

Anti-Racism & Social Justice Resources

(updated August 2020)

Racism—a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice—is sin, a violation of God’s intention for humanity. The resulting racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers deny the truth that all people are God’s creatures and, therefore, persons of dignity. Racism fractures and fragments both church and society. (Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture, ELCA 1993 Social Statement.)

[ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge](#)

Messiah Lutheran Church is offering a list of resources as catalysts to help us move forward in our journeys to understand the effects of racism and to work toward social justice. This is by no means an exhaustive or completely vetted list. We are offering these in good faith. Most have been recommended by librarians and other trusted sources including Messiah’s Racial Justice Team leader, Tracy Frank. If you have any feedback about any of them, or additional suggestions, please email our Ministry Support Coordinator Elizabeth Crummy at familyministry@messiahchurch.com.

When possible, we have provided links to lead to further information that often point to national chains. This is not an endorsement of where you should shop, but an intention to provide links that are likely to stay current. You might want to consider the impact that would come from shopping at Black owned store such as:

[Loving Me Books](#)

[Kizzy’s Books & More](#)

[Black Classic Press](#)

[Key Bookstore](#)

[Brain Lair Bookshop](#)

[IndieBound](#)

[Bookshop](#)

[Mahogany Books](#): Bookstore based in Washington, D.C.

[Ashay By The Bay](#): San Francisco Bay Area kids bookstore

[Harriett's Bookshop](#): Philadelphia-based store named after Harriett Tubman

[Semicolon Bookstore](#): Chicago's only Black woman-owned independent bookstore

[Sister's Uptown Bookstore](#): Family owned and operated bookstore and community space in Manhattan

[Sankofa](#): Washington, D.C.-based bookstore that celebrates Pan-African culture and offers book clubs and children's events

[Hakim's Bookstore](#): Philadelphia's [Article on origins of Hakim's Bookstore](#) specializing in Black history

Even though many stores are sold out of books on fighting racism, there are other options for accessing titles such as through services like Audible, Apple, Amazon, Google Play, Nook and Libby which provide digital or audio copies for those who prefer or require a different learning medium.

Getting Started: Become Informed, Take Action

These links below are a great starting point if you are starting your journey or would like a few places to look to help sort through the many resources.

[Madison Public Library Racial Equity Resources](#)

Book lists for children, teens, and adults. The lists for children focus on multiculturalism & overcoming bias, those for adults focus on racial equity.

[Several Anti-racist Books Are Selling Out. Here's What Else Black Booksellers and Publishers Say You Should Read](#)

[Stop Asking People Of Color To Explain Racism—Pick Up One Of These Books Instead](#)

[List of books to understand our world and how we got here](#)

[The Anti-Racist Starter Pack: 40 TV Series, Documentaries, Movies, TED Talks, and Books to Add to Your List](#)

[Anti-racism resources for white people](#)

[What to read, listen to and watch to learn about institutional racism](#)

PBS This list of things for you to read, listen to and watch might illuminate your understanding. This list is just a starting point.

[100 ways you can take action against racism right now](#)

USA Today Actions steps to take in the wake of the death of George Floyd.

[Justice in June](#)

Choose 10, 25, 40 minutes to commit to each day to become more informed as *step one* to becoming an active ally to the black community. On this document are links to learning resources and a schedule of what to do each day.

[Scaffolded Anti-Racist Resources](#)

Articles/Essays

Featured in Messiah Weekly News	
7/2	Which is the correct term? Black vs. BIPOC vs. African American vs. POC vs. BAME
7/9	Responding to Inequalities: African Americans disproportionately imprisoned in Wisconsin
7/16	Dear White People: If You have ever said any of these things then you are part of the problem
7/23	11 Easy Mistakes to Make When Thinking About Racial Inequality in the U.S.
7/30	For Our White Friends Desiring to Be Allies
8/6	<p>The Race Gap</p> <p>This article is one that could be read in its entirety, or you can choose a category that you feel strongly about and learn more. Even watching the graphics without reading the text is an enlightening experience.</p>
	<p>Letter from a Birmingham Jail: is an open letter written on April 16, 1963, by Martin Luther King Jr. defending the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. It says that people have a moral responsibility to break unjust laws and to take direct action rather than waiting potentially forever for justice to come through the courts. King writes, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.</p>
	<p>Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Angela Y. Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine.</p>
8/20	<p>In Defense of Looting This article explores the idea that an original definition of blackness in America may well have been "those who could be property" and therefore, the idea of "slaves freeing themselves could be seen as American history's first image of black looters."</p> <p>The modern police evolved from fugitive slave patrols who worked to return human property to owners. In many ways, looters get to the "heart of the problem of the police, property, and white supremacy."</p>
8/13	<p>In 2014, Ta-Nehisi Coates' article for the <i>Atlantic</i>, The Case for Reparations gained widespread attention and in 2019, he testified in a U.S. House of Representatives hearing on the topic.</p>
	Dear White Women: We don't Need Your Empathy

	Save the Tears: White Woman's Guide
	Please Call Me on My #WhiteGirlShit
	Racial Equity Mobilizer
	Notes of a Native Son : Since its original publication in 1955, this first nonfiction collection of essays by James Baldwin remains an American classic. His impassioned essays on life in Harlem, the protest novel, movies, and African Americans abroad are as powerful today as when they were first written.
	White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack
	The Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture

