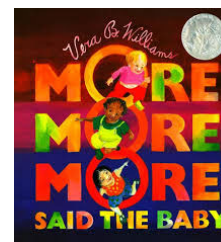
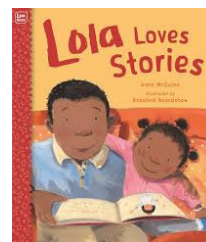
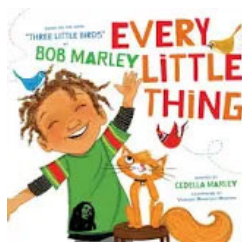
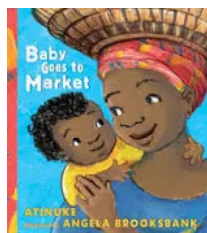
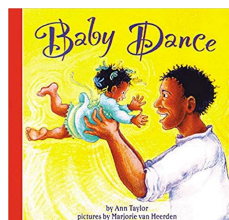




Diverse Children's Book List 2025



This is a list of only a small portion of the diverse books available to children and families. It includes books that are fiction (made up) and non-fiction (true fact); some are biographies, some are about race, some are about gender, and some are just fun to read. Most books were purchased from First Book, Scholastic, Prairie Lights, or Amazon. Most are in your local libraries. For more recommendations for diverse books, ask your local librarian. They are fantastic resources for all sorts of knowledge. This particular list was compiled by Laurie Nash for Johnson County Social Services.



BOARD AND BABY BOOKS

Baby Dance by Ann Taylor, pictures by Marjorie van Heerden

Baby Goes to Market by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank

Dream Big Little One by Vashti Harrison

Every Little Thing by Bob and Cedella Marley, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Lola Loves Stories with Daddy by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

More, More, More Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams

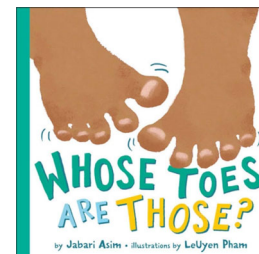
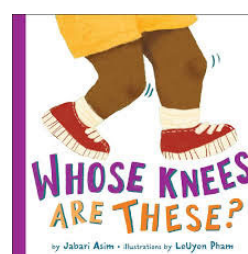
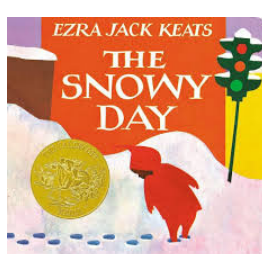
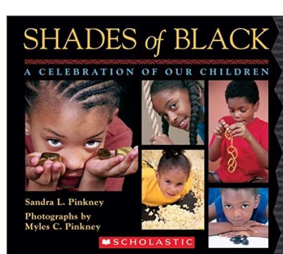
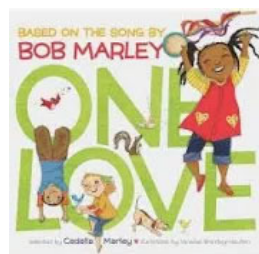
One Love by Bob and Cedella Marley, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Shades of Black by Sandra L. Pinkney, photographs by Miles C. Pinkney

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Whose Knees Are These?

Whose Toes Are Those?





PRESCHOOL PICTURE BOOKS

Bigmama's by Donald Crews

Bippity Bop Barbershop by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, illustrated by E. B. Lewis

Bright Eyes, Brown Skin by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Bernette G. Ford, illustrated by George Ford

Cool Cuts by Mechal Renee Roe

Don't Touch My Hair by Sharee Miller

Feast for 10 by Cathryn Falwell

Freight Train by Donald Crews

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

Full, Full, Full of Love by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Paul Howard

