

BOARD BOOKS

Curls / Ruth Forman, illustrated by Geneva Bowers

Four Black girls celebrate their beautiful hair as they get ready for a fun day together.

Follow Your Dreams, Little One / Vashti Harrison

Beautifully illustrated, this book introduces little ones to famous Black men who did great things. Readers will meet men who raised their voices, used their art, reached new heights, made a difference, and stood up for what was right. You'll also want to check out Vashti Harrison's other board books - *Dream Big, Little One* and *Think Big, Little One* - for an introduction to inspiring Black women.

Homemade Love / bell hooks, illustrated by Shane W. Evan

Mama calls her Girlpie, and she's Daddy's honey bun chocolate dew drop. But will Mama and Daddy still love her when she "tests the boundaries"? YES! This colorful board book is a sweet celebration of family love.

How to Dress a Dinosaur / Robin Currie

A creative, fun-loving mother works with her son's love of dinosaurs to help him get dressed in the morning.

My Hair, My Crown / Tonya Abari, illustrated by Tabitha Brown

Each spread in this appealing board book shows a Black or brown girl with a hair style all her own. There are curly waves, spiraled knots, regal locs, pom-pom puffs, and many more. The last page features a mirror and a special note to young readers – "Now, it's time to celebrate your hair, too."

PICTURE BOOKS

Another / Vanessa Brantley-Newston

Ages 3-6 years

In the middle of the night a young girl and her cat are led into a world of upside-down stairs, colorful balls, and a diverse group of playful children. Is it really happening or is it just a dream? An intriguing adventure for lovers of wordless books.

Becoming Vanessa / Vanessa Brantley-Newston
Ages 3-6 years

Vanessa wants to feel special on her first day of school, but everything goes wrong. The outfit she picked is too fancy, and her name has too many letters. She shares her sad feelings with her parents, who help her discover how special her name is - and how special she is too! A super book to share at the beginning of the school year.

Black Boy, Black Boy / Ali Kamanda and Jorge Redmond, illustrated by Ken Daley
Preschool-Grade 3

Colorful illustrations and rhyming text introduce young readers to Black men who made history – Colin Kaepernick, Elijah McCoy, Sam Cooke, Barack Obama, and more. This inspiring book encourages Black boys to break boundaries, believe in themselves, and shape their own fates.

Calvin / JR and Vanessa Ford, illustrated by Kayla Harren
Preschool-Grade 3

Gender Focus: LGBTQ

For as long as he could remember, Calvin knew he was a boy, and that his name was Calvin. When he bravely tells his family that he is not a girl, they are loving and supportive. They use his chosen name, and get him a new boy wardrobe. When he returns to school, he is warmly welcomed and accepted for who he is. Written by the parents of a transgender child, this accessible book would be great to share with children and adults. Using a positive story of acceptance, it describes best practices for supporting transgender children at home and at school.

Cool Cuts / Mechal Renee Roe
Baby-3 years
Gender Focus: Boy

This fun, affirming book is a celebration of cool Black hairstyles. Each page features a different boy who loves his hair and is “born to be awesome!”

Festival of Colors / Kabir Sehgal & Surishtha Sehgal, illustrated by Vashti Harrison
Preschool-Grade 3
Gender Focus: Boy & Girl

Chintoo and Mintoo are preparing for Holi, the Indian festival of colors. Readers will learn about Holi, as they enjoy the day with Chingoo, Mintoo, their family, friends, and neighbors. A joyful celebration of a colorful holiday.



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Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn / Kenard Pa

Grades 1-2, ages 4-7 years

Gender Focus: Girl

A young girl walks through woods and fields in this beautifully illustrated exploration of the transition from summer to fall. She encounters animals as they prepare for winter, and plants as they change with the season. She walks through a town populated with diverse people preparing for autumn too. A delightful book to cuddle up with as summer comes to an end.

Henry at Home/ Megan Maynor, illustrated by Alea Marley

Grades Preschool-K, Ages 4-6 years

Gender Focus: Boy & Girl

Liza and Henry are young siblings who spend a lot of time playing creatively until it's time for Liza to go to kindergarten. A sweet story of the two who have to part (due to school), and how they learn to play independently and come together to share their new experiences.