Podcasts/You Tube Videos

<p>White Lies NPR</p>	<p>In 1965, Rev. James Reeb was murdered in Selma, Alabama. Three men were tried and acquitted, but no one was ever held to account. Fifty years later, two journalists from Alabama return to the city where it happened, expose the lies that kept the murder from being solved and uncover a story about guilt and memory that says as much about America today as it does about the past.</p>
<p>1619</p>	<p>An audio series on how slavery has transformed America, connecting past and present through the oldest form of storytelling.</p>
<p>Uncivil</p>	<p>Listen to the stories that were left out of the official history of the Civil War. These forgotten struggles are connected to the political battlefield we're living on right now.</p>
<p>Pod for the Cause</p>	<p>This podcast was created for those wanting to effect change, who understand the importance of restoring our democracy and want to engage in deep conversation around the issues.</p>
<p>Fare of the Free Child Podcast</p>	<p>This podcast focuses on Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color (BIPOC) families who practice unschooling and other forms of self-directed, decolonized living and learning.</p>
<p>Parenting Forward Podcast</p>	<p>Features interviews with authors and leaders from progressive faith spaces to provide practical strategies for parents, grandparents, and those who want to commit to treating children with justice.</p>
<p>Seeing White</p>	<p>Where did the notion of "whiteness" come from, what does it mean, what is it for? Take a deep dive into these questions, along with an array of leading scholars.</p>
<p>Pod Save the People</p>	<p>Organizer and activist DeRay Mckesson explores news, culture, social justice, and politics with analysis from fellow activists Brittany Packnett and Sam Sinyangwe and writer Dr. Clint Smith III.</p>
<p>About Race</p>	<p>From the author behind the bestselling Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race, comes a podcast that takes the conversation a step further.</p>
<p>Intersectionality Matters</p>	<p>A podcast hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw, an American civil rights advocate and a leading scholar of critical race theory.</p>

<u>Justice in America</u>	Each episode explains a new criminal justice issue and features conversations with experts and advocates.
<u>Code Switch</u>	Hosted by journalists of color, this podcast tackles the subject of race head-on, exploring how it impacts every part of society — from politics and pop culture to history, sports and everything in between.
<u>George Floyd, Minneapolis Protests, Ahmaud Arbery & Amy Cooper The Daily Social Distancing Show</u>	Trevor Noah shares his thoughts on the killing of George Floyd, the protests in Minneapolis, the dominos of racial injustice and police brutality, and how the contract between society and black Americans has been broken time and time again.
<u>Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast</u>	Co-hosts Chevon and Hiba give their unique takes on race and pop culture, and uplift narratives of hope, struggle, and joy, as we continue to build the <i>momentum</i> needed to advance racial justice in our policies, institutions, and culture. Build on your racial justice lens and get inspired to drive action by learning from organizational leaders and community activists.

Movies, Shows and Documentaries

[29 Movies, Shows, and Documentaries to Watch to Educate Yourself on Racial Injustice](#)

[12 movies you should watch about the black experience in America](#)

[13th](#): History of the 13th amendment & racial inequality in the US, focusing on how the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans. Scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the US prison boom.

Non-Fiction Books

Title Author / Source	Brief Description & Notes
<p>How to be an Antiracist Ibram Kendi</p>	<p>Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system we have in place, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.</p> <p>In his memoir, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science--including the story of his own awakening to antiracism--bringing it all together in a cogent, accessible form. He begins by helping us rethink our most deeply held beliefs and our most intimate personal relationships (including beliefs about race and IQ and interracial social relations) and reexamines the policies and larger social arrangements we support. How to Be an Antiracist promises to become an essential book for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step of contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society.</p>
<p>So You Want to Talk About Race Ijeoma Oluo</p>	<p>Widespread reporting on aspects of white supremacy--from police brutality to the mass incarceration of Black Americans--has put a media spotlight on racism in our society. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. How do you tell your roommate her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law take umbrage when you asked to touch her hair--and how do you make it right? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?</p> <p>Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.</p>

<p>Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race Reni Eddo-Lodge</p>	<p>The provocative title is hard to ignore, and so is the book's cover. Seen from afar, it appears to be called Why I'm No Longer Talking About Race, which is intriguing enough on its own. You have to look closer to see "To White People" hiding underneath it in debossed letters. It's a striking visual representation of white people's blindness to everyday, structural racism, one of the central ideas that British journalist and feminist Reni Eddo-Lodge presents in her debut collection of essays.</p> <p>"Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race" is also the title of a blog post she wrote back in February of 2014. In that post, Eddo-Lodge wasn't trying to remove white people from the conversation or take them on a guilt trip; rather, she was simply saying that she'd had enough. It was an act of self-preservation. She was done with talking to white people who'd never had to think about what it meant to be white, or who showed a deep emotional disconnect when she told them about her experience as a black woman, or who, instead of listening while she spoke, were almost instinctively preparing trite counter-arguments in their heads, waiting for her to finish just to tell her that she was wrong, situations that will sound only too familiar to many people of color.</p>
<p>The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Michelle Alexander</p>	<p>As the United States celebrates its "triumph over race" with the election of Barack Obama, the majority of black men in major urban areas are under correctional control or saddled with criminal records for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the books decades ago, but today an extraordinary percentage of the African American community is warehoused in prisons or trapped in a parallel social universe, denied basic civil and human rights—including the right to vote; the right to serve on juries; and the right to be free of legal discrimination in employment, housing, access to education and public benefits.</p>
<p>Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor Me and White Supremacy Workbook Layla F. Saad</p>	<p><i>Me and White Supremacy</i> teaches readers how to dismantle the privilege within themselves so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on people of colour, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.</p> <p>Layla Saad began an Instagram challenge in which she encouraged people to own up and share their racist behaviors, big and small. She was looking for truth, and she got it. Thousands of people participated in the challenge, and over 90,000 people downloaded the <i>Me and White Supremacy Workbook</i>: art education, part activation, the <i>Workbook</i> is a first-of-its-kind personal anti-racism tool for people holding white privilege to begin to examine and</p>