Happy Hair by Mechal Renee Roe

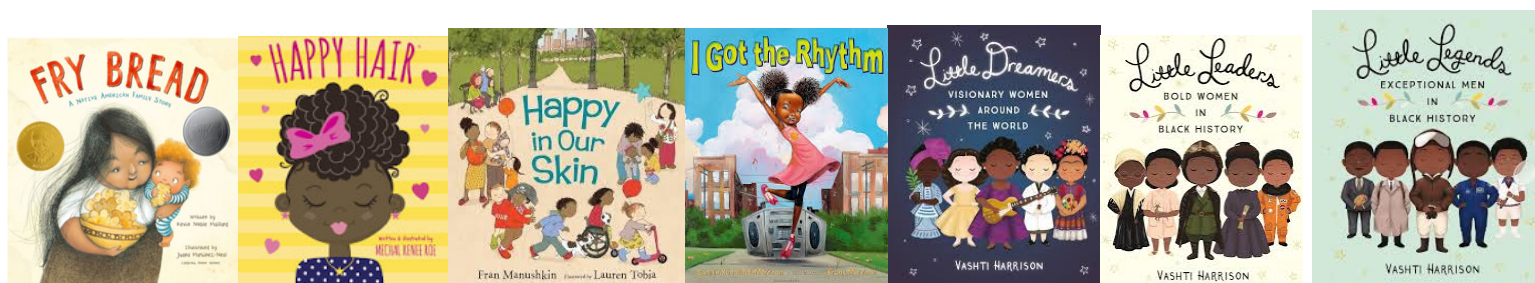
Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin, illustrated by Lauren Tobia

I Got The Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison

Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World by Vashti Harrison

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History Vashti Harrison





PRESCHOOL PICTURE BOOKS

Lola Loves Stories, Lola Reads to Leo, Lola at the Library (Plants a Garden) by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Luli and the Language of Tea by Andrea Wang, illustrated by Hyewon Yum

Mixed Me! by Taye Diggs, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Not Norman: A Goldfish Story by Kelly Bennet, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones

Peekaboo Morning by Rachel Isadora

Please Baby Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Powwow Day by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

Pretty Brown Face by Andrea & Brian Pinkney

Princess Hair by Sharee Miller

The Quickest Kid in Clarksville by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Frank Morrison

Rap A Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles – Think of That! by Leo & Diane Dillon

Skin Again by Bell Hooks, illustrated by Chris Raschka

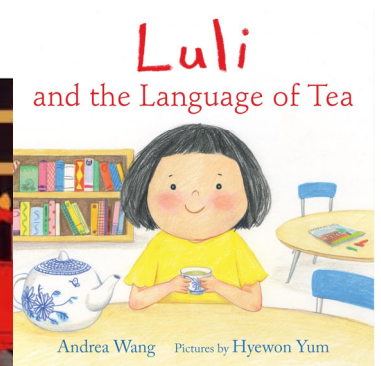
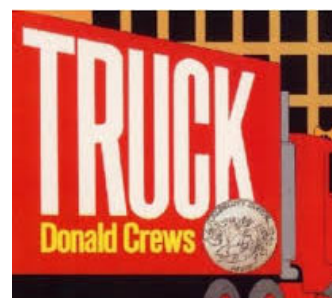
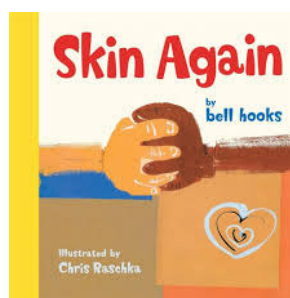
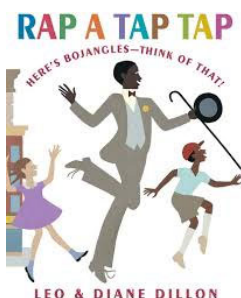
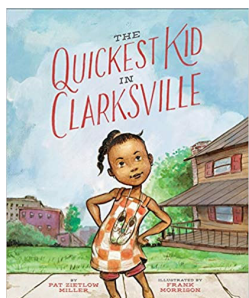
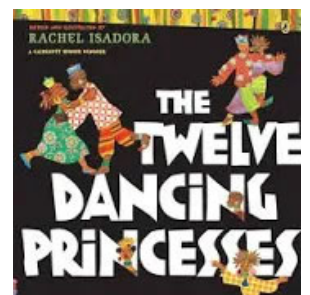
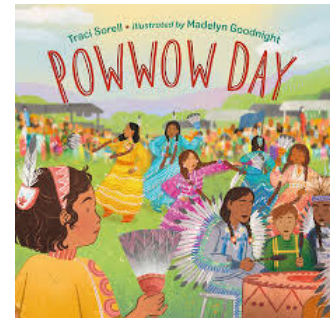
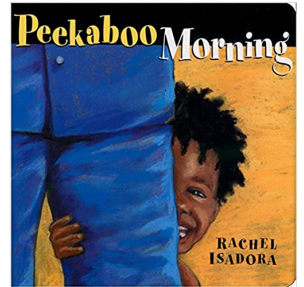
So Much by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

