

HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT RACE WORKSHOP



Resources for Parents

Podcasts:

- [Raising Anti-Racist](#). Anti-Bias Kids with Britt Hawthorne and Dr. Becky
- [Parent Toolkit](#), how to talk to Kids about race and racism
- [Podcast](#): Dr. Anne Hallward: how to talk about race and racism (1 hour)
- [Blog](#): Raising Race Conscious Children
- [Miss Buchanan's Period of Adjustment](#) (Revisionist History Podcast): One amazing podcast episode that will make you re-think the story we tell about Brown v Board of Education
- Scene on Radio Season 2: [Seeing White](#) This is a 14 episode podcast that talks about the history of how the concept of whiteness was created and developed in the US
- TED Radio Hour: [Luck Fortune and Chance](#) NPR

Documentaries-

- [Race: The Power of An Illusion](#). Produced by California Newsreel, 2003. (Excellent place to get started).
- [Dark Girls](#). (a film about the devastating impact of colorism).
- [Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?](#) California Newsreel, 2008. (Great series on impact of race and poverty on health. Getting to the root causes.)

TED TALKS & YOUTUBE VIDEOS

- ["Color Blind or Color Brave"](#) by Mellody Hobson (March 2014)
- ["We Need To Talk About An Injustice"](#) by Bryan Stevenson. TedX video.
- [4 Ways to Have Healthy Conversations about Race](#) -Afrika Afeni Mills TED Talk 2023

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- [“Conversations with Asians on Race”](#) (April 2016)

Pre-school and Grade School Books-

Our Skin: Developed by experts in the fields of early childhood and activism against injustice, this topic-driven board book offers clear, concrete language and beautiful imagery that young children can grasp and adults can leverage for further discussion.

Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester

In this acclaimed book, the author of the Newbery Honor Book *To Be a Slave* shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. A strong choice for sharing at home or in the classroom. Karen Barbour's dramatic, vibrant paintings speak to the heart of Lester's unique vision, truly a celebration of all of us. "This stunning picture book introduces race as just one of many chapters in a person's story" (School Library Journal). "Lester's poignant picture book helps children learn, grow, discuss, and begin to create a future that resolves differences" (Children's Literature)

The Colors of Us, Karen Katz

A positive and affirming look at skin color, from an artist's perspective. 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. 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. Karen Katz created this book for her daughter, Lena, whom she and her husband adopted from Guatemala six years ago.

Black is brown is tan, Arnold Adoff

Brown-skinned momma, the color of chocolate milk and coffee pumpkin pie, whose face gets ginger red when she puffs and yells the children into bed. White-skinned daddy, not white like milk or snow, lighter than brown, With pinks and tiny tans, whose face gets tomato red when he puffs and yells their children into bed. Children who are all the colors of the race, growing up happy in a house full of love. This is the way it is for them; this is the way they are, but the joy they feel extends to every reader of this book.

The Hello, Goodbye Window, Norton Juster and Chris Raschka

This is a love song devoted to that special relationship between grandparents and grandchild. The kitchen window at Nanna and Poppy's house is, for one little girl, a magic gateway. Everything important happens near it, through it, or beyond it. Told in her voice, her story is both a voyage of discovery and a celebration of the commonplace wonders that define childhood,

expressed as a joyful fusion of text with evocative and exuberant illustrations. The world for this little girl will soon grow larger and more complex, but never more enchanting or deeply felt.

A young girl loves visiting her grandparents who have an inviting kitchen window you can climb into, look out of, and see your reflection in. The text takes us on a journey with the child as she describes her special relationship with her Poppy and Nanna. She has both African-American and white grandparents.

Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina, by Monica Brown and Sara Palacios

Red-headed half-Scottish half-Peruvian Marisol bounces off the page with great enthusiasm and loves her mismatched life. When her friend, Ollie, challenges her to “match”, Marisol finds she is unhappy with life as a conformist. This is a great story that emphasizes the importance of embracing and accepting one’s uniqueness. The text is in both English and Spanish)

You Were the First, Patricia MacLachlan and Stephanie Gragin

a tender book in which parents, one Asian, one Caucasian, narrate their child’s firsts. “You were the first to cry.” You were the first to smile.” As the child grows a bit, the first change. Such as, “You were the first to dig.” It’s a sweet book which would make a terrific new baby gift or a special book to read to an older sibling.

