

About This List

The focus of this list is anti-Black racism, including white privilege, white supremacy, antiracism, and the Black Lives Matter movement. Books specifically about racism against non-Black people of color, or the lived experiences of non-Black people of color, are not included here, but are also important and numerous. Many of them can be found on the other booklists linked below.

Books about the Civil Rights movement are also crucial to understanding our situation today. Since our library has hundreds of books on this topic, including them on this list would have made it unmanageably long, and might have crowded out books on more current or less familiar topics. Instead, books on the Civil Rights movement for readers of all ages can be found on the booklists linked below.

Finally, these books are primarily about tough topics in our history and our society. It is equally important to provide books about Black and non-Black people of color that are joyful, lighthearted, and fun. All children deserve books that can act as both windows (giving a view onto the experiences of people who are different from them) and mirrors (reflecting their own lived experiences), across all genres, formats, ages, and reading levels. ([Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop](#) is the originator of this idea that books can be “mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors.”) Again, those books are beyond the scope of this list, but the booklists linked below are a good place to start, and our librarians are happy to make more suggestions.

[Civil Rights Movement Booklist \(all ages\)](#)

[Early Reader Books Centered on Diverse Characters](#)

[Chapter Books Centered on Diverse Characters](#)

Asian, Arabic, Middle Eastern and Muslim #OwnVoices Authors: [Middle Grade](#) | [Young Adult](#) | [Adult](#)

Black #OwnVoices Authors: [Middle Grade](#) | [Young Adult](#) | [Adult](#)

Hispanic and Latinx #OwnVoices Authors: [Middle Grade](#) | [Young Adult](#) | [Adult](#)

Indigenous and Native #OwnVoices Authors: [Middle Grade](#) | [Young Adult](#) | [Adult](#)

Please contact MS/HS Librarian Courtney Brown (cbrown@usn.org) with comments, questions, or suggestions.

Books About Racism and Resistance (compiled June 2020; updated periodically)

Note: **Grade levels listed are only a suggestion.** Many books on the list for grades 6 & 7, for example, could easily work just as well for a 5th grader or an 8th grader, depending on the child.

[Visit the Hassenfeld Library Catalog](#) to learn more about these titles. (*Books with an asterisk are not yet part of the library collection. Many will be added soon.)

Grades K-1

Adoff, Arnold. *Black is Brown is Tan*.

Barnes, Derrick. *I Am Every Good Thing*.

Charles, Tami. *All Because You Matter*.

Cherry, Matthew A. *Hair Love*.

Doyon, Samara Cole. *Magnificent Homespun Brown*.

Gorman, Amanda. *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*.
Harris, Robie. *Who We Are: All About Being the Same and Being Different*.
hooks, bell. *Skin, Again*.
Joy, Angela. *Black is a Rainbow Color*.
Katz, Karen. *The Colors of Us*.
Kissinger, Katie. *All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color*.
Manushkin, Fran. *Happy in Our Skin*.
McDaniel, Breanna J. *Hands Up!*
McGhee, Holly M. *Come With Me*.
Nyong'o, Lupita. *Sulwe*.
Penfold, Alexandra. *All Are Welcome*.
Tyler, Michael. *The Skin You Live In*.
Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side*.

Grades 2-3

Alko, Selina. *The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage*.
Celano, Marianne, Mariette Collins, and Ann Hazzard. *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice*.
Elliott, Zetta. *A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart*.
Gragg, Sanya Whittaker. *Momma, Did You Hear the News?*
Hannah-Jones, Nikole. *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*.
Harrison, Vashti. *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*.
Harrison, Vashti. *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History*.
Lester, Julius. *Let's Talk About Race*.
Medina, Tony. *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy*.
Memory, Jelani. *A Kids Book About Racism*.
Sand, Ben. *A Kids Book About White Privilege*.
Thierry, Justin. *A Kids Book About Systemic Racism*.

Grades 4-5

Alexander, Kwame. *The Undefeated*.
Bolden, Tonya. *Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls*.
Browne, Mahogany L. *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice*.
Chambers, Veronica. *Resist: 40 Profiles of Ordinary People Who Rose Up Against Tyranny & Injustice*.
Gino, Alex. *You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*
Higginbotham, Anastasia. *Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness*.
Hudson, Wade, and Cheryl Willis Hudson (ed). *The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth*.
Latham, Irene, and Charles Waters. *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship*.
Latham, Irene, and Charles Waters. *Dictionary for a Better World*.
Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America*.
Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*.
Reynolds, Jason, and Ibram X. Kendi, adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul. *Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You*.
We Are the Change: Words of Inspiration from Civil Rights Leaders.