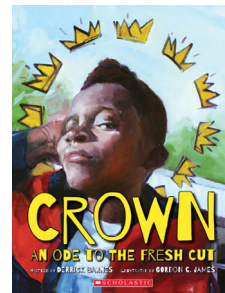
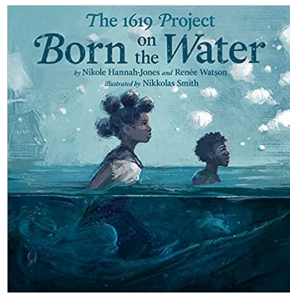
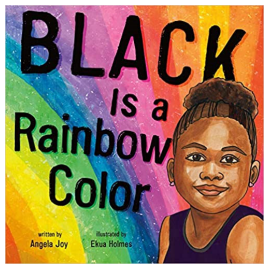
Truck by Donald Crews

The Twelve Dancing Princesses by Rachel Isadora

We're Different, We're The Same by Bobbi Kates, illustrated by Joe Mathieu

Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats





ELEMENTARY PICTURE BOOKS

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones, illustrated by Renée Watson

The ABCs of Black History by Rio Cortez, illustrated by Lauren Semmer

Being Home by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade

Besitos De Lejitos, Kisses from a Distance by Noemi Menez, illustrated by Olivia Allard

Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekua Holmes

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Picture Book Edition by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, pictures by Elizabeth Zunon

“Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship” by Irene Latham and Charles Waters, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko

Carter Reads the Newspaper: The Story of Carter G. Woodson, Founder of Black History Month by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Don Tate

Change Sings: A Children’s Anthem by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Loren Long

Child of the Civil Rights Movement by Paula Young Shelton and Raul Colón

The Colors of Us by Karen Katz

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick D. Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James

Dancing in the Wings by Debbie Allen, pictures by Kadir Nelson

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

The Doctor With an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath by Julia Finley Mosca, illustrated by Daniel Rieley

Dream March: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport

The Drinking Gourd. A Story of the Underground Railroad by F. N. Monjo

Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson and Sean Qualls

The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca, illustrated by Daniel Rieley

Grace for President by Kelly DiPuccio, pictures by LeUyen Pham

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry, illustrated by Vashti Harrison

“Heroic Leaders and Activists” by Georgia Amson-Bradshaw, illustrated by Rita Petruccioli

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly, illustrated by Laura Freeman

I Am Enough by Grace Byers, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo

I Have A Dream (book & CD) by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., paintings by Kadir Nelson

I Love My Hair! by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, illustrated by E. B. Lewis

I Walk With Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness by Kerascoët

If I Ran For President by Catherine Stier, illustrated by Lynne Avril

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell

Jamaica's Blue Marker by Juanita Havill, illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Joyful Song: A Naming Story by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Susan Gal

Julian is a Mermaid by Jessica Love (ages 4-6, 7-9)

Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper

Just Like Me by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Madrina: Guardian by Noemi Mendez, illustrated by Olivia Allard

Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier

Martin's Dream by Jane Kurtz, illustrated by Amy June Bates

My Daddy Is a Cowboy: A Picture Book by Stephanie Seales, illustrated by C. G. Esperanza

