



# New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

A Just World For All

## Bibliography of Selected Resources

**Racism, Anti-Racism, Racial Justice, White Privilege,  
Implicit Bias, History, Reparations, Resources for  
Pastors, Resources for Youth and Children – *and more***

Version 2.4, June 2023

Provided by the Anti-Racism Ministries (ARM) Group of the  
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ

*Expressing God's love through Anti-racism work*

<https://nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/justice-witness-ministry/racial-justice-mission-group>



# Bibliography of Selected Resources

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This collection of resources was assembled by the Anti-Racism Ministries (ARM) Group of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. It began about six years ago as an appendix to the ARM Group's *Process for Becoming a Racial Justice Church*. This updated edition is now a separate document, allowing distribution via different channels and for different purposes.

The bibliography consists of three major sections:

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1. Articles, Blogs, Audio, Video, Web-based Resources: A collection of links to web-based articles, websites, video and audio programs, organized topically to make it easier to find resources on topics of interest
  2. Books and More Books: Lists of many different types of books, organized into two subsections, one for general adult readers and one specifically curated for pastors. Also organized by fiction, poetry, biography, history, and non-fiction.
  3. Belonging from the Beginning: Stories of the Global Majority for Children and Youth: A collection of books on race-based topics appropriate for young readers
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## **1. Articles, Blogs, Audio, Video, Web-based Resources**

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*There are a wide variety of web-accessible resources listed here, and certainly more could be added. This is not meant to be either a comprehensive or an overwhelming list but rather is simply an effort to share links that others have found instructive. Over time, you may find that some of these resources will enrich your own study and ongoing life together as a Racial Justice Church. Remember, this is a life-long journey!*

*To help you in finding resources for specific interests, the resources in this section are organized into categories. Categories include, in order: UCC resources, Local resources, Racism basics, Anti-racism and what we can do, White supremacy, White privilege, Racism and children, The Black experience, History of Black people / slavery / racism, Myths, Black women, Reparations, Mass incarceration, and Restorative justice.*

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Sorted Alphabetically by Author Within Each Category

### **UCC resources on racism, racial justice and white privilege**

[https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_racism](https://www.ucc.org/justice_racism)

[https://www.ucc.org/sacred\\_conversations\\_to\\_end\\_racism](https://www.ucc.org/sacred_conversations_to_end_racism)

<http://privilege.uccpages.org/>

## Helpful “local” Links, Facebook Pages and a Blog

- Showing Up for Racial Justice <https://www.facebook.com/surjuvvtnh>
- Black Lives Matter Nashua NH <https://www.facebook.com/BLMNashua>
- Black Lives Matter Manchester NH <https://blmmanchester.com>
- Black Lives Matter Seacoast NH <https://www.blmseacoast.com>
- Black Girl in Maine Blog <https://blackgirlinmaine.com>
- Black Heritage Trail of NH <https://www.blackheritagetrailnh.org>
- NH Black Women’s Health Project  
<https://www.facebook.com/NH-Black-Women-Health-Project-118553405473427/>
- NAACP Manchester NH <https://naacpmanchesternh.com>
- NAACP Seacoast NH <http://www.seacoastnaacp.com>
- NAACP Nashua NH <https://www.nashuanaacp.org>
- New Hope Baptist Church, Portsmouth NH <https://www.newhopenh.com>

## Racism Basics

Acho, Emmanuel. “Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man.” YouTube, June 3, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8jUA7JBkF4>

In this series of short videos, Acho educates white Americans about racism, systemic racism, social injustice, rioting, and the pain that Black people are feeling today. The format is a series of questions about topics white Americans tend not to understand, like “Emmanuel, why are y’all rioting?”

Asante-Muhammad, Dedrick. “Ways to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide.” *Inequality.org*, co-authors Collins, Chuck; Hamilton, Darrick; Hoxie, Josh; Portside.org, April 19, 2019, <https://portside.org/2019-04-19/ten-solutions-bridge-racial-wealth-divide>

Ashley, Shannon. “Race isn’t real?” *Medium.com*, October 27, 2018, <https://medium.com/@Shesreallyfat/race-isnt-real-d69dofbee7d>

A list of phrases commonly spoken by ignorant white people about race and racism. There is an unpacking of the problem by Shanno.

Bauman, Anna. “Exploring the Difference Between Equity and Equality in America.” WBUR Radio, March 8, 2021, <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2021/03/08/exploring-the-differences-between-equity-and-equality-in-america>

Audio conversation discussing how to work towards equity for all even though some started at a disadvantage compared to others.

Blackwell, Kelsey. “Why People of Color Need Spaces Without White People.” *The Arrow Journal*, August 9, 2018,  
<https://arrow-journal.org/why-people-of-color-need-spaces-without-white-people/#.XZkejbm4mQQ.mailto>

An article that helps unpack this need and addresses 6 common questions from white people who aren't aware of it.

Branigin, Anne. “Racism as a Public Health Crisis.” *The Root*, May 21, 2019,  
[https://www.theroot.com/milwaukee-county-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis-1834917218?utm\\_medium=sharefromsite&utm\\_source=theroot\\_facebook&utm\\_campaign=sharebar&/setsession](https://www.theroot.com/milwaukee-county-declares-racism-a-public-health-crisis-1834917218?utm_medium=sharefromsite&utm_source=theroot_facebook&utm_campaign=sharebar&/setsession)

Butler, Andrew. “Everyday Racism: What Should We Do?” *The Guardian*, March 18, 2015,  
[https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/everyday-racism-what-should-we-do/#.XL-gJTq8\\_Ho.facebook](https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/everyday-racism-what-should-we-do/#.XL-gJTq8_Ho.facebook)

“The Color of Fear (Part 1).” Stirfry Productions, 1994,  
<https://stirfryseminars.com/products/the-color-of-fear-part-one/>

This film documents a weekend workshop in which eight men of different races gather to discuss the meaning of race and the impact of racism in their lives. The completely unscripted dialogue brings to life themes of implicit bias, white privilege, and white fragility.

“Confronting Systemic Racism.” *Courses & Workshops*, Anti-Racism Collaborative,  
<http://antiracismcollaborative.org/courses-and-workshops/>

Davis, Chali. “We Cannot Vanquish Racism by Ignoring History.” *Concord Monitor*, February 10, 2019,  
<https://www.concordmonitor.com/Confronting-my-history-in-Montgomery-23102804>

George, Janel. “A Lesson on Critical Race Theory.” *Human Rights Magazine*, Vol. 46, No. 2: Civil Rights Reimagining Policing, American Bar Association, January 11, 2021,  
[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human\\_rights\\_magazine\\_home/civil-rights-reimagining-policing/a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/civil-rights-reimagining-policing/a-lesson-on-critical-race-theory/)

George, Mark Patrick. “Whitewashed: Unmasking the World of Whiteness.” YouTube, March 16, 2013, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdaF\\_ho6YX4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdaF_ho6YX4)

Grigsby, Susan. “It’s Time to Talk about our own Racism.” *Daily Kos*, August 26, 2018,  
<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/8/26/1789029/-Hey-progressive-white-people-it-is-time-to-talk-about-our-own-racism?detail=emaildkre>

Lartey, Jamiles. “Everyday Racism in America.” *The Guardian*, June 6, 2018,  
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jun/06/everyday-racism-in-america-how-to-fix-it>

“Last Chance for Eden.” Stirfry Productions, 2002,  
<https://stirfryseminars.com/products/last-chance-for-eden/>

Like *The Color of Fear*, this film documents an unscripted conversation that took place over a weekend, with nine people of different races talking about racism in the workplace. This film includes women as well as men, and includes Indigenous people.

McGhee, Heather. “Why Racial Justice is Critical to Economic Justice.” co-presenter Lopez, Ian Haney, duration 4:13, YouTube, Mar 12, 2016,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caarVAS4ojQ&feature=youtu.be>

Moyers, Bill. “Podcast: Heather McGhee: How American Racism Has a Cost for Everyone.”, *Moyers on Democracy*, BillMoyers.com, November 18, 2020,  
<https://billmoyers.com/story/podcast-heather-mcghee-how-american-racism-has-a-cost-for-everyone/>

Noah, Trevor. “Trevor Noah on how the dominos connect.” *The Daily Show With Trevor Noah*, YouTube, May 29, 2020,  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4amCfVbA\\_c&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4amCfVbA_c&t=2s)

Oluo, Ijeoma. “Confronting Racism is Not About the Needs and Feelings of White People.” *The Guardian*, March 28, 2019,  
[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/28/confronting-racism-is-not-about-the-needs-and-feelings-of-white-people?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/28/confronting-racism-is-not-about-the-needs-and-feelings-of-white-people?CMP=share_btn_fb)

Solnit, Rebecca. “Climate Action as Antithesis of White Supremacy.” *The Guardian*, Portside.org, March 19, 2019,  
<https://portside.org/2019-03-19/why-climate-action-antithesis-white-supremacy>

Tippett, Krista and Menachem, Resmaa. “Notice the Rage, Notice the Silence.” *The On Being Project*, April 14, 2021,  
<https://onbeing.org/programs/resmaa-menakem-notice-the-rage-notice-the-silence/>

In this podcast, Resmaa Menakem, a therapist and trauma specialist talks about activating the wisdom of elders and incorporating new science to understand how all of us carry in our bodies the history and traumas behind everything we collapse into the word *race*.

Warfield, Zenobia Jeffries. “9 Essential Reads for Your Racial Justice Conversations.” *Yes! Magazine*, December 19, 2017,  
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/9-essential-reads-for-your-racial-justice-conversations-20171219>

Williams, Monnica T, Ph.D. “Colorblind Ideology Is a Form of Racism.” *Psychology Today*, December 27, 2011,  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/culturally-speaking/201112/colorblind-ideology-is-form-racism?eml>

## Anti-Racism and What We Can Do

- Awesomely Luvvie. "Things white people can do to dismantle racism and white supremacy." Awesomelyluvvie.com, September 21, 2016, <https://awesomelyluvvie.com/2016/09/white-people-anti-racism.html>
- Kendi, Ibram X. "Envisioning an Anti-racist America." *The Guardian*, December 6, 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/06/antiracism-and-america-white-nationalism>
- Kesa Kivel Board Games. "Road to Racial Justice Board Game." Kesa Kivel Board Games, <http://www.roadtoracialjustice.org/>
- Moore, Dr. Eddie, Jr. "21 Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge." America & Moore, 2014, <https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>
- Moss, Rev. Dr. Otis, III, DeShazier, Rev. Julian, Sarsour, Linda, Washington-Leapheart, Rev. Naomi. "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery." United Church of Christ, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkJlToonrA>
- The United Church of Christ invites you to rewatch Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III's cinematic sermon entitled, "The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery." Immediately following the sermon, a panel of four respected thought leaders, racial justice advocates, and UCC pastors discussed the impact of historical and present-day acts of racism and violence towards African Americans. They also discussed how the Christian church can be actively involved in dismantling racism.
- Mulholland, James. "The Myth of the 'Non-Racist' White Person." Note To My White Self, July 14, 2019, <https://notetomywhiteself.wordpress.com/2019/07/14/the-myth-of-the-non-racist-white-person/>
- Myerson, Jesse A. "White Anti-Racism Must Be Based in Solidarity, Not Altruism." *The Nation*, February 5, 2018, <https://www.thenation.com/article/white-anti-racism-must-be-based-in-solidarity-not-altruism/>
- Shay. "Believe in Something and Get Uncomfortable: The Truth about Fighting Racism." Black Girl in Maine, September 4, 2018, <http://blackgirlinmaine.com/racial-and-cultural/believe-in-something-and-get-uncomfortable-the-truth-about-fighting-racism/>
- Shutack, Corinne. "103 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice." *Medium.com*, August 13, 2017, <https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18boe0234>

## White Supremacy

- Beinart, Peter. "Whiteness is Still a Proxy for Being American." *TheAtlantic.com*, July 27, 2014, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/07/a-florida-representatives-in-dian-american-gaffe-is-revealing/375121/>
- Branigin, Anne. "Dangers of Fighting White Supremacy." *The Root*, May 24, 2019, <https://www.theroot.com/nyc-top-educators-efforts-to-battle-white-supremacy-cul-1835009484>
- Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne. "What White Supremacists Know." *Boston Review*, November 16, 2018, <http://bostonreview.net/race/roxanne-dunbar-ortiz-what-white-supremacists-know#.XAEinJ7iKiY.twitter>
- Ford, James E. "We Need to Start Telling the Truth about White Supremacy in Our Schools." Education Post, Discriminology.org, <https://www.discriminology.org/news-1/2017/2/15/we-need-to-start-telling-the-truth-about-white-supremacy-in-our-schools>
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- Mikayla. "Building the Future by Building a Culture of Appreciation." *medium.com*, January 11, 2018, <https://medium.com/@mmmikayla/building-the-future-by-building-a-culture-of-appreciation-43d61566e819>
- Newkirk, Vann R., II. "The Language of White Supremacy." *TheAtlantic.com*, October 6, 2017, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/10/the-language-of-white-supremacy/542148/>
- Okun, Tema. "Divorcing White Supremacy Culture—Coming Home to Who We Really Are." whitesupremacyculture.info, 1999, [http://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/?link\\_id=o&can\\_id=7f4d2e068334ddoeaafb3703d3b8fb1f&source=email-update-white-supremacy-culture-characteristics-web-site-live&email\\_referrer=email\\_1186799&email\\_subject=update-white-supremacy-culture-characteristics-website-live](http://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/?link_id=o&can_id=7f4d2e068334ddoeaafb3703d3b8fb1f&source=email-update-white-supremacy-culture-characteristics-web-site-live&email_referrer=email_1186799&email_subject=update-white-supremacy-culture-characteristics-website-live)
- Sanchez, Adam. "Taking the Fight Against White Supremacy into Schools." Zinn Education Project, August 29, 2017, <https://www.zinnedproject.org/if-we-knew-our-history/fight-white-supremacy-in-schools/>



## White Privilege

Biewen, John and Kumanyika, Chenjerai. "Seeing White." Scene on Radio,  
<https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>

In this 14-episode podcast series, John Biewen and his co-host, Chenjeri Kumanyika, turn the lens around, from its usual focus on people of color, to look straight at white America, and at the notion of whiteness itself. From the idea that slave traders commissioned the invention of the idea of race to discussions of what it means to be white in America today, the episodes develop the idea of race as a construct developed to uplift white people. It's all about power. These podcasts are well worth the time.

Boot, Max. "Learning About White Privilege." *Foreign Policy*, December 27, 2017,  
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/12/27/2017-was-the-year-i-learned-about-my-white-privilege/amp/>

DiAngelo, Robin. "Racial Illiteracy of White People." NBC News, September 16, 2018,  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/white-people-are-still-raised-to-be-rationally-illiterate-if-we-ncna906646>

Harriot, Michael. "Yes, You Can Measure White Privilege." *The Root*, April 14, 2017,  
[https://www.theroot.com/yes-you-can-measure-white-privilege-1794303451?utm\\_medium=sharefromsite&utm\\_source=The\\_Root\\_facebook](https://www.theroot.com/yes-you-can-measure-white-privilege-1794303451?utm_medium=sharefromsite&utm_source=The_Root_facebook)

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Jones, Robert P. "White Christian America Needs a Moral Awakening." *The Atlantic*, July 28, 2020,  
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Kelley, Robin DG. "Fighting White Backlash." Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ) Webinar, Facebook, January 13, 2021,  
[https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1970364763114892&ref=watch\\_permalink](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=1970364763114892&ref=watch_permalink)

"Understanding & Dismantling Privilege." Special Issue: Academics & Activists Advocating for Equity, Justice and Action, *The Understanding and Dismantling Privilege Journal*, Vol 7, No 2 (2017), The Privilege Institute, December 23, 2017,  
<http://www.wpcjournal.com/issue/view/1404>

"When They See Us." newsone.com, June 7 2019,  
<https://newsone.com/3853906/why-white-people-must-watch-when-they-see-us/#.XP58LgmBi8c.facebook>

## Racism and Children

- Michael, Ali, and Bartoli, Eleanora. "What White Children Need to Know about Race." National Association of Independent Schools, Summer 2014, <https://www.nais.org/magazine/independent-school/summer-2014/what-white-children-need-to-know-about-race/>
- Mills, Afrika Afeni. "A Letter to White Teachers of My Black Children." Teaching While White Blog, June 24 (year unspecified), <https://teachingwhilewhite.org/blog/2019/6/21/a-letter-to-white-teachers-of-my-black-children>
- Pinsker, Joe. "How Well Intentioned White Families Can Perpetuate Racism." *The Atlantic*, September 4, 2018, [https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/09/white-kids-race/569185/?utm\\_source=fbb](https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2018/09/white-kids-race/569185/?utm_source=fbb)
- "Race Matters: A Story About White Privilege." Raising Race Conscious Children, July 18, 2017, <http://www.raceconscious.org/2017/07/race-matters-story-white-privilege/>
- "Teaching for Black Lives." Zinn Education Project, rethinkingschools.org, [https://docs.google.com/document/d/18SMwaDf\\_-MLV8yLsjPKG3oPJJeQrcLvIPMvUQsgJ7E/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18SMwaDf_-MLV8yLsjPKG3oPJJeQrcLvIPMvUQsgJ7E/edit)
- Truss, Joe. "Anti-Racist Books for Teachers." Racial Equity Coaching and Consulting, Truss Leadership, Summer 2020, <https://culturallyresponsiveleadership.com/antiracistbooks/>

## The Black Experience

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- Higgins, Marissa. "Working While Black." *Daily Kos*, November 17 2018, <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/11/17/1813633/-Washington-frozen-yogurt-shop-calls-police-on-black-man-who-was-literally-doing-his-job?detail=emaildkre>
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## History of Black People / Slavery / Racism

- Allen, James. "Without Sanctuary." Collection of James Allen and John Littlefield, 2018, <https://withoutsanctuary.org>
- Over 25 years, James Allen collected photographs and postcards of the lynching era in America, 1882-1968, when nearly 5,000 people were lynched. His images put us face to face with the reality of racial violence; it is a graphic and powerful portrayal. The website, which we viewed, presents the pictures as still images or as a movie; the content is also available as a book, which incorporates essays by Hilton Als, Leon Litwack, the late Congressman John Lewis, and James Allen.
- Anderson, Melinda D. "Black History Beyond Slavery & Civil Rights." NBC News, February 26, 2019, [https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/beyond-slavery-civil-rights-movement-teachers-should-be-integrating-black-n976161?cid=sm\\_npd\\_nn\\_fb\\_blk](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/beyond-slavery-civil-rights-movement-teachers-should-be-integrating-black-n976161?cid=sm_npd_nn_fb_blk)
- "The Atlantic Inheritance Project: A Project about American History, Black Life, and the resilience of memory." The Atlantic, <https://www.theatlantic.com/inheritance/>
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- This film, available on Netflix, paints a devastating picture of the unsightly and horrific practices that kept hundreds of thousands of Black Americans enslaved for many decades, and the more stealthy form of racial bias, in the form of the racially-coded rhetoric of "law and order" and the "war on crime," that has put more Black men in prison today than were enslaved in 1850. The film challenges viewers to move beyond simple calls for reform to understand incarceration as a profound crisis of ethics.
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- This 38-minute film documents how voter suppression worked to sway the results of the 2018 gubernatorial race in Georgia. Using tactics ranging from poll closures to purges of voter rolls, Brian Kemp suppressed hundreds of thousands of votes in majority African American communities to defeat Stacey Abrams. The film is free on YouTube.
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"Race - the Power of an Illusion." California Newsreel, 2003. <https://newsreel.org/video/race-the-power-of-an-illusion>

See the weblink for various rental, purchase, and streaming options. This 3-part film series is a good introduction to the idea of race and the meaning we make of race. Beginning with the concept of race as a social construct rather than a biological reality, the series shows how race is a powerful determinant of life chances and opportunities in America.

Part 1: "The Difference Between Us" uses contemporary science to challenge the idea of race as innately biological.

Part 2: "The Story We Tell" presents the history of race in America, showing how race has served to rationalize, and even justify, social inequalities.

Part 3: "The House We Live In" digs deeper into the political, economic, and cultural roots of our concept of race. It reveals how our social institutions "create" race by channeling resources, power, status, and wealth to white people.

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## 2. Books – and more books

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*These book lists have come to us from a variety of sources, and we regret that we cannot give full attribution to all who have compiled these lists. The intent here is not to overwhelm you with long lists of titles but rather simply to share a wealth of resources that others have found helpful – over time.*

*This list is in two sub-sections. Section 2.1 is for general adult readers, and includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography, history, inspirational literature, and others. Section 2.2 is curated specifically for pastors.*

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### 2.1 Book Resources for General Adult Readers

Sorted Alphabetically by Author Within Each Category

#### Fiction

Baldwin, James. *If Beale Street Could Talk*, Vintage, Reprint Edition, October 10, 2006

Butler, Octavia E. *Kindred*, Beacon Press, January 1, 2003

The first science fiction written by a black woman, *Kindred* has become a cornerstone of black American literature.

Campbell, Bebe Moore. *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*, One World, June 27, 1995

Won the NAACP Image Award for Best Literary Work of Fiction.

Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist*, Harper One, February 24, 2015

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the magical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure as extravagant as any ever found. The story of the treasures Santiago finds along the way teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, above all, following our dreams.

Danticat, Edwidge. *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, Soho Press, February 24, 2015

The novel was chosen as an Oprah Book Club selection in May, 1998 and deals with questions of racial, linguistic, and gender identity in interconnected ways.

Diaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, Riverhead Books, September 6, 2007

Eggers, Dave. *What is the What*, Vintage, November 13, 2007

The New York Times bestselling novel about the history of the civil war in Sudan through the eyes of one of the so-called Lost Boys, a refugee now living in the United States.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*, September 2, 2019

Everett, Percival. *I Am Not Sidney Poitier*, Graywolf Press, May 26, 2009

Flake, Sharon. *Who Am I Without Him: Short Stories About Girls and the Boys in their Lives*, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, November 1, 2009

*Who Am I Without Him?* is a Booklist Top Ten Romance Novel for Teens

Haley, Alex. *Roots, Wings*, Reprint Edition, September 5, 2000

This seminal text tells the story of an African-born slave and his descendants in America, including the author Alex Haley. A widely watched TV series over 30 years ago was based on the book.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*, Vintage, November 29, 2004

Lorraine Hansberry's award-winning drama about the hopes and aspirations of a struggling, working-class family living on the South Side of Chicago.

Harris, E. Lynn. *Invisible Life*, Anchor, January 1, 1994

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Virago Press, January 1, 1986

Iweala, Uzodinma. *Speak No Evil*, Harper, March 6, 2018

Johnson, James Weldon. *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, Warbler Classics, May 23, 2020

Published in 1912, this book is the fictional account of a young biracial man, referred to only as the "Ex-Colored Man," living in post-Reconstruction era America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*, Penguin Books, January 28, 2003

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*, Knopf, October 22, 2019

Sethe is the protagonist in this Pulitzer Prize winner. The novel tells the story about a family of former slaves whose Cincinnati home is haunted by a malevolent spirit. *Beloved* is inspired by an event that actually happened in 1856.

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eyes*, Vintage, May 8, 2007

Toni Morrison's first novel, with rich language and bold vision. One of her most powerful, unforgettable books.

Morrison, Toni. *Song of Solomon*, Everyman's Library, November 14, 1995

Another transcendent novel from Toni Morrison.

Morrison, Toni. *Sula*, Knopf, April 5, 2002

Another brilliant novel from the acclaimed Nobel Prize winner.

Souljah, Sister. *The Coldest Winter Ever*, Emily Bestler Books, September 20, 2005

Renowned hip-hop artist, writer, and activist Sister Souljah brings the streets of New York to life in this unforgettable first novel.

Stockett, Kathryn. *The Help*, Berkley, April 5, 2011

A story about African Americans working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s.

Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Puffin Books, April 12, 2004

Roll of Thunder is the 4th book in the Logan family saga. In the book, Taylor explores struggles of African Americans in 1930s Mississippi through the perspective of nine year old Cassie Logan, using the novel to highlight several themes including Jim Crow segregation, Black landownership, sharecropping, the Great Depression and lynching.

Thurman, Wallace. *The Blacker the Berry*, Martino Fine Books, April 22, 2015

Tyree, Omar. *Flyy Girl*, Pocket Books, August 7, 2001

A bestselling novel about a young woman coming of age in the late 1980s.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*, Open Road Media, September 20, 2011

Alice Walker's classic story of the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia.

Whitehead, Colson. *Sag Harbor*, Anchor, April 23, 2009

The story of a Black student at an elite prep school in Manhattan who escapes every summer to the Hamptons and a small community of Black professionals.

## Poetry

Alexander, Kwame. *Light for the World to See: A Thousand Words on Race and Hope*, Mariner Books, November 17, 2020

Kwame Alexander turns his poetic attention to three milestones in recent U.S. history: the murder of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis, the kneeling

protests of Colin Kaepernick during the national anthem before NFL games, and the election of Barack Obama.

Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Annie Allen*, Greenwood Press, October 1, 1971

Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer when she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1950, for her second collection, *Annie Allen*.

## Biography

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Ballantine Books, April 21, 2009

An autobiography describing the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. Angelou uses her autobiography to explore subjects such as identity, rape, racism, and literacy. She also writes in new ways about women's lives in a male-dominated society.

Brown, Claude. *Manchild in the Promised Land*, Scribner, September 28, 2010

Davis, Miles. *Miles: The Autobiography*, Simon & Schuster, September 20, 2011

A compelling and fascinating autobiography from the man who gave us some of the most exciting music of the twentieth century.

Fields, Kim. *Blessed Life: My Surprising Journey of Joy, Tears and Tales from Harlem to Hollywood*, FaithWords, November 14, 2017

King., Martin Luther, Jr. *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Edited by Clayborne Carson, Warner Books, January 1, 2001

Mathabane, Mark. *Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa*, New Millennium Books, April 19, 2011

McCall, Nathan. *Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America*, Vintage, January 31, 1994

Shakur, Assata. *Assata: An Autobiography*, Lawrence Hill Books, June 9, 2020

This presents the life story of African American revolutionary Shakur, previously known as JoAnne Chesimard.

Thomas, Piri. *Down These Mean Streets*, Vintage, November 25, 1997

A memoir of a Puerto Rican in English-speaking America coming of age on the streets of Spanish Harlem.

Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery*, Chump Change, April 4, 1901

This book is the 1901 autobiography of American educator Booker T. Washington (1856–1915).

X, Malcolm. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X: as told to Alex Haley*, Ballantine Books, January 1, 1987

The Autobiography of Malcolm X was intended to be a true autobiography, with the name of Alex Haley appearing not at all or as a ghost writer or as a mere contributor or assistant. However, with the assassination of Malcolm X having occurred in Harlem in New York City on February 21, 1965 just before this book could be published, it became necessary to reveal the important role of Alex Haley in creating this book.

## History

Browder, Tony. *Nile Valley Contributions to Civilization*, Inst of Karmic Guidance, December 1, 1992

Introduces the reader to Nile Valley Civilizations and explodes common myths about them, to help understand their impact on future civilizations.

Holland, Jesse J. *Invisibles: The Untold story of African American Slaves in the White House*, Lyons Press, September 1, 2017

Kendi, Ibram X and Blain, Keisha. *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America*, One World, February 2, 2021

The 400-year story of African Americans from 1619 to the present, narrated by a chorus of voices and edited by Ibram X. Kendi, author of *How to Be an Antiracist*, and Keisha N. Blain, author of *Set the World on Fire*.

Shetterly, Margot Lee. *Hidden Figures*, William Morrow, December 6, 2016

The phenomenal true story of the Black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. There is also a picture book for children, *The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*, published in 2018.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States*, Harper Perennial, April 1, 2003

Compelling history told from the perspective of American women, factory workers, African Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers.

## Non-Fiction

(see also History, above)

Abrams, Jonathan. *All the Pieces Matter: The Inside Story of The Wire*, Crown Archetype, February 13, 2018

All the Pieces Matter is an oral history of the beloved TV show The Wire, as told by those involved in its creation.

AkbarBarak, Na'im. *Visions for Black Men*, Mind Productions & Associates, July 1, 1991

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, The New Press, January 7, 2020

In this widely cited book, which has been credited with spawning a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations, Michelle Alexander argues that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.” She explores the way our criminal justice system has used the war on drugs to put millions of African Americans behind bars, where they are relegated to a permanent second-class status, denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.

Angelou, Maya. *Letter to My Daughter*, Random House, September 23, 2008

Baraka, Amiri. *Blues People*, Harper Perennial, January 20, 1999

A classic on the place of jazz and blues in American social, musical, economic, and cultural history.

Brazile, Donna. *Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-Ins and Breakdowns that Put Donald Trump in the White House*, Hachette Books, November 7, 2017

Brazile, former Democratic National Committee chair and legendary political operative, presents a revealing look at the 2016 election.

Brown, Austin Channing. *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, Convergent Books, May 15, 2018

Butler, Anthea. *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America*, The University of North Carolina Press, March 22, 2021

Cullors, Patrisse. *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Memoir*, asha bandele, co-author, St. Martin's Griffin, January 14, 2020

*When They Call You a Terrorist* is Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele's reflection on humanity. It is an empowering account of survival, strength and resilience and a call to action to change the culture that declares innocent Black life expendable.

De La Torre, Miguel. *Gonna Trouble the Water: Ecojustice, Water, and Environmental Racism*, Pilgrim Press, April 1, 2021

*Gonna Trouble the Water* considers the sacred nature of water and the ways in which it is weaponized against non-white communities. Firmly grounded at the intersection of environmentalism and racism, *Gonna Trouble the Water* makes clear the message: to deny water is to deny life.

With compelling contributions from scholars and activists, politicians and theologians -- including former Colorado governor Bill Ritter, global academic law professor Ved P. Nanda, Detroit-based activist Michelle Andrea Martinez, and many more -- *Gonna Trouble the Water* de-centers the concept of water as a commodity in order to center the dignity of water and its life-giving character.

Essays include:

Waterways -- Paths of Freedom and Justice for All  
Environmental Justice and Detroit's Long Shadow  
Water -- A Living Spirit  
Beyond the Temptation of Ecological Disgust  
Racial and Religious Solidarity in the Shadow of Coal Ash  
and more

DiAngelo, Robin. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*, Beacon Press, June 26, 2018

In this book, DiAngelo illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility, the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially. Characterized by anger, fear, guilt, argumentation, and silence, these feelings and behaviors function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and to prevent meaningful cross-racial dialogue. This is an important book to read if you are going to engage a majority white congregation on issues of racial justice.

DiAngelo, Robin. *Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm*, Beacon Press, June 29, 2018

In this follow-up to *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo explains how White progressives cause the most daily harm to people of color.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Independently published, May 6, 2021

This book is an 1845 memoir and treatise on abolition written by famous orator and former slave Frederick Douglass during his time in Lynn, Massachusetts.

Eberhardt, Jennifer L, Ph.D. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*; Penguin Books, March 3, 2020

Fleming, Crystal Marie. *How to be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy and the Racial Divide*, Beacon Press, August 20, 2019

Franklin, DeVon. *The Hollywood Commandments: A Spiritual Guide to Hollywood Success*, HarperOne, September 26, 2017

DeVon Franklin, a prominent Hollywood producer, talks about spiritual and secular success and how they are related.

Graham, Lawrence Otis. *Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class*, Harper Perennial, December 22, 1999

Hattery, Angela J. *Policing Black Bodies*, Smith, Earl, co-author, Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc, March 15, 2021

Hazzard, Vanessa, co-editor. *The Color of Hope: People of Color Mental Health Narratives*, Picot, Iresha, M.Ed, co-editor, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, October 1, 2015

hooks, bell. *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, Routledge, October 1, 2014

Irving, Debby. *Waking up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, Elephant Room Press, January 9, 2014

In this book, Irving describes her awakening to the realities of white privilege and the way race functions in America. A well-meaning and enthusiastic advocate for the rights of the oppressed, Irving could not understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction until an “aha” moment in 2009 opened her eyes. What followed upended not only her worldview but also her sense of herself and her life plan. This book is a gentle introduction to the idea that white people, even well-intentioned white people, reinforce the power of racism. This book led several of our racial justice team members to begin their journey.

Jackson, George. *Soledad Brother*, Lawrence Hill Books, September 1, 1994

Jerkins, Morgan. *This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female, and Feminist in (White) America*, Harper Perennial, January 30, 2018

Jones, Robert P. *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, Simon & Schuster, July 28, 2020

In this book, Robert Jones examines the unholy relationship between American Christianity and white supremacy. White Christians have not just been complacent or complicit; as the dominant cultural power they have constructed and maintained a project of protecting white supremacy that has framed the entire American story. Jones argues that white Christians must confront these unsettling truths because this is the only way to salvage the integrity of their faith and their own identities.



Joseph, Frederick. *The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person*, Candlewick, December 1, 2020

An essential read for white people committed to the cause of antiracism. From the perspective of a friend, Frederick Joseph offers readers candid reflections on his own and others' experiences with racism, helping to raise awareness of unconscious racism.

Kendi, Ibram X. *How to be an Antiracist*, One World, August 13, 2019

Essential reading for anyone who wants to go beyond mere awareness of racism. Kendi's transformative concept of antiracism is the catalyst for actively opposing racism and contributing to a just and equitable society.

McGhee, Heather. *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, One World, February 16, 2021

In this powerful and influential book, Heather McGhee creates a compelling argument that racism is the primary reason that the American economy so often fails the public. While the most obvious indignities of racism fall to people of color, racism has profound costs for white people also. Heather McGhee explores the way racism lies at the core of our democracy's dysfunction and at the core of America's spiritual and moral crises. Devastating in its insight and clarity, the book nevertheless leaves us with a heartfelt vision of a future in which we can finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game.

Miller, Reuben Jonathan. *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*, Little, Brown and Company, February 2, 2021

Morgan, Joan. *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost: A Hip-Hop Feminist Breaks it Down*, Simon & Schuster, March 10, 1999

Award-winning journalist Joan Morgan offers a provocative and powerful look into the life of the modern Black woman

Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster*, Amistad, May 1, 2001

Tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial.

Northup, Solomon. *Twelve Years a Slave*, Delhi Open Books, May 10, 2020

The author's unforgettable true story of being kidnapped in New York and sold into slavery in the deep south. The book was the basis for the Academy Award-winning film *12 Years a Slave*.

Obama, Barack. *Dreams from My Father*, Crown, August 10, 2004

Published in 1995 by the man who would become the 44<sup>th</sup> and the first African American president of the United States, this memoir has been described as a lyrical, unsentimental, and compelling memoir from the son of a black African father and a white American mother searching for a workable meaning to his life.

Oluo, Ijeoma. *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Seal Press, September 24, 2019

Recommended by Robin DiAngelo, author of *Nice Racism* and *White Fragility*.

Saad, Layla F. *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor (workbook)*, Sourcebooks, January 28, 2020

Recommended by Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, to help readers put antiracism into practice.

Singleton, Glenn E. *Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools*, Corwin, August 1, 2021

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, One World, August 18, 2015

The true story of Bryan Stevenson, a young lawyer who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need. Stevenson's compassion for his clients and advocacy for reform of our broken justice system is exemplary. Soon to be a major motion picture.

Thompson-Cannino, Jennifer. *Picking Cotton*, St. Martin's Press, January 5, 2010

A true story of a woman who incorrectly identified her rapist and then formed an unlikely friendship with him after he was sent to prison for 11 years.

Tisby, Jemar. *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, Zondervan, January 7, 2020

Union, Gabrielle. *We're Going to Need More Wine: Stories That Are Funny, Complicated, and True*, Dey Street Books, January 15, 2019

Actress Gabrielle Union's collection of essays about gender, sexuality, race, beauty, Hollywood, and being a modern woman.

Vanzant, Iyanla. *Interiors: A Black Woman's Healing in Progress*, Writers & Readers, December 1, 1995

Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste*, Random House, August 4, 2020

If your congregation reads nothing else about racial justice this year, they should read *Caste*. Isabel Wilkerson explores how America has been shaped by a hidden caste system, and shows the ways people experience the insidious undertow of caste every day.

Wills, Shomari. *Black Fortunes: A story of 6 African American slaves who escaped slavery and became millionaires*, Amistad, January 29, 2019



## 2.2 Book Resources for Pastors

Sorted Alphabetically by Author

Adamo, David Tuesday. *Africa and Africans in the New Testament*, UPA, May 9, 2006

This resource is a survey of references to Africa and Africans in the New Testament. It describes in detail various biblical terminologies and incidents referring to Africa and Africans, including the significant role of Africans in spreading Christianity to Jerusalem, Corinth, Rome, and other parts of the world in the biblical Period.

Blount, Brian K, General Editor. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*, Felder, Cain Hope; Martin, Clarice J; and Powery, Emerson B, Associate Editors, Fortress Press, May 5, 2007

As the first African American commentary on the New Testament, *True to Our Native Land* addresses the unique historical, social, cultural, religious, and political realities that have shaped the African American understanding of the Bible. It provides biblical interpretation grounded in African American experience and concern, accenting themes of ethnicity, class, slavery, and African heritage as these play a role in the Christian odyssey of an emancipated people. It is a useful and much needed addition to any pastor's library particularly if pastors of European descent are intentional in broadening their inclusion of perspectives beyond white centered theologies and interpretations.

Brandt, Joseph. *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness*, Fortress Press, March 1, 2011

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr noted that the Sunday worship hour is the most segregated hour of the week, and his observation remains true today.

Joseph Brandt describes himself as a Lutheran pastor, community organizer, teacher/trainer and author who for more than 55 years engaged in collective

struggles for justice especially in churches. He states: “I have learned, and am still learning, to undo the lies that were taught to me from a white racist point of view and to see and interpret reality from a new point of view taught to me by people of color.. As a pastor of European descent, he shares the deep yet checkered legacy that churches in the United States have inherited regarding racism. He also lifts up ways in which prophetic work has proved a catalyst for progress in becoming antiracist and how churches can inculcate an antiracist commitment in their communal life.

Cone, James H. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, Orbis Books, January 1, 2013

In this powerful book, James Cone uses the symbols of the cross and the lynching tree to help us look at the worst in human beings while recognizing the resilience and the thirst for life that refuses to let horror define us. For African Americans, the image of Jesus hung on a tree to die powerfully grounds their faith that God is with them in their suffering. Cone explores the message of spirituals and the power of the blues, the passion of Emmet Till, the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the contributions of Billie Holliday, Langston Hughes, Lannie Lou Hamer, and Ida B. Wells. Through their witness he contemplates how life can be made meaningful in the face of death and injustice.

Any of James H Cone's writings on Black Theology are recommended.

De La Torre, Miguel. *Burying White Privilege: Resurrecting a Badass Christianity*, Eerdmans, December 11, 2018

Many people have wondered how white Christians could not only support Donald Trump for president but also rush to defend an accused child molester running for the US Senate. In a 2017 essay that went viral, Miguel A. De La Torre boldly proclaimed the death of Christianity at the hands of white evangelical nationalists. He continues sounding the death knell in this book. De La Torre argues that centuries of oppression and greed have effectively ruined evangelical Christianity in the United States. Believers and clerical leaders have killed it, choosing profits over prophets. The silence concerning—if not the doctrinal justification of—racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia has made white Christianity satanic. Prophetically calling Christian nationalists to repentance, De La Torre writes to rescue the biblical Christ from the distorted Christ of white Christian imagination

De La Torre, Miguel. *DeColonizing Christianity: Becoming Badass Believers*, Eerdmans, March 30, 2021

Echoing James Cone’s 1970 assertion that white Christianity is a satanic heresy, Miguel De La Torre argues that whiteness has desecrated the message of Jesus. In a scathing indictment, he describes how white American Christians have aligned themselves with the oppressors who subjugate the “least of these”—those who have

been systematically marginalized because of their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status—and, in overwhelming numbers, elected and supported an antichrist as president who has brought the bigotry ingrained in American society out into the open.

With this follow-up to his earlier *Burying White Privilege*, De La Torre prophetically outlines how we need to decolonize Christianity and reclaim its revolutionary, badass message. Timid white liberalism is not the answer for De La Torre—only another form of complicity. Working from the parable of the sheep and the goats in the Gospel of Matthew, he calls for unapologetic solidarity with the sheep and an unequivocal rejection of the false, idolatrous Christianity of whiteness.

De La Torre, Miguel. *Reading the Bible from the Margins*, Orbis Books, March 21, 2002

This book is another must have for a pastor's library. It focuses on how issues involving race, class, and gender influence our understanding of the Bible. De La Torre makes the case that dominant White interpretations of the Bible have not liberated marginalized peoples, nor addressed their particular life situations. The insights into the perspectives of African Americans, Latinx, Asian Americans, LGBTQ, and the economically deprived are invaluable. Using John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly," De La Torre states emphatically that any interpretation of the Bible that does not offer abundant life is not Gospel!

DeYoung, Curtiss Paul, co-editor. *The Peoples' Companion to the Bible*, Gafney, Wilda C; Guardiola-Saenz, Leticia A; Tinker, George "Tink"; and Yamada, Frank M., co-editors, Fortress Press, April 22, 2010

The thesis of *The People's Companion of the Bible* is that what we see and interpret depends on where we stand. Sixty leading scholars explore the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and the Apocrypha, both as texts of ancient cultures and as writings alive in diverse reading communities today. Introductory essays highlight issues of identity, culture, perspective, and interpretation. Introductions to each book of the Bible offer scholarly yet personal angles of vision. It also includes an "Introduction to a New Way of Reading" and the "Self-Inventory for Bible Readers," which focuses reflections on the ways readers are formed.

Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*, Orbis Books, January 1, 2015

This is another highly recommended book for a pastor's study. The book revolves around Douglas's thesis that American Exceptionalism is a "theo-ideology" that produces a vicious cycle of violence against those who are non-white. While becoming "white" is a highly arbitrary process, Douglas suggests that one way whiteness is created is by demonizing Black bodies. Douglas contends that there are even certain laws that legalize the demonization of Black bodies such as the ubiquitous "stand your

ground” law. How then can Black faith speak into this crisis? How does the justice of God address these systemic evils? Douglas answers these questions by examining God’s “preferential option for freedom,” Christ’s solidarity with the victims of injustice and the Black prophetic legacy. Douglas examines all this from the perspective of a pastor and the mother of a Black boy.

Grant, Jacquelyn. *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus: Feminist Christology and Womanist Response*, Scholars Press, January 2, 1989

This work describes the development and challenges of feminist christology and argues that, because it has predominately reflected the experience of White women, it fails to reflect the concerns of non-White and non-western women. In response to this neglect, and as distinguished from feminist theology, the author proposes a womanist theology and christology that emerges from and is adequate to the reality of contemporary Black women.

Helsel, Carolyn B. *Preaching about Racism: a Guide for Faith Leaders*, Chalice Press, December 4, 2018

Helsel is a minister with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and teaches preaching at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. As a woman of European descent, she offers strategies and insights for crafting biblical and theological sermons on racism.

Jones, Robert P. *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*, Simon & Schuster, July 28, 2020

Jones is the CEO and founder of the Public Religion Research Institute and a scholar and commentator on religion and politics. Growing up white in the South, Jones presents both personal experience and researched history into the unholy alliance of white supremacy and the American Christian Church in constructing and sustaining the protection of white supremacy and opposing Black equality. Jones challenges white Christians to accept responsibility for the past and work toward repair in the present. Confronting these unsettling truths is the way to salvage the integrity of faith and Christian identity.

McCaulley, Esau. *Reading the Bible while Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*, IVP Academic, September 1, 2020

*Reading the Bible while Black* is a personal and scholarly testament to the power and hope of Black biblical interpretation. At a time in which some within the African American community are questioning the place of the Christian faith in the struggle for justice, New Testament scholar McCaulley argues that reading Scripture from the perspective of Black church tradition is invaluable for connecting with a rich faith history and addressing the urgent issues of our times. He advocates for a model of interpretation that involves an ongoing dialogue between the collective Black experience and the Bible, in which the particular

questions coming out of Black communities are given pride of place and the Bible is given space to respond by affirming, challenging, and at times, reshaping Black concerns. McCaulley demonstrates this model with studies on how Scripture speaks to topics often overlooked by White interpreters, such as ethnicity, politics of protest, policing, and slavery. He calls all Christians to a dynamic theological engagement with Scripture, their own social location, and the cultures of others.

Oden, Thomas C. *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*, IVP Academic, July 23, 2010

Oden is the director of the Center for Early African Christianity and formerly a professor of theology with Drew University. He is of European descent with a keen interest in theological history. Some of the most decisive intellectual achievements of Christianity were explored and understood in Africa before they were in Europe. So the question he poses, then explores: If this is so, why is Christianity so often perceived as a Western colonial import?

Page, Hugh R. Jr., General Editor. *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*, Bailey, Randall C.; Bridgeman, Valerie; Davis, Stacy; Kirk-Davis, Cheryl; Masenya, Madipoane (ngwan'a Mphahlele); Murrell, N. Samuel; and Sadler, Rodney S. Jr., Associate Editors, Fortress Press, November 19, 2009

In the *Africana Bible*, an impressive assembly of African and African-Diasporan biblical scholars offer their collective wisdom in reading the sacred texts of the Hebrew Bible. Special introductory essays address: African history, culture, and African-Diaspora contexts for understanding the texts; the intersection of biblical interpretation with issues of race, ethnicity, nationalism, class, gender, and sexuality, with particular issues of concern to the global Africana community including globalization, colonialism, and the construction of identity; the problematic role the Bible has played in African and African-Diaspora readings of the Bible; and the distinct interpretive norms and conventions at work in African and African-Diasporan readings of the Bible.

Robinson, Elaine A. *Race and Theology*, Abingdon Press, October 1, 2012

White privilege and racial injustice persist in the church; and despite a commitment to promote justice for all, racism persists. This book examines: (1) what racism is and how it functions, especially in the contemporary setting; (2) how the United States has claimed to be God's chosen nation, and yet systematically disadvantages persons of color; (3) how theology's silence sustains racial injustice in the church, rather than excises it; and (4) how reformulating theological discourse can contribute to racial justice within ecclesial communities and the larger landscape of society.

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*, Beacon Press, November 30, 1996

This is a classic theological work by the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1900-1981), the first black dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University and cofounder of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, California, the first inter-racially co-pastored church in America. Thurman demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is understood as a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of his life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Hatred does not empower--it decays. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

This book was the inspiration of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's and was recommended by Bishop Dwayne Royster when he visited NHCUCC, led a workshop for pastors sponsored by the Racial Justice Mission Group, and was the keynote speaker for Annual Meeting.

Any of Thurman's works are inspiring and his Christmas poem was put to music, I Am the Light of the World. New Century Hymnal, p. 584.



## 2.3 BELONGING FROM THE BEGINNING

### STORIES OF THE GLOBAL MAJORITY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sorted Alphabetically by Title

1. [A Big Bed for Little Snow](#) by Grace Lin, Little Brown

This companion title to Lin's Caldecott HONOR book, *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* offers a whimsical, original porquoi tale to explain the source of snowstorms. The protagonist is an Asian boy. Lin has said that these two picture books signal a shift from a focus in her work on her Asian heritage to one of claiming her American identity. Such a shift feels particularly important now, as political leaders and conspiracy theories blame the pandemic on China and fan anti-Asian sentiment in the United States by depicting Asian people as inherently un-American. We believe that small acts like sharing picture books with Asian characters as protagonists can add up to help resist the racist exoticification at the heart of much of the racism Asian Americans face.

