

## **Social Justice Books – 2025**

### **Fiction**

- Does My Head Look Big in This* by Randa Abdel-Fattah (Religion - hijab)
- This Book Won't Burn* by Samira Ahmed (Censorship)
- Hollow Fires* by Samira Ahmed (Racism, Islamophobia)
- Orange for the Sunsets* by Tina Athaide (Colonialism, refugees)
- All You Have To Do* by Autumn Allen (Racism, Protest)
- Obie is Man Enough* by Schuyler Bailar (Gender identity)
- Count Me In* by Varsha Bajaj (Racism, immigrant issues, community protest)
- Thirst* by Varsha Bajaj (Water hoarding, environmental issues)
- Where the Watermelons Grow* by Cindy Baldwin (Mental illness)
- Hold Fast* by Blue Balliett (Homelessness)
- The Benefits of Being an Octopus* by Ann Braden (Poverty and class differences)
- Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling (Disability - amputee, Tourette's syndrome)
- Fighting Words* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Child abuse/sexual abuse)
- Ask Me No Questions* by Marina Budhos (9/11, Islamophobia)
- Tell Us We're Home* by Marina Budhos (Immigration)
- Hurricane Child* by Kacen Callender (LGBTQ+ issues)
- King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender (LGBTQ+ issues)
- Efrén Divided* by Ernesto Cisneros (Immigration/undocumented immigrants)
- The Only Black Girls in Town* by Brandy Colbert (Black identity)
- The Voting Booth* by Brandy Colbert (Voting/voter's rights/voter suppression)
- Counting Thyme* by Melanie Conklin (Illness - cancer)
- All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* by Connor, Leslie (Mass incarceration/foster care)
- Where I Belong* by Gillian Cross (Refugees)
- Boy, Everywhere* by Dassu, A.M (Refugees)
- I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day (Transracial adoption/Native American identity)
- We Still Belong* by Christine Day (Indigenous identity)
- The Sea in Winter* by Christine Day (Native American identity, depression, anxiety)

*Halfway Normal* by Barbara Dee (Illness - cancer)

*Maybe He Just Likes You* by Barbara Dee (#MeToo/sexual harassment)

*My Life in the Fish Tank* by Barbara Dee (Mental illness)

*Unstuck* by Barbara Dee (Mental health, learning disabilities)

*The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz (Fleeing violence)

*Santiago's Road Home* by Alexandra Diaz (Immigration/undocumented immigrants)

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper (Disability - cerebral palsy)

*Out of My Heart* by Sharon M. Draper (Disability - cerebral palsy)

*The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis (Girls access to education)

*A Thousand Questions* by Saadia Faruqi (Democracy, immigration)

*The Partition Project* by Saadia Faruqi (Colonialism, immigration)

*Dress Coded* by Carrie Firestone (School dress codes, sexism)

*The First Rule of Climate Club* by Carrie Firestone (Climate change, activism)

*90 Miles to Havana* by Enrique Flores-Galbis (Immigration, Refugees)

*Operation Redwood* by Susannah T. French (Environment)

*Take Back the Block* by Chrystal Giles (Gentrification)

*Alice Austen Lived Here* by Alex Gino (LGBTQ issues, Hidden history)

*Green* by Alex Gino (Gender identity)

*Melissa* by Alex Gino (Gender identity)

*Ban this Book* by Alan Gratz (Censorship)

*Refugee* by Alan Gratz (Refugees)

*Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz (Climate change)

*My Life in Pink and Green* by Lisa Greenwald (Environment)

*The Strange Wonder of Roots* by Evan Griffith (Environment)

*Wildoak* by C.C. Harrington (Environment and animal conservation, Disability - Stutter)

*The Sky at Our Feet* by Nadia Hashimi (Immigration/undocumented immigrants)

*One Shadow on the Wall* by Leah Henderson (Child orphans/poverty)

*Hoot/Flush* by Carl Hiaasen (Environmental activism)

*Minnie McClary Speaks Her Mind* by Valerie Hobbs (Speaking up for others)

