

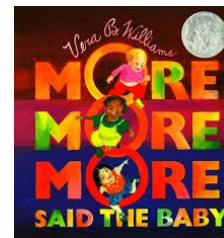
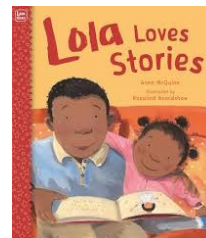
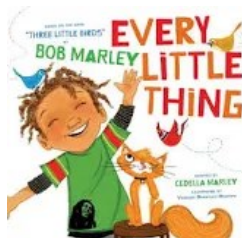
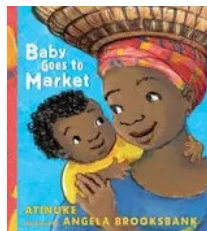
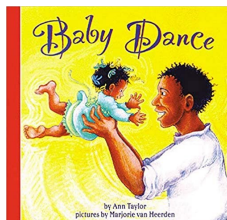


## Diverse Children's Book List 2025



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

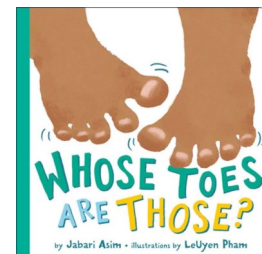
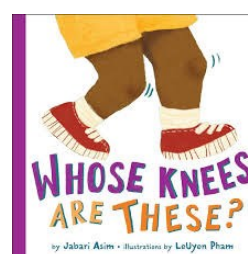
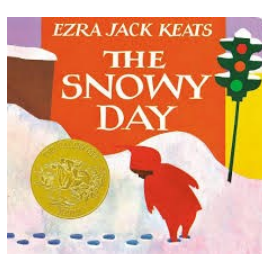
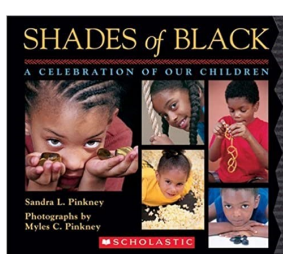
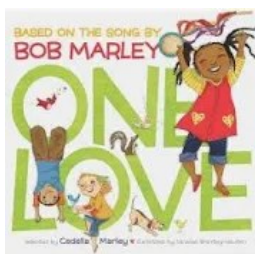
*One Love* by Bob and Cedella Marley, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

*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

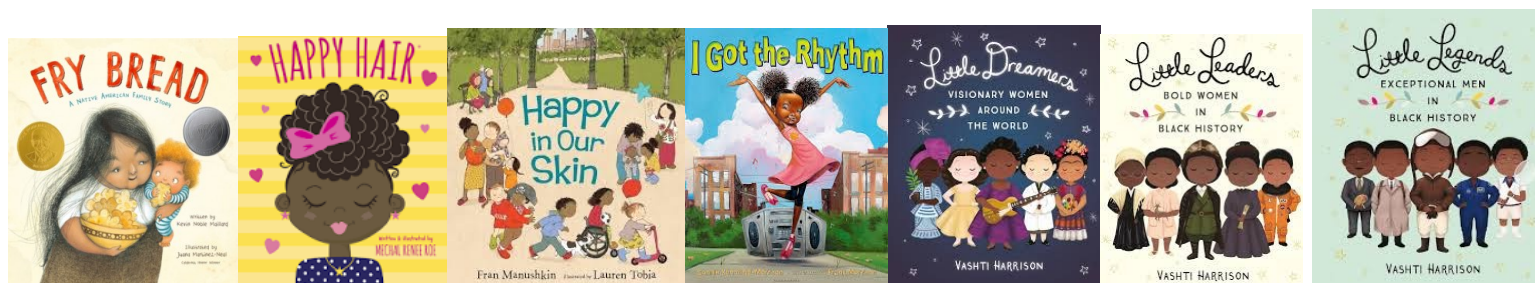
*Happy in Our Skin* by Fran Manushkin, illustrated by Lauren Tobia