2. [A Big Mooncake for Little Star](#) by Grace Lin

Little Star wants to take a big bite out of the scrumptious mooncake that she has baked with her mommy in honor of the Mid-Autumn Festival. The tasty mooncake can't be eaten just yet — but while she waits, Little Star (and your kiddo) learn about the fascinating phases of the moon.

3. [A Church For All](#) by Gail E. Pitman

About inclusivity of the church : From the Stonewall Book Award-winning author of "This Day in June" a simple, lyrical story celebrating a Sunday morning at an inclusive church that embraces all people regardless of age, class, race, gender identity, and sexual orientation

4. [Acoustic Rooster](#) by Kwame Alexander illustrations by Tim Bowers

When a jazz-loving rooster sets his sights on winning a barnyard talent show, he realizes he can't do it as a solo act. He's up against the talents of Mules Davis's cool duo and Ella Finchgerald's singing group. Colorful artwork from artist Tim Bowers ensures this story doesn't miss a beat. A glossary of musical terms and instruments rounds out this perfect introduction to jazz for young readers.

5. Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty

A curious, intelligent and spunky girl, Ada Twist wants to explore everything around her and make a little bit of a mess doing it. I sometimes make a mess of my room, so I understand Ada well.

6. A Different Pond by Bao Phi illustrated by Th Bui

Bao and his dad wake up well before the sun to head down to a small Minneapolis pond to go fishing. These early-morning trips to catch the family's meal for the day eventually become the backdrop for a wonderful story about culture, old and new. This beautiful story about Vietnamese culture from the perspective of two generations is a heartwarming tale paired with expert illustrations that your kids will love.

7. A Girl Like Me by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Nina Crews

A Girl Like Me uses photographs to present diverse children in the fullness of their humanity. In a moment when the phrase “Black Lives Matter” is still deemed controversial by some, we desperately need more books like these read at storytimes, bedtime, anytime and anywhere. Megan’s starred review of A Girl Like Me in the Horn Book Magazine calls it “a rallying cry for girls to reject limitations others might place on them and their dreams,” and Crews’s photo collages specifically center Black girls and other girls of color.

8. A Is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara

This ABC board book infuses the alphabet with pictures and rhyming stories about fighting for social justice,

9. All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Got Our Skin Color Todos los Colores de Nuestra Piel by Katie Kissinger and photographs by Chris Bohnhoff

This resource book offers a simple explanation for the beautiful diversity of our skin colors. It explains that skin color is determined by our ancestors, the sun and melanin. The photographs capture and celebrate the variety of skin tones and families. The descriptions are in both English and Spanish and the authors include activity ideas. Picture book for children 3+

10. Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things by Lenore Look and Leuyen Pham

At home, Alvin Ho is a loud, imaginative kid that loves hanging out with his siblings and taking gentleman lessons from his dad. But at school, Alvin transforms into a shy and quiet kid that is afraid of everything from elevators to girls. In this multibook series, your

little lit lover will get to know the real Alvin, the shy Alvin, and how he can eventually blend the two.

11. All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson and E. B. Lewis.

This is a gentle, beautiful story about the Texas enslaved people as they learn about their new freedom, followed by four rich pages of supplementary material. I am buying this book and will rewrite this description lifted from a friend.

12. An ABC of Equality

This book not only teaches children the A,B,C,s but also the intersections of social justice issues—from race to sexual orientation. from privilege to xenophobia

13. A Map into the World by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrated by Seo Kim, Lerner Books, 2019

This lovely, quiet story of a young girl, her family, their new house, and the couple across the street is only the second picture book by a Hmong American writer published in the U.S. When their elderly neighbor dies, Paj Ntaub finds an artistic way to express her sympathy and sense of connection to his widower. Themes of birth and death, loss and grief, are paired with the hope that a child's simple action can make a difference, and the close attention to seasonal changes in the natural world in and near the family's yard has added meaning at a time when many children are not leaving home. Young readers may also connect the story to the #ChalkTheWalk response to the pandemic, and want to create their own positive messages.

14. American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

This book expands understanding of Asian identities, anti-Asian racism, Chinese American history, and more. A creative tale about three different characters that seemingly have nothing in common, American Born Chinese weaves together these narratives in a unique and satisfying way. Jin Wang is a Chinese American student in a town where no one else looks like him. The powerful Monkey King is the main character in a well-known Chinese fable, and Jin Wang's cousin, Chin-Kee, is all of the negative stereotypes rolled up into a single person. What do these stories have to do with each other, and what happens when these stranger paths cross? Your young reader will zoom through this graphic novel, consumed by every twist and turn, finally arriving at the surprise ending.

15. Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi

Share a board book about anti-racism specifically for toddlers. Kendi breaks down the heavy concepts of race, racism and justice into nine easily digestible steps, making it the perfect starter book for teaching your little one about social justice. Dr. Kendi proposes nine steps for young children to take in building an inclusive and equitable world. Meant to be an introduction to the idea of anti-racism, Antiracist Baby provides “the language necessary to begin critical conversations at the earliest age”, but its powerful message is even guaranteed to make an impact on adults as well.

16. ‘Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao’ by Kat Zhang and Charlene Chua

One of Amy's favorite things to do with her family is to make tasty bao. The traditionally Chinese steamed buns are soft, fluffy, and filled with piping-hot goodness. The only problem is, Amy's bao never come out the way they are supposed to. In this book, the quirky Amy goes on a culinary and cultural adventure to create the perfect little bun.

17. Hair Love by Mathew A. Cherry

Based on the Oscar-winning short film of the same name, Hair Love highlights the dedication of a father to his daughter, as he does whatever it takes to give his daughter a special hairstyle. *Teen Vogue* reviews, “Seeing such a positive representation of black men and their daughters is such a breath of fresh air.” Hair Love broadens the scope of representation for Black families while also providing a charming and uplifting tale that celebrates the beauty of natural hair.

18. Big Hair, I Don't Care by Crystal Swain Bates, Illustrated by Megan Blair, Goldest Karat Publishing 2013

Full of vibrant illustrations, this lovely rhyming book celebrates the beauty of a young girl and her African textured hair.

19. Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekoa Holmes, Roaring Brook Press, 2020

Joy's rhythmic verses and Holmes's vivid artwork combine to offer a celebration of Black American culture and history that connects current movements for social justice to past Civil Rights movements, offering context and continuity between generations. On one spread, “Black is the power of a movement in pain” accompanies pictures of people holding signs saying “I am a man,” “Equal Rights,” and “Black Lives Matter.” The powerful images alternate between everyday children and families, and famous historical figures such as Thurgood Marshall, Billie Holiday, and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, whose work is referenced poetically in the text. Two verses repeat throughout the pages: “Black is a color. / Black is a culture” and “My color is Black.” While the references to history, art, and

culture will be familiar to many adult readers, an afterword provides details for sharing with children. The backmatter also includes other valuable information: poems, a playlist of songs, a timeline of names for African Americans, and a bibliography with further reading for adults. In a starred Horn Book review, Autumn calls it “a treasure trove of positivity, strength, and pride for anyone seeking to uplift and educate young people.”

20. Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson Illustrations Don Tate

“Carter G. Woodson didn’t just read history. He changed it.” As the father of Black History Month, he spent his life introducing others to the history of his people. Carter G. Woodson was born to two formerly enslaved people ten years after the end of the Civil War. Though his father could not read, he believed in being an informed citizen. So Carter read the newspaper to him every day. When he was still a teenager, Carter went to work in the coal mines. There he met a man named Oliver Jones, and Oliver did something important: he asked Carter not only to read to him and the other miners, but also research and find more information on the subjects that interested them. “My interest in penetrating the past of my people was deepened,” Carter wrote. His journey would take him many more years, traveling around the world and transforming the way people thought about history. From an award-winning team of author Deborah Hopkinson and illustrator Don Tate, this first-ever picture book biography of Carter G. Woodson emphasizes the importance of pursuing curiosity and encouraging a hunger for knowledge of stories and histories that have not been told.

21. Change Signs by Amanda Gorman illustrations by Loren Long

Poignant, powerful and perhaps the most important message we all want and need right now. Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman’s picture book debut is a musical journey of hope and inspiration that will remind us all that change is good and necessary. As only Loren Long’s paintbrush can do, his illustrations elevate Gorman’s words right off the page and wrap the reader up in their mighty message — everyone, regardless of age, has the power to make a difference and change the world.

22. Chocolate Me by Taye Digs illustrated by Shane W. Evans, Feiwel & Friends 2011

This book is based on experiences of the collaborating creators feeling different and trying to fit in as kids. Now, both men are fathers and see more than ever the need for a picture book that encourages all people, especially kids, to love themselves. Here is a link to the YouTube video

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=chocolate+me&docid=608036321422243959&mid=EFF1D668ABC77C14A47EEFF1D668ABC77C14A47E&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

23. Coming on Home Soon by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, Penguin Random House, 2004

This Caldecott Honor title has a historical context that will resonate with many contemporary children whose loved ones are essential workers. Set during WWII, Woodson's story is about a young African American girl named Ada Ruth whose mother leaves their rural home to work in Chicago in support of the war effort. (On her website Woodson says, "I had been reading stories about Rosie the Riveter and couldn't find any with African American women in them so I started researching.") Ada Ruth and her grandmother stick to their daily routines in warm scenes of domesticity that evoke both the strength of their bond and the longing they share for their loved one's return. Many children today are worried about loved ones who are essential workers in hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores, and elsewhere, putting their own wellbeing on the line to help our society. This book affirms how hard it is to miss someone and to worry about them, and how memories and hope can help ease such longing. For a book with similar themes and tone, but different cultural context, see Town is by the Sea by Joanne Schwartz, illustrated by Sydney Smith, which is about a Nova Scotian boy waiting for his father to return from working in the coal mines under the sea.

24. Cradle Me by Debbie Slier

The rich Native American tradition of carrying babies safely, comfortably and close to their mothers in cradle boards endures to this day. As shown in this photo-filled book, each cradle board is personalized and they differ from tribe to tribe, not only in style but also in the material used. This die-cut shaped, fill-in-the-blanks book features cradle boards from Paiute, Shoshone, Pueblo and other tribes and enables readers to write in their own language.

25. Crown An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes and illustrated by Gordon James

There is nothing like a new haircut, for this handsome young Black boy, to ignite magic, imagination and a dose of swagger. This joyful, poetic and colorful book deserves to be on every book shelf and in every barbershop. Age 4 and up

26. Do Like Kyla by Angela Johnson Illustrated by James E. Ransome

A little girl imitates her big sister Kyla all day, until in the evening Kyla imitates her. Kyla is a loving big sister and an excellent role model for her younger sibling. Story about sisterly love and the special relationship that can exist between sisters. Tell me a story "In this touching picture book, a mother and a preschool-aged daughter talk together as the child is being prepared for bed. . . . Mama's childhood memories, as related by her daughter, are warm slices of life from a previous generation. . . ."

Isbn 0-531-07040-9 Grades 1-3

27. Dream Builder by Kelly Starling Lyons

Philip Freelon came of age in a loving family that celebrated the arts and stood up for social justice. His journey to create change began as a young artist and modeler who could rotate shapes in his mind and visualize math and science. That path continued through adulthood as he designed and built beloved museums and public spaces around the nation. Then, came the realization of a dream a century in the making - being named the architect of record for the National Museum of African American History & Culture

28. Ego-Tripping and Other Poems for Young People by Nikki Giovanni Illustrated by George Ford

Insightful and fun, this collection of poetry captures the essence of the African American experience for young people.

29. Ellen's Broom by Kelly Starling Lyons

How can Ellen honor a tradition as her family marches toward the future? Find out in this Reconstruction-era tale celebrating love and freedom.

30. 'Epic Crush of Genie Lo' by F.C. Yee

For your older kids who are ready to take on an adventurous, action-packed novel, Epic Crush is the one for them. The success-driven Genie Lo is hyper-focused on achieving her goals. Everything is going her way until her low-key Bay Area suburb turns into the grounds of a Hellspawn takeover, ripped right out of Chinese folklore. Your kids will buckle up for a wild journey full of twists and turns while they discover what Genie is willing to do to save her small town, even if that means putting her personal success on hold.

31. Family by Isabel Monk Illustrated by Janice Lee Porter

The sequel to Isabel Monk's well-praised first, book, Hope, brings back her delightful characters, in another warm story. ...

32. 'Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom' by Booki Vivat

Abbie Wu is dealing with a major crisis. Despite being a new middle-schooler, basically an extraterrestrial in her family, and the only living human being on the planet without a niche, none of those are a part of her current major crisis. The thing is, crisis mode is actually just Abbie's regular state of being.

33. Freedom River by Doreen Rappaport, illustrations by Bryan Collier

Freedom River follows John Parker (1827–1900), a former enslaved man who lived in the free state of Ohio and crossed the Ohio River to help free enslaved people from Kentucky. “It involves a family escaping to freedom and beginning their journey on the Underground Railroad. It is not graphic but it does portray the mistreatment of people of color, which always ignites the conversation of ‘why’ or ‘how could people do this.’

34. ‘Front Desk’ by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang and her family are new to the United States and are ready to work hard in order to build a new life. The only problem is, nothing is going as they expected it to. After a couple of years, Mia and her family are working in less than desirable conditions at a motel for a boss that is an actual ogre. Despite the tough circumstances, Mia spends her shifts at the motel dreaming about becoming a writer while also assisting her parents as they help new immigrants acclimate to the country.

35. Fry Bread by Kevin Noble Maillard illustrations by Juana Martinez-Neal

Told in lively and powerful verse by debut author Kevin Noble Maillard, Fry Bread is an evocative depiction of a modern Native American family, vibrantly illustrated by Pura Belpre Award winner and Caldecott Honoree Juana Martinez-Neal

Fry bread is food. It is warm and delicious, piled high on a plate.

Fry bread is time. It brings families together for meals and new memories.

Fry bread is nation. It is shared by many, from coast to coast and beyond.

Fry bread is us. It is a celebration of old and new, traditional and modern, similarity and difference.

36. ‘Ganesha's Sweet Tooth’ by Sanjay Patel and Emily Haynes

Ganesha is like a regular kid; he's fun-loving and totally cute. There are only a few things that make him different from all of the other kids which is his elephant head and the fact that he rides around on a magical mouse. Oh, and Ganesha loves the traditional sweet treat laddoo! One day, Ganesha gets into a sticky situation when he munches down too hard on a laddoo and breaks his trunk. In this dazzling book, your kids will be introduced to a modern twist on an old classic Indian tale.



37. Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message by Chief Jake Swamp

Giving Thanks is a special children's version of the Thanksgiving Address, a message of gratitude that originated with the Native people of upstate New York and Canada and that is still spoken at ceremonial gatherings held by the Iroquois, or Six Nations.

38. God has a Dream by Bishop Desmond Tutu Image 2005

Echoing the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bishop Tu Tu writes, "God says to you, 'I have a dream. Please help me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts. When there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that my children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God's family, my family.'"

39. 'Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas' by Natasha Yim illustrated by Grace Zhang

In the traditional story Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Goldilocks helps herself to the family's porridge, chairs, and eventually their beds. A Chinese New Year spin on a classic tale, Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas is a quirky and charming twist. Goldy Luck is tasked with dropping off turnip cakes to her neighbors, but when she arrives, the Chans aren't there. That's OK! Goldy decides to help herself to the yummy rice porridge, their chairs, and their comfy beds in the meantime. What's the worst that can happen?

40. Go Show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes By Wab Kinew illustrations by ), Joe

"We are a people who matter." Inspired by President Barack Obama's Of Thee I Sing, Go Show the World is a tribute to historic and modern-day Indigenous heroes, featuring important figures such as Tecumseh, Sacagawea and former NASA astronaut John Herrington. Celebrating the stories of Indigenous people throughout time, Wab Kinew has created a powerful rap song, the lyrics of which are the basis for the text in this beautiful picture book, illustrated by the acclaimed Joe Morse. Including figures such as Crazy Horse, Net-no-kwa, former NASA astronaut John Herrington and Canadian NHL goalie Carey Price, Go Show the World showcases a diverse group of Indigenous people in the US and Canada, both the more well known and the not- so-widely recognized. Individually, their stories, though briefly touched on, are inspiring; collectively, they empower the reader with this message: "We are people who matter, yes, it's true; now let's show the world what people who matter can do."Morse

41. Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad? by Sandy Lynne Holman

“Black cats are bad luck, witches wear black, and the bad characters are in black on television.” Growing up in a society that associates blackness with immorality causes a young African-American boy to ask his grandpa, “Is everything black bad?” Through rich storytelling on African culture and heritage and a special relationship between grandson and grandfather, Sandy Lynne Holman’s book dismantles stereotypes and preaches the beauty of blackness.

42. Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Turned into an Oscar winning animated film, here is a sweet story about Black dads doing their daughters hair. Isbn 978-0-525-55336-6 Grades 2-4

43. ‘Hiika Battles the Wind’ by Gabrielle Ahuli‘I illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong

A charming book with captivating illustrations, this title introduces your kids to a traditional Hawaiian tale. One day, a wild wind rips through Waipio Valley and destroys everything in its path. The mighty Hi‘iaka and her lightning pau (skirt) come to the rescue as she gears up to fight the ferocious wind head-on. Both entertaining and imaginative, your kids will be on the edge of their seat waiting to find out who wins.

44. Hammering for Freedom by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by John Holyfield, Lee & Low, 2018

Books about contemporary Black children are extremely important today. Occasionally, though, a book is published that shines light on a little-known historical story that is all the more impactful because it is true. So it is with Hammering for Freedom, a Lee & Low Books New Voices Award winner about an enslaved man named William Lewis, who became a skilled blacksmith at a young age and was able to save enough coins to buy his freedom. His story doesn’t end there: what Bill wanted most was to free his family. He opened his own shop and worked tirelessly, saving for years until, one by one, he purchased the freedom of each member of his family. With so much tragedy and difficult news today, it is easy to lose hope and to wonder if our small efforts are insignificant. But just as Bill’s hard work and savings were everything to each person he freed, our actions add up to hope for a better future for ourselves and others. Bill’s hope, faith, and eventual success can remind us that even in times of turmoil and doubt, consistency and perseverance can take us far, and that justice begins with caring for our families.

45. Hands Up! by Breanna J. McDaniel, illustrated by Shane W. Evans, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019

As we’ve seen the protests in our country create change and spur calls for broader reforms in policing, and in the ways our economy works (or doesn’t work) for many people, we keep returning to a quotation from the late, great, African American poet and children’s

book author, Lucille Clifton: “We cannot create what we can’t imagine.” This is a time for radical imagination about how we might reshape society—not to return to “normalcy” but to create a new normal that is more equitable, just, and safer for everyone. This picture book embodies just that sort of radical imagination with its reframing of the phrase “Hands Up!” in the context of one young, Black life. Never do McDaniel and Evans present protagonist, Viv, experiencing those words in the context of a police encounter. Instead, this book operates as what Critical Race Theory calls a “counternarrative” or “counter-story” to present this little Black girl raising her hands to answer a question in class, to reach a book on a shelf, to block a basketball shot, to embrace a loved one who picks her up when she falls. Anti-racist children’s booklists must include books that center a full range of BIPOC experiences—not just protest, pain, and struggle. This picture book does just that with its spare text and vivid art. (Look, too, for Evans’s brilliant, empowering picture books *We March* and *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom*.)

46. *Hiawatha and the Peacemaker* by Robbie Robertson illustrations by David Shannon)

Born of Mohawk and Cayuga descent, musical icon Robbie Robertson learned the story of Hiawatha and his spiritual guide, the Peacemaker, as part of the Iroquois oral tradition. Now he shares the same gift of storytelling with a new generation. Hiawatha was a strong and articulate Mohawk who was chosen to translate the Peacemaker’s message of unity for the five warring Iroquois nations during the 14th century. This message not only succeeded in uniting the tribes but also forever changed how the Iroquois governed themselves—a blueprint for democracy that would later inspire the authors of the U.S. Constitution. Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator David Shannon brings the journey of Hiawatha and the Peacemaker to life with arresting oil paintings. Together, Robertson and Shannon have crafted a new children’s classic that will both educate and inspire readers of all ages.

47. *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson

A middle-grade novel that brings in many aspects of the injustices Black and brown people face. These are kids sharing their real problems and deciding to ‘harbor’ each other. The book is just conversations these kids are having,

48. *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: 50 Inspiring Poems with a Beat* (A Poetry Speaks Experience for Kids, From Tupac to Jay-Z, Queen Latifah to Maya Angelou, Includes CD) by by Nikki Giovanni , illustrators Alicia Vergel de Dios , Damian Ward , Kristen Balouch, Tugea, Michele Noiset

HEAR poetry's rhymes and rhythms from Queen Latifah to Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes to A Tribe Called Quest and more! \* Also hear part of Martin Luther King's

original "I Have a Dream" speech, followed by the remarkable live performance of the speech by Nikki Giovanni, Oni Lasana and Val Gray Ward. \* The Hip Hop Speaks to Children CD contains more than 30 performances, either by the artists who created them, or as unique interpretations by admiring poets and artists.

DISCOVER Langston Hughes's elegant gospel "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," A Tribe Called Quest's playful "Ham 'N' Eggs," Sterling A. Brown's hard-luck "Long Track Blues," Gwendolyn Brooks's wake-up call "We Real Cool," Kanye West's lovely "Hey Mama," and Martin Luther King Jr.'s awe-inspiring "I Have a Dream." This is a collection of rhymes and rhythms unlike any other poetry book!

49. Hope by Isabel Monk illustrated by Janice Lee Porter

For the young girl in Hope, weekends at her great-aunt Poogee's are the best. Aunt Poogee makes incredible fried chicken, tells great stories, and knows lots of interesting people. But this visit takes an unexpected turn when the pair encounters an ill-mannered friend. ...Isbn 1-57505-230-x

50. Hope's Gift by Kelly Starling Lyons

Hope believes in her father's promise that freedom is coming. But with the Civil War raging and him being gone, life just keeps getting tougher. When months pass and her family remains enslaved, Hope relies on a special gift, her father's words and a historic proclamation to help keep faith in her heart.

51. 'Hot Hot Roti for Dada-Ji' by F. Zia illustrated by Ken Min

A big part of any culture is the delicious foods that shape it. In this upbeat title, Aneel is looking forward to his beloved grandfather coming to visit. He knows that the visit means fun, laughter, and delicious, mouthwatering roti for Dada-Ji.

52. I Am Enough by Grace Byers, illustrations by Keturah A. Bobo

A lyrical story about a Black girl making her presence known in the world, announcing, "Like the bird, I'm here to fly and soar high over everything." The story celebrates the things that make people different and wonderful. "From the cover to the end, the book is humanizing and showcases strength and empathy," Rembert told me. "This book is perfect to remind children of their potential without limitations."

53. I am Every Good Thing By Derrick Barnes Illustrated by Gordon C. James

An upbeat, empowering, important picture book. The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through—as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend.

Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid, because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you—and shows you—who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!

54. I Am Loved: Nikki Giovanni's Poems for Kids, Selected and Illustrated by Beloved Nonagenarian Artist Ashley Bryan

This set of poems by Nikki Giovanni (b. June 7, 1943), one of the great poets of our time, is illustrated by the prolific ninety-four-year-old artist, storyteller, and humanitarian Ashley Bryan (b. July 13, 1923). Animated by his lifelong ardor for poetry, Bryan selected a dozen of Giovanni's poems to bring to life in his unmistakable style — artwork vibrant and irrepressibly alive, radiating the native poetry of existence.

55. I Can Do Hard Things By Gabi Garcia Illustrated by Chafity Russell

Mindful affirmations for kids: What kids tell themselves matters! It becomes their inner voice. It can help them connect with their power within. Mindful affirmations can help children tune out the streams of messages they get about how they should be in the world.

56. Indigo Blume and the Garden City By Kwame Alexander Illustrations by Jah Sun

A little girl builds a rooftop garden and shows her community how to go green!

57. Intersection Allies : We Make Room for All by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi, illustrations by Ashley Seil Smith

This book doesn't just focus on race, although that is one of the things the book touches on. It focuses on diversity as a whole." The story introduces nine children who defend and welcome each other's differences, ranging from gender fluidity to disability to language.

58. Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker

Teach children who may have a flair for the arts that their dreams are possible despite racism. This book details the awe-worthy life of Josephine Baker and how she took herself from the St. Louis "slums" to the biggest stages in Paris.

59. Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper

Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty. She is ready to celebrate freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history — the day her ancestors were no longer slaves. Mazie remembers the struggles and the triumph, as she gets ready to celebrate Juneteenth. ages 5 to 8

60. Kamala and Maya's Big Idea by Meena Harris

Kamala and Maya's Big Idea centers on two little girls in their quest to transform their apartment's courtyard into a playground. Meena Harris (niece of Senator Kamala Harris, CA) tells "a story of children's ability to make a difference and of a community coming together to transform their neighborhood. NSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY FROM THE CHILDHOOD OF VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS! One day, Kamala and Maya had an idea. A big idea: They would turn their empty apartment courtyard into a playground! This is the uplifting tale of how the author's aunt and mother first learned to persevere in the face of disappointment and turned a dream into reality. This is a story of children's ability to make a difference and of a community coming together to transform their neighborhood.

61. Kofi and His Magic Maya Angelou with Photography by by Margaret Courtney-Clarke

Courtney-Clarke is a photojournalist who credits some of her work in West Africa in the late 1980s to the power of Angelou's words. Kofi and His Magic is also set in West Africa, and tells the story of a young boy named Kofi who uses magic to travel beyond his home town of Bonwire in Ghana, known for its product of Kente cloth

62. Let It Shine by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Don't ever let anyone say that Black women weren't on the front lines of the freedom movement. The author details the women that every Black child should know and reverence in this award-winning children's book.

63. Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester

This children's book makes the point that each child, no matter their race, is unique and special.

64. Lift Every Voice and Sing by Kelly Starling Lyons

In 1900, 500 schoolchildren sang Lift Every Voice and Sing, written by brothers James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson. Those kids grew up and kept the song going. This historical fiction picture book imagines five generations in one family who draw hope and strength from our Black National Anthem.

65. Life Doesn't Frighten Me by Maya Angelou Illustrated by Jean-Michel Basquiat.

The artist, Basquiat was born in Brooklyn in 1960 and is known for his large-scale paintings. His powerful pictures are humorous, angry, and sad. Maya Angelou weaves

together the rhythms and textures of the city. This book ever-so-eloquently opens up the world of art and literature to children of all ages.

66. Listening With My Heart by Gabi Garcia Illustrated by Laurie Fournier

Esperanza finds a heart-shaped rock, she sees it as a reminder to spread kindness and love in the world. But when the school play doesn't go the way she'd imagined, will she remember to give it to herself? Listening with My Heart reminds us of the importance of being friends to ourselves! ...

Isbn 978-0-99899580-3-3

67. Little Leaders by Vashti Harrison

This illustrated book tells the true stories of 40 trailblazing black women in American history. From writers to astronauts to activists, each biography shows the ways in which these women took a stand against a world that didn't accept them Isbn 978-0-316-47511-2 Grade level 3-8

68. .Look What Brown Can Do! By T. Marie Harris

Want to inspire your kids to do just about anything that they can imagine? Read them this book.

69. Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz

This book, written by Malcolm X's daughter, educator, activist, and motivational speaker Ilyasah Shabazz, tells the childhood story of Malcolm X and how racism and the love of family

70. May We Have Enough to Share by Richard Van Camp

Award-winning author Richard Van Camp wrote this book to express his gratitude for all that surrounds him and his family. The strength of their connections, the nature that provides for them, the love that is endless. Complemented by photos from photographers who celebrate their own gratefulness on the collective blog Tea & Bannock, the simple verse in May We Have Enough to Share is the perfect way to start or end your little one's days in gratitude.

71. My Papi has a Motorcycle by Isable Quintero, illustrated by Zeke Peña, Penguin Random House, 2019

This joyful, vibrant picture book presents a loving father-daughter story through the effective use of comics visual vocabulary. As Daisy and her father tour their favorite spots,

she expands on the charms of their beloved, working-class town — Corona, California. “Daisy’s experiences mirror Quintero’s childhood memories, recounted through tender language and vivid sensory details,” writes reviewer Jessica Agudelo in *School Library Journal*. “Recalling the motorcycle rides with her papi is an exercise in familial love, but also a way to honor a hometown and present the changes from gentrification. Although the topic is touched upon lightly, its complexity percolates and becomes much more vivid with multiple reads.” The book’s core message, “Home is a feeling you take with you,” can offer comfort to readers across all kinds of communities who are experiencing instability and uncertainty in this moment.

72. Nana Akua Goes to School by Tricia Elam Walker

Zura invites Nana Akua to school for Grandparents Day. Nana Akua has marks on her face to show which tribal family she belongs to. They decide to bring a quilt with Adinkra symbols of the Akan people of Ghana to school. Nana paints the symbol of each child’s choice on their cheek. Beautiful illustrations and Adinkra symbols and their meanings on the inside cover of the book.

73. ‘No Kimchi for Me!’ by Aram Kim

The smell of the spicy kimchi is enough to send Yoomi running. Her brothers tease her and call her a baby because she can’t handle it but Yoomi refuses to back down. This sweet picture book is a tale about Yoomi finding a way, with her grandmother’s help, to make kimchi taste better to her picky taste buds. The best part is you can make Grandma’s famous kimchi for your family using the recipe at the end of the story.

74. Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness, Anastasia Higginbotham

This picture book about a white child who sees the news report of a police killing of a black man offers an opportunity for white parents to discuss racism and police brutality with their children. Environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and what it means to be an ally.

75. One Love Bob Marley illustrated by Vanessa Newton

Adapted from one of Bob Marley’s most beloved songs, *One Love* brings the joyful spirit and unforgettable lyrics of his music to life for a new generation. Readers will delight in dancing to the beat and feeling the positive groove of change when one girl enlists her community to help transform her neighborhood for the better. Adapted by Cedella Marley, Bob Marley’s first child, and gorgeously illustrated by Vanessa Newton, this



heartwarming picture book offers an upbeat testament to the amazing things that can happen when we all get together with one love in our hearts.

76. One Word from Sophia by Jim Averbeck

Sophia wants a giraffe for her birthday so badly. She has to put her convincing skills to use in order to get the pet of her dreams. I did the same thing to my parents, and now I have a dog!

77. Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets by Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderley, Marjory Wentworth illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Out of gratitude for the poet's art form, Newbery Award-winning author and poet Kwame Alexander, along with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth, present original poems that pay homage to twenty famed poets who have made the authors' hearts sing and their minds wonder. Stunning mixed-media images by Ekua Holmes, winner of a Caldecott Honor and a John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award, complete the celebration and invite the reader to listen, wonder, and perhaps even pick up a pen.

78. Saturday by Oge Mora, Little Brown & Co., 2020

Megan started recommending this picture book about plans gone awry and love between a Black mother and daughter as soon as she read it. It's a perfect picture book in her estimation, with words, pictures, and design working together to create a sum greater than its parts. (We were all delighted that the 2020 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Committee agreed with her, naming this book as the Picture Book Medalist just recently.) When the pandemic prompted school closings and the disruption of so very many events and activities, this book became even more important to her for its healing, warm depiction of a mother and child confronting disappointment and cancelled plans. That they are a Black mother and daughter makes this book even more important in this moment, as this story centers Black love, joy, creativity, and resilience.

79. Seeing into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright illustrated by Nina Crews, Lerner Books, 2018

With the picture book Seeing into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright, illustrator Nina Crews uses photographs to present diverse children being themselves. (She did the same as illustrator for A Girl Like Me listed above.) Autumn writes (in the Horn Book) of Crews's work in Seeing into Tomorrow: "Crews may have done her best work by using photographic collage to highlight the observed piece of nature and the observer — Black boys representing the young Richard Wright and all of their infinite possibilities of creation. The more we see concrete images of Black boys as creators of their own

destinies, attached to the infinite possibilities of the world, the more these ideas can settle into our minds as real and not imagined. What a gift to a society in need.”

80. Sewing Stories: Harriet Powers' Journey from Slave to Artist by Barbara Herkert  
Illustrations by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Harriet Powers learned to sew and quilt as a young slave girl on a Georgia plantation. She lived through the Civil War and Reconstruction, and eventually owned a cotton farm with her family, all the while relying on her skills with the needle to clothe and feed her children.

Later she began making pictorial quilts, using each square to illustrate Bible stories and local legends. She exhibited her quilts at local cotton fairs, and though she never traveled outside of Georgia, her quilts are now priceless examples of African American folk art.

81. Side by Side / Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez/La Historia de Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez by Monica Brown, illustrated by Joe Cepeda, HarperCollins, 2010

Throughout the pandemic and the protests, essential workers have been continuing to labor, risking their lives to support their own families — and others’ families, too. This bilingual book focuses on the collaborative leadership of two inspiring activists, Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez, and the history of the multiracial movement to improve working conditions for farmworkers. Beginning with stories from their childhoods, this dual biography can engage young readers in imagining how they might grow up to work for justice — and provide hope that people can create change. From the Creators of *Hair Like Mine, Skin Like Mine*, the second book in the *Kids Like Mine Series*, is a fun, easy-to-read for beginners as well as advanced readers. An entertaining yet creative way to address and celebrate diversity among young children. Guaranteed to make you smile and a bit hungry.

82. SkySisters by Jan Bourdeau Waboose illustrations by Brian Deines

Two Ojibway sisters set off across the frozen north country to see the SkySpirits' midnight dance. It isn't easy for the younger sister to be silent, but gradually she begins to treasure the stillness and the wonderful experiences it brings. After an exhilarating walk and patient waiting, the girls are rewarded by the arrival of the SkySpirits --- the northern lights --- dancing and shimmering in the night sky. This powerful story, with its stunning illustrations, captures the chill of a northern night, the warmth of the family circle and the radiance of a child's wonder.

83. Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice by Marianne Celano (PhD), Marietta Collins (PhD), and Ann Hazzard (PhD)

Written by three psychologists, *Something Happened in Our Town* is a useful tool in educating children on police brutality. The book follows a white family and a Black family as they discuss the shooting of a Black man by police in their city. Its purpose is “to answer children’s questions about such traumatic events, and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives.”

Take Action! The earlier parents start talking to their children about race, the better. After reading children’s books on equity and racism, there are many resources parents can turn to for how-to tips on continuing the conversation. UNICEF offers a parenting guide for keeping an open dialogue on race with children of different ages.

84. Sometimes People March by Tessa Allen, HarperCollins, 2020

Designed to share with the youngest of readers, this simple picture book combines spare text with carefully drawn and delicately water colored illustrations of people participating in historical and recent social movements. Explaining that, like ants and bands, people are stronger when they march together, this book focuses on the human emotions that motivate people to engage in public protests: concern for causes and people that they care about. With its general language and the specific examples drawn in through illustrations and extensive backmatter, this title offers a perfect way to begin a conversation with young children about what makes people take to the streets, and what marching has accomplished throughout history. An educator’s guide for use with this title, created by Autumn, will be available on the publisher’s website, and the author’s letter to the reader can help caregivers contextualize the conversations about hope, courage, togetherness and change that may lead into and spring from reading this book. Isbn 978-0-9971579-8-7

85. Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (

It explores the history of racist ideas in America and the hope of an antiracist future.

86. Strictly no Elephants by Lisa Manchiev and illustrated by Taeum Yoo

Elephants aren’t allowed in the neighborhood club, and that makes elephants (and lots of other animals) really sad. Even though this story doesn’t directly address race or skin color, its central message about discrimination makes the analogy for racism simple for toddlers. The key lessons in this story: don’t exclude others just because they’re different from you, and make room for everyone.

87. Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Sulwe is a children's fiction picture book by actress Lupita Nyong'o. It follows the story of a young girl who wishes for her dark skin to be lighter. The story is ultimately about colorism and learning to love oneself, no matter one's skin tone.