Grades 6-7

Nonfiction:

Anderson, Carol. *One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters Are Treated Equally*.
Anderson, Carol. *We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide*.
Chambers, Veronica. *Call and Response: The Story of Black Lives Matter*.
Edwards, Sue Bradford, and Duchess Harris. *Black Lives Matter*.
Hasak-Lowy, Todd. *We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World*.
Hudson, Wade, and Cheryl Willis Hudson (ed). *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices*.
Jewell, Tiffany. *This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work*.
Khan-Cullors, Patrisse, and asha bandele. *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Story of Black Lives Matter and the Power to Change the World* (young readers' edition).
Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything American History Textbooks Get Wrong* (young readers' edition).
Reynolds, Jason, and Ibram X. Kendi. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*.
Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice* (young readers' edition).
Tarrant-Reid, Linda. *Discovering Black America: From the Age of Exploration to the Twenty-First Century*.
Zinn, Howard, and Rebecca Stefoff. *A Young People's History of the United States: Columbus to the War on Terror* (young readers' edition).

Fiction:

Colbert, Brandy. *The Only Black Girls in Town*.
Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*.
Maldonado, Torrey. *What Lane?*
Ramée, Lisa Moore. *A Good Kind of Trouble*.
Reynolds, Jason, and Brendan Kiely. *All American Boys*.
Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother*.
Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Ghost Boys*.

Grades 8 and up

Nonfiction:

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Accused! The Trials of the Scottsboro Boys: Lies, Prejudice, and the Fourteenth Amendment*.
Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. *Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow*.
*Goldstone, Lawrence. *Stolen Justice: The Struggle for African American Voting Rights*.
Hartfield, Claire. *A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riots of 1919*.
Johnson, George M. *All Boys Aren't Blue*.
Johnson, Maureen (ed). *How I Resist: Activism and Hope for a New Generation*.
Joseph, Frederick. *The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person*.

Fiction:

Coles, Jay. *Tyler Johnson Was Here*.
Hammonds Reed, Christina. *The Black Kids*.
Johnson, Kim. *This Is My America*.
Jones, Kimberly, and Gilly Segal. *I'm Not Dying With You Tonight*.
Magoon, Kekla. *How It Went Down*.
Medina, Tony. *I Am Alfonso Jones*.
Osajyefo, Kwanza. *Black*.

Oshiro, Mark. *Anger is a Gift*.
Stone, Nic. *Dear Martin* and *Dear Justyce*.
Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*.
Watson, Renée. *Piecing Me Together*.
Zoboi, Ibi (ed). *Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America*.
Zoboi, Ibi, and Yusef Salaam. *Punching the Air*.

Adults

Nonfiction:

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.
Anderson, Carol. *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying Our Democracy*.
Anderson, Carol. *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*.
Baldwin, James. *The Fire Next Time*.
Banaji, Mahzarin R. *Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*.
Barnes, Cinelle, ed. *A Measure of Belonging: 21 Writers of Color on the New American South*.
Bryant, Howard. *The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism*.
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*.
Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy*.
Cottom, Tressie McMillan. *Thick: And Other Essays*.
Davis, Angela. *Women, Race & Class*.
DiAngelo, Robin. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*.
Dyson, Michael Eric. *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*.
Eberhardt, Jennifer. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, & Do*.
Eddo-Lodge, Reni. *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race*.
Erickson, Ansley T. *Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and Its Limits*.
Giddings, Paula. *When & Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*.
Guo, Winona, and Priya Vulchi. *Tell Me Who You Are: Sharing Our Stories of Race, Culture, and Identity*.
Harvey, Jennifer. *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*.
Jabbar, Kareem Abdul. *Writings on the Wall: Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White*.
Jones, Justin. *The People's Plaza: Sixty-Two Days of Nonviolent Resistance*.
Kendall, Mikki. *Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot*.
Kendi, Ibram X. *How to Be an Antiracist*.
Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*.
Lowery, Wesley. *They Can't Kill Us All: The Story of the Struggle for Black Lives*.
McGhee, Heather. *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*.
Moore, Wes. *Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City*.
Morrison, Toni. *The Source of Self-Regard*.
Oluo, Ijeoma. *So You Want to Talk About Race*.
Rankine, Claudia. *Just Us: An American Conversation*.
Ritchie, Andrea J. *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color*.
Rothenburg, Paula (ed). *White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism*.
Saad, Layla F. *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*.
Steele, Claude. *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*.
Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*.
Taibbi, Matt. *I Can't Breathe: A Killing on Bay Street*.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*.
Thomas, Etan. *We Matter: Athletes and Activism*.
Ward, Jesmyn (ed). *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race*.
Wise, Tim. *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority*.

