

Anti-Racism Resources for Children and Adults

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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:

1. Lists of books for young children about
 - resisting racial bias and advocating for civil rights, and
 - accepting oneself and valuing diversity;
2. Additional resource lists including
 - books supporting racial pride for children of diverse ethnicities
 - books about Africa
 - books about slavery
 - resources for multicultural families
 - anti-bullying books
 - resources about community violence
 - resources about racial injustice for older children;
3. Additional anti-racism resources for parents; and
4. Additional anti-racism 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. 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 H. 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

Alexander, K., & Nelson, K. (2019). *The undefeated*. Versify.

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

Allen, J., & Johnson, C.A. (2021). *My voice is a trumpet*. Flamingo Books.

This book encourages all of us to use our voices, be they loud, soft, or via sign language to speak up for what is right and speak out against what is wrong. Our voices can unite us. (Ages 3-7)

Brewer, C., & Brandon, A. (2022). *Say their names*. Reycraft Books.

A girl reacts to news of police violence against Black men and women by leading her own protest march to “say their names.” (Ages 5 – 8).

Bridges, R. (2009). *Ruby Bridges goes to school: My true story*. Cartwheel Books.

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)

Chapman, T., & Wiley, D. (2022). *Sarah rising*. Beaming Books.

When police kill a Black man in her city, Sarah and her father join the protest in her community. (Ages 5 – 8).

Cherry-Paul, S., Reynolds, J., Kendi, I., & Baker, R. (2021). *Stamped (for kids): Racism, antiracism, and you*. Little, Brown & Co.

Sonja Cherry-Paul adapts the Reynolds and Kendi book for children in grades 1 to 5.

Clark-Robinson, M., & Morrison, F. (2018). *Let the children march*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. *This book tells the story of children and teens who marched in Birmingham in 1963 to protest Jim Crow laws. (Ages 6-8)*

Clarke, M.B. (2021) *When we say Black Lives Matter*. Candlewick Press.

A Black child’s parents explain in sparse, rhyming text what the term “Black Lives Matter” means to them, in protest and song, in sorrow and joy. (Ages 6 – 9)

Cline-Ransome, L., & Ransome, J. (2017).

Before she was Harriet. Holiday House.

Harriet Tubman’s life is told in reverse, highlighting her many roles from suffragist to nurse to general to conductor and back to her early days as an enslaved person, when she dreamed of the freedom she later attained. (Ages 4-8)

Devenny, J., & Gordon, C. (2021) *Race Cars*. Frances Lincoln Children’s Books.

This book offers an unflinching exposé of white privilege and racial injustice in the form of an allegorical tale easily understood by elementary school students. The discussion notes feature questions that can jumpstart important conversations with children about racism, white privilege, and how to fight racial injustice in their own lives. (Ages 6 – 9)

Easton, E., & Chen, Z. (2018). *Enough: 20 protesters who changed America*. Crown Books for Young Readers.

With engaging illustrations and brief text, this picture book can spark children’s curiosity about Americans who fought for justice in unique ways. End notes provide brief information to help parents answer children’s questions about each person’s life and legacy. (Ages 5 – 8)

Elliott, Z., & Denmon, N. (2020). *A place inside of me: A poem to heal the heart*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

This powerful poem articulates the depth and nuances of a child’s emotions following a police shooting, through grief and protests, healing, and community support. (Ages 4 – 8)

Garcia, L. & Davidson, C. (2022). *How can we live: Principles of Black Lives Matter*. Lee & Low. *Featuring material from the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, this book introduces children to the guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter movement. (Ages 6 – 9).*

Goodman, S., & Cooper, F. (2016). *The first step: How one girl put segregation on trial*. Bloomsbury.

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

Gorman, A., & Long, L. (2021). *Change sings: A children's anthem*. Viking Books for Young Readers.

Amanda Gorman's lyrical text and Loren Long's bold, colorful illustrations demonstrate that diverse children have the power to make societal changes. Amanda Gorman is the inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate. (Ages 4-8)

Hannah-Jones, N., Watson, R., & Smith, N. (2021). *The 1619 Project: Born on the water*. Kokila.

This book explains how Black Americans have a proud origin that does not begin in slavery. Using the tradition of oral history, a grandmother shares the family's multigenerational story. The story includes the historical consequences of slavery and the Black resistance movement in America. (Ages 7-10)

Higginbotham, A. (2018). *Not my idea: A book about whiteness*. Dottir Press (Ordinary Terrible Things series).

After hearing about a police shooting of an African American man, a white girl becomes aware of race and racism. (Ages 8-12)

Johnson, A., & Lewis, E. B. (2014). *All different now: Juneteenth the day of freedom*. Simon & Schuster.

