



Read & Resist 2020

20 Acts of Reading as Resistance

Reading Is Resistance's mission is to support the curation of inclusive, anti-racist¹ home, classroom, and community libraries & reading experiences for young people and their mentors, parents, caregivers, and teachers.

DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison:
ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp

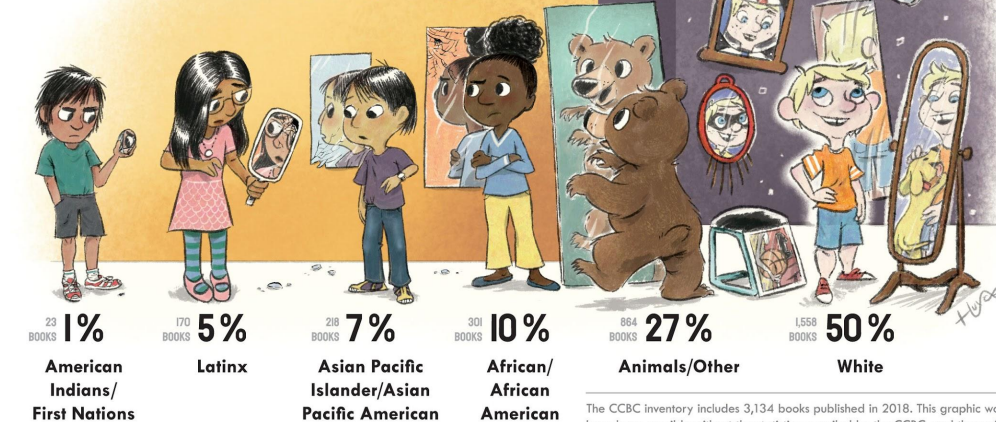


Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen
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The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

In 2018, 77% of published children's books featured white protagonists or non-human characters while only 23% featured protagonists who were Black/Indigenous/people of color (BIPOC). In addition, many stories featuring Black/Indigenous/people of color distort, misrepresent, stereotype, and are not written by folx with the identities they are narrating.

In 2020, as an act of resistance to these dominant narratives, we envision a decade (and lifetime!) of radical imagination and collective action around racial justice on our bookshelves and in our lives.

¹ <https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/54999/how-ibram-x-kendis-definition-of-antiracism-applies-to-schools>

READY TO JOIN READ & RESIST 2020?

Read & Resist 2020 is imagined by Reading Is Resistance PDX for readers anywhere. Our participants are usually teachers, parents, and young people who enjoy kid and/or YA literature and who are committed to deepening their critical social justice lens and anti-racist work.

This 2020 project can be completed solo by an adult, as a multi-generational family commitment, or as classroom curriculum.



REGISTRATION AND DRAWING

Register via [Read & Resist 2020 Sign Up](#) and get entered into our drawing for a Kind of Brew Coffee & Reading Is Resistance Book Collection for your home or classroom!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & LEARNER'S POSITIONALITY

We at Reading Is Resistance acknowledge that anti-racist reading experiences are small pieces of a much bigger picture of necessary collective action against racism and oppression.

We acknowledge that reading as an act of resistance alone is not nearly enough to effect change to white supremacy systems that dominate and harm.

And...we hold the belief that the small work matters.

In her book *Emergent Strategy*, adrienne maree brown describes several core principals, one of which is "Small is good, small is all. (The large is a reflection of the small)" (41).

It is our intention that the small acts of reading as resistance motivate and drive us to other kinds of resistance against racism and oppression and greater depths of self and community work. It is our intention that reading as resistance leads immediately to conversations and actions in community.

This does not mean that our intention and impact will always align. And we are committed to facing the reality of our intentions and impacts and continuing to learn and adjust.

GET STARTED

1. [Read & Resist 2020 Sign Up](#)
2. Complete the Optional Orientation Reading & Reflection (Appendix A)
3. Spend some time analyzing your own reading and library choices (Appendix B)

CHOOSE ANY 20 ACTS OF READING AS RESISTANCE...