How to Welcome a New Baby / Jean Reagan, illustrated by Lee Wildish

Grades Preschool-3, ages 4-8 years

Gender Focus: Boy

New Baby

The title says it all! Grandparents, parents and a young boy in a multiracial family get ready to welcome a new baby. The vignette on how to help your dad when a baby falls asleep on him is charming and emphasizes big brother's important role in the family.

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

Grades Preschool-3, ages 4-8 years

Gender Focus: Girl

A lyrical and poignant statement about our identities: how we are alike and how we are different. The gentle pace of the book moves toward self-advocacy and self-worth, while dealing with the difficulties we encounter when we don't get along with each other or when we are bullied.

I Have a Superpower / Stephen Curry, illustrated by Geneva Bowers

Preschool-Grade 2

Hughes might seem like an ordinary kid, but he has a secret Superpower! And today he's going to share his Superpower with the other kids on the neighborhood basketball court. He's not tall and he's not fast, but he has HEART! He knows that with practice and determination he can overcome any obstacle. Kids will enjoy this entertaining and inspirational story by an NBA superstar.



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The Kissing Hand / Audrey Penn

Grades Preschool-K, ages 4-7 years

Chester, a young raccoon, expresses his fear of leaving home and going to school. His mother has an old family secret to share that will help him overcome his reservations so he can attend school with other woodland animals.

Lola at the Library / bell hooks, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Baby-3 years

Lola loves books! She and her Mommy go to the library every Tuesday. Lola returns her books, enjoys storytime, and picks new books to take home. When Lola goes to bed, her Mommy reads her a story. Young children will enjoy the gentle adventures of Lola and her friends in this book and in the other titles in the *Lola Reads* series.

Pink is for Boys / Robb Pearlman, illustrated by Eda KAban

Grades Preschool-3, ages 4-8 years

Gender Focus: Boy and Girl

A diverse group of boys and girls make yellow paper crowns and wear blue baseball uniforms. They run through green grass and eat orange popsicles. This book is a lively way to let young readers know that all the colors are for everyone!

Real Sisters Pretend / Megan Dowd Lambert

Preschool-Grade 2

As two adopted sisters engage in playing an imaginative game, they come to discuss their relationship to each other and their respective adoptions.

The Remember Balloons / Jessie Oliveros, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte

Grades Kindergarten-4, ages 5-9 years

Gender Focus: Boy

Dementia

A Grandpa has a big bunch of balloons, and each balloon holds a memory. Picking berries, finding his lost dog, marrying Grandma, going fishing. James loves to hear Grandpa tell the stories held in the balloons. But lately, Grandpa's balloons have been floating away, and taking their memories with them. *The Remember Balloons* is a beautiful story and a sensitive, hopeful way to talk with children about memory loss.

When We Say Black Lives Matter / Maxine Beneba Clarke

Grades 1-4, ages 6-9

A beautiful Black baby is born, and as the child grows, the parents explain what it means to say, sing, call out, and whisper Black Lives Matter. Readers will be drawn in by the poetic text that bends and curves around bold colors and shapes on each page.



You Are My Favorite Color / Gillian Sze, illustrated by Nina Mata
Preschool-Grade 3

“When you ask me why your skin is brown, I will tell you that you are my favorite color.” This is how this lovely book begins. It’s full of enchanting descriptions of beautiful brown birds, cookies, roasted chestnuts, and more. Readers will enjoy spending time with this white mother and her two little ones as they celebrate the beauty of brown.

CHILDREN’S FICTION

Bayou Magic / Jewell Parker Rhodes
The Louisiana Girls Trilogy, Book 3
Ages 8-12

Almost ten-years-old, Maddy goes to Bon Temps, a mystical place in the Bayou, to spend the summer with her grandma. While there, she makes friends with a boy named Bear who shows her where to fish, swim, and explore. Queenie, her grandma, teaches Maddy to cook, be a good steward of the earth, and a little of their family’s ancestral magic. Queenie also tells Maddy the story of their ancestor Membe who came to America as an enslaved person. This is a magical tale that will empower readers and introduce them to difficult topics.

Chester Keene Cracks the Code / Kekla Magoon
Grades 3-7

Chester Keene’s mom is always worrying about him, so Chester tries his best to hide bad things from her. When a bully gives him a black eye, Chester tells his mom he ran into something. Chester really needs someone to talk to. His father left when Chester was a baby, but presents arrive every birthday and Christmas. When Chester finds an email address in one of the packages, he is glad to finally have a way to communicate with his father. Chester sends messages and receives advice in return, but he really wants to see his dad in person. He believes his father doesn’t come around because he is a secret agent on a mission, but the truth is more complicated and hard to face. ***Chester Keene Cracks the Code*** has mystery, adventure – and a lot of heart.