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)

Kaiser, L., & Antelo, M. (2017). *Little people, big dreams: Rosa Parks*. Francis London Children's Books.

This book presents Rosa's life story as she stood up for civil rights and justice. (Ages 4–8)

Kendi, I.X., & Bayoc, C. (2022). *Goodnight Racism*. Kokila.

Dynamic art and poetic prose show diverse children getting ready for bed and dreaming of a world of safety, justice, and equality. (Ages 3 – 7).

King, M.L., & Nelson, K. (2012). *I have a dream*. Schwartz & Wade Books.

Sections of MLK's famous speech are beautifully illustrated in this introduction to the notable civil rights leader. (Ages 6–8)

Klein, C.S. (2015). *Painting for peace in Ferguson*. Treehouse 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)

Kpadea, E., Spells, J., Taylor, D., & Gibsun, R. (2020). *...And justice for who?* Shout Mouse Press.

Two Black kids' friendship is challenged when the Black Lives Matter protests erupt in response to police violence; Nene defends cops like her uncle, but Cody becomes upset about racial injustice. The teen authors are part of an innovative program run by Reach Incorporated. (Ages 7 – 9)

Langley, S., Nathan, A., & Cooper, F. (2020). *A ride to remember: A civil rights story*. Harry N. Abrams.

The author's family participated in community protests which led to the integration of a Baltimore amusement park in 1963. (Ages 6-9).

Levy, D., (2013). *We shall overcome: The story of a song*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. *Spirituals challenged racist institutions from slavery to Jim Crow laws. This story illustrates how an iconic song has transcended communities of color to support movements against injustice globally. (Ages 4-8)*

Littlesugar, A., & Cooper, F. (2001). *Freedom School, yes!* Philomel.
Based on the 1964 Mississippi Freedom School Summer Project, this story features a brave teacher and student facing violent resistance to change. (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 an enslaved person. (Ages 4-8)

Maclear, K., & Morstad, J. (2019). *It began with a page: How Gyo Fujikawa drew the way*. Harper Collins.
This book uses text and enchanting illustrations to portray the life of Gyo Fujikawa, a groundbreaking champion in the struggle for racial diversity in picture books. Back matter includes photographs of Gyo, a timeline of her life, and a selected bibliography. (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)

Meyer, S., & Velasquez, E. (2015). *New shoes*. Holiday House.
Set in the segregated South, two girls find an inventive way to overcome Jim Crow laws. (Ages 6-8)

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)

Moua, D., & Holt, K. (2022). *Today is different*. Carolrhoda Books.
When a young Hmong girl learns that her best friend, a Black girl, is protesting an act of police violence against a Black man, she decides to join the protest, too. (Ages 5 - 9).

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

Nelson, K. (2013). *Nelson Mandela*. Katherine Tegen Books.
This inspiring book tells the story of Nelson Mandela as he challenges apartheid in South Africa and wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Young readers will learn the importance of standing up for the equality of all people. (Ages 4-8)

Nelson, M., & Williamson, P. (2020). *Lubaya's quiet roar*. Penguin Random House.
A quiet girl's artwork makes a big impression at a protest rally, showing that all kids can stand up for social justice in their community. (Ages 5-8)

Nelson, V., & Christie, R. G. (2015). *The book itch: Freedom, truth, and Harlem's greatest bookstore*. Carolrhoda books.
A boy writes about meeting Malcolm X and his father's bookstore, the National Memorial African Bookstore. (Ages 6-8)

Pinkney, A. D., & Pinkney, B. (2010). *Sit in: How four friends stood up by sitting down*. Little Brown & Company.

With poetic storytelling and vibrant illustrations, this book tells the story of the sit-in by four young Black activists at the Woolworth's lunch counter in the 1960s. (Ages 6-8)

Ramsey, C. A., & Cooper, F. (2010). *Ruth and the green book*. Carolrhoda Books.
In the 1950s, Ruth and her parents drive from Chicago to Alabama and use the Green Book to find places that will welcome them in the segregated South. (Ages 6-8)

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)

Rolle, S.K., & Bostic, A. (2022). *Free at last: A Juneteenth poem*. Sterling Children's Books.
Lyrical free verse and emotionally evocative illustrations trace the history of Juneteenth from its 1865 origins in Galveston, Texas to contemporary observances all over the U.S. (Ages 4 - 8).

