



FORJ Resources for Families: Books

Welcome! We hope that you enjoy exploring some of the books on this list. These books have been suggested by FORJ parents, so please know that we have not personally read and vetted every book on this list. We have read many of them, and encourage you to do so as well. Read and explore, and feel free to send us feedback at forjnewton@gmail.com . We are a learning community with many different experiences and different levels of comfort and/or awareness with some of the themes or topics addressed in these books. We welcome suggestions and constructive critique.

2018-2019 [Book Club List](#) from IDEAS (INITIATIVES for DEVELOPING EQUITY and ACHIEVEMENT for STUDENTS- see <https://edcollab.org/professional-learning/ideas/> for more information. Ask your school which teachers are involved.)

Books to Share with Your Children & Their Teachers

Link to Books for Littles - Actively engaging, pre-screened books - booksforlittles.com - run by a local mom

Great selection for Black History Month with a special focus on women
<http://www.booksforlittles.com/black-womens-history/>

Book Websites that are helpful:

<http://weneeddiversebooks.org/>

socialjusticebooks.org/

<http://www.booksforlittles.com>

Books on Immigrants: <http://www.imyourneighborbooks.org/> -

From their website: I'm Your Neighbor is a project which promotes the use of children's literature featuring "new arrival" cultures and groups to engage the entire community in a discussion of commonalities and differences. The project features a recommended list of books and an evolving list of engagement projects for educators, librarians, and community organizations who seek to build bridges.

The goal of the project is to both support communities as their cultural makeup evolves and to create opportunities for children's literature featuring refugees, immigrants, and "new" marginalized groups.

28 Black Picture Books That Aren't About Boycotts, Buses or Basketball (2018)

- [Say Something](#) by Peggy Moss
- [The Day of Ahmed's Secret](#), Florence Parry Heide
- [The Other Side](#), Jacqueline Woodson - *best to read aloud to engage the children*
- [Amazing Grace](#), Mary Hoffman - *read the most recent 25th edition and later*
- [Separate is Never Equal](#), Duncan Tonatiuh
- [All the Colors We Are](#), Katie Kissinger
- [A is for Activist](#) & [Counting on Community](#), Innosanto Nagara
- [Last Stop on Market Street](#), Matt de la Pena
- [Ron's Big Mission](#), Rose Blue
- [Ordinary People Change the World \(series\)](#), Brad Meltzer (*Great author, but beware that they are not historically accurate and can put down women to raise up particular women*)
- [As Fast As Words Could Fly](#), Pamela Tuck
- [Henry's Freedom Box](#) -
- [Have You Thanked An Inventor Today?](#)
- [Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super - Soaking Stream of Inventions](#)
- [Black Pioneers of Science and Invention](#)
- [My Two Blankets](#) by Irena Kobald & Freya Blackwood - beautiful story based on a friendship between the author's daughter and a Sudanese child *CAVEAT FOR WHITE SAVIORMISM - This is NOT a BFL-approved book.*
- [Manjhi Moves a Mountain](#) by Nancy Churnin - inspiring story of determination and vision based on the real story of Dashrath Manjhi

Books about Muslim Experiences

- Great Adult and Children's Lists of books from the Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland website - <https://sites.google.com/icbwayland.org/outreach>

Books about Asian American Experiences

These books are suggested reading from one of our FORJ parents. Please bear in mind that different families have different experiences and different levels of comfort and/or awareness with some of the themes or topics addressed in these books.

- [Drawn Together](#), by Minh Le (picture book)
- [The Ugly Vegetables](#), by Grace Lin (picture book)
- [Amal's Ramadan](#), by Amy Maranville
(published by Bharat Babies, founder by a Boston-based Asian American mom!)
- [A Different Pond](#), by Bao Phi (picture book)

- [Lakas and the Makibaka Hotel](#), by Anthony Robles (elementary)