	dismantle their complicity in the oppressive system of white supremacy.
<u>The Fire Next Time</u> James Baldwin	A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, it galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin’s early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document. It consists of two “letters,” written on the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism.
<u>An African American and Latinx History of the United States</u> Paul Ortiz	Paul Ortiz offers an intersectional history of the shared struggle for African American and Latinx civil rights, spanning two centuries. Essentially Ortiz is sending everyone back to high school history, and explaining history from the perspective not of the conquerors, but the people who were the victims of brutality, slavery and annexations, and how they fought back.”
<u>Chokehold: Policing Black Men</u> Paul Butler	Former prosecutor Paul Butler examines modern American policing and how criminal justice laws and practices impact black men. In it, Butler describes his own encounters with the police.
<u>Conversations in Black: On Politics, Power and Leadership</u> Ed Gordon	Journalist Ed Gordon brings together prominent voices in black America to discuss the future of black leadership with conversation among over 40 different leaders, entertainers and entrepreneurs.
<u>55, Underemployed and Faking Normal: Your Guide to a Better Retirement Life</u> Elizabeth White	Elizabeth White’s 2019 book is a deeply researched resource providing practical solutions with a focus on retirement and maximizing savings.
<u>What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Blacker: A Memoir in Essays</u> Damon Young	This memoir-in-essays offers a look at what it means to be black and male in America, by the co-founder of the news and culture website VerySmartBrothas.com. The book breaks down some of the stereotypes about black men, where the author talks about all of his vulnerabilities, self-esteem issues and how he deals with confronting what the world has told him he is.

<p>Between the World and Me Ta-Nehisi Coates</p> <p>Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates: Sidekick Clarity Hawkins</p>	<p>This is written in the form of a letter from Ta-Nehisi Coates to his teenage son, it chronicles Coates' life growing up as a young man in Baltimore and his journey to becoming a writer. In 2014, Coates' article for the <i>Atlantic</i>, 'The Case for Reparations,' gained widespread attention and in 2019, he testified in a U.S. House of Representatives hearing on the topic.</p> <p>This sidekick to "Between the World and Me" has done the work of combing through the book for you and offers a crisp explanation of every major theme. Broken into chapters, the reader can easily follow themes along through each chapter by referencing the included quotations. A summary of each chapter is also provided as a refresher.</p>
<p>The Little Book of Racial Healing Thomas Norman DeWolf, Jodie Geddes</p>	<p>People of color, relative to white people, fall on the negative side of virtually all measurable social indicators. The "living wound" is seen in the significant disparities in average household wealth, unemployment and poverty rates, infant mortality rates, access to healthcare and life expectancy, education, housing, and treatment within, and by, the criminal justice system.</p>
<p>The Little Book of Restorative Justice in Education Katherine Evans and Dorothy Vaandering</p>	<p>A handbook for teachers and administrators on creating just and equitable learning environments for students; building and maintaining healthy relationships; healing harm and transforming conflict.</p> <p>Much more than a response to harm, restorative justice nurtures relational, interconnected school cultures. The wisdom embedded within its principles and practices is being welcomed at a time when exclusionary discipline and zero tolerance policies are recognized as perpetuating student apathy, disproportionality, and the school-to-prison pipeline.</p>
<p>The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice Fania E. Davis</p>	<p>In our era of mass incarceration, gun violence, and Black Lives Matters, a handbook showing how racial justice and restorative justice can transform the African-American experience in America.</p> <p>This timely work will inform scholars and practitioners on the subjects of pervasive racial inequity and the healing offered by restorative justice practices. Social activist Fania E. Davis explores how restorative justice has the capacity to disrupt patterns of mass incarceration through effective, equitable, and transformative approaches. Eager to break the still-pervasive, centuries-long cycles of racial prejudice and trauma in America, Davis unites the racial justice and restorative justice movements, aspiring to increase</p>