History:

Ash, Stephen V. *A Massacre in Memphis: The Race Riot That Shook the Nation One Year After the Civil War*.
Berry, Daina Ramey, and Kali Nicole Gross. *A Black Women's History of the United States*.
*Blackmon, Douglas A. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*.
D'Orso, Michael. *Like Judgment Day: The Ruin and Redemption of a Town Called Rosewood*.
Du Bois, W. E. B. *Black Reconstruction in America: 1860-1880*.
Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*.
*Jaspin, Elliot. *Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America*.
Kendi, Ibram X, and Keisha N. Blain. *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*.
Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*.
Loewen, James W. *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism*.
Madigan, Tim. *The Burning: The Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921*.
Ortiz, Paul. *An African American and Latinx History of the United States*.
Rothstein, Richard. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*.
Smith, Clint. *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*.
Theoharis, Jeanne. *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History*.
Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents*.
Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*.

Biography/Memoir:

*Bernard, Emily. *Black is the Body: Stories From My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine*.
Brown, Austin Channing. *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*.
*Cooper, Brittney. *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*.
Ford, Reggie. *Perseverance Through Severe Dysfunction: Breaking the Curse of Intergenerational Trauma as a Black Man in America*.
Hobbs, Jeff. *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League*.
Irving, Debby. *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*.
*Jerkins, Morgan. *This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America*.
Jones, Saeed. *How We Fight For Our Lives*.
Joseph, Jamal. *Panther Baby: A Life of Rebellion and Reinvention*.
Khan-Cullors, Patrisse, and asha bandele. *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*.
Laymon, Kiese. *Heavy: An American Memoir*.
Moore, Darnell L. *No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black and Free in America*.
Robinson, Phoebe. *You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain*.
Shakur, Assata. *Assata: An Autobiography*.
Smith, Mychal Denzel. *Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching: A Young Black Man's Education*.

X, Malcolm, with Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

Fiction:

Beatty, Paul. *The Sellout*.

Bennett, Brit. *The Mothers*.

Bennett, Brit. *The Vanishing Half*.

Brinkley, Jamel. *A Lucky Man*.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*.

Gyasi, Yaa. *Homegoing*.

Jones, Tayari. *An American Marriage*.

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*.

Morrison, Toni. *Song of Solomon*.

Reid, Kiley. *Such a Fun Age*.

Ward, Jesmyn. *Sing, Unburied, Sing*.

Whitehead, Colson. *The Nickel Boys*.

Whitehead, Colson. *The Underground Railroad*.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*.

Poetry:

Brown, Jericho. *The Tradition*.

Browne, Mahogany L. *Black Girl Magic*.

Clark, Tiana. *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood*.

Cushway, Philip, and Michael Warr (ed). *Of Poetry & Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin*.

*Elliott, Zetta. *Say Her Name: Poems to Empower*.

Ewing, Eve L. 1919.

Ewing, Eve L. *Electric Arches*.

Hayes, Terrance. *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin*.

Kelly, Donika. *Bestiary*.

Lorde, Audre. *The Black Unicorn*.

Parker, Morgan. *Magical Negro*.

Rankine, Claudia. *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

Smith, Danez. *Don't Call Us Dead*.

Smith, Danez. *Homie*.

Smith, Danez. *[Insert] Boy*.

Trethewey, Natasha. *Native Guard*.

Teachers

Brewster, Joe. *Promises Kept: Raising Black Boys to Succeed in School and in Life*.

Burris, Carol Corbett. *On the Same Track: How Schools Can Join the Twenty-First-Century Struggle Against Resegregation*.

*Crenshaw, Kimberlé, Luke Charles Harris, and George Lipsitz. *The Race Track: How the Myth of Equal Opportunity Defeats Racial Justice*.

Cruz, Barbara C., et al. *Talking Diversity With Teachers and Teacher Educators: Exercises and Critical Conversations Across the Curriculum*.

Delpit, Lisa D. *Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom*.

Emdin, Christopher. *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... And the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education*.

Ford, Donna Y. *Reversing Underachievement Among Gifted Black Students*.

Hammond, Zaretta. *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*.

Howard, Tyrone C. *Why Race and Culture Matter in Schools: Closing the Achievement Gap in America's Classrooms*.

Jones, Denisha, and Jesse Hagopian, eds. *Black Lives Matter at School: An Uprising for Educational Justice*.

Kay, Matthew R. *Not Light, But Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom*.

Kirkland, David E. *A Search Past Silence: The Literacy of Young Black Men*.

Love, Bettina L. *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom*.

Michael, Ali. *Raising Race Questions: Whiteness and Inquiry in Education*.

Milner, H. Richard. *Rac(e)ing to Class: Confronting Poverty and Race in Schools and Classrooms*.

Milner, H. Richard. *Start Where You Are, But Don't Stay There: Understanding Diversity, Opportunity Gaps, and Teaching in Today's Classroom*.

Muhammad, Gholdy. *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy*.

Singleton, Glenn E. *Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools*.

Stevenson, Howard C. *Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences That Make a Difference*.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *Can We Talk About Race? And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation*.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *"Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" and Other Conversations About Race*.

Vilson, José. *This Is Not a Test: A New Narrative on Race, Class, and Education*.