Class Act / Jerry Craft
Grades 4-8

Jordan wants to be an artist, but his mother doesn’t think being an artist is a “real job.” She makes him go to Riverdale Academy, a prep school where most of the kids are White. He wants to switch to the High School for Art in 9th grade, but he’s got a lot of work to do to convince his mom. His friend Drew is great at basketball, but sticks with academics because he remembers what his grandmother tells him – “you have to work twice as hard to be just as good.” Jordan, Drew, and their other friends of color struggle



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to make friends and be themselves at their school full of clueless classmates and teachers. It sounds heavy, but ***Class Act*** is a very funny book, too. It's the sequel to the author's Newbery Medal winning ***New Kid***, which appeared in the 2021 TRJ bibliography. Both graphic novels are great choices for Black boys and those who care about them.

It's the End of the World and I'm In My Bathing Suit / Justin A. Reynolds
Grades 3-7

Tasked with the responsibility of doing his own laundry, Eddie Holloway does everything but for 40 days! After a mound of his stinky laundry falls onto his mom, Eddie's grounded from attending his favorite event of the year, Beach Bash! Dressed in nothing but an old, too-small swimsuit, Eddie stays at home to wrestle with and ruminate on his laundry, his ADHD, and his relationship with his stepdad until the power goes out! Since laundry can't be done without electricity, Eddie has fun being with some of his friends, but as night comes and no parents return from Beach Bash, they all start to realize that something more than a power outage is going on.

Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun / Tola Okogwu
Grades 3-7

Onyeka and her mother moved from Nigeria to London after the mysterious disappearance of Onyeka's father. Onyeka has so much hair that people are always staring at her. No matter what she and her mother do to manage it, it's always out of control. One day she discovers that her hair has psychokinetic powers, and her life completely changes. Her mother tells Onyeka that she is a Solari – part of a secret group of Nigerian people with superpowers. Now that Onyeka's power has emerged, they must go back to Nigeria. Onyeka will go to the Academy of the Sun and learn to use her power for good. The Academy is an entirely different world for Onyeka, with mysteries, intrigue, and danger all around. Superhero fans will enjoy reading about Onyeka's adventures – and about her amazing hair!

Playing the Cards You're Dealt / Varian Johnson
Grades 4-7

Ten-year-old Ant has one goal – to win the annual Spades Tournament. Winning at spades is a family tradition, so Ant has something to prove. Unfortunately, the deck seems stacked against him. Jamal, his best friend and spades partner, is grounded after a playground fight. Ant has to find a new partner, so he asks Shirley, the new girl in school. She's a great spades player – and very pretty, too. Between being teased about playing with a girl, difficult conversations with Jamal, and the pressure he's putting on himself to win, Ant is having a tough time. And something is going on with his father, too. Ant sees him gambling on the computer when everyone else is sleeping and maybe drinking, too. Ant doesn't want to get his dad in trouble with his mom, but how long can he keep his father's secrets? And should he? The book deals with many



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important subjects - friendship, first crushes, trust, and honesty, as well as alcohol and gambling addiction. Readers will be rooting for Ant to make good decisions – and to win the tournament.

A Secret Shared / Patricia MacLachlan

Grades 4-7

Newbery Award Winning author of *Sarah, Plain and Tall* brings to light the story of a young child's adoption. Birdy's adoption is kept secret from her, as well as her big brother and sister until one day, Birdy uses an extra DNA test vial to send back to the testing agency along with her mother's. When the tests come back, Birdy's big brother and sister - the twins Ben and Nora - discover Birdy is Swedish and not Irish and Italian like they are. The two older children realize things in their own lives that help them feel safe and calm as they work to understand and process the knowledge of their sister's adoption with a trusted teacher and eventually, with their parents. Birdy also shows what makes her feel warm and safe. These things include her kitten, painting, and her best friend Nico, who is also adopted. The children and their parents each come to recognize that "the truth is safe."

