

## A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan book discussions, library programs, or classroom activities.

Meet Texas-born Ohio author e.E. Charlton-Trujillo and learn about her third novel.

Select from a range of discussion questions and extension activities to deepen the experience of reading *Fat Angie*.

Discover read-alikes, informational texts, and websites to explore topics and themes in depth.

# Fat Angie

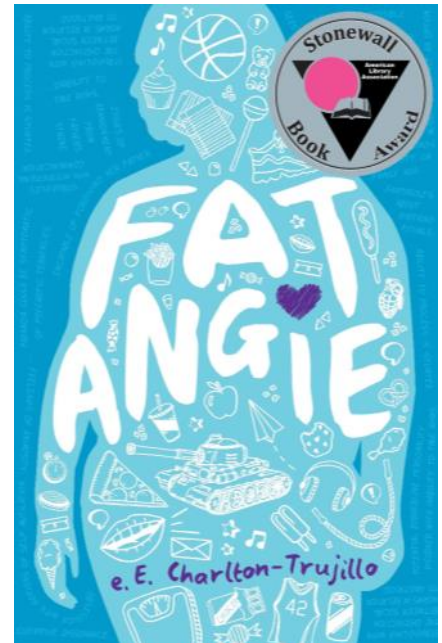
By e.E. Charlton-Trujillo



### About the Book

Angie is broken — by her can't-be-bothered mother, by her high-school tormenters, and by being the only one who thinks her varsity-athlete-turned-war-hero sister is still alive. Hiding under a mountain of junk food hasn't kept the pain (or the shouts of "crazy mad cow!") away. Having failed to kill herself — in front of a gym full of kids — she's back at high school just trying to make it through each day.

That is, until the arrival of KC Romance, the kind of girl who doesn't exist in Dryfalls, Ohio. A girl who is one hundred and ninety-nine percent wow! A girl who never sees her as Fat Angie, and who knows too well that the package doesn't always match what's inside. With an offbeat sensibility, mean girls to rival a horror classic, and characters both outrageous and touching, this darkly comic, anti-romantic romance will appeal to anyone who likes entertaining and meaningful fiction.



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### Book Details

**Fat Angie** by e.E. Charlton-Trujillo.  
Candlewick Press, 2013. ISBN 9780763661199. Ages 14+. 272 pages.  
Leveled Reading: AR Points 8.0. ATOS Book Level 4.7. 660L Lexile.  
[candlewick.com/cat.asp?browse=Title&mode=book&isbn=0763661198](http://candlewick.com/cat.asp?browse=Title&mode=book&isbn=0763661198)

Available as an ebook through the Ohio Digital Library:  
[ohdbks.lib.overdrive.com](http://ohdbks.lib.overdrive.com)

Available as a downloadable talking book and as a Braille book through the State Library of Ohio Talking Book Program:  
[klas.com/talkingbooks/ohio](http://klas.com/talkingbooks/ohio)

Enjoy the movie-style official book trailer: [youtu.be/Higs0D3H3Ks](http://youtu.be/Higs0D3H3Ks)

**Book Awards** include the 2014 Stonewall Book Award, 2014 Rainbow Book List, EBSCO Core Collection List 2013, and Lambda Literacy Award Finalist 2014.



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toolkit for details.  
Biographical information  
courtesy e.E. Charlton-Trujillo.

## About the Author

Award-winning Mexican American filmmaker and author e.E. Charlton-Trujillo grew up in Mathis, Texas, population 5,359 - a town where she and her friends drove in circles around the Pizza Hut after Friday night football games because there was little else to do. Adopted into a volatile and racist white family, Charlton-Trujillo turned to storytelling and the arts early as a means of combating the hate she faced daily.

She is the author of three previously published novels: *Prizefighter en Mi Casa*, winner of a Delacorte Yearling Award, *Feels Like Home*, and *Fat Angie*, winner of the ALA Stonewall Award. About the genesis of *Fat Angie*, Charlton-Trujillo says, "The first chapter of *Fat Angie* began on a restaurant napkin while listening to Lenny Kravitz's 'Are You Gonna Go My Way' on my iPod. Something in the pulse of the music ignited the distinct voice of this kid and her unbelievably odd and amazing world. Needless to say, I'm glad I kept that napkin."

In the summer of 2013, Charlton-Trujillo set out from Cincinnati across America on an unorthodox, self-funded *Fat Angie* book tour. Her mission: to ignite youth on the fringe to tell their story. She did this at no cost to the schools and programs she visited. From that experience emerged the documentary, *At-Risk Summer* (see "Go Further" on next page). The film explores impactful stories from youth, educators, librarians and award-winning authors.

Today, Charlton-Trujillo is penning three novels, a picture book and a *Fat Angie* sequel. She also works with her co-founded non-profit, Never Counted Out, which empowers youth via the arts. It is her belief that young people have a story that matters. They simply need to know that they have the right to tell it. Her second feature documentary, *A Culture of Silence*, will be available in April 2017.

**"Angie.  
Her name  
fit her  
when KC  
said it. It  
was the  
perfect  
size."**

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## Author Resources

e.E. Charlton-Trujillo's official website

[bigdreamswrite.com](http://bigdreamswrite.com)

e.E. Charlton-Trujillo's blog

[charltontrujillo.blogspot.com](http://charltontrujillo.blogspot.com)

Patrick Jones interviews e.E. Charlton-Trujillo

[connectingya.com/2015/06/08/rawing-with-e-e-charlton-trujillo](http://connectingya.com/2015/06/08/rawing-with-e-e-charlton-trujillo)

American Library Association 2014 Stonewall Award acceptance speech (video)

[youtu.be/3vPR7EXy3xc](http://youtu.be/3vPR7EXy3xc)

e.E. on Goodreads

[goodreads.com/author/show/354572.E\\_E\\_Charlton\\_Trujillo](http://goodreads.com/author/show/354572.E_E_Charlton_Trujillo)

Never Counted Out: A Creative Revolution to Empower At-Risk Youth (created by Charlton-Trujillo)

[nevercountedout.com](http://nevercountedout.com)

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

[bigdreamswrite.com/educators-room/school-visit](http://bigdreamswrite.com/educators-room/school-visit)

## Talk About It

Topics to share when discussing **Fat Angie** with teens.