*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

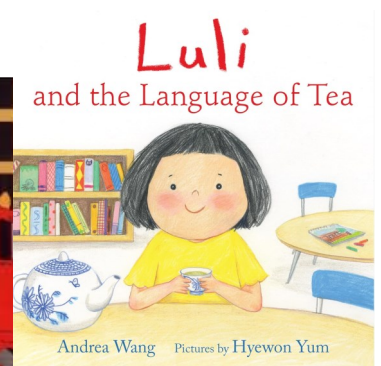
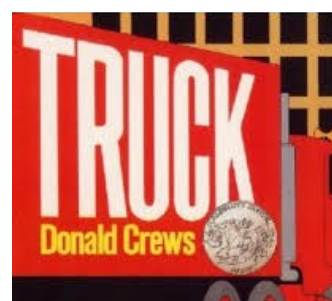
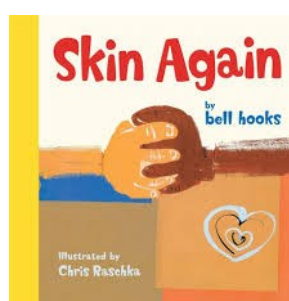
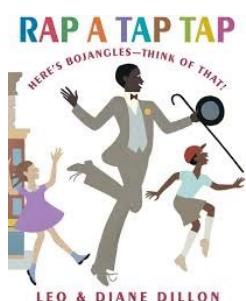
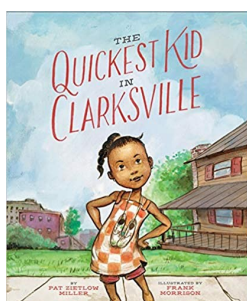
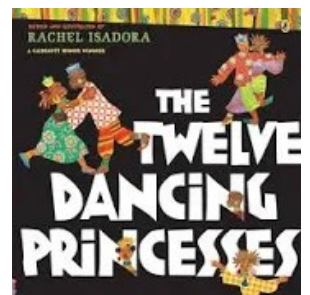
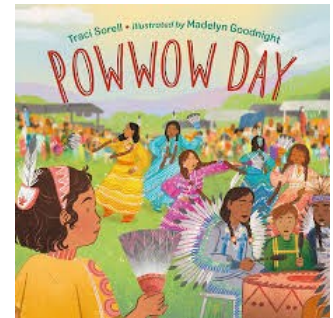
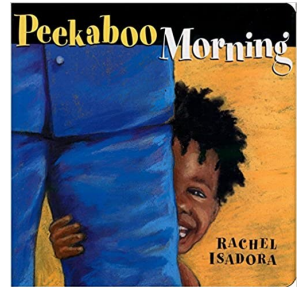
*So Much* by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

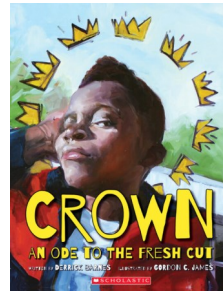
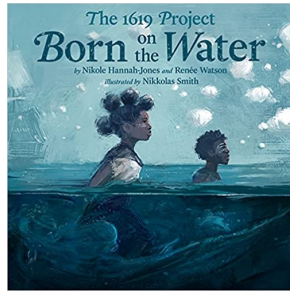
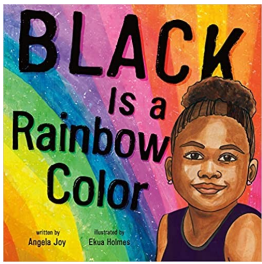
*Truck* by Donald Crews

*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 Ekuia 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 Ofosu 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

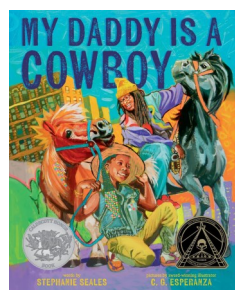
*Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* by Deloris Jordan with Roslyn M. Jordan, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

*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

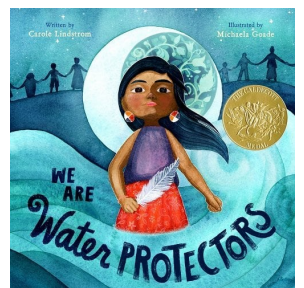
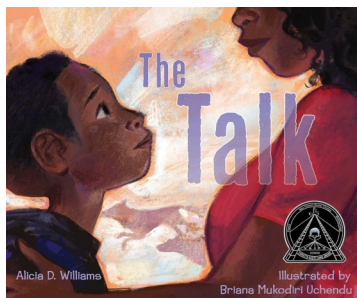
*We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song* by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

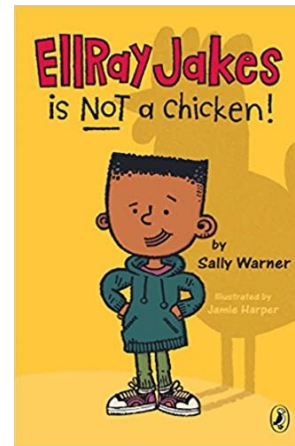
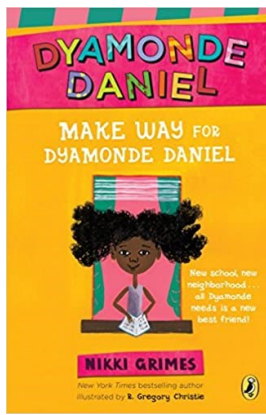
*We Who Produce Pearls: An Anthem for Asian America* by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya

*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 Nurali, illustrated by Christos Skaltsas

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

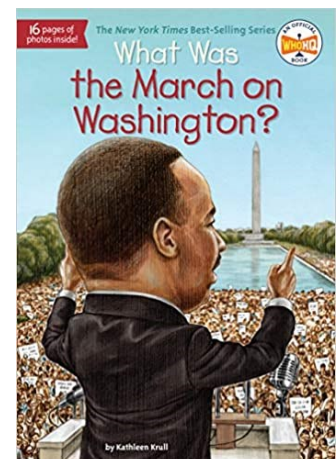
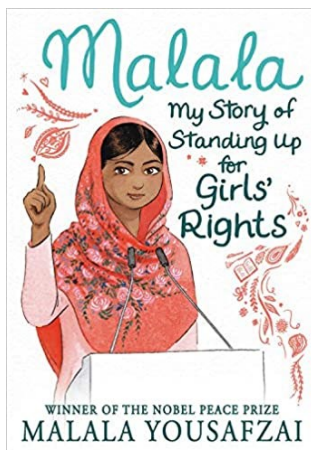
*What Is Black Lives Matter?* by Lakita Wilson, illustrated by Gregory Copeland

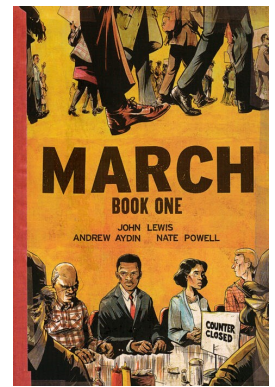
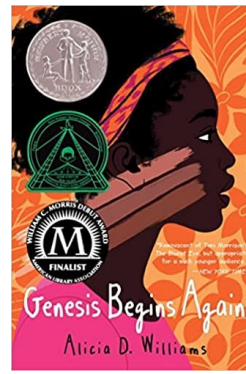
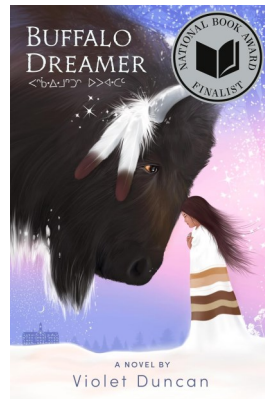
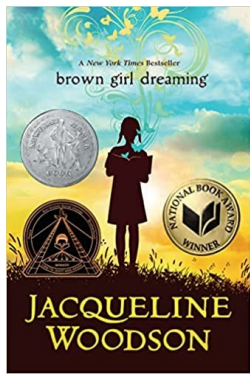
*What Was the March on Washington?* by Kathleen Krull

*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

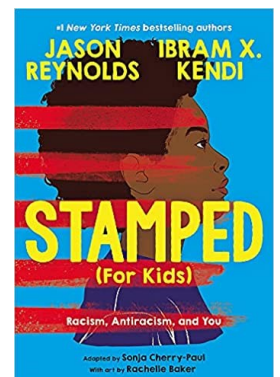
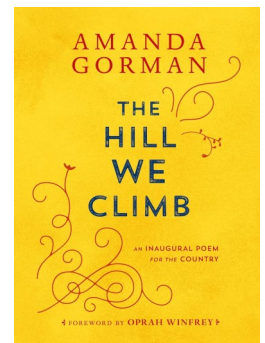
*Something to Say* by Lisa Moore Ramée

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

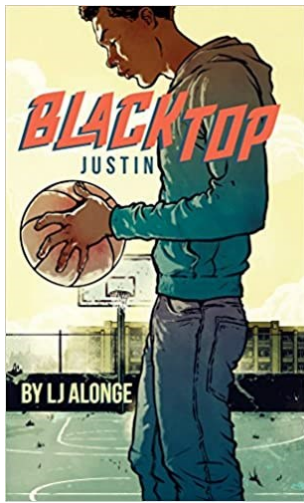
*Suffragette: The Battle for Equality* by David Roberts