Second Dad Summer / Benjamin Klas and Fian Arroyo

Grades 4-7, ages 9-11

This story about friendship and family takes place over a hot summer near downtown Minneapolis. Jeremia is spending the summer with his dad and his dad's boyfriend, Michael. Jeremiah is sometimes embarrassed by Michael's outgoing and colorful personality, and he's reluctant to let down his barriers with his dad's boyfriend. However, a new friendship, a gardening project and a rocky relationship with a grumpy, elderly neighbor work to build a relationship between the two.

Stuntboy, in the Meantime / Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Raul the Third

Grades 2-7, Ages 8-12

Stuntboy, aka Portico, lives in a castle, aka an apartment building, with his mom, dad and grandma, but not for long, as his parents are separating. Stuntboy tries to use his superhero power to maneuver his way through the "frets," which he gets whenever his parents argue. To cope, he often goes down the hall to his best friend Zola's apartment, where he learns to breathe, meditate and watch their favorite TV show together. This book is almost a graphic novel, but it's cataloged as a novel.

Swim Team / Johnnie Christmas

Grades 3-7

Bree and her father have moved from New York to Florida. At her new school, Bree is put into a swimming class, and is too embarrassed to admit she can't swim. Happily, one of her new neighbors was a champion swimmer in her youth, and gives Bree private lessons. Bree turns out to be a natural in the water, and ends up on the Swim Team. Readers will be rooting for Bree and her team as they compete with the nearby



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private school for a chance to go to the State Championship. The characters in this Graphic Novel are confronted by racism, and their friendships are put to the test, but they are truly champions – in the pool and in life.

Ways to Make Sunshine

Ways to Grow Love

Ways to Share Joy / Renee Watson

Grades 3-6

Ryan Hart is a fourth grader who loves cooking, reading, her family, and her friends. She's coping with moving to a new neighborhood and other challenges, but always finds a way to see the bright side and find a solution. Readers will enjoy getting to know Ryan, her mischievous brother, and her friends and frenemies at school. The Ryan Hart books are full of warmth – a great choice for readers who enjoy realistic fiction.

TEEN FICTION

Booked / Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

Grades 5-8

Everything's going along smoothly in 8th grade for Nick and his best friend, Coby. They have a solid friendship, with their love of soccer at its core. One day, a pair of bullies who happen to be twins, unsettle Nick's life when they start calling him and Coby racist names. Then the harmony at home is threatened when Nick's parents tell him they're divorcing. This is the story of how Nick copes with divorce and bullying.

Cemetery Songs / Julie Gilbert

Grades 8-12

Polly Stone lives with her white, adoptive parents in semi-rural Minnesota. When Polly's biological mom dies from cancer, she runs across state lines to make it to her funeral or at least visit her grave. The police find Polly and return her back home.

While mourning her loss, she decides to burn her adoption papers in a pile of kindling close to her school. The fire gets out of control and burns school property. Unable to focus on school, she takes time off. Polly plans to catch up over the summer and start her senior year in the fall, but struggles to get the work done.

Polly's only solace is her volunteer work at the local archive, where she is mentored by the town's archivist, Tasha. Tasha is Black and supportive of Polly's Black identity. They talk about HBCUs and have conversations like this: "People are always asking if they can touch my hair." Tasha rolls her eyes. "Same. What else?" "Well, people stare a lot when I'm with my family, although that's more of an adoption thing." "It's a race thing, too." "Yeah, and sometimes strangers ask dumb questions, like where I'm from. Or they'll tell me how exotic I look or they say, 'So, what are you?'"



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Polly and Tasha work on a research project together on property that's about to be developed. They come to discover an old cemetery in Jessam Crossing. It may be a significant and historic site as it was part of a Black settlement.

Polly knows a lot more than she and Tasha can discover from the archives, but how? Polly is able to communicate with a boy who is buried in the cemetery. With his help, they piece together the tragic tale of his demise, which is related to why his spirit cannot rest. Can they help each other heal and move on?

In Gilbert's "Recommended Reading" section she cites the work of Rhonda Roorda and Rita Simon including *In Their Own Voices: Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories* and *In Their Parents' Voices: Reflections on Raising Transracial Adoptees*.