My Hair is a Garden by Cozbi A. Cabrera

My Olive Tree by Hazar Elbayya

A Place to Land: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation by Barry Wittenstein, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Powwow Day by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop by Frank Morrison, illustrated by Carole Boston Weatherford

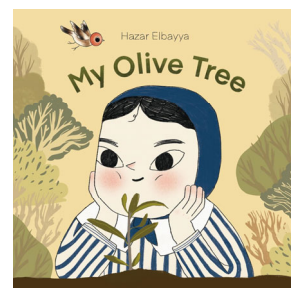
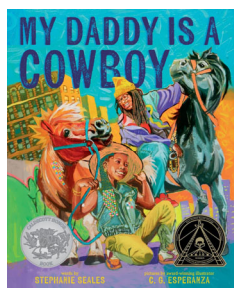
Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream by Deloris Jordan with Roslyn M. Jordan, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Eric Velasquez

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting, illustrated by David Diaz

Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth, illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet

Sweet Potato Pie by Kathleen D. Lindsey, illustrated by Charlotte Riley-Webb



The Talk by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu

The Teachers March! How Selma's Teachers Changed History by Sandra Neil Wallace, illustrated by Rich Wallace

This is the Dream by Diane Z. Shore and Jessica Alexander, illustrated by James Ransome

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade

We March by Shane W. Evans

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

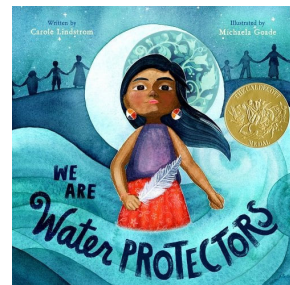
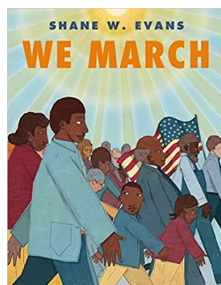
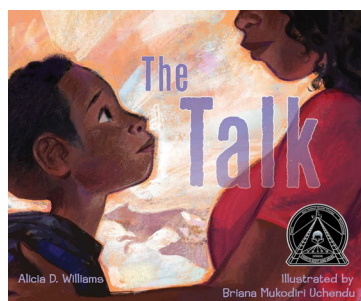
We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

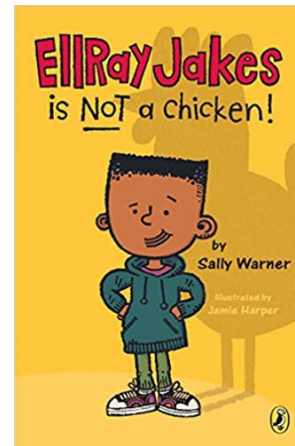
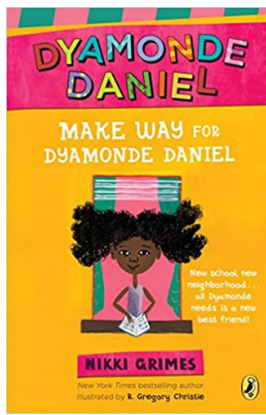
We Who Produce Pearls: An Anthem for Asian America by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop by Laban Carrick Hill,
illustrated by Theodore Taylor III

Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull,
illustrated by David Diaz

Young Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Pillar of Respect by Joanne Mattern, illustrated by Allan Eitzen





EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

Dyamonde Daniel #1: Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken! (Is Magic!, Is a Rock Star!) by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis, with Traci Sorell

Jaden Toussaint, The Greatest by Marti Dumas, illustrated by Marie Muravski

Lulu (And the Cat in the Bag, And the Rabbit Next Door) by Hilary McKay, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont

Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls' Rights by Malala Yousafzai and Sarah J. Robbins

The March on Washington by Bonnie Bader, illustrated by Kelley McMorris

Mia Mayhem by Kara West, illustrated by Leeza Hernandez

Miami Jackson Gets It Straight by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack, illustrated by Michael Chesworth