Robinson, S., & Ford, A. G. (2014). *Under the same sun*. Scholastic.
The daughter of Jackie Robinson writes about an American family visiting their extended family in Tanzania and learning about slavery. The story encourages children's interest in their family roots and genealogical history. (Ages 4-8)

Shabazz, I., & Ford, A.G. (2013). *Malcolm Little*. Antheneum.
The daughter of Malcolm X writes about how his childhood and family experiences shaped his identity and values. (Ages 6-8)

Shelton, P. Y., & Colón, R. (2013). *Child of the civil rights movement*. Dragonfly.
The daughter of civil rights leader Andrew Young provides a humane and community-oriented account of her experiences. (Ages 6-8)

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

Thompkins-Bigelow, J., & Dougher, P. (2022). *Hold them close: A love letter to Black children*. HarperCollins.
Lyrical prose and evocative images encourage children to hold close their joy and the words of their ancestors, accept their tears for stories of "great sadness" (e.g., police killings of Black men and women), and change the world. (Ages 4 - 8).

Tonatiuh, D. (2014). *Separate is never equal: Sylvia Mendez and her family's fight for desegregation*. Abrams.
In 1947, a Latino family successfully challenges school segregation in California. (Ages 6-8)

Waters, M., & Morris, K. (2020). *For beautiful black boys who believe in a better world*. Westminster John Knox Press.
Jeremiah talks to his parents about a series of high-profile shootings. As he struggles to make sense of senseless killings, he is inspired by his parents' advocacy efforts to work for a better world. (Ages 6-10)

Weatherford, C., & Christoph, J. (2015). *Gordon Parks: How the photographer captured black and white America*. Albert Whitman & Company.
Gordon Parks was a self-taught photographer who documented social injustice and later became the first Black Hollywood director. (Ages 4-8)

Weatherford, C.B., & Morrison, F. (2022). *Standing in the need of prayer: A modern retelling of the classic spiritual*. Crown Books for Young Readers.

Classic lyrics and rich, evocative illustrations chronicle the milestones, struggles, tragedies, and triumphs of African American history, culminating in the Black Lives Matter movement (Ages 6 – 9).

Weatherford, C., & Nelson, K. (2006). *Moses: When Harriet Tubman led her people to freedom*. Hyperion Books for Children.
Harriet Tubman's deep faith in God inspires her to free herself and others from slavery. This beautifully illustrated book won a Caldecott Honor Award and a Coretta Scott King Award. (Ages 4–8)

Williams, A.D., & Uchendu, B.M. (2022). *The Talk*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books.
As a little Black boy grows to a bigger boy, his parents and grandparents lovingly warn him about how to protect himself in a racist world. (Ages 4 – 8).

Book List 2: Accepting Oneself and Valuing Diversity

Barnes, D., & James, G. (2020). *I am every good thing*. Nancy Paulson Books, an imprint of Penguin Random.
This beautiful book celebrates the everyday magnificence of curious, resilient, helpful, worthy Black boys. (Ages 3-7)

Berry, J., & Cunha, A. (2020). *A story about Afiya*. Lantana Publishing.
A young girl's dress collects what she sees as she dances across the island in this joyous celebration of childhood, culture, and place. (Ages 5-8)

Bloom, A. B., & Jones, N. (2012). *Little sweet potato*. Katherine Tegen Books.
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)

Byers, G., & Bobo, K.A. (2018). *I am enough*. Balzer + Bray.
A Black girl conveys messages of self-acceptance, inclusion, and kindness. (Ages 4 – 8)

Charles, T., & Collier, B. (2020). *All because you matter*. Scholastic.
The lyrical text and beautiful illustrations celebrate the worth of a brown boy. The author alludes to challenges the boy may face, but mostly conveys a sense of connectivity and positive destiny. (Ages 4-8)

De la Pena, M., & Robinson, C. (2015). *Last stop on Market Street*. G.P. Putnam's Sons.
In this award-winning story, CJ's grandmother helps him appreciate the beauty in his life, despite challenging economic circumstances. (Ages 4–5)

De la Peña, M., & Robinson, C. (2021). *Milo imagines the world*. GP Putnam's Sons.
On a long subway ride with his older sister, Milo studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. But when he and one of the subway riders visit the same place, Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them. (Ages 4 – 8).

Elliot, Z. & Denmon, N. (2020). *A place inside of me: A poem to heal the heart*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
A Black child explores his shifting emotions after a police shooting; his fear grows into anger, then pride and peace. (Ages 5-8)

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)

Henderson, L., & Lewis, E.B. (2022). *Daddy speaks love*. Nancy Paulsen Books.
Spectacular watercolor illustrations and lyrical text celebrate racially diverse children and fathers participating in various indoor and outdoor activities, visiting a museum, and attending a Black Lives Matter rally. (Ages 4 – 8).