	<p>awareness of deep-seated problems as well as positive action toward change.</p>
<p>We Want to Do More Than Survive Bettina Love</p>	<p>This book is a powerful indictment of our education system as an industry which robs dark children of their potential. Love challenges us to become abolitionists by holding ourselves and our colleagues accountable for our complicity in perpetuating the “Education Survival Complex.” As educators we must recognize the impact of whiteness on our classrooms, demand the impossible, welcome the struggle, and refuse to oppress dark children, by calling out racism, recognizing our students’ cultures and histories, and showing them they matter to our communities and to our world.</p>
<p>White Fragility Robin DiAngelo</p>	<p>White people in North America live in a social environment that protects and insulates them from race-based stress through institutions, cultural representation, school textbooks, movies, advertising, and dominant discourses. In turn, whites are often at a loss for how to respond in constructive ways, as they have not had to build the cognitive or affective skills or develop the stamina that that would allow for constructive engagement across racial divides.</p>
<p>Stamped from the Beginning Ibram Kendi</p>	<p>In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. The book uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to offer a window into the contentious debates between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists: Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, scholar W.E.B. Du Bois, legendary anti-prison activist Angela Davis.</p>
<p>Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools Monique Morris</p>	<p>Just 16 percent of female students in the USA, Black girls make up more than one-third of all girls with a school-related arrest. The first book to tell these untold stories, <i>Pushout</i> exposes a world of confined potential and supports the growing movement to address the policies, practices, and cultural illiteracy that push countless students out of school and into unhealthy, unstable, and often unsafe futures.</p>

<p>Raising Free People: unschooling as liberation and healing work Akilah S. Richards</p>	<p>Families and conscious organizations across the world are healing generations of school wounds by pivoting into self-directed, intentional community-building, and <i>Raising Free People</i> shows you exactly how unschooling can help facilitate this process.</p>
<p>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Rebecca Skloot</p>	<p>Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine.</p>
<p>A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Claire Hartfield</p>	<p>On a hot day in July 1919, three black youths went swimming in Lake Michigan, unintentionally floating close to the "white" beach. An angry white man began throwing stones at the boys, striking and killing one. Racial conflict on the beach erupted into days of urban violence that shook the city of Chicago to its foundations.</p>
<p>On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker A'Lelia Perry Bundles</p>	<p>Madam C. J. Walker was America's first female African-American millionaire. The daughter of slaves, Walker spent nearly two decades as a scrubwoman before concocting the formula for a much needed hair care product for African-American women. After making her hair care business a success, she devoted much of her time and resources to social causes and philanthropy.</p>
<p>Courageous Conversations About Race Glenn Singleton</p>	<p>Examining the achievement gap through the prism of race, the authors explain the need for candid, courageous conversations about race in order to understand why performance inequity persists. Through these "courageous conversations," educators will learn how to create a learning community that promotes true academic parity. Practical features of this book include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation exercises • Prompts, language, and tools that support profound discussion • Activities and checklists for administrators • Action steps for creating an equity team
<p>Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond Marc Lamont Hill</p>	<p>In recent years, thousands of Americans have died at the hands of law enforcement, a reality made even more shameful when we consider how many of these victims were young, poor, mentally ill, Black, or unarmed. The cases of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri; Eric Garner in New York City; Kathryn Johnston in Atlanta; Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida; Freddie Gray in Baltimore; and Sandra Bland in Hempstead, Texas, have forced a stubborn nation to come to terms with the realities of police corruption, brutality, and deeply entrenched racism. While</p>

	<p>media coverage and global activism have turned these individuals into household names, they are not, sadly, exceptional. Instead, they represent the countless Americans who die daily, and unnecessarily, at the hands of those who are paid to protect and serve them.</p>
<p>You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen Carole Boston Weatherford</p>	<p>From training days in Alabama to combat on the front lines in Europe, this is the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the groundbreaking African-American pilots of World War II. In vibrant second-person poems, Carole Boston Weatherford teams up for the first time with her son, artist Jeffery Weatherford, in a powerful and inspiring book that allows readers to fly, too.</p>
<p>You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain Phoebe Robinson</p>	<p>Being a black woman in America means contending with old prejudices and fresh absurdities every day. Comedian Phoebe Robinson has experienced her fair share over the years: she's been unceremoniously relegated to the role of "the black friend," as if she is somehow the authority on all things racial; she's been questioned about her love of U2 and Billy Joel ("isn't that...white people music?"); she's been called "uppity" for having an opinion in the workplace; she's been followed around stores by security guards; and yes, people do ask her whether they can touch her hair all the time. Now, she's ready to take these topics to the page—and she's going to make you laugh as she's doing it.</p>
<p>Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More Janet Mock</p>	<p>Janet Mock relays her experiences of growing up multiracial, poor, and trans in America, offering readers accessible language while imparting vital insight about the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of a marginalized and misunderstood population. Though undoubtedly an account of one woman's quest for self at all costs, <i>Redefining Realness</i> is a powerful vision of possibility and self-realization, pushing us all toward greater acceptance of one another and of ourselves.</p>
<p>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City Matthew Desmond</p>	<p>Princeton sociologist follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. <i>Evicted</i> transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.</p>

<p>The Hate U Give Angie Thomas</p>	<p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.</p>
<p>Zami: A New Spelling of My Name Audre Lorde</p>	<p>From the author's vivid childhood memories in Harlem to her coming of age in the late 1950s, the nature of Audre Lorde's work is cyclical as it relates the linkage of women who have shaped her.</p>
<p>Becoming Michelle Obama</p>	<p>Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that shaped her from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago, to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent as First Lady. She describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private. Becoming is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.</p>
<p>The Audacity of Hope Barack Obama</p>	<p>This is Barack Obama's call for a politics rooted in faith, inclusiveness, and nobility of spirit at the heart. He writes with intimacy and self-deprecating humor, about settling in as a senator, seeking to balance the demands of public service and family life, and his own deepening religious commitment.</p>
<p>The Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities Through Mindfulness Rhonda V. Magee</p>	<p>When conflict and division arise, our instincts tell us to close ranks, find the safety of our own tribe and blame others. In order to have the difficult conversations required for working toward racial justice, inner work is essential and can be accomplished through mindfulness: paying attention to our thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations in an open, nonjudgmental way.</p>
<p>They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us Hanif Abdurraqib</p>	<p>While discussing the everyday threat to the lives of Black Americans, Abdurraqib recounts when he was ordered to the ground by police officers for attempting to enter his own car. The author uses music and culture as a lens through which to view our world, so that we might better understand ourselves.</p>
<p>Born a Crime Trevor Noah</p>	<p>Trevor Noah's path to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth to a white father and a black mother and was bound by the extreme measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could at any moment steal him away. Liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and</p>

	embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.
Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation Jennifer Harvey	This provocative book argues for a radical shift in how justice-committed white Christians think about race, moving away from the reconciliation paradigm that currently dominates interracial relations and embracing instead a <i>reparations</i> paradigm.
Just Mercy Bryan Stevenson	One of Bryan Stevenson’s first legal cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn’t commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.
The Making of Black Lives Matter: A Brief History of an Idea Christopher J. Lebron	A condensed and accessible intellectual history that traces the genesis of the ideas that have built into the #BlackLivesMatter movement in a bid to help us make sense of the emotions, demands, and arguments of present-day activists and public thinkers.
White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide Carol Anderson	Every time African Americans have made advances towards full participation in our democracy, white reaction has fueled a deliberate and relentless rollback of their gain: Black Codes and Jim Crow; the shutting down of public schools throughout the South; the War on Drugs.
The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear " by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove and William Barber II"	The 1st Reconstruction briefly flourished after Emancipation, the 2nd Reconstruction ushered in progress in civil rights, but both were met by reactionary measures that curtailed and sometimes rolled back racial and economic progress. This 3rd Reconstruction is a moral awakening of justice-loving people united in a coalition powerful enough to reclaim the possibility of democracy.
From Slavery To Freedom: A History of African Americans" by John Hope Franklin	The book looks at the period after slavery, including the struggle for first-class citizenship that has extended into the 20th century. Many developments in recent African American history are examined, including demographic change; educational efforts; literary and cultural changes; problems in housing, health, juvenile matters, and the persistence of discrimination in justice.
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings Maya Angelou	Sent by their mother to live with their grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother Bailey endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." Maya is attacked by a man many times her

	<p>age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.</p>
<p>Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism bell hooks</p>	<p>A groundbreaking work of feminist history and theory analyzing the complex relations between various forms of oppression. <i>Ain't I a Woman</i> examines the impact of sexism on black women during slavery, the historic devaluation of black womanhood, black male sexism, racism within the recent women's movement, and black women's involvement with feminism.</p>
<p>The Autobiography of Malcolm X Alex Haley</p>	<p>If there was any one man who articulated the anger, the struggle, and the beliefs of African Americans in the 1960s, that man was Malcolm X.</p>
<p>Lynched: The Power of Memory in a Culture of Terror Angela D Sims</p>	<p>Sims examines the relationship between lynching and the interconnected realities of race, gender, class, and other social fragmentations that ultimately shape a person's and a community's religious self-understanding. She explores how the narrators reconcile their personal and communal memory of lynching with their lived Christian experience.</p>
<p>We Will Shoot Back: Armed Resistance in the Mississippi Freedom Movement Akinyele Omowale Umoja</p>	<p>The notion that the civil rights movement in the southern United States was a nonviolent movement remains a dominant theme of civil rights memory, yet in dozens of southern communities, Black people picked up arms to defend their leaders, communities, and lives against the violence of racists and segregationists, who were often supported by local law enforcement.</p>
<p>Are Prisons Obsolete Angela Y Davis</p>	<p>With brilliance, grace and radical audacity, Angela Y. Davis makes the case for the latest abolition movement in American life: the abolition of the prison.</p>
<p>This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible Charles E Cobb Jr.</p>	<p>Giving voice to the World War II veterans, rural activists, volunteer security guards, and self-defense groups who took up arms to defend their lives and liberties, <i>This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed</i> lays bare the paradoxical relationship between the nonviolent civil rights struggle and the 2nd Amendment.</p>
<p>The Young Lords: A Radical History Johanna Fernandez</p>	<p>Against the backdrop of America's escalating urban rebellions in the 1960s, an unexpected cohort of New York radicals unleashed a series of urban guerrilla actions against the city's racist policies and contempt for the poor. Their dramatic flair, uncompromising vision, and skillful ability to link local problems to international crises riveted the media, alarmed New York's political class, and</p>