Nikki and Deja by Karen English, illustrated by Laura Freeman

Sadiq and the Big Election by Siman Nuurali, illustrated by Christos Skaltsas

Trailblazers: Martin Luther King, Jr.: Fighting for Civil Rights by Christine Platt

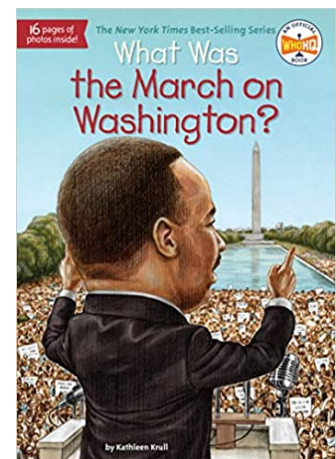
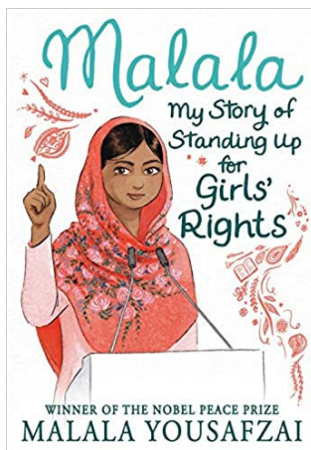
What Is Black Lives Matter? by Lakita Wilson, illustrated by Gregory Copeland

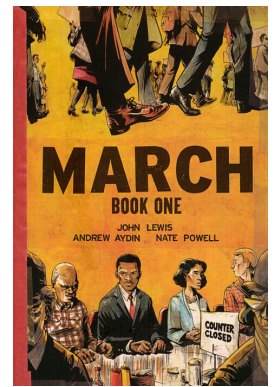
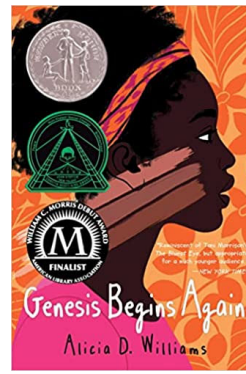
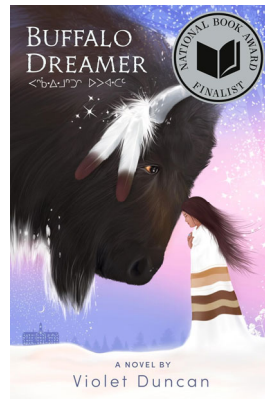
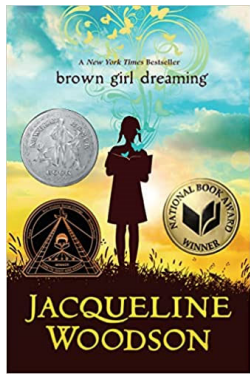
What Was the March on Washington? by Kathleen Krull

Who Is Barack Obama by Roberta Edwards

Who Is Michelle Obama by Megan Stine

Who Was Coretta Scott King by Gail Herman





Middle Grades

A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Buffalo Dreamer by Violet Duncan

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

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia

The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country by Amanda Gorman

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

Love Is A Revolution by Renée Watson

March Book One, Book Two, and Book Three by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

Mighty Justice: The Untold Story of Civil Rights Trailblazer Dovey Johnson Roundtree by Katie McCabe, illustrated by Jabari Asim

Miles Morales: Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Recognize! An Anthology Honoring and Amplifying Black Life by Wade Hudson, illustrated by Cheryl Willis Hudson

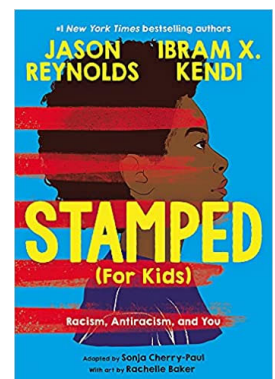
Something to Say by Lisa Moore Ramée

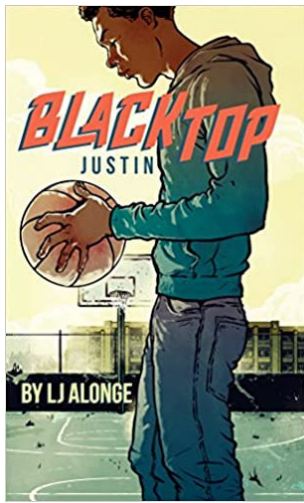
Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Suffragette: The Battle for Equality by David Roberts

