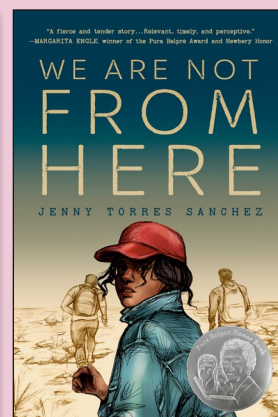
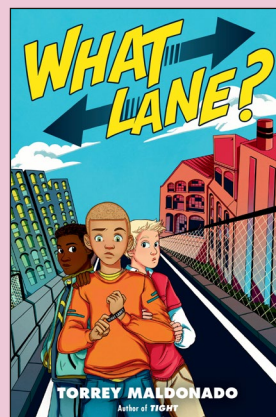
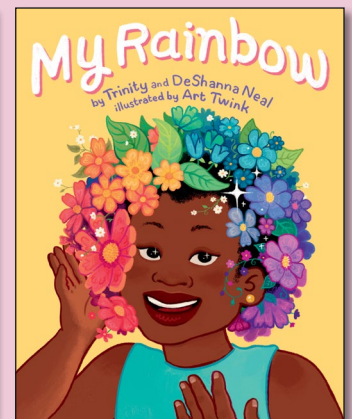
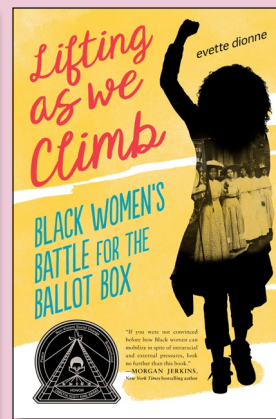
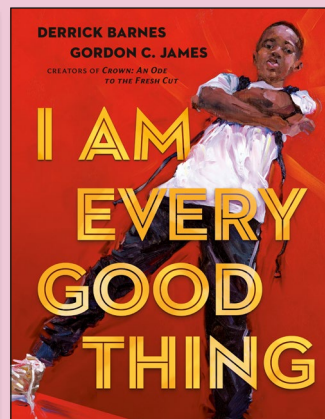
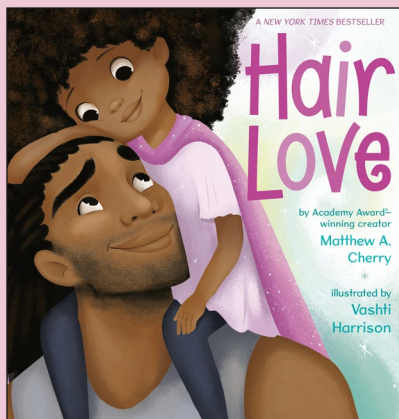
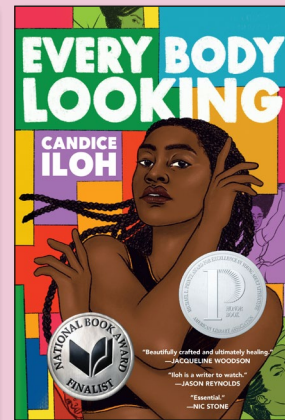
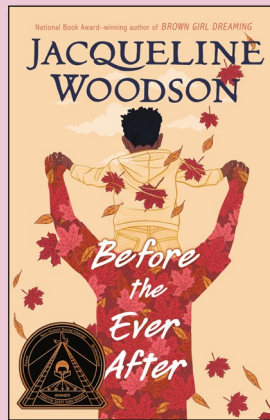
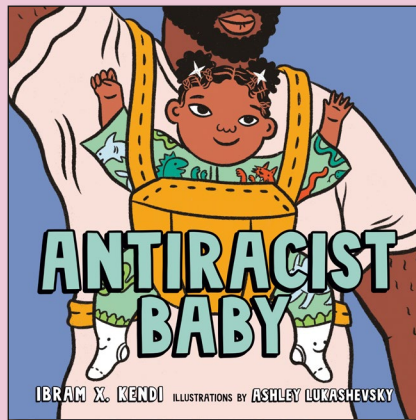


# ANTIRACIST READING FOR ALL AGES

A curated book list that explores multifaceted identities of People of Color  
(of the Global Majority) and provides context and calls for action



## VOLUME 1. 2015–2020

A Resource for All Ages | [www.PenguinClassroom.com](http://www.PenguinClassroom.com)



## DEAR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS,

As Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, antiracism scholar and educator, has stated in his adult nonfiction work *How to Be an Antiracist*, “The opposite of ‘racist’ isn’t ‘not racist.’ It is ‘antiracist.’” He has also stated that being antiracist is not a permanent state—you, or rather your actions, can be both racist and antiracist simultaneously and go back and forth between the two. As Dr. Kendi says in his note to caregivers in *Antiracist Baby*, “Being antiracist is about what we do, not who we are. Being measured by our actions allows us to continue to grow.”

In order to act in an antiracist way, we must listen, learn, and do. We hope this recommended reading list will help you with these three actions, while acknowledging that this is not a comprehensive list by any means. We have worked with antiracist educator, consultant, and author Tiffany Jewell to review this content, though any and all mistakes are our own.

In the first section of this guide you will be introduced to novels and picture books created by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) that explore the multitude of experiences and identities People of the Global Majority, and especially children and teens of color, encompass. You’ll see this sentiment repeated in section two as we delve into narratives by BIPOC specifically within genre fiction—fantasy, sci-fi, thrillers, and more.

The third section includes both fiction and nonfiction that will give you, your students, and patrons a better sense of the historical context that has led to the racist power dynamics and structures in the United States and in the world today. We must continue to educate ourselves on events of the past and supplement historically whitewashed curricula with books that tell the full story, while being sure to not center whiteness. We hope these books will help you with that goal.




The fourth and final section of this guide includes calls to action. As Dr. Kendi and Jason Reynolds say in their 2020 book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, “The antiracists say there is nothing wrong or right about Black people and everything wrong with racism. The antiracists say racism is the problem in need of changing, not Black people. The antiracists try to transform racism.” Transforming racism—that’s what the books listed here will inspire you to do. You will find both fiction and nonfiction narratives that model what that change could look like from a young person’s perspective.

Here we would be remiss if we did not cite both the work of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop and Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw. Dr. Sims Bishop, children’s literature scholar, coined the commonly used phrase “windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors” in 1990, when talking about children’s literature. The books in this brochure should act as all three to different groups of children—windows and sliding glass doors to those outside of the culture and experiences being described, and mirrors for those kids who come from a similar place and see their own selves and experiences reflected back to them. Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw is an activist, educator, and scholar who first identified the term *intersectionality* in 1989. By using the lens of intersectionality, Professor Crenshaw helps us understand that our many identities come together to create different experiences, e. g., Black women have a different experience from Black men and white women, due to the intersection of race and gender. The work and wisdom of both of these women have shaped how we in children’s publishing and in the world think about issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity today, and have informed this reading list.

Penguin Random House is committed to doing this work and we hope you will join us in better educating ourselves, our students, and our patrons and change the non-equitable world in which we currently reside for the better. You’ll find contact information at the bottom of this page where you can connect with us as we continue forward with doing the work to build an antiracist society. We look forward to working with you.

## SINCERELY,

The Penguin Young Readers School & Library Marketing Team

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This content was reviewed by **Tiffany Jewell**. She is a Black biracial writer and Montessori educator. She is the author of the *New York Times* #1 bestseller *This Book Is Anti-Racist*. She spends her time baking bread, building LEGOs, watching British detective shows, and dreaming up how she can dismantle white supremacy. She lives on the traditional lands of the Pocomtuc and Nipmuc with her two sons, her husband, and a turtle she’s had since she was nine. Find her on Instagram: [@tiffanymjewell](https://www.instagram.com/tiffanymjewell).

## Resources & Works Cited

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics.”

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Jewell, Tiffany. Illustrated by Aurélia Durand. *This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work*.

Kendi, Ibram X. Illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky. *Antiracist Baby*.

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Kendi, Ibram X. and Jason Reynolds. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*.

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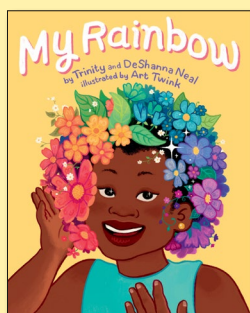
**VIEW VOLUME 2  
of the Antiracist  
Reading Brochure**



# WINDOWS, MIRRORS, AND SLIDING GLASS DOORS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

As Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop expresses in her essay on books being windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors, these books work within that framework to let people outside of an experience look in, allow people inside of an experience to see a reflection of themselves, and create a space for cross-collaboration between experiences. This ties in directly with what Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi write in their book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, “If Black people couldn’t be shown as imperfect, they couldn’t be shown as human. And that was racist...it would be up to Black artists to show themselves. To write and paint and dance and sculpt their humanity” (page 148). In the titles below you will find fiction works created by authors and illustrators of color expressing the fullness of their characters’ humanity. Use these books to show your students and patrons reflections of themselves and authentic insight into communities outside of their experience.

## PICTURE BOOKS

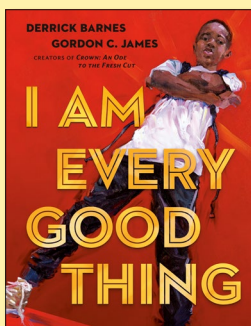


### MY RAINBOW

Written by DeShanna Neal and Trinity Neal; Illustrated by Art Twink

HC: 9781984814609 | Grades Preschool–3

Trinity Neal is a transgender girl who wants long hair just like her dolls. DeShanna, her mom, puts love into action as she works to make her daughter’s dreams come true. The family decides to take a trip to the beauty supply store, but none of the wigs is the perfect fit. Determined, Mom leaves with bundles of hair in hand, ready to craft a wig as colorful and vibrant as her daughter is. *My Rainbow* is a celebration of showing up as our full selves with the people who have seen us fully all along.



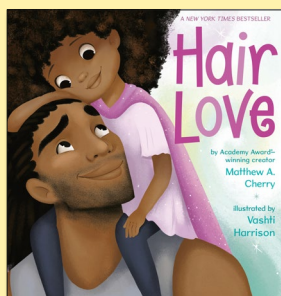
### I AM EVERY GOOD THING

Written by Derrick Barnes; Illustrated by Gordon C. James

HC: 9780525518778 | Grades Preschool–2

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—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.

