ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ann Hazzard, PhD, ABPP, Marietta Collins, PhD, Marianne Celano, PhD, ABPP

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This online resource list accompanies the book *Something Happened in Our Town*, a picture book that introduces young children to the topics of racial injustice and police shootings. The book also includes information for parents or caretakers to help them encourage children to value diversity. In this resource list, the authors provide the following additional information:

a. Lists of books for young children about
   1. resisting racial bias and advocating for civil rights, and
   2. accepting oneself and valuing diversity;

b. Additional resource lists including
   1. books supporting racial pride for children of diverse ethnicities
   2. books about Africa
   3. books about slavery
   4. resources for multicultural families
   5. anti-bullying books
   6. resources about community violence
   7. resources about racial injustice for older children;

c. Additional resources for parents; and

d. Additional resources for teachers.

BOOK LISTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

This section includes two lists of picture books designed for children ages 4 to 8. List 1 contains books about racial discrimination or civil rights which include an anti-racist message. Although the terms “anti-bias” and “anti-racist” are often used interchangeably, only the latter term describes the practice of disrupting white supremacy and fighting policies that discriminate against racial groups. List 2 includes books which promote general self-acceptance and the value of diversity. Many of the authors and illustrators on this list have multiple books which may be of interest to families and young readers. A suggested age range is also offered for each book, although some books may also be appropriate for younger or older children. The books listed below were reviewed by one of the three psychologists who authored *Something Happened in Our Town*, or by Nell Harvey Booker, a retired elementary school librarian for the Nashville Public Schools, or Glenda Harvey, a retired elementary school principal and teacher in the Detroit Public School system.

**Book List 1: Resisting Racial Bias and Advocating for Civil Rights**


*Harriet Tubman's life story helps children learn...*
about key historical issues such as slavery, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War. (Ages 4–8)

This poem celebrates the endurance and spirit of great African American artists, athletes, and activists. (Ages 4–8).

Illustrated by historic photographs, this is the story of a courageous 6-year-old Black girl who integrated an all White New Orleans school. (Ages 4–5)

This book tells the story of children and teens who marched in Birmingham in 1963 to protest Jim Crow laws. (Ages 6–8)

This inspirational book covers key figures in the civil rights movement who paved the way for the first African American president. (Ages 4–8)

Baseball-loving Willie sees a game between the Major Leaguers and Negro Leaguers in the 1940s which fuels his determination to work hard, excel, and overcome prejudice. (Ages 6–8)

Sarah Roberts and her family challenge school segregation in 1840s Boston. (Ages 6–8)

African American parents teach their son strategies for safely managing potential encounters with police. (Ages 6–8)

A series of poems portrays how the friendship between two Black girls helps them overcome the problems and prejudices they encounter. (Ages 6–8)

After hearing about a police shooting of an unarmed African American man, a white girl becomes aware of race and racism. (Ages 6–8; publisher lists age range of 8–12).

Classmates tell Grace that she can’t play Peter Pan because she is a Black girl, but that’s not the end of the story! (Ages 4–8)

Through the eyes of one child, this book celebrates the first African American Emancipation Day, when freedom finally reached the last slaves in the South. (Ages 4–8)


Klein, C.S. (2015). Painting for peace in Ferguson. Treehouse Publishing, an imprint of Amphorae Publishing. A week of protests left many shops boarded up after the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. This inspirational book documents the art that volunteers and artists created on those boards, conveying messages of hope for healing. (Ages 4–8)


Lyons, K. S., & Lewis, E. B. (2012). Tea cakes for Tosh. G. P. Putnam’s Sons. Tosh learns that his grandmother’s tea cake recipe was passed down from an ancestor who was a slave. (Ages 4–8)


Mason, M., & Cooper, F. (2011). These hands. HMH Books for Young Readers. This intergenerational tale contrasts the discrimination faced by Joseph’s grandfather in the 1950s and 1960s with his many strengths. Readers learn about overcoming racial discrimination and striving to use your hands to do whatever inspires you. (Ages 4–8)


Michelson, R., & Lewis, E. B. (2006). Across the alley. G.P. Putnam. At night, an African American boy secretly shows his best friend, a Jewish boy, how to throw a big-league slider, and his friend lets him try his violin. With family support, they summon the courage to cross the alley and reveal their friendship during the day. (Ages 4–8)

Myers, W. D., & Cooper, F. (2017). Frederick Douglass: The lion who wrote history. Harper. Frederick Douglass began life as a slave but learned to read and escaped to the North. He was an inspirational leader in the campaign to abolish slavery. (Ages 4–8)


Rappaport, D., & Collier, B. (2001). Martin’s big words: The life of Dr. Martin Luther King. Disney’s Jump at the Sun. This beautifully illustrated brief biography of the civil rights icon includes some of MLK’s memorable quotes. (Ages 4–8)


Smith, C., & Cooper, F. (2012). Brick by brick. Harper Collins. The White House was built by diverse individuals, including slaves, some of whom were able to buy their freedom. (Ages 4–5)


