

Karyn's Anti-Racism Book Recommendations

Note to Parents

Some of these books are fiction, some are non-fiction or biographical. For the picture books, you are going to be reading to the little ones and may need to answer questions as you are reading. For this age group, I would suggest that you read the books ahead of time so you have an idea what to anticipate.

For juvenile and YA selections, read the book as the kids are reading with your own copy. Let them see you reading it, don't do it in secret. It will make having conversations easier.

Start conversations by saying "I didn't understand this part of the book. How did you see that scene?" Or say "what did you think about this character? I don't get why they did X." Keep your questions open-ended and resist the urge to explain your thoughts until after your child gives you their opinion.

The adult book selections are ripe for book clubs. Not everyone will like the book. Some might wonder if what happens in the novels are historically accurate or possible. If you are hosting that discussion, take the time to research the issues and/or historical facts. It is also possible to find discussion questions online for many of these books with a simple google search.

Easy/Picture Books

Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie starring Indigo Blume by Kwame Alexander; Illustrated by Tim Bowers

Where's Rodney? By Carmen Bogan

Thirteen Moons on a Turtle's Back : a Native American year of moons by Joseph Bruchac

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson

Sofia Martinez My Family Adventure by Jacqueline Jules (part of a series)

Juneteenth : a children's story / written by Opal Lee ; illustrated by Peter Viska

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

I Am . . . Rosa Parks by Brad Meltzer

I Am . . . Martin Luther King Jr. by Brad Meltzer

Testing the Ice by Sharon Robinson and Kadir Nelson

Saturday by Oge Mora

Swish! The Slam-dunking, Alley-ooping, High-flying Harlem Globetrotters by Suzanne Slade

Native American Stories for kids : 12 traditional stories from Indigenous tribes across North America by Thomas F. Pecore Wasco (Ages 6-9)

Juvenile

Whoosh!:Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton

Unlawful Orders : a portrait of Dr. James B. Williams, Tuskegee airman, surgeon, and activist by Barbara Binns

Two Roads by Joseph Bruchac

Valentina Salazar is Not a Monster Hunter by Zoraida Cordova

New Kid by Jerry Craft

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson

Write to Me: letters from Japanese American children to the Librarian they left behind by Cynthia Grady

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

A Bad Day for Outlaws: The remarkable Life of Bass Reeves Deputy U.S. Marshall by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Buffalo Soldiers and the Western Frontier by Emily Raabe

42 is Not Just a Number by Doreen Rappaport

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe of the Carlisle Indian School Football Team by Steve Sheinkin

Taking Sides by Gary Soto

YA

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac

Bitter by Akwaeke Emezi

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

Don't Ask Me Where I'm From by Jennifer DeLeon

The Battle of Jericho by Sharon M. Draper

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Allegedly by Tiffany Jackson

March by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin ; art by Nate Powell. This is a three volume Series

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager by Ben Philippe

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brenden Kiely

Stamped : Racism, Antiracism, and You: a Remix of the National Book Award-Winning
Stamped from the Beginning by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez

If I Grow Up by Todd Strasser

They Call Us Enemy by George Takai

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

Adult

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennet

The Other Princess: A novel of Queen Victoria's Goddaughter by Denny S. Bryce

Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Never Caught: the Washingtons' relentless pursuit of their runaway slave, Ona Judge by Erica Armstrong Dunbar.

The Tuskegee Airmen: An Illustrated History: 1939-1949 with a Comprehensive Chronology of Missions and Events by Jerome Ennels, Joseph Caver, Daniel Haulman

James by Percival Everett

Killers of the Flower Moon : the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI by David Grann

The 1619 Project: a new origin story, edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Caitlin Roper, Ilena Silverman, and Jake Silverstein

The Deacons for Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement by Lance Hill

The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despots : a true story of slavery : a rediscovered narrative, with a full biography by John Swanson Jacobs

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

Beloved by Toni Morrison

So Many Beginnings: Little Women Remix by Bethany C. Morrow

Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange

South to America by Imani Perry

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

When Crack was King by Donovan X Ramsey

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Tara Jenkins Reid

China Dolls by Lisa See

Overground Railroad: the Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America by Candacy A. Taylor