	<p>challenged nationwide perceptions of civil rights and black power protest. The group called itself the Young Lords.</p>
<p>Real Life Brandon Taylor</p>	<p>Written by a Black, queer man from Madison, WI about his experiences in academia, the black protagonist struggles to navigate the prejudgments and biases of the white cohorts in his PhD program. The novel examines the complicated ways race works within academia and illustrates the dissonance of not feeling accepted or understood at an institution that markets itself as immaculately progressive.</p>
<p>Mindful of Race Ruth Kind</p>	<p>In a moment of racial tension, have you ever tried to simply shrug off your outrage, put on a pleasant face so others wouldn't feel uncomfortable, dared to take a stand to find it hamed the situation? In this book, the author offers another option: tend first to our suffering, listen to what it is trying to teach us, and direct its energies most effectively for change.</p>
<p>I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness Austin Channing Brown</p>	<p>Austin Channing Brown starts her book by sharing that her first name was given to her to lead future employers to give her a callback. She covers compelling racial topics including white privilege, black leadership, and learning to love her blackness in a world made for whiteness.</p>
<p>Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do" Jennifer L. Eberhardt</p>	<p>From one of the world's leading experts on unconscious racial bias, a personal examination of one of the central controversies and culturally powerful issues of our time, and its influence on contemporary race relations and criminal justice. Eberhardt reveals how even when we are not aware of bias and genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior.</p>
<p>The Black and the Blue: A Cop Reveals the Crimes, Racism, and Injustice in America's Law Enforcement Matthew Horace and Ron Harris</p>	<p>Using gut-wrenching reportage, on-the-ground research, and personal accounts garnered by interviews with police and government officials around the country, Horace presents an insider's examination of police tactics and dissects some of the nation's most highly publicized police shootings and communities highlighted in the Black Lives Matter movement.</p>
<p>They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, And A New Era In America's Racial Justice Movement" by Wesley Lowery</p>	<p>In an effort to grasp the magnitude of the response to Michael Brown's death and understand the scale of the problem police violence represents, Lowery speaks to the families of victims and local activists, posing the question, "What does the loss of any one life mean to the rest of the nation?" to examine the cumulative effect of decades of racially biased policing.</p>

<p><u>Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People</u> by Ben Crump</p>	<p>Whether with a bullet or a lengthy prison sentence, America is killing black people and justifying it legally. While some deaths make headlines, most are personal tragedies suffered within families and communities. Worse, these killings are done one person at a time, so as not to raise alarm. While it is much more difficult to justify killing many people at once, in dramatic fashion, the result is the same—genocide.</p>
<p><u>Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America</u> by Jennifer Harvey</p>	<p>This book is for families, churches, educators, and communities who want to equip their children to be active and able participants in a society that is becoming one of the most racially diverse in the world while remaining full of racial tensions. This book is for white people who are committed to equity and justice, living in a nation that remains racially unjust and deeply segregated creates unique conundrums.</p>

Fiction Books

We have included books that relate to anti-racism and social justice as well as fine examples of the work of Black writers.

Title Author / Source	Brief Description
Homecoming Yaa Gyas	<p>In 18th century Ghana two half sisters are born into different villages. One marries an Englishman and leads a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other is captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery.</p> <p><i>Homegoing</i> follows the parallel paths of the sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem.</p>
Americanah Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	<p>The story of two Nigerians making their way in the U.S. and the UK, raising universal questions of race and belonging, the overseas experience for the African diaspora, and the search for identity and a home.</p>
Go Tell it on the Mountain James Baldwin	<p>John is the stepson of a fire-breathing and abusive Pentecostal preacher in Harlem during the Depression. The action of this short novel spans a single day, yet manages to encompass on an epic scale his family's troubled past and his own longings for the future, set against a shining vision of a city where he both does and does not belong.</p>
The Bluest Eye Toni Morrison Beloved Toni Morrison	<p>Set in the author's girlhood hometown of Lorain, Ohio, it tells the story of black, eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove. Pecola prays for her eyes to turn blue so she will be as beautiful and beloved as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America. In the autumn of 1941, Pecola's life does change- in painful, devastating ways.</p> <p>Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe's new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.</p>
Sing Unburied Sing Jesmyn Ward	<p>Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents, Mam and Pop, and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. When the white father of Leonie's children is released from prison, she packs her kids and a friend into her car and sets out across the</p>

	state for Parchman farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary, on a journey rife with danger and promise.
Freshwater Road Denise Nicholas	When University of Michigan sophomore Celeste Tyree travels to Mississippi to volunteer her efforts in Freedom Summer, she's assigned to help register voters in the small town of Pineyville, a place best known for a notorious lynching that occurred only a few years earlier.
A Lesson Before Dying Ernest J. Gaines	In a small Cajun community in the late 1940s, Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed. The only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death.
The Water Dancer Ta-Nehisi Coates	Young Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her, but gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he's ever known.
Rainbow Milk Paul Mendez	The book follows 19-year-old Jesse McCarthy, a young black man in Britain as he grapples with his racial and sexual identities.
The Color Purple Alice Walker	This book broke the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, narrating the lives of women through their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. Deeply compassionate and beautifully imagined, Alice Walker's epic carries readers on a spirit-affirming journey towards redemption and love.
An American Marriage Tayari Jones	Newlyweds, Celestial and Roy, are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive and she is artist on the brink of an exciting career. They are settling into the routine of their life together, when they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit.
The Mothers Brit Bennett	It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance—and

	<p>the subsequent cover-up—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth.</p>
<p><u>For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf</u> Ntozake Shange</p>	<p>Passionate and fearless, Shange's words reveal what it is to be of color and female in the twentieth century.</p>
<p><u>Things Fall Apart</u> Chinua Achebe</p>	<p>This is Chinua Achebe's masterpiece and it is often compared to the great Greek tragedies, and currently sells more than one hundred thousand copies a year in the United States.</p> <p>A simple story of a "strong man" whose life is dominated by fear and anger, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> is written with remarkable economy and subtle irony.</p>

Books for Children & Young Adults

There are so many books, Here are a few, with links to lists.