[An Educator’s Guide to \*I Am Every Good Thing\*](#)



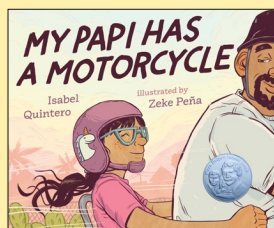
### HAIR LOVE

Written by Matthew A. Cherry; Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

HC: 9780525553366 | Grades Preschool–3 | Also available in Spanish as *Amor de pelo*

Zuri’s hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it’s beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he’ll do anything to make her—and her hair—happy. Tender and empowering, *Hair Love* is an ode to loving your natural hair—and a celebration of Black daddies and daughters everywhere.





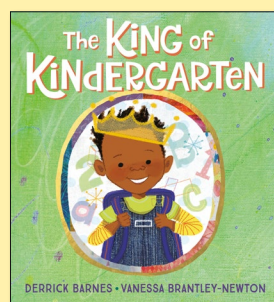
## MY PAPI HAS A MOTORCYCLE

Written by Isabel Quintero; Illustrated by Zeke Peña

HC: 9780525553410 | Grades Preschool–3 | Also available in Spanish as *Mi papi tiene una moto*

When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. But as the sun sets purple-blue-gold behind Daisy Ramona and her papi, she knows that the love she feels will always be there. With vivid illustrations and text bursting with heart, *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* is a young girl's love letter to her hardworking dad and to memories of home that we hold close in the midst of change.

[Downloadable Activities to \*My Papi Has a Motorcycle\*](#)



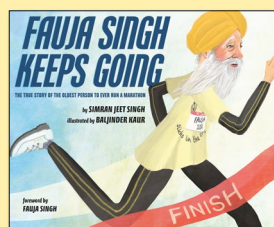
## THE KING OF KINDERGARTEN

Written by Derrick Barnes; Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

HC: 9781524740740 | Grades Preschool–1

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone—and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! He's dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can't wait to be part of a whole new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm! And afterward, he can't wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements—and then wake up to start another day.

[Downloadable Activities to \*The King of Kindergarten\*](#)



## FAUJA SINGH KEEPS GOING:

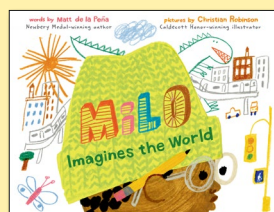
THE TRUE STORY OF THE OLDEST PERSON TO EVER RUN A MARATHON

Written by Simran Jeet Singh; Illustrated by Baljinder Kaur

9780525555094 | Grades Preschool–3

The true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community. With exuberant text by Simran Jeet Singh and exhilarating illustrations by Baljinder Kaur, the true story of Fauja Singh reminds us that it's both where we start and how we finish that make our journeys unforgettable.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Fauja Singh Keeps Going\*](#)



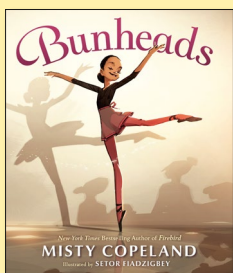
## MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD

Written by Matt de la Peña; Illustrated by Christian Robinson

HC: 9780399549083 | Grades Preschool–3 | Also available in Spanish as *Milo imagina el mundo*

Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. When a boy in a suit with bright white sneakers boards the train, Milo imagines him arriving home to a castle with a drawbridge and a butler. But when the boy gets off at the same stop as Milo—walking the same path, going to the exact same place—Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them. Following a set of siblings going to visit their incarcerated parent, this is a poignant and timely picture book that's sure to become an instant classic.

[An Author/Illustrator Study Guide for Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson](#)

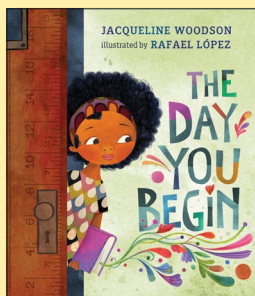


## BUNHEADS

Written by Misty Copeland; Illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey

HC: 9780399547645 | Grades K–3

From prima ballerina and *New York Times* bestselling author Misty Copeland comes the story of a young Misty, who discovers her love of dance through the ballet *Coppélia*—a story about a toymaker who devises a villainous plan to bring a doll to life. Featuring the stunning artwork of newcomer Setor Fiadzigbey, *Bunheads* is an inspiring tale for anyone looking for the courage to try something new.



## THE DAY YOU BEGIN

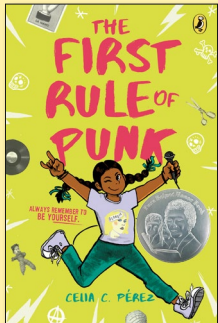
Written by Jacqueline Woodson; Illustrated by Rafael López

HC: 9780399246531 | Grades K–3 | Also available in Spanish as *El día en que descubres quién eres*

There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)

## MIDDLE GRADE



## THE FIRST RULE OF PUNK

Written by Celia C. Pérez

HC: 9780425290408 | PB: 9780425290422 | Grades 4–7

Also available in Spanish as *La primera regla del punk*

Malú, or María Luisa if you want to annoy her, loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyriso (hold the cilantro, please). She moves to a new city and school, and neither feels like home until she assembles a group of like-minded misfits to start a band. She'll do anything to preserve this feeling, even if it means standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself. Filled with black-and-white illustrations and collage art, this exploration of friendship, biracial identity, and learning to rock out like no one is watching is a debut you can't forget.

[A Discussion Guide to the works of Celia C. Pérez](#)



## STAND UP, YUMI CHUNG!

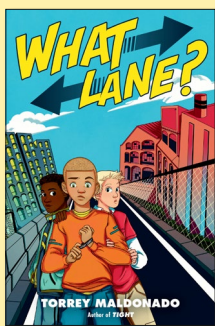
Written by Jessica Kim

HC: 9780525554974 | PB: 9780525554998 | Grades 4–7

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm-gone-wrong, and kids calling her “Yu-MEAT” because she smells like her family's Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she's reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage. When a case of mistaken identity changes Yumi's summer from one filled with test-prep tutoring to stints at a comedy camp taught by her favorite YouTuber, Yumi must decide to stand up and reveal the truth or risk losing her dreams and everyone's trust.

[A Discussion Guide to Stand Up, Yumi Chung!](#)





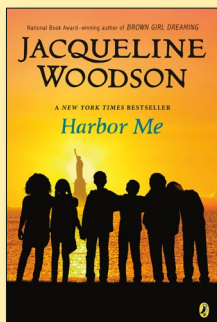
## WHAT LANE?

Written by Torrey Maldonado

HC: 9780525518433 | PB: 9780525518457 | Grades 5+

Anything his friends can do, Stephen should be able to do too, right? So when they dare each other to sneak into an abandoned building, he doesn't think it's his lane, but he goes. Here's the thing, though: *Can he do everything* his friends can? Lately, he's not so sure. As a biracial kid, he feels like he's living in two worlds with different rules—and he's been noticing that strangers treat him differently from his white friends. So what'll he do? Hold on tight as Stephen swerves in and out of lanes to find out which are his—and who should be with him.

[An Educator's Guide to \*What Lane?\*](#)



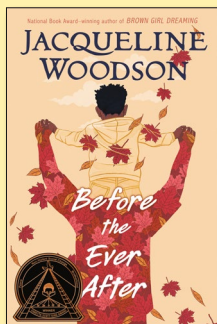
## HARBOR ME

Written by Jacqueline Woodson

HC: 9780399252525 | PB: 9780525515142 | Grades 5+

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room, short for “A Room to Talk,” they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them—everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)



## BEFORE THE EVER AFTER

Written by Jacqueline Woodson

HC: 9780399545436 | PB: 9780399545443 | Grades 5+

For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that—but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Before the Ever After\*](#)



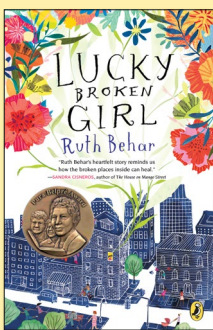
## EACH TINY SPARK

Written by Pablo Cartaya

HC: 9780451479723 | PB: 9780451479747 | Grades 5+

Emilia Torres has a wandering mind. It's hard for her to follow along at school, and sometimes she forgets to do what her mom or abuela asks. But she remembers what matters: a time when her family felt whole and home made sense. When Dad returns from deployment, Emilia expects that her life will get back to normal. Instead, it unravels. With her father suffering from PTSD, her mom considering a job outside of Georgia, a neighborhood debate over school redistricting, and a research project about local immigration history that tests her friendships, Emilia explores her role within her family and community.

[A Discussion Guide to the works of Pablo Cartaya](#)



## LUCKY BROKEN GIRL

Written by Ruth Behar

HC: 9780399546440 | PB: 9780399546457 | Grades 5+ | Also available in Spanish as

*Mi buena mala suerte*

“When we lived in Cuba, I was smart,” observes Ruthie, who narrates this novel set in, 1960s New York City, where, she observes, “I became dumb, just because I couldn’t speak English.” Things have just started improving at school when a car accident puts Ruthie in a body cast, stuck at home for months. Although her room initially feels like an island, soon her life expands through visitors, many of them immigrants, and their stories. Everyone is broken in some way, Ruthie realizes, but well-meaning people can help one another heal. Ruthie’s identities exist at the intersections of race, religion, immigration, and ability.