Kings of B'more / R. Eric Thomas Ages 12-17

Harrison and Linus are gay best friends who live in Baltimore. When summer is over they'll be high school juniors, but for now they're enjoying hanging out and talking about almost everything. Linus is keeping a secret, though. His father is moving to South Carolina and taking Linus with him. When Linus finally tells Harrison, there are only a couple more days until the move. Harrison makes a plan full of surprises for Linus' last day in town – a schedule of things Harrison thinks Linus will love to do. The day doesn't go as planned, but in the end all is well. The boys take a train to DC to visit the Museum of African American History, return to Baltimore for Pride, spend time with friends old and new, and so much more.

The Skin I'm In / Sharon Flake Grades 6-12

Author Sharon G. Flake is a multiple-time recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award! The recipients of this award are African American authors and/or illustrators who create outstanding literature for African American children. Ms. Flake received this award for *The Skin I'm In* in 1999.

Seventh Grader Maleeka Madison is bullied for her dark skin. Maleeka's father died two years ago, and Maleeka's mom struggles to pay the bills. Making Maleeka's clothes is one way to help make ends meet, but this is another target for bullying. When a new English teacher arrives at school, Maleeka is not only disturbed by her teacher's sense of fashion and her high self-esteem, but also by the large birthmark on Ms. Saunders' face.

Ms. Saunders takes no nonsense at school as she addresses the stigma society assigns to skin color, has zero tolerance for bullying, and assigns her students more work than any other teacher. Could be that Maleeka has a few things to learn from her new teacher.



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Swing / Kwame Alexander

Grades 9-12

This free verse novel focuses on the evolving friendship of Swing and Noah and how it changes over the course of high school. Added to the mix is that people in their community and at school keep finding American flags in unexpected places without any rhyme or reason, and it's kind of unsettling. What do the flags represent? This is a beautifully-rendered telling of high school, friendship and first love.

YOUTH NONFICTION

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

Grades K and up

Travel through the alphabet of Black History in this colorful book - from **A**nthem to **Z**enith, with stops for **B**rotherhood, **K**wanzaa, and more. Readers will enjoy the rhyming text and its inspiring message.

Allies: Real Talk about Showing Up, Screwing Up, and Trying Again /

edited by Shakirah Bourne and Dana Alison Levy

Grades 7-9, Ages 12-17 – *Book Corner, April 2023*

What does it mean to be an ally? Seventeen YA authors share their thoughts and experiences in this encouraging and empowering book. Yes, mistakes will be made, but readers are encouraged to learn and try again. Each author has a different story to tell. Eric Smith writes about his life as a transracial adoptee, Kayla Whaley talks about her experiences growing up with muscular dystrophy, and Cam Montgomery writes about coming to terms with being Black and queer. Other writers talk about racism, transphobia, misogyny, and more. There's lots of advice on how to be an ally throughout. Also included are lists of organizations, books, and digital media to check out. Highly recommended for teens - and adults, too! This book would be a great discussion-starter and teaching tool.

And We Rise: The Civil Rights Movement in Poems / Erica Martin

Grades 7 and up – *Book Corner, February 2023*

After reading about Claudette Colvin's refusal to give up her seat on a bus to a white person, author Erica Martin was intrigued. Who was Claudette Colvin and why don't we know about her? After all, she had done the same thing Rosa Parks did - and before Rosa Parks did it too! Wondering what else she didn't know about the history of Black people in America, Ms. Martin went on to create this chronology of historic, tragic, and inspiring events from recent history. The events are described in brief, accessible poems. This is a useful resource for those of us having conversations about race in America with our children. Highly recommended!



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Because of You, John Lewis: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship / Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Keith Henry Brown

Grades 2-5

John Lewis was young Tybre Faw's hero, and in 2018 Tybre convinced his grandmothers to drive seven hours to Selma, where John Lewis would be making his annual walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Tybre met John Lewis and walked across the bridge with him. This began a friendship that lasted until John Lewis' death in 2020. Tybre read John Lewis' favorite poem, *Invictus*, at the funeral, and said, "John Lewis was my hero, my friend. Let's honor him by getting in good trouble."

H is for Harlem / Dinah Johnson, illustrated by April Harrison

Kindergarten-Grade 4

Travel to Harlem through the pages of this beautifully illustrated book. Learn about The Apollo Theater, Dance Theater of Harlem, Impact Farm, Liberation Bookstore, Madam C.J. Walker, and so much more. A great introduction to a vibrant and historical community.