[Where to Find Diverse Children's Books](#)

[We are Kid Lit Collective](#)

[Brown Bookshelf](#)

[#ReadingBlackout: Children's Books Written by African American Authors](#)

[Today's Parent: Kids Books That Talk About Racism](#)

[Picture, Chapter, and YA Books by Black Authors and Illustrators](#)

[BLM Books/Podcasts/Sites](#) - Lots of children book lists

[Madison Public Library Racial Equity Resources](#)

[Coretta Scott King Award winning books](#)

[Award-Winning African American Books](#)

[31 children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance](#)

[BOOKS BY AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS](#)

[Book List: Black & Brown Boy Joy! Seeing our boys for all of the beautiful things they are!](#)

[Anti-Racist Books for Elementary Students: A Diverse Book List](#)

Title Author / Source	Brief Description & Notes
Raising White Kids (Jon Harvey) – article here Raising White Kids Author On How White Parents Can Talk About Race	Resources for Parents
Books to Teach White Children and Teens How to Undo Racism and White Supremacy	Resource for Parents
The Crossover Kwame Alexander	12-year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood.
Dear Martin by Nic Stone	Young Adult Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

<p>All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely</p>	<p>Young Adult</p> <p>A black man and a white man, both writers and educators, came together to co-write a book about how systemic racism and police brutality affect the lives of young people in America.</p>
<p>I am Alfonso Jones by Tony Medina</p>	<p>Young Adult</p> <p>Alfonso Jones can't wait to play the role of Hamlet in his school's hip-hop rendition of the classic Shakespearean play. But as he is buying his first suit, an off-duty police officer mistakes a clothes hanger for a gun, and he shoots Alfonso.</p> <p>When Alfonso wakes up in the afterlife, he's on a ghost train guided by well-known victims of police shootings, who teach him what he needs to know about this subterranean spiritual world. Meanwhile, Alfonso's family and friends struggle with their grief and seek justice for Alfonso in the streets. As they confront their new realities, both Alfonso and those he loves realize the work that lies ahead in the fight for justice.</p>
<p>A Good Kind of Trouble Lisa Moore Ramee</p>	<p>Middle Grades</p> <p>Tensions are high over the trial of a police officer who shot an unarmed Black man. When the officer is set free and Shay goes with her family to a silent protest, she starts to see that some trouble is worth making.</p>
<p>Ghost Boys Jewell Parker Rhodes</p>	<p>Middle Grades</p> <p>12 year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community. Soon Jerome meets the ghost of Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened and to recognize how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.</p>
<p>New Kid by Jerry Craft</p>	<p>Middle Grades</p> <p>A timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real,</p>

<p>Let's Talk About Race Vera Ahiyya, a kindergarten teacher in New York City</p>	<p>YouTube video and suggested book.</p> <p>Teacher talks about race and racism in kid-friendly language, and about the importance of speaking up when we see racism and oppression around us. She ends with a read aloud of <i>Let's Talk About Race</i> by Julius Lester.</p> <p>It's particularly useful for primary grades, but the read aloud would be beneficial for anyone.</p>
<p>The Colors of Us Karen Katz</p>	<p>Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades.</p> <p>Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people.</p>
<p>The Skin I'm in: A First Look at Racism Pat Thomas</p>	<p>Racial discrimination is cruel--and especially so to younger children. This title encourages kids to accept and be comfortable with differences of skin color and other racial characteristics among their friends and in themselves.</p>
<p>Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard</p>	<p>This book written by three child psychologists is an excellent resource that helps caregivers talk to children about police shootings. The story follows two children, one white and one Black, who are in the same class at school. All the adults in town have been talking about a police shooting of a Black man. Kids have overheard their conversations, and have questions which prompt responses from their parents that unpack the legacy of racism in the United States.</p> <p>The story has a variety of levels, and children will experience it differently at different ages. The book also includes extensive notes for parents on countering racism, including resources specifically designed for Black families. Recommended for ages 6 – 10.</p>
<p>Daddy Why Am I Brown?: A healthy conversation about skin color and family Bedford Palmer</p>	<p>A girl lives in a diverse world and comes from a multicultural family. It is only natural for her to have some questions. Join Joy as she learns how to describe skin color, and about how her skin color can tell her about where her family is from, but not really about who they are.</p>
<p>Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement Carole Boston</p>	<p>Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964, Ms. Hamer gave a speech at the Democratic National Convention that, despite</p>