Get to Know Some Anti-Bias Book Organizations

- ☐ Read a recommendation from [Social Justice Books Project](#).
- ☐ Read a recommendation from [We Need Diverse Books](#).
- ☐ Read a recommendation from [American Indians in Children's Literature](#).
- ☐ Read a recommendation from [De Colores: La Raza Experience in Books for Children](#)

Read a Book by²

- ☐ Renee Watson
- ☐ Cynthia Leitich Smith
- ☐ Monique Gray Smith
- ☐ Kadir Nelson
- ☐ Naomi Shihab Nye
- ☐ Linda Sue Park
- ☐ Hena Khan
- ☐ Grace Lin
- ☐ Jennifer Torres
- ☐ Zetta Elliott
- ☐ Jacqueline Woodson
- ☐ Jason Reynolds
- ☐ Shane Evans
- ☐ Matt de la Peña

² This list is in no way comprehensive...just a place to get started.

Read a Young People's Edition of a Non-Fiction Book

- ☐ An Indigenous People's History of the U.S. (young reader's edition) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz & Debbie Reese
- ☐ Just Mercy (young reader's edition) by Bryan Stevenson
- ☐ The Distance Between Us (young reader's edition) by Reyna Grande
- ☐ Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You (publish date in March 2020) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
- ☐ One Person, No Vote (YA Edition): How Not All Voters Are Treated Equally by Carol Anderson and Tonya Bolden

Build Reading Is Resistance Community

- ☐ Recommend a Read and Resist 2020 book
- ☐ Read an article posted to the Reading Is Resistance Facebook page
- ☐ Join the Reading Is Resistance Facebook community
- ☐ Attend a Reading Is Resistance Silent Social Justice Book Club meet up (spring, summer, fall)
- ☐ Read a blog post on www.readingisresistance.com and comment.

Share

- ☐ Tell people what you're reading. Show them your books. Invite conversation about the Read & Resist 2020 project.
- ☐ Take pictures of the books as you read them. Share these pictures with us.
- ☐ Purchase a Read and Resist 2020 book and gift it to a child or adult; donate it to a school, place it in a Little Free Library. Leave it somewhere with a note that welcomes a new reader.
- ☐ Take a picture of you reading one of the books you selected and share it via social media, text it to friends/family, print it out and put it up

- ❑ Read in public. Take a stack of books and see if you make new friends.
 - ❑ Write a book review or reflection using anti-bias guidelines and share it with friends or even with the bigger Reading Is Resistance
 - ❑ Figure out how to take your reading to the next level -- action. Join an organization that works for racial justice.
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APPENDIX A: Optional Orientation Activity

Read

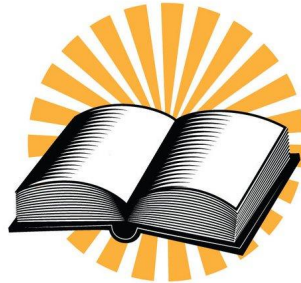
- [Two States, Eight Textbooks, Two American Stories](#)
- [Reading the Right Books, Not Just the White Books, Will Help Black Students Succeed](#)
- [Lies My Bookshelf Told Me](#)
- [Sense of An Ending: Picture Books as an Entry to Activism](#)
- [Captivating Kids Stories to Recognize Privilege](#)
- [The Literary Canon Is Mostly White: Here's an Alternative Latin American Reading List](#)

Reflect

- Where does your own identity intersect with what these articles talk about? How does your own identity impact the way you read, select books, experience books?
- What memories do you have of books in childhood?
- How do you (or don't you) center the voices and experiences of black, indigenous, and other people of color as you read, shop, work, parent, teach, live in community?

APPENDIX B: Resources to Analyze Your Library or Check Out List

- [How to Audit Your Classroom Library for Diversity](#)
- [Classroom Library Questionnaire from Lee & Low Books](#)
- [Having Students Analyze Our Classroom Library](#)
- [Your Classics Aren't My Classics](#)
- [Decolonizing the Way Libraries Organize](#)
- [The Art of Domination: On Decolonizing the Curriculum](#)



SAVE THE DATE

Reading Is Resistance's 1st Silent Book Club Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 6-8:00 pm, at the 1905