In the 1960s South, laws against segregation are overturned, but attitudes are harder to change at the neighborhood swimming pool. This story is told from the perspective of a White child, with a positive message that friendship can overcome societal barriers. (Ages 4–8)

Malala grew up in war-torn Pakistan and stood up for human rights; she is the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. (Ages 4–8)

Book List 2: Accepting Oneself and Valuing Diversity

This engaging story of a lost and bullied sweet potato encourages children not to reject others based on their “outsides” but to value everyone’s uniqueness. (Ages 4–5)

Competition between three friends, each trying to be the best, leads to resentment until they learn to appreciate their differences. (Ages 4–5)

Blackbird celebrates his color but also values diversity and conveys that beauty comes from within. (Ages 4–8)

An African American girl conveys messages of self-acceptance, inclusion, and kindness. (Ages 4–8)

In this award-winning story, CJ’s grandmother helps him appreciate the beauty in his life, despite challenging economic circumstances. (Ages 4–5)

A Black child is teased by White peers and initially wishes to look differently but learns to love himself. (Ages 4–5)

This book lovingly describes and pictures the diverse skins and hair of the world’s children. (Ages 4–5)

Harris, J., & Wescott, N. (2016). Who we are! All about being the same and being different. Candlewick Press. 
On a family excursion, two children discuss many similarities and differences, including skin color, and learn to treat others the way they want to be treated. (Ages 4–5)

Hudson, W., & Hudson, C.W. (Eds). (2018). We rise, we resist, we raise our voices. Crown Books for Young Readers. 
This compilation of poems, essays, illustrations and photographs offers inspiration and encouragement to children of color and their allies during challenging times. (Ages 6–8 and older)

Kissinger, K., & Bohnhoff, C. (2014, 20th anniversary edition). All the colors we are: Todos los colores de nuestra piel. Redleaf Press. 
This book offers children a simple, scientifically
accurate explanation of how our skin color is determined by our ancestors, the sun, and melanin. (Ages 4–6)

As a multicultural group of children play in the park, they recognize their similarities despite some physical differences. Presented as a rap, the story and illustrations capture the joy of childhood. (Ages 4–8)

Our first Black president writes about 13 groundbreaking Americans and encourages each of us to pursue our dreams. (Ages 4–8)

This is a delightful Christmas and Hanukkah story about a cross-cultural friendship between an African American and Jewish family. (Ages 4–8)

Rosen, M., & Graham, B. (2005). This is our house. Candlewick Press.
This book helps children understand what it feels like to be excluded. (Ages 4–8)

Charles, an African American boy, gets to know his new classmate Hector, who is from Puerto Rico. (Ages 6–8)

Keyana handles peer teasing and learns to appreciate her special hair. (Ages 4–8)

This book defines race and racism and encourages children to appreciate diversity while recognizing our common humanity. (Ages 4–5)

This clever rhyming book celebrates the colors and usefulness of our diverse skins. (Ages 4–5)

A friendship between a White and an African American child exposes how racism is taught to children. The author illustrates how barriers can be broken when children are curious enough to learn about other cultures. (Ages 4–8)

This book is about finding the courage to connect with others when you feel different from peers in school due to race, culture, or other reasons. (Ages 4–8)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN**
Here are some starting points to identify resources on additional topics:

**Books supporting racial pride for children of diverse ethnicities**
This is an organization devoted to increasing children’s access to books that reduce bias and promote positive identity development.

This website recommends children's picture books featuring Latinx characters and themes. Other sections of the website provide suggestions for older children.

The mission of this nonprofit is “putting more books that feature diverse characters into the hands of all children.” Their Our Story app helps one choose books which address particular issues of interest.

Books about Africa
This website provides annotations and scholarly reviews of children’s and young adult books about Africa, which celebrate Africa’s geography, history, and people. This resource list also includes picture books. We recommending reading some of these selections to children to help balance the negative associations that they may have if they first learn about Africa in the context of enslavement.

From sunset to sunrise, this book contrasts the activities of people in Johannesburg with those of the animals in Kruger National Park. (Ages 4–8)

Set in Uganda, a pair of sisters find lost objects and dream of the future. (Ages 4–8)

This book features the true story of a woman in the Gambia who developed a way to recycle and repurpose plastic bags to improve her community. (Ages 6–8 and older)

Books about Slavery
Many educators are now actively discussing when and how to best teach children about America’s history of enslaving people from west Africa. Louise Derman-Sparks, a renowned early childhood and anti-bias educator offers educators some questions to consider about introducing this topic (Retrieved 4/20/2020 from https://www.teachingforchange.org/when-how-children-enslavement). There is consensus that it is important to find a middle ground, neither minimizing the impact of enslavement nor traumatizing young children. Three children's books which offer realistic but humanizing views of enslaved persons are:

This book focuses on the humanity and skill of an actual person, a master potter whose work survives, despite the challenging circumstances of his life. (Ages 4–8)


Resources for multicultural children and families


Anti-bullying books for children


Wagenbach, D., & Tablason, J. (2018). Big, brave, bold Sergio. Magination Press. Sergio the snapping turtle learns that it actually takes more courage to stand up to your friends than to bully smaller creatures in the pond. (Ages 4–6)

Books and resources about community violence


Books and media resources about racial injustice for older children
Black-ish episode (“Hope,” Season 2, Episode 16) African American parents have differing views about how to talk to their children about a police brutality verdict. Available through Hulu or Amazon or other streaming services.