[An Educator’s Guide to \*Lucky Broken Girl\*](#)



## TIGHT

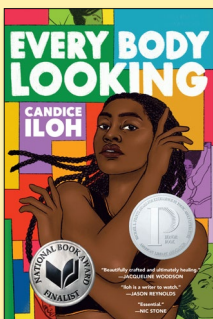
Written by Torrey Maldonado

HC: 9781524740559 | PB: 9781524740573 | Grades 5+

*Tight*: Lately Bryan’s been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what’s tight for him in a good way—reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama’s hard to escape where he’s from, and that gets him wound up tight. And now Bryan’s new friend Mike is challenging him to have fun in ways that are risky. At first, it’s a rush following Mike, hopping turnstiles, subway surfing, and getting into all kinds of trouble. But Bryan never feels right acting wrong. So which way will he go when he understands that drama is so not his style? Fortunately his favorite comic heroes shed light on his dilemma, reminding him that he has power—the power to choose his friends and to stand up for what he believes is right.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Tight\*](#)

## YOUNG ADULT



## EVERY BODY LOOKING

Written by Candice Iloh

HC: 9780525556206 | PB: 9780525556220 | Grades 7+

Candice Iloh weaves the key moments of Ada’s young life—her mother’s descent into addiction, her father’s attempts to create a home for his American daughter more like the one he knew in Nigeria, her first year at a historically black college—into a luminous and inspiring verse novel. Containing intersections of race, immigration, abuse, addiction, and consent, this is a powerhouse debut novel not to be missed.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Every Body Looking\*](#)



## JULIET TAKES A BREATH

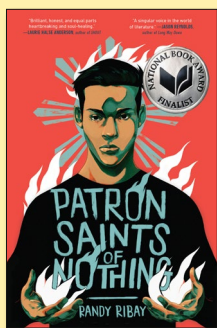
Written by Gabby Rivera

HC: 9780593108178 | PB: 9780593108192 | Grades 9+ | Also available in Spanish as *Juliet respira profundo*

Juliet Milagros Palante is a self-proclaimed closeted Puerto Rican baby dyke from the Bronx. Only, she’s not so closeted anymore. Not after coming out to her family the night before flying to Portland, Oregon, to intern with her favorite feminist writer—what’s sure to be a life-changing experience. And when Juliet’s coming out crashes and burns, she’s not sure her mom will ever speak to her again. In a summer bursting with queer brown dance parties, a sexy fling with a motorcycling librarian, and intense explorations of race and identity, Juliet learns what it means to come out—to the world, to her family, and to herself.

[An Educator’s Guide to \*Juliet Takes a Breath\*](#)





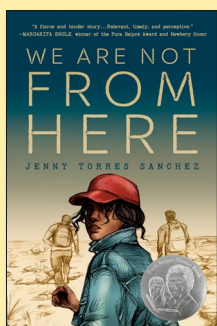
## PATRON SAINTS OF NOTHING

Written by Randy Ribay

HC: 9780525554912 | PB: 9780525554929 | Grades 9+

Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. As gripping as it is lyrical, *Patron Saints of Nothing* is a page-turning portrayal of the struggle to reconcile faith, family, and immigrant identity.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Patron Saints of Nothing\*](#)



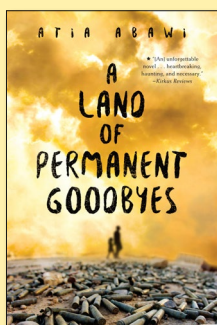
## WE ARE NOT FROM HERE

Written by Jenny Torres Sanchez

HC: 9781984812261 | PB: 9781984812285 | Grades 9+ | | Also available in Spanish as *No somos de aquí*

Pulga has his dreams. Chico has his grief. Pequeña has her pride. And these three teens have one another. But none of them have illusions about the town they've grown up in and the dangers that surround them. Even with the love of family, threats lurk around every corner. And when those threats become all too real, the trio knows they have no choice but to run: from their country, from their families, from their beloved home. Crossing from Guatemala through Mexico, they follow the route of La Bestia, the perilous train system that might deliver them to a better life—if they are lucky enough to survive the journey. With nothing but the bags on their backs and desperation drumming through their hearts, Pulga, Chico, and Pequeña know there is no turning back, despite the unknown that awaits them.

[A Learning Guide to \*We Are Not From Here\*](#)

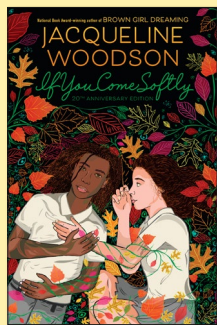


## A LAND OF PERMANENT GOODBYES

Written by Atia Abawi

HC: 9780399546839 | PB: 9780399546853 | Grades 7+

In a country ripped apart by war, Tareq lives with his big and loving family... until the bombs strike. His city is in ruins and his life is destroyed. In the wake of destruction, Tareq and his family are threatened by Daesh fighters and decide that, in order to stay alive, they must leave. What follows is a tale narrated by Destiny following the refugees as they travel from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn. While this is one family's story, it is also the timeless tale of all wars of all tragedy, and of all strife. When you are a refugee, success is outliving your loss.



## IF YOU COME SOFTLY

Written by Jacqueline Woodson

HC: 9780525515487 | PB: 9780142415221 | Grades 7+

Jeremiah, a Black boy from Brooklyn, feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and Black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie, a white Jewish girl, the first week of school and they begin to fall in love. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)



## SANCTUARY

Written by Paola Mendoza and Abby Sher

HC: 9781984815712 | PB: 9781984815736 | Grades 7+

It's 2032, and in this near-future America, all citizens are chipped and everyone is tracked—from buses to grocery stores. It's almost impossible to survive as an undocumented immigrant, but that's exactly what sixteen-year-old Vali is doing. She and her family have carved out a stable, happy life in small-town Vermont, but when Vali's mother's counterfeit chip starts malfunctioning and the Deportation Forces raid their town, they are forced to flee. Now on the run, Vali and her family are desperately trying to make it to her tía Luna's in California, a sanctuary state that is currently being walled off from the rest of the country. But when Vali's mother is detained before their journey even really begins, Vali must carry on with her younger brother across the country to make it to safety before it's too late.



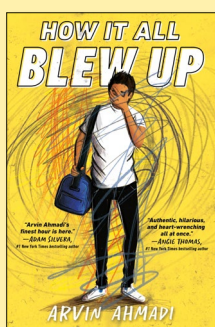
## FRANKLY IN LOVE

Written by David Yoon

HC: 9781984812209 | PB: 9781984812223 | Grades 9+

As Frank falls in love for the very first time, he's forced to confront the fact that while his Korean parents sacrificed everything to raise him in the land of opportunity, their traditional expectations for him to date a fellow Korean don't leave a lot of room for flexibility. Desperate to be with his white classmate Brit without his parents finding out, Frank turns to family friend Joy Song, who is in a similar bind. Together, they come up with a plan to help each other and keep their parents off their backs. Frank thinks he's found the solution to all his problems, but when life throws him a curveball, he's left wondering whether he ever really knew anything about love—or himself—at all.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Frankly In Love\*](#)

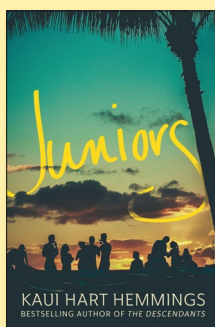


## HOW IT ALL BLEW UP

Written by Arvin Ahmadi

HC: 9780593202876 | PB: 9780593202890 | Grades 9+

Eighteen-year-old Amir Azadi always knew coming out to his Muslim family would be messy—he just didn't think it would end in an airport interrogation room. But when faced with a failed relationship, bullies, and blackmail, running away to Rome is his only option. Right? What follows is a summer Amir will never forget—filled with late nights with new friends, dates in the Sistine Chapel, and an exploration of how you can find yourself by running away and finding your own community. At turns uplifting and devastating, *How It All Blew Up* is Arvin Ahmadi's most powerful novel yet, a celebration of how life's most painful moments can live alongside the riotous, life-changing joys of discovering who you are.



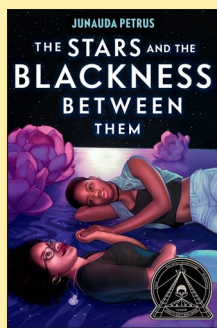
## JUNIORS

Written by Kaui Hart Hemmings

E: 9780698188419 | Grades 9+

Lea Lane has lived in between all her life. Part Hawaiian, part Mainlander. Perpetual new girl at school. Hanging in the shadow of her actress mother's spotlight. And now: new resident of the prominent West family's guest cottage. Bracing herself for the embarrassment of being her classmates' latest charity case, Lea is surprised when she starts becoming friends with Will and Whitney West instead, but as her friendships deepen, Lea must decide how much she's willing to change in order to fit into their world. Lea Lane has lived in between all her life. But it isn't until her junior year that she learns how to do it on her own terms.





## THE STARS AND THE BLACKNESS BETWEEN THEM

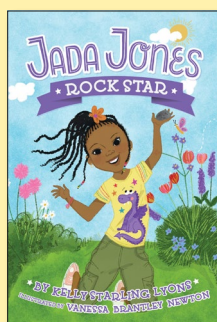
Written by Junauda Petrus

HC: 9780525555483 | PB: 9780525555490 | Grades 9+

Audre is despondent, having just found out she's going to be sent from where she grew up in Port of Spain, Trinidad, to live in America with her father because her strictly religious mother caught her with her secret girlfriend. Mabel is lying on her bed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, staring at the ceiling and trying to figure out why she feels the way she feels about her ex Terrell, and about her girl Jada. Upon meeting, Mabel quickly falls hard for Audre and is determined to take care of her as she tries to navigate an American high school. But their romance takes a turn when Mabel's lingering illness is revealed and they plunge into a deeply uncertain future. Junauda Petrus's debut brilliantly captures the distinctly lush and lyrical voices of Mabel and Audre as they conjure a love that is stronger than hatred, prison, and death and as vast as the blackness between the stars.

[A Discussion Guide to \*The Stars and the Blackness Between Them\*](#)

## SERIES

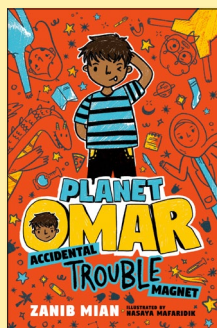


## JADA JONES SERIES | GRADES 1–3

Written by Kelly Starling Lyons

Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton and Nneka Myers

For fans of Princess Posey and Ivy and Bean, the Jada Jones series is an easy-to-read set of chapter books featuring a Black girl with a passion for STEM. Follow Jada as she navigates friendships, school, and family life while never letting her passion for science take the back seat. Over the course of this series, Jada, and by extension the reader, learns about rocks and minerals, kitchen chemistry, and civics. Filled with two-color art on almost every page, this series is perfect for young readers everywhere!

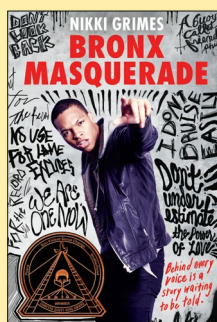


## THE PLANET OMAR SERIES | GRADES 3–7

Written by Zanib Mian; Illustrated by Nasaya Mafaridik

The Planet Omar series is an exciting middle-grade debut starring a Muslim boy with a huge imagination. Omar's funny, relatable narrative is the perfect answer to the call for both mirrors and windows to fill bookshelves with diverse stories. Welcome to the imaginative brain of Omar!