Supernatural Investigations #1 Amari and the Night Brothers by B. B. Alston

Voices from the March on Washington by J. Patrick Lewis and George Ella Lyon





HIGH SCHOOL

(Please note: High School titles may contain mature content. Please review each title carefully before selecting it.)

Blacktop #1 Justin by LJ Alonge, illustrated by Raul Allen

Blacktop #2 Janae by LJ Alonge illustrated by Raul Allen

Dear Martin by Nic Stone

Dear Justyce by Nic Stone

Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

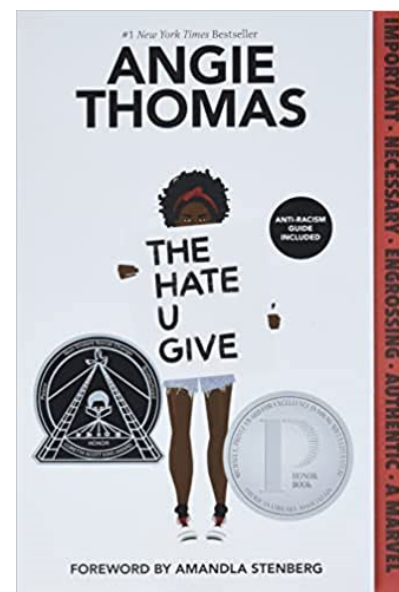
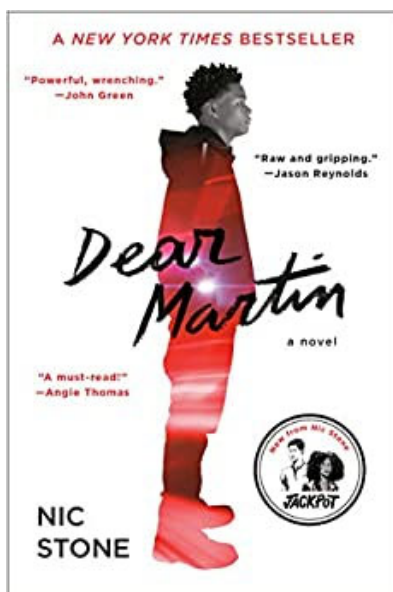
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

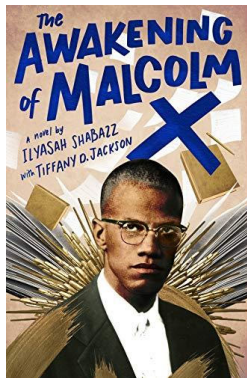
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Jackpot by Nic Stone

On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Who Put This Song On? By Morgan Parker





YOUNG ADULT

(Please note: Young Adult titles may contain mature content. Please review each title carefully before selecting it.)

The Awakening of Malcom X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz with Tiffany D. Jackson

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

(Re)present: Racism and Resistance in Iowa written by A Collective of Iowa Educators, Activists, Historians, and Community Leaders, illustrated by Jameson Malone and Cameron Gray

Rise Up! How You Can Join the Fight Against White Supremacy by Crystal Marie Fleming

Take The Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance by Jason Reynolds et. al.