I Color Myself Different / Colin Kaepernick, illustrated by Eric Wilkerson

Preschool-Grade 3

In *I Color Myself Different*, Colin Kaepernick tells the story of the day he learned that it takes courage to be different. His teacher asked all the children to draw their families and share their pictures with the class. Colin's picture showed that he was the only Black person in his family, which led to many questions from the other students. After talking this over with his mom, Colin learned to stand up and be himself despite the racism he encountered. A great title to read and talk about.

Me and White Supremacy: Become an Antiracist Changemaker / Layla F.

Saad

Grades 5-12, ages 10-16 years

This young readers' edition of *Me and White Supremacy* is a useful and accessible way to help young people understand and deal with racism. Each chapter covers a different topic - white privilege, anti-blackness, racist stereotypes, cultural appropriation, allyship, etc. At the end of each chapter, the author gives readers the opportunity to reflect, and suggests ways to take action. An excellent resource!

Rise Up! The Art of Protest / Jo Rippon

Grades 3-7, ages 8-12 years

Young people can make a difference in the important issues facing us - women's rights, racial injustice, LGBTQ rights, and more. Through brief text and historical posters, this book illustrates the history of protest movements - and inspires young readers to fight for a world where everyone's human rights are respected.



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Say Her Name / Zeta Elliot, illustrated by Loveis Wise

Grades 7 and up, age 12 years and up

Inspired by #SayHerName campaign, this powerful poetry collection celebrates the creativity, resilience, and courage of Black girls and women. Readers who wish to dive deeper will find information about the genesis of many of the poems at the end of the book. A great choice for poetry lovers, as well as those looking for a creative discussion starter.

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Phippen / Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Grades K-3, ages 5-8 years

Young artists will be inspired by this beautifully illustrated biography of Black artist Horace Phippen. Horace loved to draw from early childhood, but the circumstances of his life prevented him from becoming an artist until he was 40 years old. His paintings of the real life he saw around him are now displayed in museums all over the country. As Horace said, "Pictures just come to my mind... and I tell my heart to go ahead." A great message for aspiring artists young and old!

Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You / Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi, adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul, illustrated by Rachelle Baker

Grades 1-5, age 6-10 years

AND

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You / Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi, adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul, illustrated by Rachelle Baker

Grades 7 and up, age 12 years and up

Passionate, illuminating, and sometimes funny, both versions of *Stamped* are a great way for young people to learn about the history of racism in America. How did racism start, why is it still here, and how can we overcome it? These are important books to read and share.

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy / Emmanuel Acho

Grades 5-9, age 10-14 years

Why isn't it okay for whites to use the "N" word? What is white privilege and how does it work? What does it mean to be an ally? Author Emmanuel Acho gives readers lots to think about and discuss in this book full of uncomfortable questions like these. A wonderful book for young people and their adults to read and talk about.

Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre / Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Floyd Cooper

Grades 3-6, age 8-12 years

Greenwood was a thriving Black neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The area was so prosperous that it was known as Black Wall Street. Tragically, Greenwood was destroyed by a white mob in 1921. Businesses and homes were looted and burned, and



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many people were killed. *Unspeakable*'s beautifully written text, combined with Floyd Cooper's distinctive illustrations, bring this important historical event to life.

We Can: Portraits of Power / Tyler Gordon

Preschool-Grade 3

Tyler Gordon is just 15-years-old, but his distinctive portraits have been displayed in art galleries, on *The Today Show*, and on the cover of *TIME Magazine*. ***We Can: Portraits of Power*** introduces readers to 34 people who have inspired Tyler. There are athletes, entertainers, artists, writers, and political figures; including John Lewis, Maya Angelou, Joe Biden, Barack Obama, Colin Kaepernick, Stacey Abrams, Serena Williams, Bob Marley, Lady Gaga, and many more. As Tyler says, "The people in this book are icons who have changed the world in their own groundbreaking ways. When I reflect on where I want to be in the future, I think about the accomplishments of these strong, brave people, and it gives me inspiration to put my all into everything I do."

You Are More Than Magic:

The Black and Brown Girls' Guide to Finding Your Voice / Minda Harts

Grades 7-9 – *Book Corner, August 2022*

Full of great advice and written in a friendly style, *You Are More Than Magic* is an affirming and helpful guide for all girls of color. The book contains chapters on what to look for in a friend, finding mentors, setting boundaries, saying what you mean (without being mean), speaking up for yourself, and much more. At the end of the book the author includes a discussion guide, a section for caregivers of girls of color, questions for white readers, and other useful resources. Truly an excellent book for girls of color and the people who care about them.