[An Educator's Guide to \*Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet\*](#)

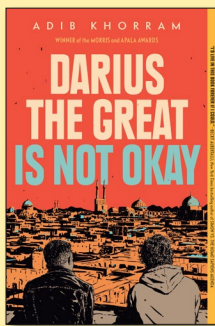


## THE BRONX MASQUERADE DUOLOGY | GRADES 7+

Written by Nikki Grimes

In Mr. Ward's English class, poetry reigns supreme. In *Bronx Masquerade*, when Wesley Boone recites his poem out loud in class, some of his classmates begin to clamor to read their poems aloud, too. Soon, they're having weekly poetry sessions and, one by one, the eighteen students are opening up and taking on the risky challenge of self-revelation. In the companion novel *Between the Lines*, Darrian is in the next year's class and is determined to hone his skills and learn more about the power of words. Alternating between prose and verse, Nikki Grimes's seminal works show that everyone faces challenges and has a story to tell.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Nikki Grimes](#)



## THE DARIUS THE GREAT DUOLOGY | GRADES 7+

Written by Adib Khorram

Darius doesn't think he'll ever be enough, in America or in Iran. Now his family is about to go on their first trip to Iran together and Darius, the Fractional Persian, is about to have his life changed through connections with his family, a new friend, and the country of his mother's birth. In the second installment, Darius is back in Portland, with a boyfriend and a role on the varsity men's soccer team at school. While everything seems to be going well, issues of mental health, bullying, and consent arise to make him wonder—maybe he deserves better. Hilarious and heartbreaking, this unforgettable debut duology introduces a brilliant new voice in contemporary YA.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Darius the Great Is Not Okay\*](#)

[An Educator's Guide to \*Darius the Great Is Not Okay\*](#)



## FLYY GIRLS SERIES | GRADES 7+

Written by Ashley Woodfolk

Meet the Flyy Girls. The group of girls who seem like they can get away with anything. Veteran author Ashley Woodfolk pens a gorgeous and dynamic series of four Harlem high schoolers, each facing a crossroads of friendship, family, and love. With each book focusing on a different girl in the group, these books work to normalize Black girls experiencing the complex themes of anger, grief, exploration of identity, and more.

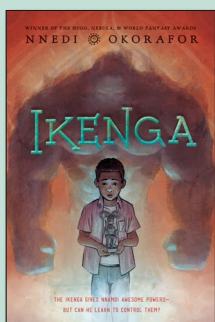




# PEOPLE OF COLOR IN GENRE FICTION

As part of the celebration of BIPOC creating art about their lives, we wanted to call out specifically the inclusion of Black people and people of color in genre fiction. As Patrice Caldwell says in the preface to *A Phoenix First Must Burn*, “Whenever I went to the children’s section of the library to discover more tales, the novels featuring characters who looked like me were, more often than not, rooted in pain set amid slavery, sharecropping, or segregation. Those narratives are important, yes. But because they were the only ones offered, I started to wonder, Where is my fantasy, my future? Why don’t Black people exist in speculative worlds?” The novels included below seek to answer that question by imagining characters of color at the center of fantasy, sci-fi, and thrillers that have historically been dominated by whiteness.

## MIDDLE GRADE



### IKENGA

Written by Nnedi Okorafor

HC: 9780593113523 | PB: 9780593113530 | Grades 5+

Nnamdi’s father was a good chief of police, perhaps the best Kalaria, Nigeria, had ever had. He was determined to root out the criminals that had invaded the town. But then he was murdered, and most people believed the Chief of Chiefs, most powerful of the criminals, was responsible. Nnamdi has vowed to avenge his father, but he wonders what a twelve-year-old boy can do. Until a mysterious nighttime meeting, the gift of a magical object that enables superpowers, and a charge to use those powers for good changes his life forever. How can he fulfill his mission? How will he learn to control his newfound powers?



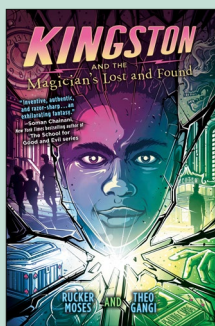
### MY LIFE AS AN ICE CREAM SANDWICH

Written by Ibi Zoboi; Interior illustrations by Anthony Piper

HC: 9780399187353 | PB: 9780399187360 | Grades 5+

Twelve-year-old Ebony-Grace Norfleet has lived with her beloved grandfather Jeremiah in Huntsville, Alabama, ever since she was little. As one of the first Black engineers to integrate NASA, Jeremiah has nurtured Ebony-Grace’s love for all things outer space and science fiction—especially Star Wars and Star Trek. But in the summer of 1984, when trouble arises with Jeremiah, it’s decided she’ll spend a few weeks with her father in Harlem. Upon arrival, Ebony-Grace’s first instinct is to retreat into her imagination. But soon 126th Street begins to reveal that it has more in common with her beloved sci-fi adventures than she ever thought possible, and by summer’s end, Ebony-Grace discovers that Harlem has a place for a girl whose eyes are always on the stars.





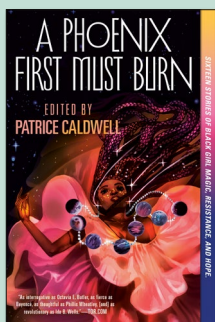
## KINGSTON AND THE MAGICIAN'S LOST AND FOUND

Written by Rucker Moses and Theo Gangi

HC: 9780525516866 | PB: 9780525516880 | Grades 5+

Kingston's father was King Preston, one of the world's greatest magicians. Until one trick went wrong and he disappeared. Now, four years later, Kingston finally returns to the place it all occurred, Echo City, Brooklyn, and is determined to find his father. But Echo City isn't the same as it was when Kingston left. It seems all the magic is gone. When Kingston finds a magic box his father left behind as a clue, Kingston knows there's more to his father's disappearance than meets the eye. Along with his cousin and childhood friend, Kingston works to solve the clues and learn to control the magic that could bring his father back, but one false move and his father may not be the only one who disappears.

## YOUNG ADULT



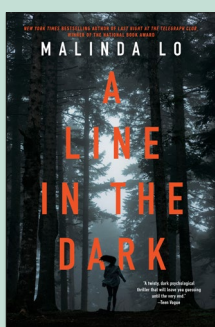
## A PHOENIX FIRST MUST BURN

Edited by Patrice Caldwell

HC: 9781984835659 | PB: 9781984835673 | Grades 7+

Evoking Beyoncé's *Lemonade* for a teen audience, these authors, who are truly [Octavia Butler's](#) heirs, have woven worlds to create a stunning narrative that centers Black women and gender nonconforming individuals. *A Phoenix First Must Burn* will take you on a journey from folktales retold to futuristic societies and everything in between. Contributors include Elizabeth Acevedo, Amerie, Patrice Caldwell, Dhonielle Clayton, J. Marcelle Corrie, Somaiya Daud, Charlotte Nicole Davis, Justina Ireland, Alaya Dawn Johnson, Danny Lore, L. L. McKinney, Danielle Paige, Rebecca Roanhorse, Karen Strong, Ashley Woodfolk, and Ibi Zoboi.

[A Discussion Guide to A Phoenix First Must Burn](#)



## A LINE IN THE DARK

Written by Malinda Lo

HC: 9780735227422 | PB: 9780735227439 | Grades 9+

*A Line in the Dark* is a story of love, loyalty, and murder. Jess Wong, a queer Chinese American girl, is in love with her best friend Angie, but Angie doesn't know it. When Angie starts falling for private school girl Margot, Jess can see the danger coming from a mile away, but what she can't see is the upcoming murder that will throw her and her friend into suspicion and change all of their lives. This is a dark, twisty psychological thriller that puts a Chinese American teen in the detective seat—showing us all the intellect, loyalty, and ability for deception that she possesses.

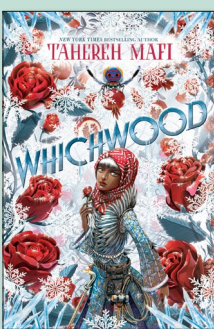


## THE GRIEF KEEPER

Written by Alexandra Villasante

HC: 9780525514022 | Grades 7+

When Marisol pictured an American life for herself, she dreamed of a life like Aimee and Amber's, the title characters of her favorite American TV show. She never pictured fleeing her home in El Salvador under threat of death and stealing across the US border as "an illegal," but after her brother is murdered and her younger sister Gabi's life is also placed in equal jeopardy, she has no choice, especially because she knows everything is her fault because she fell for the charms of a beautiful girl. Now Marisol and Gabi have been caught crossing the border and their asylum request will most certainly be denied. With truly no options remaining, Marisol jumps at an unusual opportunity to stay in the United States. She's asked to become a grief keeper, taking the grief of another into her own body to save a life. It's a risky, experimental study, but if it means Marisol can keep her sister safe, she will risk anything. She just never imagined one of the risks would be falling in love, a love that may even be powerful enough to finally help her face her own crushing grief.



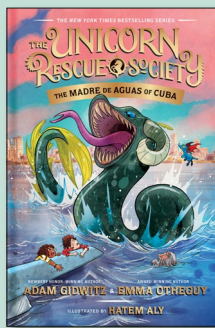
## WHICHWOOD

Written by Tahereh Mafi

HC: 9781101994795 | PB: 9781101994801 | Grades 7+

Laylee can barely remember the happier times before her beloved mother died. Before her father, driven by grief, lost his wits (and his way) and she was left as the sole remaining mordesoor in the village of Whichwood, destined to spend her days scrubbing the skins and souls of the dead in preparation for the afterlife. It's become easy to forget and easier still to ignore not only her ever-increasing loneliness, but the way her overworked hands are stiffening and turning silver, just like her hair. Critically acclaimed author Tahereh Mafi weaves together a lush and enchanting magical adventure in this dark fantasy, inspired by Persian folklore.

## SERIES



## THE UNICORN RESCUE SOCIETY | GRADES 2–5

Written by Adam Gidwitz, David Bowles, Joseph Bruchac, and Emma Otheguy

Illustrated by Hatem Aly

An exciting and hilarious series about friendship, adventure, and mythical creatures from around the world. Following Elliot and Uchenna as they strive to save all kinds of mythical beasts, Adam Gidwitz has partnered with authors from each of the cultures represented to create an authentic and thrilling adventure series.