PARENTS and EDUCATORS

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States (ReVisioning History) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

How To Raise An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

Race Cars: A children's book about white privilege. By Jenny Devenny, edited by Charnaie Gordon

Raising Antiracist Children: A Practical Parenting Guide by Britt Hathorne with Natasha Yglesias

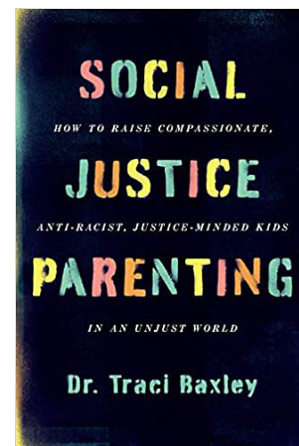
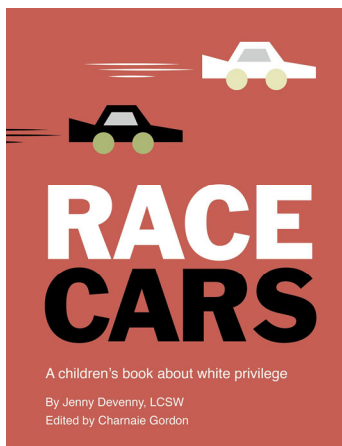
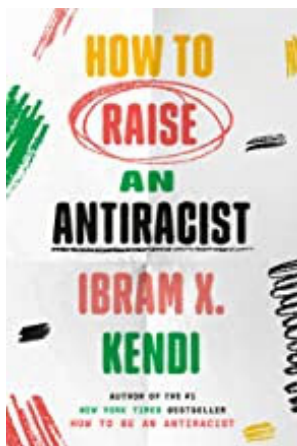
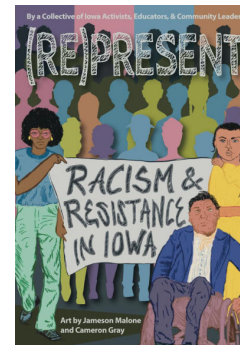
Raising Antiracist Kids: An Age-By-Age Guide for Parents of White Children by Rebekah Gienapp

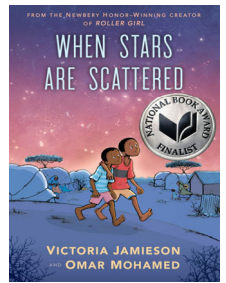
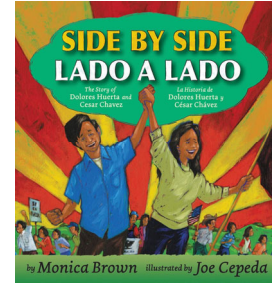
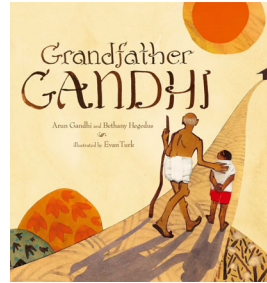
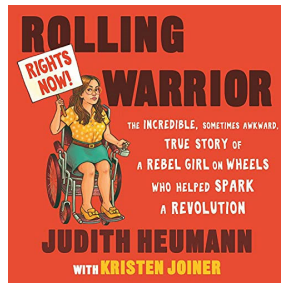
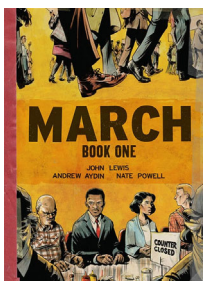
Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children In A Racially Unjust America by Jennifer Harvey

Rethinking Columbus: The Next 500 Years: Resources for Teaching about the Impact of the Arrival of Columbus in the Americas by Bill Bigelow and Bob Peterson

Social Justice Parenting by Dr. Traci Baxley

The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love, & Truth by Wade Hudson & Cheryl Willis Hudson





Necessary Trouble Archives

This webpage is a portal to multiple curriculum archive sites that curate materials about historical figures and literacy characters portrayed through exemplar texts. These archives feature media content that profiles these icons through their own voices, through projections of the authors' voices, or the recollections of people who knew them best. In addition to myriad curricular resources, each of the archives contains a “What would you do?” prompt by the featured primary source for maximized student interactivity.



NecessaryTroubleArchives.org

The unifying theme for all of these figures is their COURAGE as they stepped up—in one way or another—to challenge the existing paradigm. There are other colloquialisms for shifting paradigms: “I have a dream.” “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” “Imagine.” “Si, se puede.” Or, as Congressman John Lewis would say: make some “Necessary Trouble.”