*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

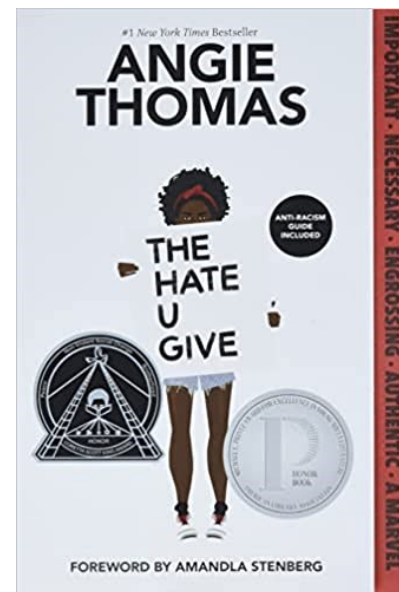
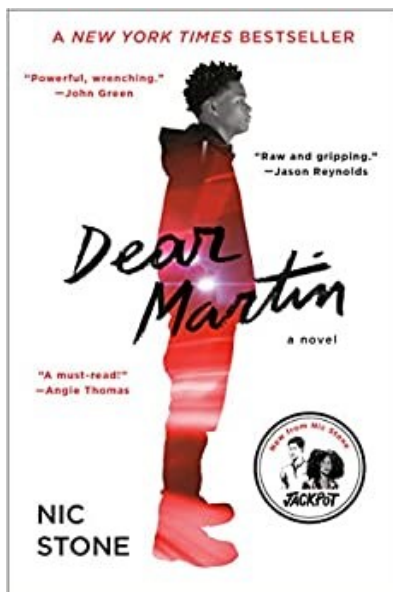
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

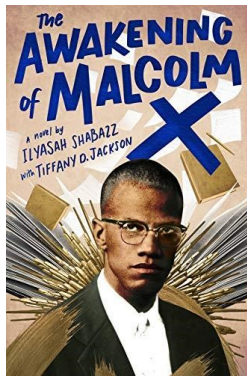
*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

*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

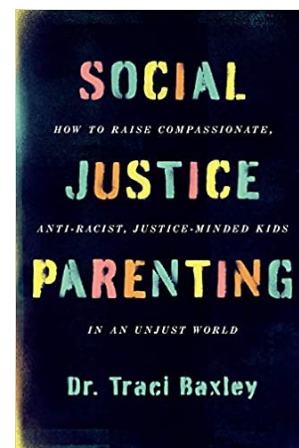
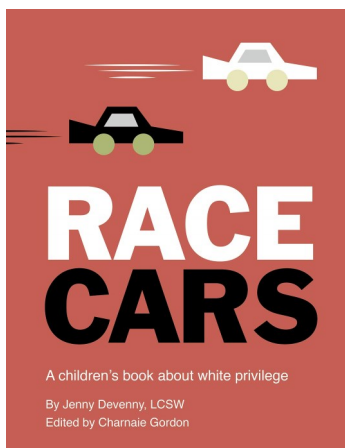
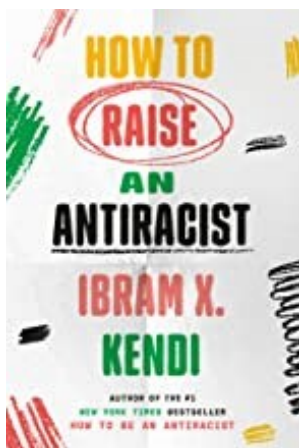
*Raising Antiracist Kids: An Age-By-Age Guide for Parents of White Children* by Rebekah Gienapp

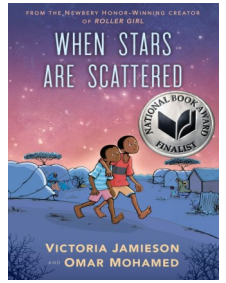
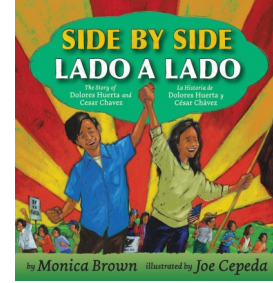
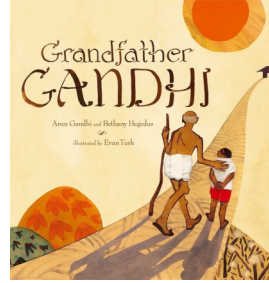
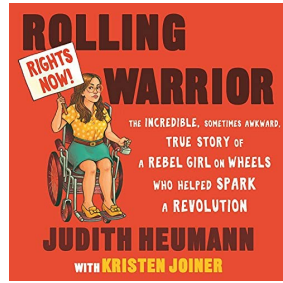
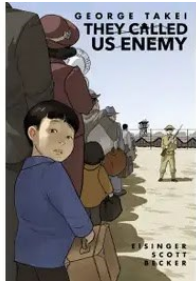
*Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children In A Racially Unjust America* by Jennifer Harvey

*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](https://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.”*