[An Educator's Guide to the Unicorn Rescue Society series](#)

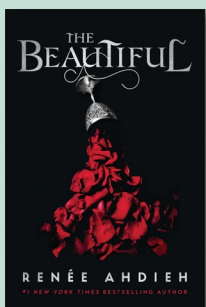




## THE AKATA DUOLOGY | GRADES 7+

Written by Nnedi Okorafor

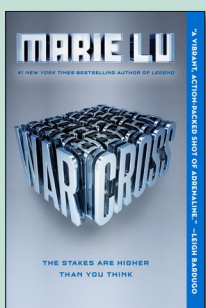
Sunny Nwazue lives in Nigeria, but she was born in New York City. Her features are West African, but she's albino. She's a terrific athlete, but can't go out into the sun to play soccer. There seems to be no place where she fits in. And then she discovers something amazing—she is a “free agent” with latent magical power. And she has a lot of catching up to do. *Akata Witch* and *Akata Warrior* weave together a heart-pounding tale of magic, mystery, and finding one's place in the world.



## THE BEAUTIFUL SERIES | GRADES 7+

Written by Renée Ahdieh

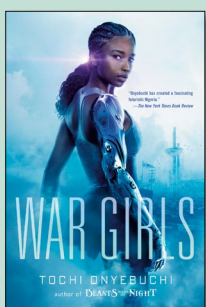
In 1872, New Orleans is a city ruled by the dead. But to seventeen-year-old Celine Rousseau, New Orleans is a safe haven after she's forced to flee her life as a dressmaker in Paris and is taken in by the sisters of the Ursuline convent. But when the body of one of the girls from the convent is found dead in the lair of Celine's love interest, Sébastien Saint Germain, Celine must battle her attraction to Sébastien and suspicions about his guilt along with the shame of her own horrible secret. Thus begins the romantic, decadent mystery that spans this vampiric fantasy series, *The Beautiful*.



## THE WARCROSS DUOLOGY | GRADES 7+

Written by Marie Lu

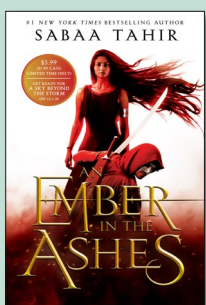
For the millions who log in every day, *Warcross* isn't just a game—it's a way of life. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down *Warcross* players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. To make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international *Warcross* Championships—only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation. In this sci-fi thriller, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Marie Lu conjures an immersive, exhilarating world where choosing whom to trust may be the biggest gamble of all.



## THE WAR GIRLS DUOLOGY | GRADES 7+

Written by Tochi Onyebuchi

The year is 2172. Climate change and nuclear disasters have rendered much of earth unlivable. Only the lucky ones have escaped to space colonies in the sky. In a war-torn Nigeria, battles are fought using flying, deadly mechs, and soldiers are outfitted with bionic limbs and artificial organs meant to protect them from the harsh, radiation-heavy climate. Across the nation, as the years-long civil war wages on, survival becomes the only way of life. Sisters Onyii and Ify dream of more. Their lives have been marked by violence and political unrest, but they dream of peace, hope, and a future together. And they're willing to fight an entire war to get there.



## AN EMBER IN THE ASHES SERIES | GRADES 7+

Written by Sabaa Tahir

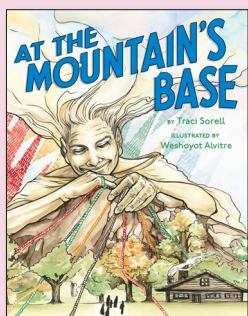
Under the Martial Empire, defiance is met with death. Those who do not vow their blood and bodies to the Emperor risk the execution of their loved ones and the destruction of all they hold dear. In this brutal world, inspired by ancient Rome, the underclass of Scholars do not challenge the Empire. They've seen what happens to those who do. But when the lives of Laia, a Scholar girl, and Elias, the finest soldier in training, become intertwined, they know that the Empire must be beaten at all costs.

[A Discussion Guide to \*An Ember in the Ashes\*](#)

# UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL CONTEXT

From chattel slavery, to the genocide and displacement of Native Americans, to the Chinese Exclusion Act, to the civil rights movement and everything in between, these books will help provide some historical context to conversations about race, gender, sexuality, and other intersections that are vital topics for the understanding of contemporary American life and the systems of racism currently in place.

## PICTURE BOOKS



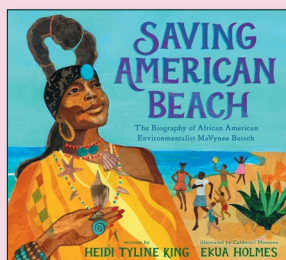
### AT THE MOUNTAIN'S BASE

Written by Traci Sorell; Illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre

HC: 9780735230606 | Also available digitally in Cherokee: 9780593354001 | Grades Preschool–3

At the mountain's base sits a cabin under an old hickory tree. And in that cabin lives a family—loving, weaving, cooking, and singing. The strength in their song sustains them through trials on the ground and in the sky, as they wait for their loved one, a pilot, to return from war. With an author's note that pays homage to the true history of Native American U.S. service members like WWII pilot Ola Mildred “Millie” Rexroat, this is a story that reveals the roots that ground us, the dreams that help us soar, and the people and traditions that hold us up.

[An Educator's Guide to \*At the Mountain's Base\*](#)



### SAVING AMERICAN BEACH:

THE BIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALIST MAVYNEE BETSCH

Written by Heidi Tyline King | Illustrated by Ekua Holmes

HC: 9781101996294 | Grades Preschool–3

MaVynnee loved going to the beach. But in the days of Jim Crow, she couldn't just go to any beach—most of the beaches in Jacksonville were for whites only. Knowing something must be done, her grandfather bought a beach that African American families could enjoy without being reminded they did not have the same rights as white residents; he called it American Beach. After the Civil Rights Act desegregated public places, there was no longer a need for a place like American Beach and it slowly fell into disrepair. MaVynnee remembered the importance of American Beach to her family and so many others, and so, determined to preserve this integral piece of American history, she became an activist and conservationist, ultimately saving the place that had always felt most like home.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Saving American Beach\*](#)

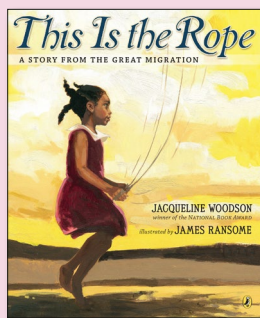


### SHIRLEY CHISHOLM IS A VERB!

Written by Veronica Chambers; Illustrated by Rachelle Baker

HC: 9780803730892 | Grades Preschool–3

Shirley Chisholm famously said, “If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.” This dynamic biography illuminates how Chisholm was a doer, an active and vocal participant in our nation's democracy, and a force to be reckoned with. Now young readers will learn about her early years, her time in Congress, her presidential bid, and how her actions left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire, uplift, and instruct.



## THIS IS THE ROPE:

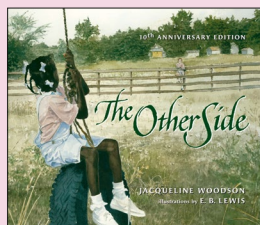
### A STORY FROM THE GREAT MIGRATION

Written by Jacqueline Woodson; Illustrated by James Ransome

HC: 9780399239861 | PB: 9780425288948 | Grades K–3

During the time of the Great Migration, millions of African American families relocated from the South seeking better opportunities. The story of one family's journey north during the Great Migration starts with a little girl in South Carolina who finds a rope under a tree one summer. She has no idea the rope will become part of her family history.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)



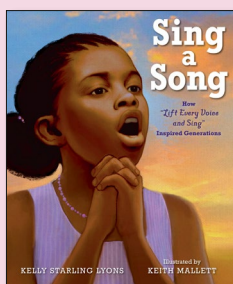
## THE OTHER SIDE

Written by Jacqueline Woodson; Illustrated by E. B. Lewis

HC: 9780399231162 | Grades K–3

Two girls, one Black and one white, quietly break social barriers by sitting together on the fence that divides their segregated neighborhood. By the story's end, the white girl crosses over to the other side to jump rope. Luminous watercolors show the girls literally crossing the boundary while the kindness in their faces shows the deeper change they make. This simple story will get children talking about the history of segregation and the power of children like themselves to improve the world around them.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)



## SING A SONG:

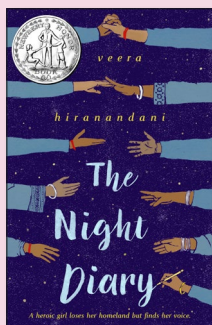
### HOW "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" INSPIRED GENERATIONS

Written by Kelly Starling Lyons; Illustrated by Keith Mallett

HC: 9780525516095 | PB: 9780593530580 | Grades K–3

In Jacksonville, Florida, two brothers, one of them the principal of a segregated, all-Black school, wrote the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" so his students could sing it for a tribute to Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1900. From that moment on, the song has provided inspiration and solace for generations of Black families. Mothers and fathers passed it on to their children, who sang it to their children and grandchildren. Known as the Black National Anthem, it has been sung during major moments of the civil rights movement and at family gatherings and college graduations.

## MIDDLE GRADE



## THE NIGHT DIARY

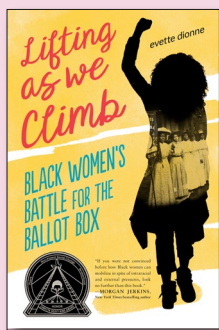
Written by Veera Hiranandani

HC: 9780735228511 | PB: 9780735228528 | Grades 3–7

It's 1947, and India, newly independent from British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Both Muslim and Hindu, twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark by train and by foot to reach their new home. Told through Nisha's letters to her deceased mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home.