Joy, A., & Holmes, E. (2020). *Black is a rainbow color*. Roaring Book Press.
After realizing that her racial color, Black, is not in a rainbow, a girl shows how Black culture and history is celebrated via beautiful illustrations. (Ages 4-8)

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)

Madison, M., Ralli, J., & Roxas, I. (2021). *Our skin: A first conversation about race*. Rise x Penguin Workshop.
Using simple language, this book gives straightforward descriptions of the meaning of skin color, the idea of “race,” examples of racism, and the importance of working for racial justice. (Ages 2 – 5)

Modir, S., Kashou, J., & Mikai, M. (2021). *The Proudest Color*. Familius.
This book features the story of a girl who loves colors but is unsure of how she feels about her brown skin color. (Ages 5-8)

Netflix, Jr. (2020). *Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices*. Retrieved 12/11/2022 from (242) *Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices | Netflix Jr - YouTube*

A series of 12 short videos in which celebrities read picture books by Black authors featuring Black children and joyous slices of Black life.

Nikola-Lisa, W., & Bryant, M. (2013). *Being with you this way*. Lee & Low Books.
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)

Nyong'o, L., & Harrison, V. (2019). *Sulwe*. Simon & Schuster.
Sulwe's skin is “the color of midnight,” but she longs to have the lighter skin of her sister Mich. A magical journey in the night sky changes her view of herself and her beauty. (Ages 4 – 8)

Obama, B., & Long, L. (2010). *Of thee I sing: A letter to my daughters*. Alfred A. Knopf.
Our first Black president writes about thirteen groundbreaking Americans and encourages each of us to pursue our dreams. (Ages 4–8)

Robinson, S., & Cooper, F. (2010). *Jackie's gift*. Viking.
This is a delightful Christmas and Hanukkah story about a cross-cultural friendship between an African-American and Jewish family. (Ages 4–8)

Step toe, J., & Lewis, E. B. (1997). *Creativity*. Clarion.
Charles, an African-American boy, gets to know his new classmate Hector, who is from Puerto Rico. (Ages 6–8)

Tarpley, N., & Lewis, E. B. (2001). *I love my hair*. Megan Tingley Books.

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

Theodore, A., & Robinson, E.K. (2022). *A history of me*. Neal Porter Books.

When the teacher talks about slavery and civil rights, a young Black girl feels the other students' eyes on her, wondering "Is that all you see when you look at me?" Her mother offers an alternative, empowering point of view. (Ages 4 – 8).

Tyler, M., & Csicsko, D. L. (2005). *The skin you live in*. Chicago Children's Museum.

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

Woodson, J., & Lopez, R. (2018). *The day you begin*. Nancy Paulson Books.

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).

Zoboi, I., & Wise, L. (2021). *The people remember*. Balzer + Bray.

Using lyrical verses and lush illustrations, this book tells the journey of African descendants in America by connecting their history to the seven principles of Kwanzaa. (Ages 4 – 8)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

To enjoy *Something Happened in Our Town* in another format, you may wish to watch an animated digital reading of the book, produced by the Children's Theatre Company. The video includes links to our Note to Parents and Caregivers and Anti-Racism Resources:

<https://childrenstheatre.org/home/something-happened-in-our-town/>

Below are some starting points to identify resources on additional topics:

Books supporting racial pride for children of diverse ethnicities

The Conscious Kid. Retrieved 11/12/2022 from <https://theconsciouskid.org/>

This is an organization devoted to increasing children's access to books that reduce bias and promote positive identity development.

Latinx in Kids Lit. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://latinosinkidlit.com/books-we-have-read-reviewed/>

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

We Need Diverse Books. Retrieved 11/12/2022 from <https://diversebooks.org>.

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

Africa Access. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <http://africaaccessreview.org>

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 recommend 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.

Cole, J.B., & LaTeef, N. (2021). *African proverbs for all ages*. Roaring Brook Press.

Each stunningly illustrated panel offers four different proverbs from various cultures of Africa; the proverbs invite readers of all ages to reflect on relationships, identity, society, and the human condition. (Ages 4 – 8).

Isadora, R. (1998). *A South African night*. Greenwillow Books.

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)

Isdahl, N.N., & Doorn, S.V. (2017). *Sleep well, Siba & Saba*. Lantana Publishing Ltd.
Set in Uganda, a pair of sisters find lost objects and dream of the future. (Ages 4 – 8)

Paul, M., & Zunon, E. (2015). *One plastic bag: Isatou Ceesay and the recycling women of the Gambia*. Millbrook Press.
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 and Julie Olsen Edwards, renowned early childhood and anti-bias educators, offer teachers some questions to consider about introducing this topic (Retrieved 12/10/2022 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. Four children's books which offer realistic but humanizing views of enslaved persons are:

Alexander, K., & Coulter, D. (2023). *An American story*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

This book tells the story of American slavery through the voice of a teacher struggling to help her students understand our troubled history. (Ages 4 – 8).

