**“The Islands Where Boys Grow up to be Girls”**

Reading Questions

What does it mean to be fa’afafine in Samoa? How does one “become” fa’afafine?

What roles do the fa’afafine take in Samoan society? How, then, does society maintain strict, and often traditional, gender roles?

How is the presence of fa’afafine in Samoan culture reconciled with their homosexuality taboo? (that means, how do the make these two seemingly contradictory things work?)

What, according to Samoan culture, is a gender designation based on? Explain. How is this different from Western society’s gender designation system?

How did the arrival of Christian missionaries in the 19th century change the behaviour of Samoans? What does this tell you about the influence of one culture on another when it comes to things like socialization?

How is the patriarchy still maintained in Samoan culture?

What does 50/50 mean? How is this different from many transgendered individuals in the West’s understanding of their gender roles and traits?