[An Educator's Guide to \*The Night Diary\*](#)





## LIFTING AS WE CLIMB:

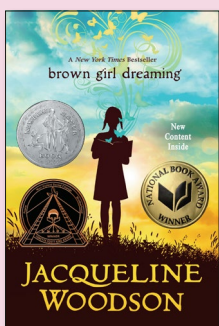
### BLACK WOMEN'S BATTLE FOR THE BALLOT BOX

Written by Evette Dionne

HC: 9780451481542 | PB: 9780451481559 | Grades 5+

Susan B. Anthony. Seneca Falls. The 1913 Women's March in D.C. That's not the whole story. Women of Color, especially African American women, were fighting for their right to vote and to be treated as full, equal citizens of the United States. Their battlefield wasn't just about gender. *Lifting as We Climb* is the empowering story of African American women who refused to accept the deep, exclusionary racial prejudices that were rife in the American suffrage movement. Women in Black church groups, Black female sororities, Black women's improvement societies and social clubs. Women who formed their own Black suffrage associations when white-dominated national suffrage groups rejected them.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Lifting as We Climb\*](#)



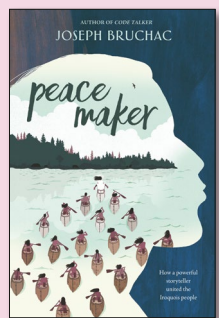
## BROWN GIRL DREAMING

Written by Jacqueline Woodson

HC: 9780399252518 | PB: 9780147515827 | Grades 5+

In this National Book Award winner and Newbery Honor book, renowned author Woodson returns to her childhood in the 1960s and 1970s. The free-verse memoir relates stories of her extended family and friends, portrays growing up Black in South Carolina and Brooklyn, and shows her growing awareness of the civil rights movement. Readers see Woodson becoming a writer as she learns to love storytelling despite her difficulty learning to read. Wonderful for reading aloud, this book celebrates language, the small joys of life, and the power of family love.

[An Educator's Guide to the works of Jacqueline Woodson](#)

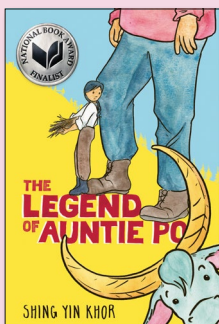


## PEACEMAKER

Written by Joseph Bruchac

HC: 9781984815378 | PB: 9781984815392 | Grades 4–7

Twelve-year-old Iroquois boy Okwaho's life changes suddenly when his best friend is kidnapped by men from a neighboring tribal nation. Okwaho barely escapes back to his village where everyone lives in fear of raids and killings: The five nations of the Iroquois have been at war with one another for far too long, and no one can even remember what it was like to live in peace. Okwaho is determined to seek revenge until a visitor with a message of peace, arrives and shares his lesson tales—stories that make Okwaho believe that peace is possible. So many others agree with him, and at last the nations' leaders come together to enact the great treaty creating the Iroquois Confederacy.



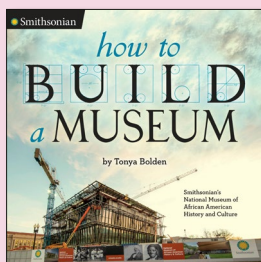
## THE LEGEND OF AUNTIE PO

Written and Illustrated by Shing Yin Khor

HC: 9780525554882 | PB: 9780525554899 | Grades 5–9

Part historical fiction, part magical realism, and 100% adventure. Thirteen-year-old Mei reimagines the myths of Paul Bunyan starring a Chinese heroine as she works in a Sierra Nevada logging camp in 1885. Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman's daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan—reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch. Anchoring herself with stories of Auntie Po, Mei navigates the difficulty and politics of lumber camp work and her growing romantic feelings for her friend Bee.

[An Educator Guide to \*The Legend of Auntie Po\*](#)



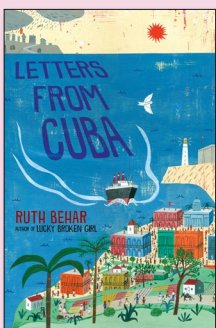
## HOW TO BUILD A MUSEUM

### SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Written by Tonya Bolden

HC: 9780451476371 | Grades 5+

The campaign to set up a museum honoring Black citizens is nearly 100 years old; building the museum itself and assembling its incredibly far-reaching collections is a modern story that involves all kinds of people, from educators and activists, to politicians, architects, curators, construction workers, and ordinary Americans who donated cherished belongings to be included in NMAAHC's thematically organized exhibits. Award-winning author Tonya Bolden has written a fascinating chronicle of how all of these ideas, ambitions, and actual objects came together in one incredible museum. The history of NMAAHC—the last museum to be built on the National Mall—is the history of America.



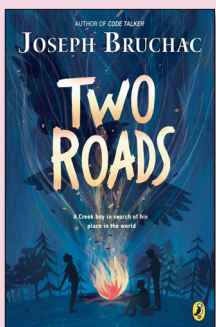
## LETTERS FROM CUBA

Written by Ruth Behar

HC: 9780525516477 | PB: 9780525516491 | Grades 5+ | Also available in Spanish as *Cartas de Cuba*

The situation is getting dire for Jews in Poland on the eve of World War II. Esther's father has fled to Cuba, and she is the first one to join him. It's heartbreaking to be separated from her beloved sister, so Esther promises to write down everything that happens until they're reunited. And she does, recording both the good—the kindness of her new neighbors and her discovery of a valuable hidden talent—and the bad: the fact that Nazism has found a foothold even in Cuba. Esther's evocative letters are full of her appreciation for life and reveal a resourceful, determined girl with a rare ability to bring people together, all the while striving to get the rest of their family out of Poland before it's too late.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Letters From Cuba\*](#)

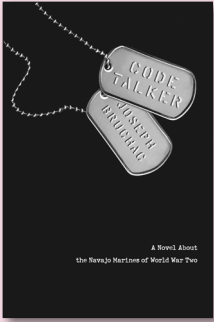


## TWO ROADS

Written by Joseph Bruchac

HC: 9780735228863 | PB: 9780735228870 | Grades 5+

It's 1932, and twelve-year-old Cal Black and his pop have been riding the rails for years after losing their farm in the Great Depression. Cal likes being a "knight of the road" with Pop, even if they're broke. But then Pop has to go to Washington, D.C.—some of his fellow veterans are marching for their government checks, and Pop wants to make sure he gets his due—and Cal can't go with him. So Pop tells Cal something he never knew before: Pop is actually a Creek Indian, which means Cal is too. And Pop has decided to send Cal to a government boarding school for Native Americans in Oklahoma called the Challagi School. Even in the harsh, miserable conditions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school, he begins to learn about his people's history and heritage. He learns their language and customs. And most of all, he learns how to find strength in a group of friends who have nothing beyond one another.

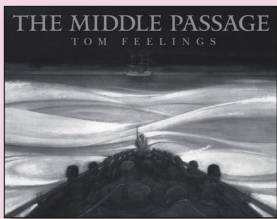


## CODE TALKER

Written by Joseph Bruchac

HC: 9780803729216 | PB: 9780142405963 | Grades 7+

Throughout World War II, in the conflict fought against Japan, Navajo code talkers were a crucial part of the U.S. effort, sending messages back and forth in an unbreakable code that used their native language. They braved some of the heaviest fighting of the war, and with their code, they saved countless American lives. Yet their story remained classified for more than twenty years. But now Joseph Bruchac brings their stories to life for young adults through the riveting fictional tale of Ned Begay, a sixteen-year-old Navajo boy who becomes a code talker. His grueling journey is eye-opening and inspiring. This deeply affecting novel honors all of those young men, like Ned, who dared to serve, and it honors the culture and language of the Navajo Indians.



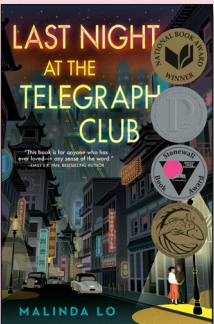
## THE MIDDLE PASSAGE:

WHITE SHIPS / BLACK CARGO

Written by Tom Feelings

HC: 9780525552444 | Grades 7+

Alex Haley's *Roots* awakened many Americans to the cruelty of slavery. *The Middle Passage* focuses attention on the torturous journey that brought enslaved people from Africa to the Americas, allowing readers to bear witness to the sufferings of an entire people.



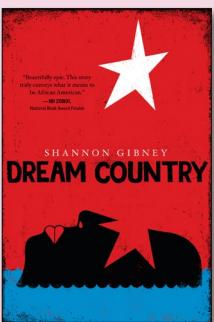
## LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB

Written by Malinda Lo

HC: 9780525555254 | PB: 9780525555278 | Grades 9+

Lily Hu has known Kathleen Miller since junior high. Now they're the last two girls in senior advanced math, and Lily can't deny what she feels for Kath is about much more than calculus. Lily Hu can't remember exactly when the feelings took root, but they were in full bloom the moment she walked under the flashing neon sign of a lesbian bar called the Telegraph Club with Kathleen Miller. America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone, including Chinese Americans like Lily. With deportation looming over her father—despite his hard-won citizenship—Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Last Night at the Telegraph Club\*](#)



## DREAM COUNTRY

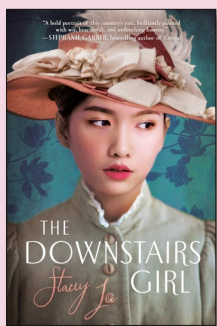
Written by Shannon Gibney

HC: 9780735231672 | PB: 9780735231689 | Grades 9+

This riveting tale, spanning five generations from a single African-and-American family pursuing an elusive dream of freedom, repeatedly confronts the trauma of enslavement, colonialism, and war on two continents. Along the way we travel back and forth between the United States and Liberia from 1827 to 2018, meeting new characters in Minneapolis, a plantation in nineteenth-century Virginia, and the American Colonization Society in Liberia. In this masterful and heartbreaking story, Shannon Gibney explores the nightmarish spiral of death and exile connecting America and Africa, and of how young people can break free and gain control of their destiny.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Dream Country\*](#)





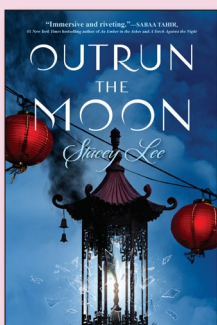
## THE DOWNSTAIRS GIRL

Written by Stacey Lee

HC: 9781524740955 | PB: 9781524740979 | Grade 7+

By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. While her opponents clamor to uncover the secret identity of Miss Sweetie, a mysterious letter sets Jo off on a search for her own past and the parents who abandoned her as a baby. But when her efforts put her in the crosshairs of Atlanta's most notorious criminal, Jo must decide whether she, a girl used to living in the shadows, is ready to step into the light. With prose that is witty, insightful, and at times heartbreaking, Stacey Lee masterfully crafts an extraordinary social drama set in the New South.