**Spoiler warning! Some discussion questions refer to key elements in the book. Do not read if you do not want to find out what happens.**

- Discuss some of the themes in the book, possibly weight issues, family, friendship, sexuality, romance, self-destructiveness, or acceptance. What do you think is the overriding theme? Why?
- Angie seems to think in reverse and is easily sidetracked, losing her train of thought. How does this function as a liability at some times, and an asset, or way of coping, at others?
- Angie, at one point, has a meltdown in school. Does this change or reinforce the way her schoolmates feel about and act toward her? How?
- What role does Coach Laden play in Angie's school life? Why do you think Charlton-Trujillo includes her as a character?
- Stacy Ann seems to be Angie's worst tormentor, yet Angie seems to be no threat to her. So why does Stacy Ann use the emotion and energy to cause Angie misery?
- Angie's neighbor and "friend" Jake seems to be her only ally at school and the neighborhood before KC arrives. How and why does that role change?
- What part does KC play in Angie's life? Is she "too good to be true"? What are KC's issues? What part does Angie play in KC's life?
- What's Angie's motivation for joining the basketball team? Does it fulfill her needs?
- The end of the book includes a scene where much of the community joins Angie on her daily run. What emotions does that scene evoke in you, the reader? Why do you think you respond in this way?

## Go Further

Ideas for extending the experience of reading **Fat Angie**.

**Educators:** Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards, such as Social Studies: World Geography and Contemporary World Issues (HS) may also apply. Discussion questions and educational activities for **Fat Angie** align with Learning Standards for High School.

**Librarians, parents, and others:** These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov). From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Ohio's Learning Standards."

- Angie's sister is missing in action on her military tour of duty in Iraq. Using online resources available to students through INFOhio ([infohio.org](http://infohio.org)) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library ([ohioweblibrary.org](http://ohioweblibrary.org)), research Iraq's terrain, government, religion, and terrorist factions, and the history of U. S. involvement in the region. Why would someone like Angie's sister want to participate in this war?
- Cutting is the way KC tries to deal with her father's non-acceptance of her lesbianism. Research the causes of cutting, why it seems to be prevalent among young people, and where youth can find help. Does the act of cutting solve KC's issues?
- Charlton-Trujillo created the documentary film **At-Risk Summer** ([bigdreamswrite.com/at-risk-summer/watch-at-risk-summer](http://bigdreamswrite.com/at-risk-summer/watch-at-risk-summer)), about her experience of meeting and working with young people across the country. Contact [events4rocktheword@gmail.com](mailto:events4rocktheword@gmail.com) to book a screening of **At-Risk Summer** for your classroom, library, or book club. Follow up your screening with a student-led discussion or writing response. Viewers might consider the many ways that people their age might be at-risk, and reflect on how writing can be empowering.

## Check It Out

Companion books for *Fat Angie*.

***Feels Like Home*** by e.E. Charlton-Trujillo. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2007.

***Still Life with Tornado*** by A. S. King. Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016.

***You Know Me Well*** by Nina LaCour and David Levithan. St. Martin's Press, 2016.

***Skinny*** by Donna D. Cooner. Scholastic, 2012.

***Sugar: A Novel*** by Deirdre Riordan Hall. Skyscape, 2015.

***236 Pounds of Class Vice President: A Memoir of Teenage Insecurity, Obesity, and Virginity*** by Jason Mulgrew. Harper Perennial, 2013.

***We Are the Ants*** by Shaun David Hutchinson. Simon Pulse, 2016.

***The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014.

***Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community*** by Robin Stevenson. Orca Book Publishers, 2016.

***Grieving for the Sibling You Lost: A Teen's Guide to Coping With Grief & Finding Meaning After Loss*** by Erica Goldblatt Hyatt. Instant Help Books, 2015.

## Explore More

Additional ideas and resources to use with *Fat Angie*.

### Kaleidoscope Youth Center

[kycoho.org](http://kycoho.org)

Located in Columbus, Kaleidoscope is the only organization in Ohio solely dedicated to supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and their allies.

### The Dougy Center: The National Center for Grieving Children and Families

[dougy.org](http://dougy.org)

A trailblazing institution in awareness and care for grieving youth, the Dougy Center offers an array of free, supportive resources at [dougy.org/grief-resources](http://dougy.org/grief-resources).

### Childhood Overweight and Obesity (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

[cdc.gov/obesity/childhood](http://cdc.gov/obesity/childhood)

Get the facts about weight issues in childhood and adolescence from this division of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

### Teen Obesity Statistics, Causes, & Effects (Teen Help)

[teenhelp.com/nutrition-fitness/teen-obesity](http://teenhelp.com/nutrition-fitness/teen-obesity)

Explore factual information and resources from a comprehensive site that covers several teen health issues.

### TeensHealth: Dealing with Bullying

[kidshealth.org/en/teens/bullies.html](http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/bullies.html)

A basic overview of bullying, with survival tips, steps to stop bullying in schools, and advice for how to change patterns of bullying behavior.

### Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

[www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil)

This U.S. Department of Defense website accounts for missing U.S. service personnel to their families and the nation.

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits:

[library.ohio.gov/ctro](http://library.ohio.gov/ctro).

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