ADULT

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story / Nikole Hannah-Jones

A gripping, brilliant read of the history of the United States from its origins to the present day as told by Black academics, poets, essayists and more.

The Last White Man / Mohsin Hamid

Book Corner, September 2022

The latest short novel (almost a folktale) from New York Times bestselling author Mohsin Hamid posits an allegorical world in which every human being becomes brown-skinned. If you have enjoyed Jose Saramago's ***Blindness*** or Franz Kafka's ***The Metamorphosis***, this story is for you.



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Letters to My White Male Friends / Dax-Devlon Ross

In 1903, W.E.B DuBois published ***The Souls of Black Folk***. In his work, he wrote of the double consciousness of “Black Folk” which is, “the individual sensation of feeling as though your identity is divided into several parts, making it difficult or impossible to have one unified identity.”

This concept resurfaces in Ross’ work, as he divulges his experiences growing up as a Black student and athlete in a mostly white high school, and as a Black basketball player on a Black inner city team, and more.

Often written as an epistolary plea, he asks readers to consider how they can work towards fair and equitable systems and institutions in the U.S. ***Letters to My White Male Friends*** is a significant read for parents of Black children, as it gives awareness of processing one’s Blackness in a society that doesn’t welcome that Blackness.

My Seven Black Fathers: A Young Activist’s Memoir of Race, Family, and the Mentors Who Made Him Whole / Will Jawando

Book Corner, June 2022

Will Jawando is a civil rights lawyer, an activist, and a loving husband and father of four. Currently a councilmember in Montgomery County, Maryland, he has worked for Nancy Pelosi, Sherrod Brown, and Barack Obama. ***My Seven Black Fathers*** is the story of how Will grew from a young boy with a white mother and an absent father to a successful adult. In his book, Will celebrates the Black men who stepped up to provide guidance and support – from a fourth grade teacher to the President of the United States. ***My Seven Black Fathers*** is an enjoyable, inspiring, and hopeful read.

The book is also a call to action. The author encourages Black men to become mentors, and encourages white people to “relearn and retell the story of Black men in this country and in turn help to shape a new story about who America is... help enable mentoring relationships between Black men and boys...” Will Jawando is “...working for a future that’s less like the past, a future where race and gender are less predictive of our outcomes, especially those of Black boys.”

The Science of Parenting Adopted Children: A Brain-Based, Trauma-Informed Approach to Cultivating Your Child’s Social, Emotional and Moral Development /

Arleta James, LPCC

The title may overwhelm you, but the content will not. Arleta James is an adoption professional with a counseling practice in Cleveland, Ohio. This book is informed by her decades of practice, experience, and research. It’s a highly accessible guide to understanding how our children’s trauma may present and offers help to aid our children’s brain development and overall growth. Also included are children’s trauma narratives (failure to thrive, domestic abuse, neglect, complex trauma, drug exposure, sexual abuse...) and depictions of how the trauma presents. The bibliography and notes are goldmines of information for further research. This is an insightful and inspiring exploration of brain science. The author gives lots of useful insight to



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helping with attachment, as well as emotional and moral development. Highly recommended for all!

Token Black Girl: A Memoir / Danielle Prescod

Book Corner, January 2023

Danielle's Black parents raised her to be "colorblind." They rarely talked about race, and Danielle sensed it was not a comfortable topic. Attending predominantly white schools, and avidly consuming the same whitewashed movies, magazines, TV shows, and books as her friends, Danielle was confused and conflicted about her identity. She convinced her mother to take her for chemical hair treatments starting in elementary school, and later developed disordered eating in an effort to "integrate imperceptibly into the world of [her] white friends." Danielle became obsessed with fashion and popular culture, and chose a career in the beauty and fashion industry. Working her way up from intern to editor, she was driven to be "skinny" and project an image that didn't reflect her true self. After spending years starving herself and burying her thoughts and feelings, Danielle looked inward and began taking a close look at how her childhood experiences and career in a white dominated industry had affected her. Unflinching and illuminating, ***Token Black Girl*** is a thought-provoking look at a young woman's experience of identity formation and eventual self-acceptance.