More More More, Said the Baby, Vera B. Williams

A delightful classic. The book is composed of three vignettes, each showing a grown up (daddy, grandma, mommy) playing with a baby. The three families are diverse: a white child, a bi-racial child and an Asian-American – all equally loved, all equally playful. At the end of each vignette the babies are tucked into bed by their loving grownup.

Everywhere Babies, Susan Meyers

This book celebrates the diversity of babies all over the world and how babies might sleep, eat, play and live differently but are all loved equally. The book does a great job of including people from all different walks of life in her illustrations. There is a great contrast between the “older” parents and the younger ones.

Grandfather Counts, Deborah J. Short, Josefina Villamil Tinajero and Alfredo

Schifini When her maternal grandfather comes from China, Helen, who is biracial, develops a special bond with him despite their age and language differences. The book focuses primarily on the intergenerational relationship between a young girl and her grandfather. Helen speaks English, Gong Gong speaks Chinese, and through the act of counting in their respective languages, they form a bond. The girl’s biracial identity forms a backdrop, but is not the main focus of the book.

Dumpling Soup, Jama Kim Rattigan

Marisa lives in Hawaii and her family members are Korean, Hawaiian, Japanese and Chinese! The extended family gathers together on New Year’s Eve to make dumpling

soup. Marisa worries that no one will like her non-so-perfect dumplings but the warm, family, festive atmosphere (and some help from grandma) ensures that everyone has a wonderful time. Includes a 4 language glossary.

[I Love Saturdays y domingos](#), by **Alma Flor Ada** is a wonderfully uplifting story about a girl who spends Saturdays with her English-speaking grandparents and Sundays with her Spanish-speaking abuelos. She describes the joys of visit and the reader instantly sees the parallels and how much the family loves on another. In the end, everyone comes together for the little girl's birthday

Jalapeno Bagels, Natasha Wing

Pablo needs to bring in something to school for International day. He debates whether or not to bring in his mother's delicious Mexican baked goods or his father's challah. From the title you can guess his decision! Pablo helps his parents at their bakery and discovers a food that represents both his parents' backgrounds.

I'm Your Peanut Butter Big Brother, Selina Alko

Food imagery abounds in this sweet story about a young boy who wonders what the skin color of his new brother will be. His father has "chocolate" skin, his mother is "strawberry cream Mama milk". When his little sister is born, her skin color is just like his. That is to say, "peanut butter".

Honeysmoke: A Story of Finding Your Color, Monique Fields

A young biracial girl looks around her world for her color. She finally chooses her own, and creates a new word for herself—honeysmoke.

The Soccer Fence: A Story of Friendship, Hope and Apartheid in South Africa by Phil Bildner

Hector loves soccer and dreams of playing with the (white) boys from another part of Johannesburg, but apartheid and racism are too prevalent. When, over the years, Nelson Mandela is released from prison and elected president, and then the beloved Bafana Bafana national soccer team wins the African Cup of Nations finals, Hector and one of the white boys bond over the soccer win and forge a new friendship.

Chocolate Me! by Taye Diggs

A young boy who is teased and questioned about being different ("chocolate me") wishes for different skin, hair, and a different nose, but his mother helps him see himself in a special way and to love what he sees when he looks in the mirror.

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman

Grace has a wonderful imagination and lots of experience acting out exciting adventures and playing roles. So when her teacher announces that the class will put on "Peter Pan" Grace wants to play the lead. Grace doubts herself when classmates tell her she can't play that role because she's a girl and because she's black, but her mother's and grandmother's love and support remind her that she can do and be anything.

Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad? by Sandy Lynne Holman

Montsho comes to his grandfather to find out: "Is everything black bad?" Montsho mentions "black cat," "black sheep," "black eye," and black villains on TV as evidence. Montsho's grandfather shows him why black is "one of the most beautiful colors in the world" by telling him about his African heritage.

Skin Again by Bell Hooks

A brief call to look beyond the skin we're in to who we are inside: "The skin I'm in/is just a covering./If you want to know who I am/you have got to come inside/and open your heart way wide."

All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Got Our Skin Color by Katie

Kissinger This bilingual (English/Spanish) book, with bright photographs, offers children a simple but accurate and effective explanation of the three ways we get our skin color (genetics, melanin, the sun) and emphasizes that our skin color is just one “of the many ways people are special and different from each other.” The end of the book includes a couple of follow-up activities.