Cut. (2017, February 6). How to deal with the police/parents explain/Cut [Video file]. Retrieved 2/17/2020 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coryt8IZ-DE Parents of color discuss instances of police mistreatment with their children and suggest how to respond to police to reduce the likelihood of being injured. Viewers may not agree with all parents’ approaches, but this emotionally intense video challenges us to think about the impact of racially-biased police practices.

Gino, A. (2018). You don’t know everything, Jilly P. Scholastic. Jilly P is a well-intentioned White middle-schooler and fantasy fiction fan. She realizes she has a lot to learn when her sister is born deaf and she becomes online friends with Derek, who is Black and deaf. (Ages 8–12)


Paul, C., & Tamaki, L. (2018). You are mighty: A guide to changing the world. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. This engaging book provides middle school children with pragmatic ideas about different aspects of social justice activism such as volunteering, raising money for causes, making signs, and planning a march.
Reynolds, J., & Kendi, I. (2020). Stamped: Racism, antiracism, and you. Little, Brown & Co. This book makes accessible to middle and high school students Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning, a narrative history of racist and antiracist ideas in the U.S.

Reynolds, J., & Kiely, B. (2015). All American boys. Antheneum/Caitlyn Diouhy Books. This award-winning young adult novel explores the aftermath of a White policeman’s unjust beating of Rashad, an African American youth. Rashad grapples with his role as a symbol of his community’s experiences of police brutality, while a White classmate who witnessed the incident struggles with conflicting loyalties.

Rhodes, J.P. (2018). Ghost boys. Little Brown & Co. The narrator of this story is Jerome, a 12-year-old Black boy who is killed by a policeman. The book is aimed at middle schoolers and uses the voice of Jerome’s ghost to explore racism, family and peer relationships, and the power of bearing witness.


Thomas, A. (2017). The hate U give. Balzer & Bray. In this award-winning young adult novel, 16-year-old Starr is drawn to activism when she witnesses her unarmed African American friend being shot by a police officer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ADULTS

Parent Resources
You may have found reading this book to your child to be thought-provoking for yourself. To increase your knowledge about racial issues and to become more comfortable discussing these topics, we have provided a list of helpful articles and websites:


This nonprofit aims to end police violence by enacting policies to limit police intervention, improve community interaction, and ensure accountability.

This is an engaging and informative 14-part podcast that helps White people critically examine their own racial identity. After listening, you will have a much clearer and deeper understanding of the social construction of race and institutional racism.

A web-based blog and resource library for sharing best practices for raising and caring for all kids in the context of race.

Rebekah Gienapp has created a website full of resources for parents who want to tackle social justice issues with their children. Her recently published e-book inspires readers to openly examine and challenge white privilege in their families and communities.

Based on in-depth interviews with children and their families, a sociologist explores how White, affluent kids learn about race.

Grounded in scholarship on racial identity and racial socialization, this book provides practical advice on how to raise White children to be allies in the struggle against racism.


A theologian committed to social justice reflects on “doing her own work” as she seeks to more deeply understand what it means to be white in the United States.

In this follow-up to his National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning, Kendi describes different forms of racism, personalizing
them with anecdotes from his own life, and encourages readers to oppose racism in their systems and in themselves.

A web-based resource primarily geared towards White parents, including blogs, webinars, and podcasts.

TED Talk of interest to all parents.

In down-to-earth language, a professor of Africology and Urban Studies offers seven tips for talking to young children about racism.

This downloadable pamphlet provides age-based guidance for family discussions of prejudice based on race, sex, religion and other aspects of identity.

An African American writer offers her thoughts on how White allies can be helpful in understanding and fighting systemic racism.

Teacher resources
The authors have prepared a handout to assist teachers who would like to read Something Happened in Our Town to a group of young children. You can download those Read Aloud Tips for Educators at http://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/441B228.aspx

Below we list general resources to support teachers in providing anti-bias and anti-racist education to students across all ages. Some of the resources listed in the Parent Resources section may also be helpful to educators.


A public-school educator in Seattle created a curriculum for high school students about racism. On this website, he provides guidance and resources for teachers or other adults wanting to educate themselves and confront racism.

A teacher provides practical strategies to facilitate meaningful, productive conversations about race in the classroom.


Social justice resource lists, lesson plans, and podcasts.


This brief article captures why it is important for librarians to facilitate race-related discussions when reading with children. A resource list offers practical examples about how to do this skillfully.


The Teaching Tolerance program, sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center, has developed a range of classroom activities to promote tolerance, searchable by age and topic. A recently developed portion of the curriculum is called Teaching Hard History: American Slavery. This section provides a conceptual framework and resources for providing comprehensive and engaging education about slavery to students, including those in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This section can be accessed at https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery