

Resources to Enter the Conversation on Race and Culture with Your Children

All these resources can be found at <http://bit.ly/mcpsEQUITY>

[How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism](http://bit.ly/2OMtVfu) (<http://bit.ly/2OMtVfu>)

"In short? There's no "one way" to dive into this topic. There's no such thing as "quick tips" or foolproof advice when it comes to discussing the complexities of race. But, there are better ways to go about it and each parent will have to decide for themselves what makes the most sense for them and their family. Above all, it's a conversation *all* parents need to have, no matter your background or experience. So, if you're curious how to get this conversation started, here's what the experts have to say."

[Being 12 Video](http://bit.ly/31Ofug5) (<http://bit.ly/31Ofug5>)

Middle School students talk about the experiences they have around their racial and cultural identities. This is a good video to watch with your child to start a conversation.

[Danger of a Single Story](http://bit.ly/31Z85dR) (<http://bit.ly/31Z85dR>)

Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

[How to Raise a Black Son in America](https://bit.ly/36LB7Ac) (<https://bit.ly/36LB7Ac>)

As kids, we all get advice from parents and teachers that seems strange, even confusing. This was crystallized one night for a young Clint Smith, who was playing with water guns in a dark parking lot with his white friends. In a heartfelt piece, the poet paints the scene of his father's furious and fearful response.

[Essays from MCPS Students and Staff](http://bit.ly/2SjQ86B) (<http://bit.ly/2SjQ86B>)

A series of short essays written by Montgomery County students and staff about their identity. These are great conversation starters to engage in conversations with your children and friends.

- [Nicaragua in Our Hearts and Minds](#)
- [What Learning to Speak Arabic in America Taught Me About Being Arab American](#)
- [A Student's Experience Being Gay in MCPS](#)
- [Wes--A Tale of American Studies](#)
- [Journey North](#)
- [The Gap is in My Bones](#)

[Books, Podcasts and Articles](http://bit.ly/33bMpLS) (<http://bit.ly/33bMpLS>)

- Recommendations from the MCPS Equity Initiatives Staff on books, podcasts, and articles that help expand our understanding of different cultures. These are mostly for adults, but some can be read with middle schoolers.

Television Shows to Watch with Children

Sometimes the best way to engage students to learn about different cultures or discuss important issues is by watching TV together. There are many programs that expose viewers to different cultures while also providing a safe way to discuss social issues. Below are some light hearted programs that staff in the Equity Initiatives Unit enjoy. Check out the www.Commonsensemedia.org to see if they are appropriate for your child's age.

Mr. Kim's Convenience -- *Kim's Convenience* is a popular Canadian series that revolves around a Korean Canadian family and uses this premise to address issues like racial profiling, discrimination, and other social issues.

One Day at a Time -- This Netflix-original comedy-drama is inspired by Norman Lear's 1975 series of the same name. This time around, the series follows the life of Penelope, a newly single Army veteran, and her Cuban-American family, as they navigate the ups and downs of life. The series offers a contemporary take on what life looks like in both good and bad times, and how loved ones can help make it all worthwhile.

Black-ish -- *Black-ish* is a sitcom about a father who worries that his African-American family is assimilating too much into its wealthy homogenous community. Watch with kids and discuss the many issues the show brings up.

Hasan Learns What It's Like To Grow Up Desi In 2019 | Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj. -- Comedian Hasan Minhaj talks with South Asian American teenagers about what it's like to grow up in the United States.