Goin’ Someplace Special by Patricia C. McKissack

In 1950s Nashville, for the first time, Tricia Ann’s grandmother gives her permission to go to her “someplace special” on her own, reminding her to “hold yo’ head up and act like you b’long to somebody.” Along the way Tricia Ann faces bigotry, hatred, and discrimination. She feels nearly ready to give up on getting to her “someplace special” until she meets a woman who gives her renewed courage and determination, telling her, “You are somebody, a human being — no better, no worse than anybody else in this world.” When Tricia Ann finally gets to her “someplace special,” she smiles at the sign that says “Public Library: All Are Welcome.”

Busing Brewster by Richard Michelson

Brewster is (mainly) looking forward to first grade. But when his mother tells him and his brother Bryan that they’re going to be bused to Central, which is mainly a white school, the boys are trepidatious. When the bus arrives on the first day, there are white adult protestors shouting and even throwing rocks. Things don’t get better inside when a white student starts an incident, and Brewster, Bryan, and the boy Bryan calls “Freckle-face” end up in detention all day in the library. With the words of his mother in his head (“Maybe you’ll be president someday, Brewster.”), Brewster is befriended by the librarian, who begins to teach him how to read, and Bryan and “Freckle-face” end up bonding.

Mr. Lincoln’s Way by Patricia Polacco

Mr. Lincoln is “the coolest principal in the whole world,” but he struggles to reach “Mean Gene,” a student who bullies and uses racial epithets learned from his bigoted father. When Mr. Lincoln discovers Gene’s interest in birds, the two of them end up creating a habitat in the school’s atrium that becomes a bird paradise, including for a pair of nesting Mallards. And Mr. Lincoln is able to help Gene find kindness for other people as he feels kindness for the birds.

Desmond and the Very Mean Word by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

When a group of boys shout “a very mean word” at a young Desmond, he wants to hurt them back, rather than take the advice of his mentor, Father Trevor, and forgive them. “When you forgive someone, you free yourself from what they have said or done. It’s like magic.” When Desmond gets a chance for retribution, it doesn’t help, and he eventually learns the power of forgiveness.

The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler

This rhyming poem celebrates the diversity in our skin and all the things we do in our skin: "... the skin you have fun in; the skin that you run in; the skin that you hop, skip and jump in the sun in"

The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson

Clover and Annie live on separate sides of a fence that divides the “black side” and “white side.” Both girls have been told not to cross the fence, but no one said anything about sitting on top of it.

Junior High & High School Books-

The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros

The remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Told in a series of vignettes-sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous-Sandra Cisneros' masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery.

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

Chinese Born American, Gene Luen Yang

A tour-de-force by rising indie comics star Gene Yang, American Born Chinese tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. American Born Chinese is an amazing ride, all the way up to the astonishing climax.

The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison

Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison's virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing.

[March Trilogy](#). John Lewis autobiographical 3 part graphic novel series on his early life, march across the Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma Alabama and life in congress.

[**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian**](#), **Sherman Alexie**

The story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot

The Watsons Go To Birmingham, Christopher Paul Curtis

Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Byron gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

Ghost Boys, Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-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 in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost:

Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing 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.

The Fire Next Time, James Baldwin

This book 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 occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism. Described by The New York Times Book Review as "sermon, ultimatum, confession, deposition, testament, and chronicle...all presented in searing, brilliant prose," The Fire Next Time stands as a classic of our literature.

More books for Middle School and High School

Asian-American Identity:

A Million Shades of Gray by Cynthia Kadohata (Vietnamese, Vietnam War)

Children of the River by Linda Crew (Cambodian American)

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whealan (Indian)

Sold by Patricia McCormick (Napali)

Ties that Bind, Ties That Break by Lensey Namioka (Chinese)

When My Name was Keoko by Linda Sue Park (Korean under Japanese rule)

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka (Japanese-American internment camps in WW2)

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata (Japanese- American)

Not so-star-Spangled life of Sunita Sen by Mitalia Perkins (Indian American)

Latin-American/ Afro Latino Identity:

Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez (Dominican)

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman and Judy Pedersen (Multi-Cultural American)

African- American/ Black Identity:

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry (African American)

Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton (South Africa under Apartheid)
Jackie and me by Dan Gutman (African American)
Money Hungry by Sharon Flake (African American)
Monster by Walter Dean Meyers (African American)
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Fredrick Douglass (African American)
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor (1930s, African-American)
The River Between Us by Richard Peck (Civil war, African-American)
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (Nigerian)
The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake (African American)
Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo by Zlata Filipovic (Bosnian)
The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore (African American, urban v. suburban)