Hill, L. C., & Collier, B. (2010). *Dave the potter: Artist, poet, slave*. Little, Brown, and Company.
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)

Levine, E., & Nelson, K. (2007). *Henry's freedom box: A true story from the Underground Railroad*. Scholastic.
Henry devises a unique plan to escape slavery after suffering the pain of multiple family losses. (Ages 4-8)

Weatherford, C., & Christie, R. G. (2016). *Freedom in Congo Square*. Little Bee Books, an imprint of Bonnier Publishing USA.
This beautifully illustrated rhyming book captures the daily life of enslaved persons in New Orleans. On Sundays, free and enslaved African-Americans shared music, news, and community in Congo Square. (Ages 4-8)

Resources for multicultural children and families

Cooper, K. (2017, December 6). *Mixed like us: 5 ways to support biracial children at home and in school* [Blog post]. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from https://www.huffpost.com/entry/mixed-like-us-5-ways-to-s_b_8696442

Diggs, T., & Evans, S.W. (2015). *Mixed me! Feiwei and Friends*.
An energetic boy embraces his biracial identity. (Ages 4 to 8)

Hazzard, A., & Aponte-Rivera, V. (2022). *Something happened to my Dad: A story about immigration and family separation*. Magination Press.

In this realistic and empowering tale, Carmen learns that through community and love, she can find strength in herself and maintain her connection with her Papi, who has been detained because of his immigration status. (Ages 4–8).

Lara, C. (2018). *Marvelous Maravilloso: Me and my beautiful family*. Magination Press.
The main character has a Caucasian mother and Latino father. In this beautifully illustrated book, she finds joy in the colors of the world, including the colors of her family. (Ages 4-8)

Mawhinney, L., & Poh, J. (2020). *Lulu the one and only*. Magination Press.
A biracial child is inspired by her brother to come up with a power phrase to express who she is, not “what” she is. (Ages 4-8)

Anti-bullying books for children

Hughes, S., & Sookocheff, C. (2018). *What happens next*. Owlkids Books.
With his mother’s help, a boy changes a bully’s understanding of him, and gets her to stop teasing him. (Ages 4 – 8)

Kerascoët. (2018). *I walk with Vanessa: A story about a simple act of kindness*. Schwartz & Wade Books.
A wordless book about a new student who is the victim of bullying and a bystander who becomes an ally. (Ages 4 – 8)

Moss, P., & Lynn, L. (2004). *Say something*. Tilbury House.
A girl moves from being a silent bystander to an advocate in her diverse classroom. The book also includes a section of concrete suggestions for children about how to stand up to bullies. (Ages 6-8)

Polacco, P. (2001). *Mr. Lincoln’s way*. Philomel Books.
An African-American principal helps a bully making racist taunts overcome what he hears at home and begin to appreciate himself and others. (Ages 6–8)

Ranson, J.F., & Zivoin, J. (2016). *Big Red and the little bitty wolf: A story about bullying*. Magination Press.
Big Red is the bully in this story, but Little Bitty Wolf finds a clever way to make her stop. (Ages 4–8)

Tutu, D., & Ford, A. G. (2013). *Desmond and the very mean word*. Candlewick Press.
Written by a civil rights icon, this book illustrates how to handle bullying and maintain compassion for others. (Ages 6–8)

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

Hazzard, A., Celano, M., Collins, M., & Brown, K.H. (2021). *Something happened in our park: Standing together after gun violence*. Magination Press.
When Miles’s cousin Keisha is injured in a shooting, he realizes people can work together to reduce the likelihood of violence in their community. Booklists available on website (Ages 5 – 9)

Hendriksen, E. (2016, June 30). *How to talk to kids about shootings and gun violence*. Scientific American. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-shootings-and-gun-violence/>

Holmes, M., & Pillo, C. (2000). *A terrible thing happened: A story for children who have witnessed violence or trauma*. Magination Press. Sherman saw the most terrible thing happen, which caused him to feel nervous, have bad dreams and do mean things. Ms. Maple helped him talk about the terrible thing that he had tried to forget, and now he is feeling much better. (Ages 4 – 8)

National Child Traumatic Stress Network. *Talking to Children about the Shooting*. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/talking-children-about-shooting>