- 16 Years in 16 Seconds, the Sammy Lee Story, by Paula Yoo (elementary)
- American Born Chinese, by Gene Yuen Lang (YA) - *Note: portrays some internalized racism*
- When Dimple Met Rishi, by Sandhya Menon (YA)
- You Bring the Distant Near, by Mitali Perkins (YA)
- Unaccustomed Earth, by Jhumpa Lahiri (adult)
- Everything I Never Told You, by Celeste Ng (adult)
- All You Can Ever Know, by Nicole Chung (adult)
- [The Hapa Project](#), by Kip Fulbeck(adult)

[Maria P.P. Root's Bill of Rights for People of Mixed Heritage](#)

[Fact Sheets from the Asian American Psychological Association](#)

Books for Adults to Read and Discuss

- [Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#), Beverly Daniel Tatum
- [Despite the Best Intentions: How Racial Inequality Thrives in Good Schools](#), Amanda E. Lewis
- [The New Jim Crow](#), Michelle Alexander
- [Between the World and Me](#), Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace](#), Jeff Hobbs
- [Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People](#), Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald
- [Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race](#), Debby Irving
- [White Fragility](#) , Robin DiAngelo
- [Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World](#), Michele Borba
- [Blink](#), Malcolm Gladwell
- [The Tipping Point](#), Malcolm Gladwell - addresses modern resistance
- [So You Want to Talk about Race](#) – Ijeoma Oluo “In this New York Times bestseller, Ijeoma Oluo explores the complex reality of today’s racial landscape--from white privilege and police brutality to systemic discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement--offering straightforward clarity that readers need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide.” Amazon Review
- [... But I'm NOT Racist!: Tools for Well-Meaning Whites](#) by Kathy O’Bear - great tips for how to run racial justice groups - kindle edition - see this video for a great intro
- [I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness](#) by Austin Channing Brown “From a powerful new voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female in middle-class white America.” *Amazon summary*
- [Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption](#) by Bryan Stevenson - “Part memoir, part exhortation for much-needed reform to the American criminal justice system, Bryan Stevenson’s *Just Mercy* is a heartrending and inspirational call to arms written by the activist lawyer who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based organization responsible

for freeing or reducing the sentences of scores of wrongfully convicted individuals. Stevenson's memoir weaves together personal stories from his years as a lawyer into a strong statement against racial and legal injustice, drawing a clear throughline from slavery and its legacy to today's still-prejudiced criminal justice system."

<http://www.supersummary.com/just-mercy/summary/>

- **[Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race](#)** – Reni Eddi Lodge “In 2014, award-winning journalist Reni Eddo-Lodge wrote about her frustration with the way that discussions of race and racism in Britain were being led by those who weren't affected by it. She posted a piece on her blog, entitled: "Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race." Her words hit a nerve. The post went viral and comments flooded in from others desperate to speak up about their own experiences. Galvanized by this clear hunger for open discussion, she decided to dig into the source of these feelings. Exploring issues from eradicated black history to the political purpose of white dominance, whitewashed feminism to the inextricable link between class and race, Reni Eddo-Lodge offers a timely and essential new framework for how to see, acknowledge and counter racism. It is a searing, illuminating, absolutely necessary exploration of what it is to be a person of color in Britain today.” *Amazon Review*
- **[White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White](#)** by Daniel Hill - After an encounter that woke him up to having “white culture,” Daniel Hill “began a journey of understanding his own white identity. Today he is an active participant in addressing and confronting racial and systemic injustices. And in this compelling and timely book, he shows you the seven stages to expect on your own path to cultural awakening. It's crucial to understand both personal and social realities in the areas of race, culture, and identity. This book will give you a new perspective on being white and also empower you to be an agent of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.” *from the Amazon review*
- **[Little Fires Everywhere](#)** by Celest Ng *Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood – and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.
- **[Tell Me How it Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions](#)** by Valeria Luiselli - Hands down the most important book of the year, Luiselli's non-fiction account of her work with undocumented child migrants is loosely based around the questionnaire they are asked to fill out to apply for asylum, and woven through with her own experiences traversing the bureaucracies of American immigration. *Tell Me How It Ends* leaves the question of its title urgently unanswered, and lights a fire under the reader to get them involved.
<http://remezcla.com/lists/culture/best-books-latino-authors-2017/>
- **[Defining Moments in Black History: Reading Between the Lies](#)** By Dick Gregory