[A Discussion Guide to the works of Stacey Lee](#)



## OUTRUN THE MOON

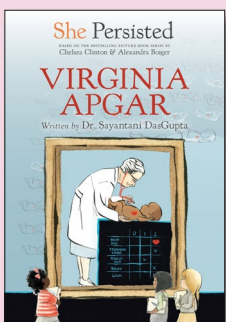
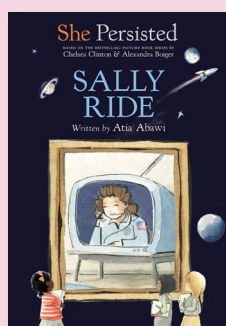
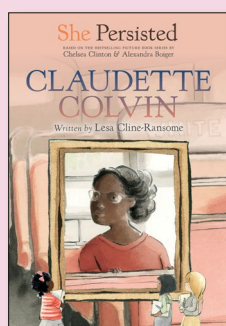
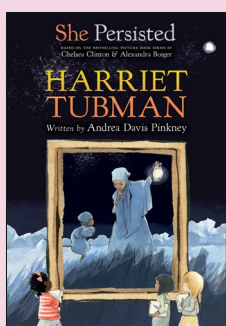
Written by Stacey Lee

HC: 9780399175411 | PB: 9780147516916 | Grades 7+

On April 18, 1906, a historic earthquake rocks San Francisco, destroying Mercy Wong's home in Chinatown and the white all-girls school she has bribed her way into. Now she's forced to wait with her classmates for their families in a temporary park encampment. Though fires might rage, and the city may be in shambles, Mercy can't sit by while they wait for the army to bring help—she still has the "bossy" cheeks that mark her as someone who gets things done. But what can one teenage girl do to heal so many suffering in her broken city?

[A Discussion Guide to the works of Stacey Lee](#)

## SERIES

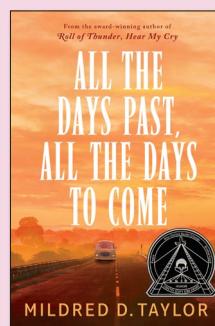
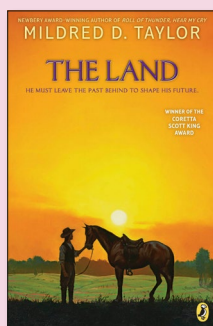
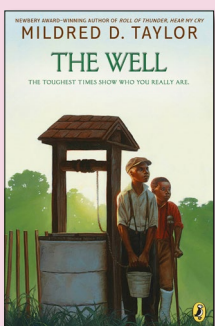
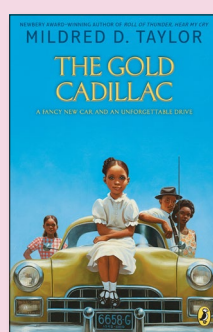
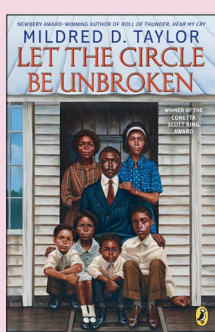
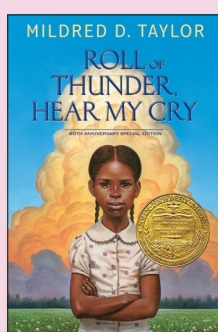
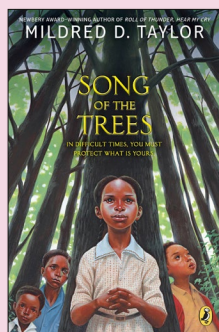


## SHE PERSISTED CHAPTER BOOK SERIES | GRADES 1–4

Written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, Lesa Cline-Ransome and Chelsea Clinton;

Illustrated by Alexandra Boiger and Gillian Flint

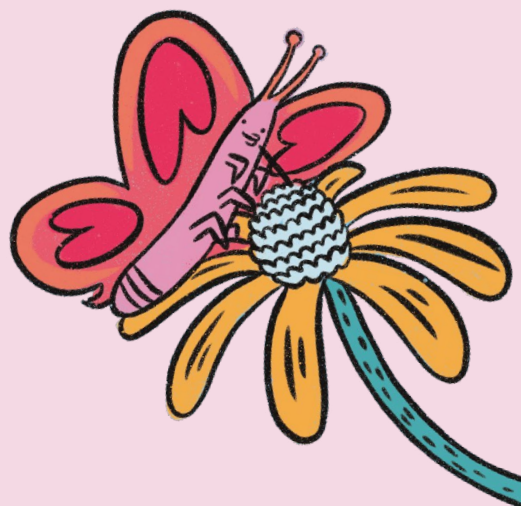
Inspired by the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *She Persisted* by Chelsea Clinton and Alexandra Boiger comes a chapter book series about women who stood up, spoke up, and rose up against the odds! Featured historical figures have been hand selected by the chapter book authors because of their personal inspiration. The first book in the series, *Harriet Tubman*, was written by Andrea Davis Pinkney and the second, *Claudette Colvin*, was written by Lesa Cline-Ransome.



## THE LOGAN FAMILY SAGA | GRADES 3–7

Written by Mildred D. Taylor

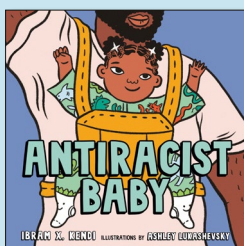
The Logan Family Saga, which began in 1975 with *Song of the Trees*, and was made famous by the Newbery Award–winning novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, has finally concluded more than 40 years later, with the 2020 publication of *All the Days Past, All the Days to Come*, where we meet Cassie Logan as a young adult, involved in the civil rights movement, and returning to Mississippi to witness and enact change.



# MODELS OF AND CALLS TO ACTION: BOOKS THAT DEMONSTRATE THE WORK TO BE DONE

The novels and nonfiction narratives listed below are about action. Whether that is providing insights on how we can better have conversations with our communities (see: *Antiracist Baby* and Pocket Change Collective), showing how other protests and movements in history have gone down (see: *Raise Your Voice* and *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom*), or modeling different means of activism for young readers (see: *Count Me In, Hands Up!*, and *Lubaya's Quiet Roar*), these titles will inspire everyone, from the youngest picture book readers to the oldest teens and adults to take action and work for change.

## PICTURE BOOKS



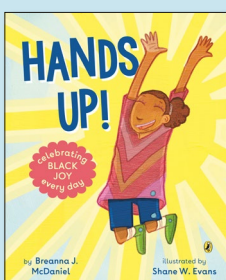
### ANTIRACIST BABY

Written by Ibram X. Kendi | Illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky

HC: 9780593110508 | BB: 9780593110416 | Grades 0–Preschool | Also available in Spanish as *Bebe antirracista*

With bold art and thoughtful yet playful text, *Antiracist Baby* introduces the youngest readers and the grown-ups in their lives to the concept and power of antiracism. Providing the language necessary to begin critical conversations at the earliest age, *Antiracist Baby* is the perfect gift for readers of all ages dedicated to forming a just society. Take your first steps with *Antiracist Baby*! Or rather, follow Antiracist Baby's nine easy steps for building a more equitable world.

[A Learning Guide to \*Antiracist Baby\*](#)



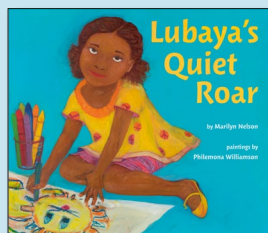
### HANDS UP!

Written by Breanna J. McDaniel; Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

HC: 9780525552314 | PB: 9780593326640 | Grades Preschool–3

A young Black girl lifts her baby hands up to greet the sun, reaches her hands up for a book on a high shelf, and raises her hands up in praise at a church service. She stretches her hands up high like a plane's wings and whizzes down a hill so fast on her bike with her hands way up. As she grows, she lives through everyday moments of joy, love, and sadness. And when she gets a little older, she joins together with her family and her community in a protest march, where they lift their hands up together in resistance and strength. By reclaiming the phrase “hands up” for Black and brown children everywhere, Breanna J. McDaniel and Shane W. Evans show that it can be revolutionary to live with joy while also making your voice heard through protesting.





## LUBAYA'S QUIET ROAR

Written by Marilyn Nelson; Illustrated by Philemona Williamson

HC: 9780525555551 | Grades K–3

Newbery Honor winner Marilyn Nelson and fine artist Philemona Williamson have come together to create this lyrical, impactful story of how every child, even the quietest, can make a difference in their community and world. Young Lubaya is happiest when she's drawing, often behind the sofa while her family watches TV. There, she creates pictures on the backs of her parents' old protest posters. But when upsetting news shouts into their living room, her parents need the posters again. The next day her family takes part in a march, and there, on one side of the posters being held high, are Lubaya's drawings of kids holding hands and of the sun shining over the globe—rousing visual statements of how the world could be. “Lubaya's roar may not be loud, but a quiet roar can make history.”

## MIDDLE GRADE



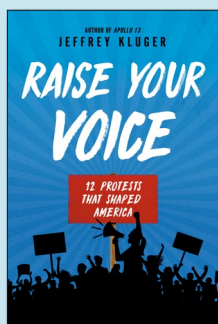
## COUNT ME IN

Written by Varsha Bajaj

HC: 9780525517245 | PB: 9780525517269 | Grades 5+

Karina Chopra would have never imagined becoming friends with the boy next door—after all, they've avoided each other for years and she assumes Chris is just like the boys he hangs out with, whom she labels a pack of hyenas. Then Karina's grandfather starts tutoring Chris, and she discovers he's actually a nice, funny kid. But one afternoon something unimaginable happens—the three of them are assaulted by a stranger who targets Indian American Karina and her grandfather because of how they look. Her grandfather is gravely injured and Karina and Chris vow not to let hate win. When Karina posts a few photos related to the attack on social media, they quickly attract attention, and before long her #CountMeIn post—“What does an American look like? #immigrants #WeBelong #IamAmerican #HateHasNoHomeHere”—goes viral and a diverse population begin to add their own photos. Then, when Papa is finally on the road to recovery, Karina uses her newfound social media reach to help celebrate both his homecoming and a community coming together. Demonstrating the power of social media and putting your voice out into the world, *Count Me In* shows a young girl refusing to be silenced in the face of overt racism.