Books and media resources about racial injustice for older children

Chambers, V. (2021) *Call and response: The story of Black Lives Matter*. Versify. This book explores the origin and history of the Black Lives Matter movement via photographs, quotes, timelines, music playlists, and informative text. It explains how a hashtag became a powerful protest movement aimed at combatting racism while advocating for social injustice. (Ages 10 and older)

Cut. (2017). *How to deal with the police/ parents explain/Cut* [Video file]. Retrieved 12/10/2022 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)

Hudson, W., & Hudson, C.W. (Eds). (2020) *The Talk: Conversations about race, love & truth*. Crown Books for Young Readers. Thirty diverse authors and illustrators capture frank discussions about racism, identity, and self-esteem. (Ages 10 – 12)

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 8 – 12)

Jewell, T., & Miles, N. (2022). *The Antiracist kid: A book about identity, justice, and activism*. Versify.

This illustrated guide from the author of the New York Times bestseller, *This Book is Anti-Racist*, shows children how to recognize racism, and provides antiracist tools to use when they encounter racism at home, school, or in the media (Ages 8 - 12).

Johnson, C., Council, L., Choi, C., & Smith, A.S. (2019). *Intersection allies: We make room for all*. Dottir Press.

Nine different characters proudly introduce themselves, support one another, and connect to a collective struggle for justice (Ages 8 – 12).

Kiely, B. (2021). *The other talk: Reckoning with our white privilege*. Atheneum.

With an engaging conversational tone and anecdotes from his own life, the author helps adolescents understand their own white privilege and why allyship is so vital. (Ages 13-17)

Metcalf, L.H., Dawson, K.V., & Bradley, J. (2020). *No voice too small: Fourteen young Americans making history*. Charlesbridge. Told primarily in verse, this collection describes how young people advocated for social change in the U.S. (Ages 6 – 12)

Ramée, L.M. (2019). *A good kind of trouble*. Balzer + Bray. A 7th grade African American girl struggles with friendships and racial identity amidst the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement. (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. (Ages 10 – 12)

Reynolds, J., & Kendi, I. (2020). *Stamped: Racism, antiracism, and you*. Little, Brown & Co. This book makes accessible to older children and teens Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning*, a narrative history of racist and antiracist ideas in the U.S. (Ages 12 & up)

Reynolds, J., & Kiely, B. (2015). *All American boys*. Atheneum/Caitlyn Diouhy Books. This award-winning 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. (Ages 12 & up)

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. (Ages 10 & up)

Saad, L. F. (2022). *Me and white supremacy: How you can fight racism and change the world today*. Sourcebooks Explore. This young reader's edition of the New York Times bestselling book empowers young people to have courageous conversations about race, power, and privilege with themselves and others. (Ages 10 – 16).

Stevenson, B. (2018). *Just mercy: A true story of the fight for justice*. Delacorte Press. This adaptation of the New York Times bestseller shows how racial bias infects the criminal justice system, and how lawyers and others are fighting for the freedom of people wrongfully imprisoned (Ages 12 & up).

Thomas, A. (2017). *The hate u give*. 1 Balzer & Bray. In this award-winning young adult novel, 16-year-old Starr is drawn to activism when she witnesses her African-American friend being shot by a police officer. (Ages 14 & up)

Weatherford, C.B., & Cooper, F. (2021). *Unspeakable: The Tulsa race massacre*. Carolrhoda Books.

This book tells the important historical and sad story of the events contributing to the race riot in Tulsa, Oklahoma, one of the worst racial attacks in U.S. history. There is limited information for kids on this massacre, an important part of American history. (Ages 8-12)

Wilkerson, I. (2022). *Caste: The origins of our discontents*. Delacorte Press.

This young adult adaptation of the New York Times bestselling nonfiction book explores the unspoken hierarchies that divide us across lines of race and class. (Ages 12 – 17).

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES FOR ADULTS

Caregiver Resources

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:

American Psychological Association. Engaging my child parent tip tool: Uplifting families through healthy communication about race. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources/engaging-my-child>

Coffee Q & A with the Authors of Something Happened in our Town, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association (4/9/21). Retrieved 12/10/2022 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_E8_3o6E3Y

Anti-Defamation League. Resources for educators, parents, and families. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.adl.org/about/education>

This website offers booklists for diverse age groups and anti-bias topics, anti-bullying resources, and guides for meaningful family discussions about current events/social justice topics.

Brooklyn Brothers. One Million Kids, One Million Talks. Dear White Parents. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.onemilliontalks.com/>

This website features a 4-minute video of white families discussing racism, as well as very helpful written resources. Dr. Ronda Taylor-Bullock of WE ARE (Working to Extend Anti-Racist Education) offers powerful words about why it is critical for white parents to engage in these conversations.