Little leaders Meet the little leaders. They're brave. They're bold. They changed the world A NY times bestseller, it features 40 trailblazing black women in the world's history, this book educates and inspires as it relates true stories of women who broke boundaries and exceeded all expectations. Isbn 978-1-53442536-1 Grades 2-5

88. Sweetes Kulu by Celina Kalluk Illustrated by Alexandria Neonakis

"Dream a little, Kulu, this world now sings a most beautiful song of you." This beautiful bedtime poem, written by acclaimed Inuit throat singer Celina Kalluk, describes the gifts given to a newborn baby by all the animals of the Arctic. Lyrically and tenderly told by a mother speaking to her own little Kulu; an Inuktitut term of endearment often bestowed upon babies and young children, this visually stunning book is infused with the traditional Inuit values of love and respect for the land and its animal inhabitants.

89. The Talking Cloth Story and Illustrations by Rhonda Mitchell

Amber is a black girl who visits her Aunt Phoebe, a woman who collects lots of things. Aunt Phoebe shows Amber a long white piece of adinkra cloth from Ghana, Africa made by the Ashanti people. Different colors of cloth represent joy, growth, love or sadness. Aunt Phoebe tells the meaning of some symbols on the cloth. Amber imagines herself as an Ashanti princess wearing a white patterned cloth that means joy.

90. Tell Me a Story, Mama by Angela Johnson Illustrated by David Soman

About stories of generations to another generation.: In this touching picture book, a mother and a preschool-aged daughter talk together as the child is being prepared for bed. . . . Mama's childhood memories, as related by her daughter, are warm slices of life from a previous generation. . . .

Isbn 0-590-98017-3 Grades 2-4

91. Thank you Omu! By Oge Mora Illustrated by Ying Hui Tan

The story is about Omu, who cooks a stew and shares it with her neighbors; they show their gratitude by bringing her food. The book started as an assignment for a class of Mora's at the Rhode Island School of Design, where it was seen by an editor from Little, Brown.

Isbn 9780316431231 Age Range: 4 - 8 Years

92. 'The Name Jar' by Yangsook Choi

There is nothing more embarrassing for a new student than to have their name mispronounced by classmates and teachers alike. Instead of dealing with being called by various, incorrect names, Unhei decides to let her classmates give her a name. As the students fill the jar with different suggestions, Unhei begins to realize the power and honor in her own Korean name. A harrowing story about culture and the amazing strength behind our given names, you'll love reading this story as much as your kids will love hearing it.

93. Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy by Tony Medina and 13 Artists

Here is a collection of Tony Medina's poetry and the work of 13 different illustrators showing Black boys doing everyday things like catching the bus or getting dressed for church. The book "celebrates the diversity of Black boyhood through vivid, intimate tanka poems and art," Jones told me. It's "a loving ode to all that Black boys are and can be, if we let them grow."

94. The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018

There's so much pain in our country right now. We know this isn't new. And, as parents, we also know that when our kids present us with their pain our (frequently counterproductive) impulse is to try to fix it, fix it, fix it. In that context, and in others, radical empathy manifested in just plain listening to someone else's experience can be a path toward healing, or even reconciliation. This wise picture book exemplifies that truth as it tells the story of Taylor (whose race and gender are never specified in the text), when a flock of crows destroys their carefully constructed block tower. We've found it helpful to read this story metaphorically, and we think it can be an imminently useful and healing picture book in this moment and beyond.

95. The Snowy Day written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats

In 1963 The Snowy Day won the Caldecott and broke the color barrier in mainstream children's book publishing by being embraced across social and ethnic boundaries. Beloved by generation after generation, The Snowy Day, with its vivid, contemporary illustrations and text, has become one of the most iconic children's books of the last century.

96. The Proudest Blue, by Ibtihaj Muhammad illustrated by Hatem Aly

About two Muslim sisters and the day that the older sister wears her hijab to school for the first time. It was an overwhelming day for her because the other students looked at her differently. But then that story transforms into admiration and curiosity, Smith says,

describing the book as delivering a positive message of acceptance and cultural differences. The illustrations are beautiful.

97. The Youngest Marcher

We don't hear enough about Audrey Faye Hendricks, the then 9-year-old marcher who was arrested in 1963 during a civil rights protest.

98. Tiara's Hat Parade by Kelly Starling Lyons Illustrated by Nicole Tadgell

Tiara has a gift for storytelling; her momma has a gift for making hats. When a new store opens that sells cheaper hats, Momma has to set her dreams aside, but Tiara has an idea for helping Momma's dreams come true again. Tiara's Hat Parade is dedicated to Black milliners (hat makers) and the kids they dazzle and inspire.

99. Ty's Travels by Kelly Starling Lyons Illustrated by Nina Mata

Join Ty on his imaginative adventures in Ty's Travels: All Aboard!, a My First I Can Read series by acclaimed author and illustrator team Kelly Starling Lyons and Nina Mata. Family time and imagination and play are highlighted in this fun story, perfect for sharing with children 3 to 6.

Ty wishes his family would play with him, but everyone is too busy before dinner-time. Luckily, Ty knows just what to do . . . Time for fun. Celebrate the power of imagination in All Aboard! With simple, rhythmic text and joyful, bright art, this Guided Reading Level I and My First series is perfect for shared reading with a child.

100. The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander, illustrations by Kadir Nelson

Illustrator Kadir Nelson won the 2020 Caldecott Medal for his portraits of notable Black Americans, set to Alexander's poem about their perseverance. The back of the book includes short biographies of the book's subjects, which include Langston Hughes, Serena Williams, and Ella Fitzgerald. "History unfolds in this piece of poetic prose with images to match the grandeur of Alexander's words,"

101. Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged! by Jody Warner

Sadly, racism isn't just affecting Black Americans, but Black people around the globe. Teach your children about Viola Desmond, a Canadian woman who refused to sit in a movie theatre balcony.

102. Violet's Music by Angela Johnson

Violet loves music and being creative, even when no one else wants to join her. An exploration of music and light, Violet's Music features a girl who spends her whole life reaching for the stars and playing her heart out.

103. We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac, Charlesbridge, 2018

We've heard of many people practicing mindful gratitude throughout the pandemic, trying to find silver linings to sustain them amidst the worries, hardships, and outright tragedies they are facing. We can think of no other picture book that better exemplifies that spirit of giving thanks than this one. We know that the COVID-19 crisis is having a disproportionate impact on Indigenous nations and communities, and so we think it's important to center depictions of contemporary, Indigenous people like this one, which is rooted in the author's lived experience as a citizen of the Cherokee nation.

104. 'Too Many Mangos' by Tammy Paikai illustrated by Dan Robinson

Kama and Nani love helping their grandfather pick mangoes in their homeland of Hawaii. This time, the threesome has picked way too many and decides to go on a journey to deliver the sweet, delicious fruits to their friends and neighbors. As they deliver the mangoes, your little sweetie will learn the different ways the people of Hawaii like to enjoy their juicy treats.

105. Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964, Ms. Hamer gave a speech at the Democratic National Convention that, despite President Johnson's interference, aired on national TV news and spurred the nation to support the Freedom Democrats. Featuring vibrant mixed-media art full of intricate detail, Voice of Freedom celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer's life and legacy with a message of hope, determination, and strength.

106. 'We Are Inspiring: The Stories of 32 Inspirational Asian American Women' by Angel Trazo

A collection of inspirational stories about Asian American women from all walks of life, different ethnicities, and professions, your child will learn about the colorful and amazing Asian American women who have impacted our world today.

107. We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade, 2020

One of the most visible, memorable resistance movements of recent times is that led by Native people to protect water sources from corporate pollution. In this beautifully illustrated picture book, a young Ojibwe girl tells the story of a community coming together to protect this sacred resource. Weaving in traditional storytelling and imagery, this book offers courage and inspiration for people seeking to make change. “It will not be easy,” Lindstrom writes, but “We fight for those/ Who cannot fight for themselves,” from small and large creatures, to the land and trees, because “We are all related.” The book ends with a pledge for readers to sign to commit to being an Earth steward and water protector. If the very source of life cannot connect us all, then what else can?

108. Welcome to the Party by Gabrielle Union illustrated by Ashley Evan'

An Amazon Best Book of 2020 So Far\* Praised by fan-favorites including Hoda Kotb, Kim & Khloe Kardashian, and Jimmy Fallon! Inspired by the eagerly awaited birth of her daughter, Kaavia James Union. Isbn 978--1-0-06-2678\_1-5

109. We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands/Tenemos El Mundo Entero en las Manos by Rafael López, Orchard Books, 2018

We've been thinking a lot about how stay-at-home orders are about the common good, and we're trying to communicate that message to our kids and to others in our circles of family and friends. Although Rafael López's picture book has a clear green/environmentalist focus, we think it also speaks to the sense of mutuality at the heart of any hopes we have in the midst of this pandemic and the simultaneous wave of racialized violence occurring in the United States. Its words and pictures embody the values of interconnectedness we want to live and to pass on to our children.

110. What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado

A young protagonist takes readers through the experience of what a Black boy says and feels as he grows bigger and others shift their perception from seeing him as a cute child to viewing him as a potential threat. Stephen, the main character, questions this shift and has the hard conversation with his father. “It's a talk that helps us know what it means to be a Black male in in the U.S., the why of Black Lives Matter protests, the real BIPOC lives lost to police violence—and paints a realistic picture of how young allies can help get racial justice,”



111. When Aidan Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita, Lee & Low Books, 2019

Like *Going Down Home with Daddy*, mentioned below, this picture book makes us long for times when entire families can enjoy milestones and celebrations together. Setting “a new standard of excellence in transgender representation by centering the feelings of Aidan, a biracial (black and South Asian) transgender boy,” (Kirkus Reviews), this Stonewall Book Award winner also uplifts current efforts to mobilize in defense of all Black lives. The narrative thread that mistakes can be fixed, harm addressed, and understanding can grow is a poignant theme for the times we live in. Meanwhile, the humorous, tender text, and playful, fanciful illustrations portray a deeply loving, multiracial, extended family and offer a heartfelt call to accept every person for “exactly who they are.”

112. When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson, illustrations by Julie Flett

For many Americans, the painful history of Native boarding schools in the United States and Canada is unknown and undertaught. In this story, “a Cree girl spends time with her kókom (grandmother) and learns how she held onto her family and culture while forcefully separated from her people.

113. White Flour By David M Lamotte

The Author uses clowns to illustrate to children how to non-violently respond to racism. This children's book centers on a racist rally in Knoxville, Tennessee where the Coup Clutz Clowns (sound familiar?) are terrorizing the citizens.

114. Wilma Unlimited By Kathleen Krull Illustrated by David Diaz

Before Wilma Rudolph was five years old, polio had paralyzed her left leg. Everyone said she would never walk again, but Wilma refused to believe it. She became the first American woman to earn three gold medals in a single Olympiad.

115. Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice by Mahogany L. Browne

If your child prefers poetry and spoken word, pick up this read which inspires kids to become activists.

116. Your Name Is a Song by Jamilah Thomkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Luisa Uribe, Innovation Press, 2020

Thomkins-Bigelow's picture-book debut, *Mommy's Khimar* illustrated by Ebony Glenn (2018), offers a joyful representation of a little girl within a supportive Muslim American family and community, and this forthcoming picture book beautifully portrays a young

girl learning that she can teach others the beauty of diverse names. The protagonist ends her first day at school sad because her teacher could not pronounce her name, but her sadness is short-lived. As they walk through their neighborhood, dancing to the sounds around them, her mother shows her how every name has its own kind of music, using examples from many cultures, and responding to the claim that the girl's name is "made-up" by saying that "Made-up names come from dreamers" who "make a way out of no way." Among the "made-up" names invoked on this spread is Trayvon, a reference that honors one of many victims of anti-Black violence as it implicitly ties the light issue of naming differences to the more serious issue of valuing life. By the time the girl starts her second day of school, she confidently sings both her own unique name and her teacher's and classmates' Anglo names, Ms. Anderson and Bob. The messages in this lovely book can open conversations about the less obvious ways in which White supremacist ideology is passed on: the upholding of certain cultural practices as normal and others as substandard.

## LOOK FOR THESE AUTHORS

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