[A Teacher's Guide to \*Count Me In\*](#)



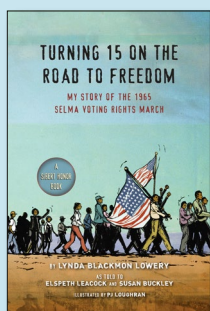
## RAISE YOUR VOICE:

12 PROTESTS THAT SHAPED AMERICA

Written by Jeffrey Kluger

HC: 9780525518303 | Grades 5+

Protests and demonstrations have spread throughout the United States in recent years. They have pushed for change on women's rights, racial equality, climate justice, gun control, LGBTQI+ rights, and more. And while these marches may seem like a new phenomenon, they are really the continuation of a long line of Americans taking to their feet and raising their voices to cry out for justice. In this nonfiction book, the stories of 12 protests and marches—and the people, movements, and moments behind them—are



## TURNING 15 ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM:

### MY STORY OF THE 1965 SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH

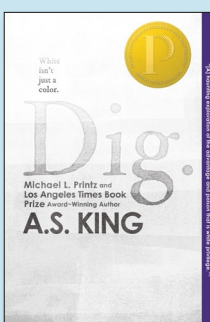
Written by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, as told to Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley;

Illustrated by PJ Loughran

HC: 9780803741232 | PB: 9780147512161 | Grades 7+

In this extraordinary memoir, Lowery recounts her experiences in the civil rights movement, including the 1965 voting rights march to Montgomery, during which she turned fifteen. Lowery describes being put in jail nine times as a protestor, and being beaten so badly by a state trooper that she needed thirty-five stitches. Yet she found the courage to keep protesting. Short chapters, lots of illustrations and photographs, and Lowery's conversational voice make this a great choice for all readers, including reluctant ones, as a primary document about the civil rights era. This firsthand narrative shows that, throughout history, kids have made a difference by standing up for their beliefs. Lowery proves that while the road may be difficult, readers should not give up, and should continue to fight for the change they seek.

[An Educator's Guide to \*Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom\*](#)



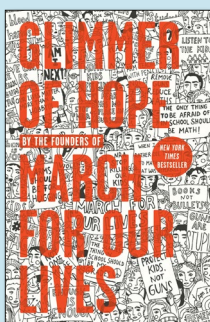
## DIG

Written by A.S. King

HC: 9781101994917 | PB: 9781101994931 | Grades 9+

Five estranged cousins are lost in a maze of their family's tangled secrets. Their grandparents, former potato farmers Gottfried and Marla Hemmings, managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions and now they sit atop a million-dollar bank account—wealth they've refused to pass on to their adult children or their five teenage grandchildren so they will “thrive.” But for the Hemmings cousins, “thriving” feels a lot like slowly dying of a poison they started taking the moment they were born. As the rot beneath the surface of the Hemmings' white suburban respectability destroys the family from within, the cousins find their ways back to one another, just in time to uncover the terrible cost of maintaining the family name. With her inimitable surrealism, award winner A.S. King exposes how a toxic culture of polite white supremacy tears a family apart and how one determined generation can dig its way out. Using these five young people as a guide, teens, and white teens in particular, can see how white supremacy can be uprooted when uncomfortable truths are revealed, difficult conversations about intergenerational wealth and privilege happen, and the status quo is subverted.

[A Discussion Guide to \*Dig\*](#)



## GLIMMER OF HOPE:

### HOW TRAGEDY SPARKED A MOVEMENT

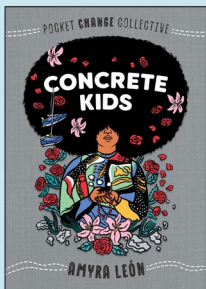
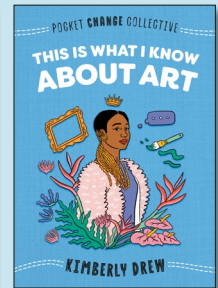
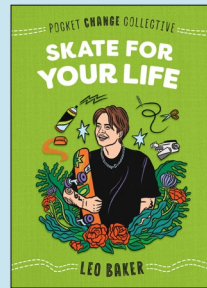
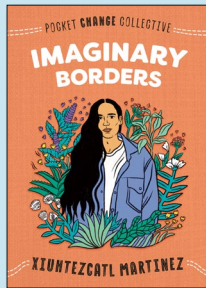
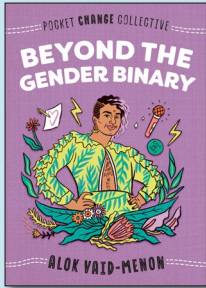
Written by The March for Our Lives Founders

HC: 9781984836090

*Glimmer of Hope* is the official, definitive book from The March for Our Lives founders. This book tells the story of how a group of teenagers raced to channel their rage and sorrow into action, and went on to create one of the largest youth-led movements in global history.

★ “This is a clarion call to action for teens, by teens, and is moving and powerful.”

—*Booklist*, starred review



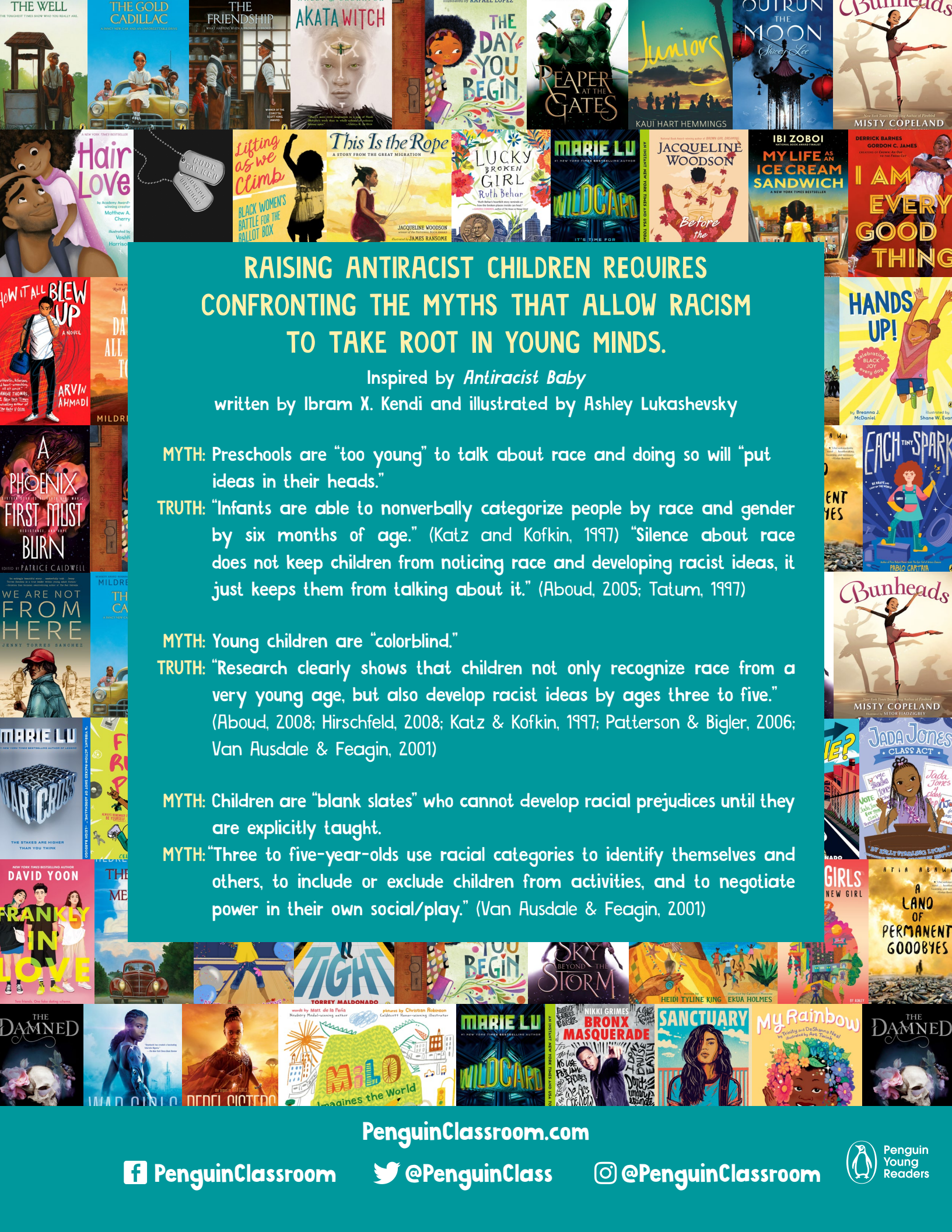
## POCKET CHANGE COLLECTIVE | GRADES 7+

Written by Alok Vaid-Menon, Amyra León, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, Adam Eli, Hannah Testa, and Kimberly Drew; Illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky

Pocket Change Collective was born out of a need for space. Space to think. Space to connect. Space to be yourself. And this is your invitation to join us. In each of these nonfiction missives, today's leading activists and artists tackle a topic close to their personal work, from gender and sexuality, to decolonization in the climate crisis and in the art world. These small but mighty books issue challenges to the teens who pick them up, telling them that they, too, can change the world and be activists advocating for the things they care about and want to see change for the better.







## RAISING ANTIRACIST CHILDREN REQUIRES CONFRONTING THE MYTHS THAT ALLOW RACISM TO TAKE ROOT IN YOUNG MINDS.

Inspired by *Antiracist Baby*  
written by Ibram X. Kendi and illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky

**MYTH:** Preschools are “too young” to talk about race and doing so will “put ideas in their heads.”

**TRUTH:** “Infants are able to nonverbally categorize people by race and gender by six months of age.” (Katz and Kofkin, 1997) “Silence about race does not keep children from noticing race and developing racist ideas, it just keeps them from talking about it.” (Aboud, 2005; Tatum, 1997)

**MYTH:** Young children are “colorblind.”

**TRUTH:** “Research clearly shows that children not only recognize race from a very young age, but also develop racist ideas by ages three to five.” (Aboud, 2008; Hirschfeld, 2008; Katz & Kofkin, 1997; Patterson & Bigler, 2006; Van Ausdale & Feagin, 2001)

**MYTH:** Children are “blank slates” who cannot develop racial prejudices until they are explicitly taught.

**MYTH:** “Three to five-year-olds use racial categories to identify themselves and others, to include or exclude children from activities, and to negotiate power in their own social/play.” (Van Ausdale & Feagin, 2001)

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