*Hurricane Girls* by Kimberly Willis Holt (Natural disasters)

*Same Sun Here* by Silas House and Neela Vaswani (Immigration and environment)

*The Color of My Words* by Lynn Joseph (Oppressive government/developers)

*American as Paneer Pie* by Supriya Kelkar (Immigrant issues, bullying, community protest)

*Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan (Islamophobia)

*Drawing Deena* by Hena Khan (mental health)

*Stand Up Yumi Chung* by Jessica Kim (Immigration, Korean identity)

*Attack of the Black Rectangles* by A.S. King (Censorship, book banning)

*Butterfly Yellow* by Thanh Hà Lai (Immigration, refugees, Vietnam)

*The Civil War of Amos Abernathy* by Michael Leali (LGBTQ+ issues, hidden history)

*Hummingbird* by Natalie Lloyd (Disability - Brittle Bone Disease)

*For Black Girls Like Me* by Mariama J. Lockington (Transracial adoption/African American identity)

*Different Kinds of Fruit* by Kyle Lukoff (LGBTQ+ issues, transgender parent)

*Too Bright to See* by Kyle Lukoff (Gender identity)

*Heat* by Mike Lupica (Orphaned immigrants)

*From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks (Mass incarceration, incarcerated parent)

*Moxie* by Jennifer Mathieu (Girls' empowerment)

*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Disability - dyslexia, learning differences)

*One for the Murphys* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Foster care)

*Nowhere Boy* by Katherine Marsh (Refugees, immigration, Islamophobia)

*How to Become a Planet* by Nicole Melleby (Mental health)

*Breakout* by Kate Messner (Mass incarceration, racism)

*Chirp* by Kate Messner (Sexual harassment/abuse)

*A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramée (Black Lives Matter)

*Something to Say* by Lisa Moore Ramée (Speaking up/public speaking, school name change)

*Trash* by Andy Mulligan (Poverty in developing world)

*No Fixed Address* by Susin Nielsen (Homelessness)

*How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor (Homelessness)

*Just a Drop of Water* by Kerry O'Malley Cerra (9/11, Islamophobia)

*The Insiders* by Mark Oshiro (Bullying, LGBTQ+ issues)

*A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park (Refugees)

*Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Racism/Colorism)

*Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Racism/Black Lives Matter)

*Paradise on Fire* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Climate change, environment, Black identity)

*The Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Race and class in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina)

*The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson (Foster care)

*Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers* by Celia C. Pérez (Animal rights, environment)

*Hope in the Valley* by Mitali Perkins (Affordable housing)

*Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins (Child soldiers)

*Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Labor unions and workplace abuse)

*Angel of Greenwood* by Randi Pink (Racism, Tulsa Race Massacre)

*World Made of Glass* by Ami Polonsky (AIDS crisis; LGBTQ+ issues)

*Gracefully Grayson* by Ami Polonsky (LGBTQ+ issues, Transgender student)

*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed (Girls' education & indentured servitude)

*Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzai (Refugees)

*Boys Without Names* by Kashmira Sheth (Sweatshops)

*Dry* by Neal Shusterman (Climate justice)

*Running* by Natalia Sylvester (Politics/presidency, privacy, Latinx identity)

*Same Page* by Elly Swartz (Censorship)

*Trouble on Tarragon Island* by Nikki Tate (Environment)

*Free Period* by Ali Terese (Menstrual justice)

*Olive Blackwood Takes Action!* by Sonja Thomas (Environment and animal conservation)

*Property of the Rebel Librarian* by Allison Varnes (Censorship)

*Born Behind Bars* by Padma Venkatraman (Incarceration, poverty)

*The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman (Homelessness, poverty, disability)

*Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson (Education - race and class)

*Watch Us Rise* by Renée Watson and Ellen Hagan (Feminism)

*The Renegade Reporters* by Elissa Brent Weissman (Student journalism, data privacy)

*The Assignment* by Liza Wiemer (Student activism, antisemitism)

*Shark Teeth* by Sherri Winston (Foster care, mental health)

*Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams (Colorism/internalized oppression)

*Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell (Indigenous identity)

*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang (Immigration and race)

*Finally Seen* by Kelly Yang (Immigration and censorship)

*Finally Heard* by Kelly Yang (Immigration and censorship)

*Owl's Outstanding Donuts* by Robin Yardi (Environment)

*Healer of the Water Monster* by Brian Young (Indigenous identity)

*Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam (Mass incarceration, prison reform, racism)

### **Non-Fiction**

*Orphan Train Girl* (The Young Readers' Edition) by Christina Baker Kline

*I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin

Ganda with Liz Welch

*The Book of Awesome Women: Boundary Breakers, Freedom Fighters, Sheroes and Female*

*Firsts* by Becca Anderson

*Babylon's Ark: The incredible wartime rescue of the Baghdad Zoo* by Lawrence Anthony

*March forward, girl : from young warrior to Little Rock Nine* by Melba Pattillo Beals

*Exclusion and the Chinese American Story* by Sarah-SoonLing Blackburn

*Lion: A Long Way Home* (Young Reader's Edition) by Saroo Brierley

*Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* (Young Readers' Edition) by Irin

Carmon and Shana Knizhnik

*Resist: 35 Profiles of Ordinary People Who Rose Up Against Tyranny and Injustice* by Veronica

Chambers

*It's Your World: Get informed, get inspired, and get going!* by Chelsea Clinton

*Votes for Women!: American Suffragists and the Battle for the Ballot* by Winifred Conkling

*Colonization and the Wampanoag Story* by Linda Coombs

*Don't Look Back: A Memoir of War, Survival, and My Journey from Sudan to America* by Achut

Deng and Keely Hutton

*Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box* by Evette Dionne

*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the US for Young People* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and

adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese

*Represent: the unfinished fight for the vote* by Michael Eric Dyson

*Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret* by Catherine Coleman Flowers

*Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow* by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Tonya Bolden

*Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders And The Birth Of The FBI* (Adapted for Young Readers) by David Grann

*The Distance Between Us* (Young Reader's Edition) by Reyna Grande

*Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution* by Judith Heumann (Disability Justice)

*My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero and Erica Moroz (Immigration and deportation)

*Defiant: Growing Up in the Jim Crow South* by Wade Hudson

*We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson

*When They Call You a Terrorist: A Story of Black Lives Matter and the Power to Change the World* (Young Adult Edition) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele (Black Lives Matter)

*Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and Monique Gray Smith

*This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 lessons on how to wake up, take action, and do the work* by Tiffany Jewell

*The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person* by Frederick Joseph

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Reader's Edition) by William Kamkwamba

*Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin

*A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis* by Vanessa Nakate (Climate Change)

*Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother* by Sonia Nazario

*It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

*Borderlands and the Mexican American Story* by David Dorado Romo

*How to Be a (Young) Antiracist* by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone (Racism/Antiracism)

*Shark Teeth* by Sherri Winston

*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi (Racism/Antiracism)

*Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly

*Up Home: One Girl's Journey* by Ruth J. Simmons (Racism and Poverty)

*Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed* by Dashka Slater

*Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice* (Adapted for Young Adults) by Bryan Stevenson

*Outcasts United: the story of a refugee soccer team that changed a town* by Warren St. John

*The Compton Cowboys: And the Fight to Save Their Horse Ranch* (Young Reader's Edition) by Walter Thompson-Hernandez

*Rising from the ashes: Los Angeles, 1992: Edward Jae Song Lee, Latasha Harlins, Rodney King, and a City on Fire* by Paula Yoo

*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

*We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World* by Malala Yousafzai

*Roses and Radicals: The Epic Story of How American Women Won the Right to Vote* by Susan Zimet and Todd Hasak-Lowy

*The Kaepernick Effect: Taking a Knee, Changing the World* by Dave Zirin

### **Short Stories**

*Shattered: Stories of Children and War* edited by Jennifer Armstrong

*Out of Bounds* by Beverly Naidoo

*Take the Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance* edited by Bethany Morrow