Brown, T. G. (2020). *Parenting for liberation: A guide for raising black children*. Feminist Press at The City University of New York. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://parentingforliberation.org/>

The author offers a Black feminist perspective on parenting, organized into three sections: re-connecting to self, re-connecting to your children, and re-connecting with your community.

Cabral, A. (2020). *Allies and Advocates: Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Culture*. Wiley. *This book provides historical information on the Black experience in the U.S., the roles of allies and advocates in diversity initiatives, and explanations for words often used in discussions about “the language of inclusion.” The book’s overarching goal is to encourage organizations to work towards long-term inclusivity and a more equitable culture within our society.*

Caminos Lab. One talk at a time. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.caminoslab.org/onetalk>

Caminos Lab works in solidarity with communities of color to promote the development of positive racial identity. The One Talk at a Time program provides free online videos and handouts to support conversations among African-American, Asian, and Latinx families.

Campaign Zero. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.joincampaignzero.org/>
This nonprofit aims to end police violence by enacting policies to limit police intervention, improve community interaction, and ensure accountability.

Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. (2017). Scene on radio: Seeing white. Available free from iTunes or other streaming sites.

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.

Center for Policing Equity. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from: <https://policingequity.org>
The Center for Policing Equity measures bias in police practices by working directly with the police and advocating for equitable changes in police policies. The goals of the organization include reducing the number of persons killed by police officers.

Embrace Race. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.embracerace.org>
A web-based blog and resource library for sharing best practices for raising and caring for all kids in the context of race.

Early Risers podcast. Retrieved 11/12/22 from <https://www.mpr.org/collections/early-risers/1>
Sponsored by Minnesota public radio and hosted by early childhood expert Dianne Hauley, this podcast features engaging stories and practical tips for caregivers who want to raise children with a clear-eyed understanding of cultural differences, race, and implicit bias.

Gienapp, R. Raising antiracist kids: An age by age guide for parents of white children. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.rebekahgienapp.com>
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.

Hagerman, M. A. (2018). White Kids: Growing Up with Privilege in a Racially Divided America. NYU Press.
Based on in-depth interviews with children and their families, a sociologist explores how white, affluent kids learn about race.

Harvey, J. (2017). Raising white kids: Bringing up children in a racially unjust America. Abingdon Press.
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.

Hawthorne, B. & Yglesias, N. (2022) Raising antiracist children: A practical parenting guide. S&S/Simon Element.
This New York Times bestseller shares an interactive and community-focused approach to teaching children of all ages how to practice anti-racism with confidence and compassion.

Kendi, I.X. (2019). *How to be an antiracist*. Penguin Random House.

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.

McGhee, H. (2022). *The sum of us. One World*. This New York Times bestseller shows how racism in U.S. policy and politics has contributed to persistent economic and social problems for people of all races.

Moms Against Racism. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.momsagainstracism.org/> This is a member based non-profit organization with the mission of unifying parenting skills while teaching anti-racism by “doing the work, starting at home.” There are free virtual events and activities for parents and kids, as well as virtual learning opportunities with class cost based on a gift economy structure.

Morrison, M. (2013). *Becoming trustworthy white allies*. Reflections. Yale University. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://reflections.yale.edu/article/future-race/becoming-trustworthy-white-allies>

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.

Moyer, M.W. (2020, June 25). *What white parents get wrong about raising antiracist kids—and how to get it right*. Washington Post. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/06/25/what-white-parents-get-wrong-about-raising-antiracist-kids-how-get-it-right/>

The author helps parents understand how most white children develop bias and provides practical tips for how to counteract this phenomenon.

PBS Kids. (2020). PBS kids talk about race and racism. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism> This half-hour video features authentic conversations between real children and their parents. It will help to prepare parents to watch *The Power of We: A Sesame Street Special*, with their young children. In this animated video, available on HBO Max, Elmo and friends learn how to become “upstanders” to fight unfair treatment based on skin color. A “Watch and Play Together” discussion guide retrieved 12/10/2022 is also available from [power-of-we-discussion-guide_final-1-4.pdf](https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism/power-of-we-discussion-guide_final-1-4.pdf) ([sesameworkshop.org](https://www.sesameworkshop.org))

Raising race-conscious children. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://raceconscious.org/> A web-based resource primarily geared towards White parents, including blogs, webinars, and podcasts.

Saad, L.F. (2020). *Me and White Supremacy: Combat racism, change the world, become a good ancestor*. Sourcebooks. Based on a free 28-day Instagram challenge, this book provides education and reflective journaling prompts to help readers understand their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, and dismantle racism.

