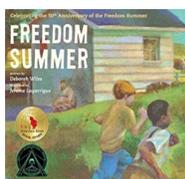


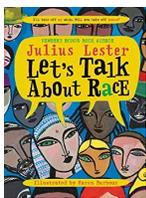


Understanding Racism: Pre-K - 8 Books That Explore and Challenge Race

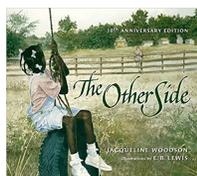
BOOKS ABOUT ANTI-BLACK RACISM



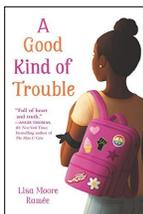
Freedom Summer. Deborah Wiles. (K – 2) Joe and John Henry are a lot alike, but Joe is white and John Henry is black. In the South in 1964, that means John Henry isn't allowed to do everything his best friend is. When a law is passed opening the town pool to everyone, they race each other there...only to discover that it takes more than a new law to change people's hearts.



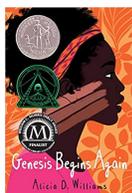
Let's Talk About Race. Julius Lester. (Pre-K – 2) Lester shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. He notes, "I write because our lives are stories. If enough of these stories are told, then perhaps we will begin to see that our lives are the same story. The differences are merely in the details." I am a story. So are you. So is everyone.



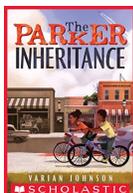
The Other Side. Jacqueline Woodson. (K – 2) Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship and get around the grown-up's rules by sitting on top of the fence together. Woodson was the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.



A Good Kind of Trouble. Lisa Moore Ramée. (3 – 7) Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough. Wait, what?

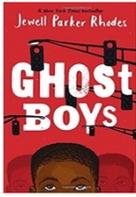


Genesis Begins Again. Alicia D. Williams. (4 – 8) There are ninety-six things Genesis hates about herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. This deeply sensitive and powerful debut novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.



The Parker Inheritance. Varian Johnson. (3 – 6) Candice discovers a mysterious old letter describing an injustice from decades ago. With the help of Brandon, a quiet and often bullied boy, she begins to decipher the clues with a story that leads them deep into their South Carolina town's history, a history full of ugly deeds and forgotten heroes.

BOOKS ABOUT BLACK HISTORY



Ghost Boys. Jewell Parker Rhodes. (5 – 9) Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community. He meets another ghost, Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances and he meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.



Juneteenth For Mazie. Floyd Cooper. (Pre-K – 2) Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty and freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history, the day her ancestors were no longer slaves when the Emancipation Proclamation finally made it to Texas (two years after the rest of the country heard it).



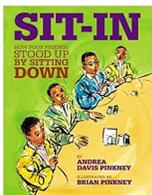
Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History and Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History. Vashti Harrison. (3 – 6) Among these biographies, readers will find heroes, role models, and everyday women and men who did extraordinary things - whose actions and beliefs contributed to making the world better for generations to come.



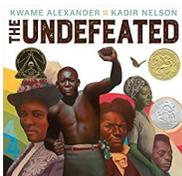
March (Trilogy). John Lewis. (4 and up) Winner of the 2016 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. March is a vivid first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis' lifelong struggle for civil rights, the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation while reflecting on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.



Ruth and the Green Book. Calvin Alexander Ramsey. (1 – 4) Ruth was so excited to take a trip in her family's new car! But she soon found out that many hotels and gas stations refused service to black people. Finally, a friendly attendant at a gas station showed Ruth's family *The Green Book*.



Sit In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down. Andrea Davis Pinkney. (1 – 4) Using poetic, powerful prose, Pinkney tells the story of the momentous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing civil rights movement.

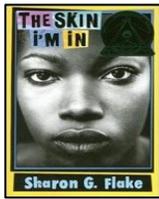


The Undefeated. Kwame Alexander. (K – 2) Winner of the 2020 Caldecott Medal. This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.



We March. Shane W. Evans. (Pre-K – 2) Combined with simple yet compelling illustrations, the thrill of the day is brought to life for even the youngest reader to experience.

BOOKS LOOKING AT SKIN COLOR



The Skin I'm In. Sharon G Flake. (5 – 7) Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?

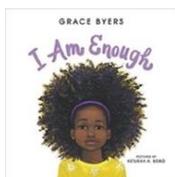


Skin Like Mine. LaTashia M. Perry. (Pre-K – 2) An entertaining yet creative way to address and celebrate diversity among young children. Guaranteed to make you smile and a bit hungry.

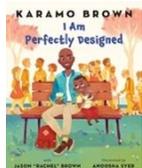


Sulwe. Lupita Nyong'o. (Pre-K – 2) Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. Actress Lupita Nyong'o inspires children to see their own unique beauty.

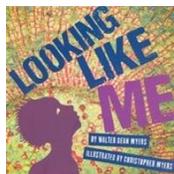
BOOKS ON SELF ESTEEM



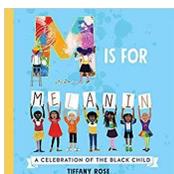
I Am Enough. Grace Byers. (Pre-K – 1) With beautiful illustrations and rhyming text *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers offers a lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others and being kind to one another. Featuring an African American girl interacting with friends doing a range of activities from jump rope to martial arts reminding girls they are “here to shine”.



I Am Perfectly Designed. Karamo Brown with Jason “Rachel” Brown. (Pre-K – 1) Actor, Karamo Brown and his son write about a boy and his father taking a joyful walk through the city, discovering all the ways in which they are perfectly designed for each other.



Looking Like Me. Walter Dean Myers. (K – 2) With rhythmic text and unique photo-collage illustrations Walter Dean Myers and his son, Christopher Myers, celebrate every child and everything that a child can be. In 2019, Walter Dean Myers received the Children's Literature Legacy Award.



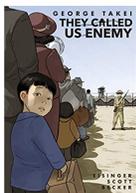
M is for Melanin. Tiffany Rose. (Toddler – K) Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro and F is for Fresh to P is for Pride and W is for Worthy. Teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin they're in. Be bold. Be fearless. BE YOU.

BOOKS ON ANTI ASIAN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LATINX RACISM

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS



The Name Jar. Yangsook Choi. (K – 2) The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her.



They Called Us Enemy. George Takei. (5 – 8) A stunning graphic memoir recounting actor/author/activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon, and America itself, in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



Indian No More. Charlene Willing Mcmanis. (4 – 7) With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism.

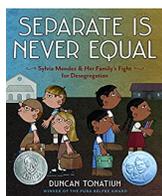


When We Were Alone. David A. Robertson. (K – 2) A young girl becomes curious about her grandmother. Why does her grandmother have long braided hair and beautifully colored clothing? Why does she speak another language? Her grandmother tells her about life in a residential school a long time ago, where all of these things were taken away.

LATINX



Efrén Divided. Ernesto Cisneros. (4 – 7) Efrén worries about his parents. Although he's American-born, his parents are undocumented. His worst nightmare comes true one day when Amá doesn't return from work and is deported across the border to Tijuana, México. Now more than ever, Efrén must channel his inner Soperboy to help take care of and try to reunite his family.



Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation. Duncan Tonatiuh. (K - 4) Almost 10 years before *Brown vs. Board of Education*, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites only" school.