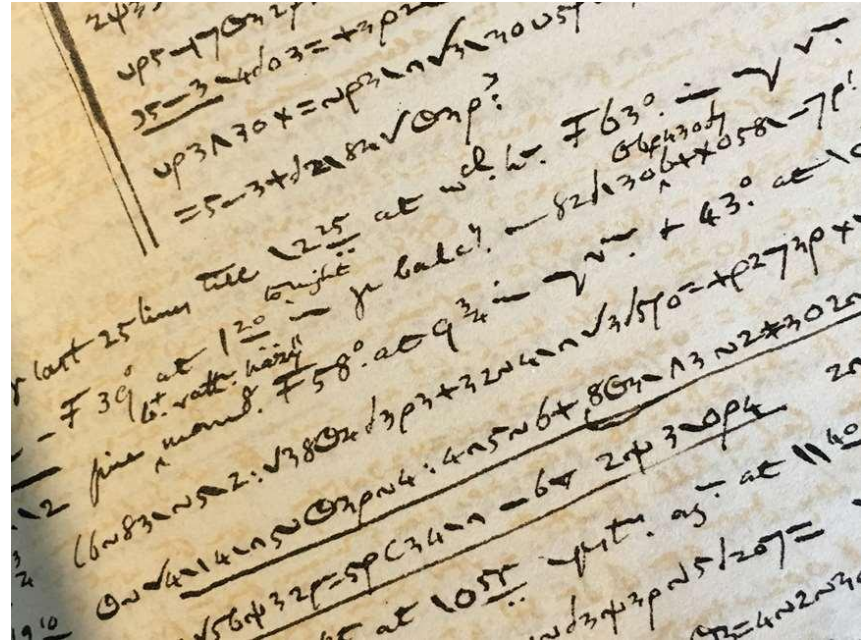


# code breaking



# The code

She created the code from algebra (maths) symbols and Greek letters.





why have the  
code?



## Why have the code?

- why do you think Anne Lister felt she needed to write in a code?
- how do you think hiding her identity and her relationships made Anne feel?
- if Anne Lister were alive in Britain today, would she still need to write her private diaries in code?



# These are our answers - what were yours?

- why do you think Anne Lister felt she needed to write in a code? In the time Anne Lister was alive, society was generally homophobic and it wasn't considered acceptable for a woman to be in a relationship with another woman. Although Anne was true to herself in many ways, she probably felt pressure to hide the full and most private details of her life in code.
- how do you think hiding her identity and her relationships made Anne feel? We can't say for sure, but generally doing something others consider unacceptable often makes people unhappy and anxious, even when they're very confident and clever like Anne.
- if Anne Lister were alive in Britain today, would she still need to write her private diaries in code? No, she wouldn't! Although we still have a long way to go, many more people are completely accepting of same-sex relationships. In the UK, Anne would also be able to marry someone of her own sex.



# Can you crack the code?

ଓ■■୩   ♦ଓ♦   ଓ   ●୩♦୦୫ଓ■

♦ଞ୍ଜ୩   ♦ଓ♦   ♦୩ଓ♦୩ଓ   ୦୩   ■୩■■●୩   ୫■   ♦ଞ୍ଜ୩   ●■୩ଓ●  
♦■♦■   ଓ■ଓ   ♦ଞ୍ଜ୩୩   ୩ଓ●●୩ଓ   ଞ୍ଜ୩■   ‘୩୩■♦●୩୦ଓ■  
୧ଓ୩&’



# Can you crack the code?

☐☐ℳ ♦☐♦ ☐ ●ℳ♦⌘☐

♦⌘ℳ ♦☐♦ ♦ℳ☐♦ℳ⌘ ⌘☐ ☐ℳ☐☐●ℳ ⌘☐ ♦⌘ℳ ●☐⌘☐●  
 ♦☐♦☐ ☐☐⌘ ♦⌘ℳ☐ ⌘☐●●ℳ⌘ ⌘ℳ☐ ‘⌘ℳ☐♦●ℳ○☐  
 er☐⌘&’

a	☐	f	↗	k	&	p	☐	u	♦	z	⌘
b	⌘	g	⌘	l	●	q	☐	v	♦♦		
c	⌘	h	⌘	m	○	r	☐	w	♦		
d	⌘	i	⌘	n	☐	s	♦	x	☐		
e	ℳ	j	er	o	☐	t	♦	y	☐		



# code making



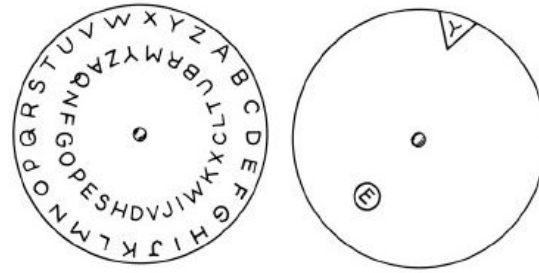
# Making a code wheel

**Aim:** you and someone else in your household will need to each make an identical wheel so that you can both understand each other's messages!

## You will need:

- A sheet of card
- Compass to draw circles
- Scissors
- Two paper fasteners
- Protractor to mark off degrees
- Pencil

## What you will make:



# Instructions

1. Use the compass to draw two circles. One circle with a diameter of 10cm inches and one with a diameter of 15cm.
2. Cut out circles and fasten them together at their centers with paper fasteners.
3. Mark off 26 sections around the outside of both the circles. Use a protractor, each section will be approximately 14 degrees.
4. Write the alphabet in the spaces on the inner circle.
5. Write your code symbols on the spaces on the outer circle. Make sure your wheel is identical to your partners or it won't work!
6. Set one letter and symbol to be the 'home space' so you might want to agree that the letter A is always shown by a symbol of a house and line them up on your wheel.
7. Sit on the other side of the room from your partner.
8. Write a message using ordinary letters.
9. Encrypt it using your code wheel!
10. Send your message to your partner and wait for your reply!





write a  
message to  
Anne Lister