Serial and The New York Times. (2020). *Nice white parents*. Podcast available for download. This engaging 5-part podcast covers the history of one middle school in Brooklyn. It will help white parents think critically about their role in undermining school integration and equity.

Sesame Workshop. Coming together: Talking to children about race, ethnicity, and culture. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from: <https://www.sesameworkshop.org/what-we-do/racial-justice> Sesame Street has compiled many great resources about racism for families with preschoolers or young elementary children. This website includes Sesame Street characters explaining why racism is wrong, songs supporting fairness and upstanding, and videos of families discussing their antiracism efforts.

Singh, A.A. (2019). *The Racial Healing Handbook: Practical activities to help you challenge privilege, confront systemic racism, and engage in collective healing*. New Harbinger Publications, Inc.

This well-researched workbook helps both White people and people of color to understand themselves as racial/cultural beings, overcome or cope with power and privilege, develop new racially liberated identities, and become allies in the struggle for racial justice.

The Square One Project. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from: <https://squareonejustice.org>

This project is a 3-year initiative focused on transforming justice “from the ground up” to improve this country and the world. It focuses on developing new ideas that can help make justice and public safety a reality for all.

TED. (2015, April 23). Clint Smith: How to raise a black son in America. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us7oDN2XSfM>

TED Talk of interest to all parents.

Winkler E. (2017). Here's how to raise race-conscious children. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.buzzfeed.com/erinwinkler/tips-for-talking-to-children-about-race-and-racism>

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

Teacher resources

The authors have prepared two free handouts to assist teachers who would like to read *Something Happened in Our Town* to a group of young children. You can download Read Aloud Tips for Educators at <https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/pdf/441B228-read-aloud-tips.pdf> In addition, there is an Educator Resource Guide at: <https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/pdf/441B228-educator-resource-guide.pdf>

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

Antiracist Art Teachers. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.antiracistartteachers.org> Designed primarily for art teachers, this website features BIPOC artists, anti-racist art resources and art lessons, including a discussion of how to represent other cultures responsibly and respectfully within the art room.

The Children's Book Council, Anti-Racist Resources. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.cbcbooks.org/readers/reader-resources/anti-racist-resources/> Children's book lists and resources for discussing race and racial justice with children.

Croteau, J. (2020, June 9). 21 Anti-racism videos to share with kids. We Are Teachers. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.weareteachers.com/anti-racism-videos/> This collection of short videos includes instructional videos for teachers, several read-alouds of children's books, and references for other video resources.

Derman-Sparks, L. & Edwards, J.O., with Goins, K. (2020). *Anti-bias education for young children and ourselves* (2nd Edition). National Association for Education of Young Children. This NAEYC resource offers practical guidance and stories about nurturing all children's social identities and supporting children to stand up for themselves and others.

Facing History and Ourselves. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.facinghistory.org>

This website provides educational resources to help teachers address racism, antisemitism, and prejudice at pivotal moments in history so that students can connect choices made in the past to social justice in the present and future.

Kay, Matthew R. (2018). *Not light, but fire: How to lead meaningful race conversations in the classroom*. Stenhouse Publishers. A teacher provides practical strategies to facilitate meaningful, productive conversations about race in the classroom.

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Social justice. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice>

Social justice resource lists, lesson plans, and podcasts.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network, Justice Consortium, Schools Committee, and Culture Consortium. (2017). *Addressing race and trauma in the classroom: A resource for educators*. National Center for Child Traumatic Stress. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.nctsn.org/resources/addressing-race-and-trauma-classroom-resource-educators>

Raising an Antiracist Generation, 9/10/20 episode in CNN podcast Silence is Not an Option, hosted by Don Lemon. Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD, is interviewed about the right time talk to kids about racism and how to help them navigate a multiracial society. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.cnn.com/audio/podcasts/don-lemon-silence-is-not-an-option?episodeguid=b9442c1b-ab86-411e-9cb6-ac310160814b>

Learning for Justice. Classroom resources. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.learningforjustice.org/classroom-resources> The Learning for Justice program, sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center, has developed a range of classroom activities to promote social justice, searchable by age and topic. One 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.learningforjustice.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery>

Williams, J. (2020). *Empowering educators: A guidebook on race and racism*. First Book. Retrieved 12/10/2022 from <https://www.fbmarketplace.org/empowering-educators#guidebook>

This downloadable guidebook is part of a series of free multi-media resources resulting from a collaboration between First Book and Pizza Hut. It is designed to help educators and students “engage in effective, courageous conversations about race and social justice.”