

Guide to Choosing Race-Conscious Books with Children, especially for white parents

- Make deliberate efforts to read books written and illustrated by authors and artists of color, especially books that feature protagonists of color. If it helps, dedicate a certain percentage of your book selections (e.g. “50% or more”) or periods of time (e.g. “this semester” or “this summer vacation”) to authors of color.
- Include stories of everyday people and their lives. Don’t limit race-conscious reading to stories of oppression (e.g. *Trail of Tears*, *Jim Crow*), heroes (e.g. Jackie Robinson, Mohandas Gandhi), and exceptional people (e.g. *Madame C.J. Walker*, *Oprah Winfrey*). All of these are good topics, but not every race-conscious reading choice is explicitly about racism.
- When racism and oppression are explicit themes, look for books in which heroes and protagonists are people of color, or at least active participants in the struggle for their own freedom.
- Read “beyond black and white.” Seek out authors, illustrators, and protagonists of many different races, ethnicities, nationalities, and cultures, including multiracial and multiethnic identities.

Some of these points may also be applicable to other entertainment and educational media, toys, and games.

Books & Articles for Parents

“Straight Talk on Race: Challenging the Stereotypes in Kids’ Books” by Mitali Perkins
<http://www.slj.com/2009/04/standards/straight-talk-on-race-challenging-the-stereotypes-in-kids-books/>

“Even Babies Discriminate: a *NurtureShock* excerpt” by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman
<http://www.newsweek.com/even-babies-discriminate-nurture shock-excerpt-79233>

An Interview with Beverly Daniel-Tatum regarding “Race: The Power of an Illusion”
http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-03-04.htm

40 Ways to Raise a Nonracist Child by Barbara Mathias & Mary Ann French

“Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” And Other Conversations About Race by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves by Linda Derman-Sparks & Julie Olsen Edwards

A Young People’s History of the United States by Howard Zinn (adaptation of *A People’s History of the United States*)

Online Resources

We Need Diverse Books
<http://weneeddiversebooks.org/>

Teaching for Change: Teaching Young Children About Race
<http://www.teachingforchange.org/teaching-about-race>

Children’s Literature & Reading Special Interest Group: Notable Books for a Global Society
http://clrsig.org/nbgs_books.php

Cooperative Children's Book Center: Multicultural Books Every Child Should Know
<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=42>

The Brown Bookshelf
<https://thebrownbookshelf.com/>

American Indians in Children's Literature
<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

Mamiverse: Books
<http://mamiverse.com/mamiverse-books/>

A World of Color (Elizabeth Bluemle's LibraryThing)
<http://www.librarything.com/profile/shelftalker>

Outside In World
<http://www.outsideinworld.org.uk/>

Implicit Association Tests at Harvard University
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

Diversity & Social Justice Beyond Race & Ethnicity

Disability in Kidlit
<http://disabilityinkidlit.com/>

Rainbow Book Lists
<http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/rainbow-books-lists>

The Pirate Tree: Social Justice & Children's Literature
<http://www.thepiratetree.com/>

A Mighty Girl: Books
<http://www.amightygirl.com/books>

Grace Lin's "Cheat Sheet for Selling Diversity" (persuading people to read diverse books)
<http://www.gracelin.com/media/press/diversitycheatsheet.pdf>

Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia (SURJ NoVa) is an organization calling white people into the movement for racial justice.

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www.surjnova.org