Middle Eastern Identity-

Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (Afghanistan)
Sunrise of Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers (American and Iraqi)

First Peoples/ Native American Identity-

Code Talker by Joseph Bruhac (Navajo)

Jewish/ WWII History -

Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli (Jewish, Holocaust)
Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene (WWII, Nazi)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne (Nazi and Jewish)
The Girl in the Green Sweater by Krystyna Chiger (WWII/ Polish/ Nazi)

Places To Go-in/around Los Angeles

Here is a list for day trips or locations to visit with a group of kids. It is encouraged to have a discussion afterwards!

African American Museum, exhibits and interprets the history, art, and culture of African Americans with a focus on California and the western United States.
600 State Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90037

American Jewish Museum, The Art Galleries at the American Jewish University in Belair showcase the work of Jewish artists and other influential artists.
15600 Mulholland Drive, Bel Air, California 90077

Chinese American Museum, is located in the oldest building in LA's "Old Chinatown," which is now part of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Site. The museum is dedicated to the Chinese American experience and history in Southern California. 425 N Los Angeles St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum, (originally the Western States Black Research Center) is a collection of "over two million rare books, films, documents, photographs, artifacts,

and works of art related to the history and culture of African Americans in the United States, with a special focus on Southern California and the American West." The museum is located in the former Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse in Culver City. 4130 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

Finnish Folk Art Museum is located on the grounds of the Pasadena Museum of History in Pasadena, California. The only museum of its type in the United States, it was created in 1974 by Yrjo Alfred Paloheimo, a native of Finland, who was the husband of Leonora "Babsie" Curtin. 470 W Walnut St, Pasadena, CA 91103

The Italian American Museum of Los Angeles opened in 2016 in the original Italian Hall at the corner of El Pueblo de Los Angeles at Olvera Street. It showcases the contributions of Italians to the city of Los Angeles. 644 N Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo in Downtown Los Angeles focuses on the history of Japanese people in the United States with an emphasis on the West and the Japanese American contribution to the development of Los Angeles. 100 N Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Korean American Museum does not have a permanent gallery, but stages exhibits in various locations around Downtown LA and Koreatown. 3727 W 6th St #519, Los Angeles, CA 90020

The Korean Cultural Center is operated by the Korean government's Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism. It is dedicated to providing insights into the cultural heritage of Korea through exhibitions and programs. 5505 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, also known as LA Plaza, is a cultural museum at El Pueblo de Los Angeles dedicated to telling the story of the Mexican origins of the city of Los Angeles and the contribution of Mexican culture to the city's development. There are also exhibits on current Mexican culture at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles. 501 N Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Martial Arts History Museum focuses on the history of the various martial arts throughout Asia, you get a good dose of the history of those cultures along with historic uniforms and weapons. 2319 W Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91506

Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach focuses its collection on art by contemporary artists from all over Mexico, Central and South America. 628 Alamitos Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802

Pacific Asia Museum is a small museum in Pasadena that showcases the arts, both historic and modern, of Asia and the Pacific Islands. 46 N Los Robles Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101

The Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum in Long Beach showcases the diverse cultures from the Pacific Islands including the Marshallese, Samoans, Chamorro, Fijian, Carolinian, Tongan, Micronesian, Hawaiian, the Ni-Vanuatu, Niuean, Tuvauluan, Maori, Polynesian, Papuan, Austronesian, Nauruan, Melanesian, Palauan, the I-Kiribati and many more distinct nationalities. 695 Alamos Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802

The Southwest Museum of the American Indian is part of the Autry National Center. It contains the largest collections of Native American artifacts in the region. Part of the collection is on display, on Saturdays only, at the original Southwest Museum in Mt. Washington, which is now mostly used for conservation. Another part is at the Autry in Griffith Park, but most of it remains in storage during renovations. 234 Museum Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90065

Movies and Documentaries

Movies for discussion with teens or other parents-

Fruitvale Station (R)

Blind Spotting (R)

Roots 2018 or 1977 editions (PG-13)

I Am Not Your Negro (PG-13)

Selma (PG-13)

Joy Luck Club (R)

Smoke Signals, (PG-13)

Here are our other expanded lists:

List of [Secular Resources](#)

For [Christians](#)

List for [Teachers](#)