	President Johnson's interference, aired on national TV news and spurred the nation to support the Freedom Democrats.
I Am Enough Grace Byers	This is a gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another—from <i>Empire</i> actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo.
Happy in Our Skin Fran Manushkin	Just savor these bouquets of babies—cocoa-brown, cinnamon, peaches and cream. As they grow, their clever skin does too, enjoying hugs and tickles, protecting them inside and out, and making them one of a kind. Fran Manushkin's rollicking text and Lauren Tobia's delicious illustrations paint a breezy and irresistible picture of the human family—and how wonderful it is to be just who you are.
We're Different, We're the Same (Sesame Street) Bobbi Jane Kates	Who better than <i>Sesame Street</i> to teach us that we may all look different on the outside—but it's important to remember that deep down, we are all very much alike. We all have the same needs, desires, and feelings.
Daddy, There's a Noise Outside Kenneth Braswell, Joe Dent, and Julie Anderson	<p>This short graphic novel explores what protests are, and why people use them. When two children ask their father what the sounds they heard the night before were, he explains the community was protesting.</p> <p>Drawing on examples from Martin Luther King to the Million Man March, their parents explain that people in the neighborhood are protesting how their community is treated by the police. This is a good first book for talking about why and how groups like Black Lives Matter protest. Recommended for ages 5 – 9.</p>
Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice Bryan Stevenson	In this very personal work--adapted from the original #1 bestseller, which the <i>New York Times</i> calls "as compelling as <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , and in some ways more so"--acclaimed lawyer and social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson offers a glimpse into the lives of the wrongfully imprisoned and his efforts to fight for their freedom.
Hands Up! Breanna J. McDaniel and Shane W. Evans	This triumphant picture book recasts a charged phrase as part of a black girl's everyday life--hands up for a hug, hands up in class, hands up for a high five--before culminating in a moment of resistance at a protest march. Recommended for ages 4 – 7.
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks: The Young Reader's Edition	Middle-grade adaptation of same title with thread on writer's own difficulties. Henrietta Lacks was a poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cervical cancer cells taken without her

<p>Gregory Mone & Rebecca Skloot</p>	<p>knowledge in 1951 treatment, have been vital in fighting polio, cancer, and viruses. Topics are race, bioethics, research, rights, family, and whether we control our cells.</p>
<p>Let the Children March Monica Clark - Robinson</p>	<p>The story of the Children’s March in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963. When their parents couldn’t protest in fear of losing their jobs and not being able to provide for their family, black children as young as nine marched to protest Jim Crow laws. They were met with a hostile police force who responded with water hoses, batons, and dogs set on them. This story focuses on the strength of these children, and how they contributed to history.</p> <p>This gives important context to conversations about diversity and inclusion, while showing how children have made a difference in their words in action throughout time.</p>
<p>The Undeclared Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson</p> <p>Other Books by Kadir Nelson He has written an/or illustrated so many books, many, but not all, related to anti-racism and racial equity,</p>	<p>A tribute to Black leaders, everyday people, and the movements who are too often left out of history textbooks. Recommended for ages 7 – 12.</p> <p>Because of the way the book is structured, it can be experienced in different ways by different age children. For example, on the page “this is for the unspeakable,” children see candles, flowers, and pictures of Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, and others who died at the hands of police officers. For older children who want to talk more, there are extensive notes describing who each person in Nelson’s flawless illustrations is.</p>
<p>Hey Black Child Useni Eugene Perkins</p>	<p>Poet Useni Eugene Perkins proclaims all the reasons children - - and black children in particular -- should be proud of who they are and believe in what they can achieve.</p>
<p>Black Lives Matter Instructional Library of Read Alouds</p>	<p>Click on each book to hear a read aloud! Categories include: 1) Activism and Advocacy, 2) Self Love and Empowerment, 3) Black History, and 4) Libros en espanol.</p>
<p>This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work Tiffany Jewel</p>	<p>“I felt completely powerless when I was young. I was able to identify racism and injustice, but did not have the language to talk about it and definitely did not know how to stand-up, especially against racist adults,” antiracism educator TiffanyJewell said in an interview for World Book Day. Her debut book is designed to do just that: equip young people with the tools they need to be actively anti-racist.</p>
<p>Anti-Racist Baby Ibram X. Kendi</p>	<p>This upcoming picture book from the best-selling author of the moment, Kendi, shows kids nine steps to building a more equitable and antiracist world. It will be published June 16.</p>

<p>A is for Activist Innosanto Nagara</p>	<p>Innosanto Nagara initially wrote, illustrated and self-published this ABC board book for the families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, etc.</p>
<p>Brown Girl Dreaming Harbor Me Jacqueline Woodson</p>	<p>National Book Award-winning author tells the story of her childhood through poetry, detailing her experiences as a black girl growing up in 1960s South Carolina & New York.</p> <p>It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them—everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives</p>
<p>A Kids Book about Racism by Jelani Memory</p>	<p>This book includes a clear description of what racism is, how it makes people feel when they experience it, and how to spot it when it happens. This is a conversation that's never too early to start, and this book was written to be an introduction for kids on the topic.</p>
<p>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi Books by Jason Reynolds Many other amazing intermediate and young adult books.</p>	<p>An adaptation of Kendi's <i>Stamped From the Beginning</i> targeted at young adults, this collaboration between the original author and celebrated children's writer Jason Reynolds seeks to explain why young people are growing up in a world of racism, and what they can do about it.</p>
<p>Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes</p>	<p>A powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition.</p>
<p>It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers) Trevor Noah</p>	<p>The host of <i>The Daily Show</i>, Trevor Noah, tells the story of growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid in this young readers' adaptation of his bestselling adult memoir <i>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</i>.</p>
<p>Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice by Mahogany L. Browne</p>	<p>A collection of poems to inspire kids to stay woke and become a new generation of activists.</p>

[Dear White People](#)
Justin Simien

Right out of college, Justin Simien wrote a screenplay about the nuanced experiences of four black students on a predominantly white college campus. The film, *Dear White People*, garnered a Sundance Award for Breakthrough Talent and has been hailed by critics everywhere. Channeling the sensibility of the film into this book, Simien will keep you laughing with his humorous observations, even if you haven't seen the satiric film.