NNSTOY
Social Justice Book List
AUGUST 2017

Edited by Katherine Bassett, Brett Bigham, and Laurie Calvert

Contributors: Revathi Balakrisnan, Katherine Bassett, Brett Bigham, Nate Bowling, Chad Miller, Shanna Peeples, John Tierney, Monica Washington, Abdul Wright and more than 60 State and National Teachers of the Year and Finalists
Acknowledgments

Our Partners
Our partner in this work, the University of Phoenix. The incredible faculty and administration at the University of Phoenix believe strongly in the importance of education equity in preparing our nation’s children to take their place as contributing citizens. They fight tirelessly for this through their teacher preparation programs, professional learning offerings, and special projects such as the one in which NNSTOY is engaged with the University and the National Action Network.

Our Editors
Ms. Laurie Calvert, Co-Editor, who spent countless hours in assembling this list from suggestions by our members.

Mr. Brett Bigham, who served as Co-Editor, and turned his talents to firming up the format of the entries and made sure that they were attributed correctly to authors, illustrators, and NNSTOY member nominations.

Our Section Authors
We are most grateful to those NNSTOY members who took on the task of writing, in a few short sentences, the introductions to the various genres of books included in this list. Their time and talents are greatly appreciated.

Our Contributors
With most sincere thanks, we recognize the 60 plus contributors to this booklist, each of whom took seriously the task of nominating books that they use to teach social justice skills and concepts to students. Without them, there would be no booklist.

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We are living in interesting times, with issues of fairness, equity, equality and social justice often conflated as our nation faces new and ongoing challenges concerning the rights of all of the people who live here. At NNSTOY, our mission is to provide every student whose life we touch with a high-quality education and to advocate for the rights of every child to such an education. We take this charge most seriously.

School is a place where many issues facing our nation rise to the forefront. As teachers, how do we best prepare our students to face and discuss social justice concerns? For many of us, books offer a solid place to start.

As a child of two civil rights leaders, I was raised with a strong consciousness of issues of social justice. I was also raised in an environment surrounded by books and eventually became a school librarian. The running joke in my house was that, if you couldn't find me, I would be in a closet or behind a sofa with my head buried in a book. Books opened my eyes to new worlds—and to problems and solutions to them.

I attended the World's Fair in New York City with my family as a child and at the New York Public Library I randomly selected Eleanor Estes' *The Hundred Dresses*. I refused to leave the exhibit until my parents promised that they would help me find this book in my own public library so that I could finish it. *The Hundred Dresses* opened my eyes to the world of prejudice and discrimination meted out by children. Through it, I learned a vocabulary I would later use in teaching Holocaust education, words like victim, survivor, perpetrator and bystander.

As teachers, we use books to start conversations, spark ideas, present challenges and brainstorm solutions. We provide this booklist as a resource for educators, parents, community members and policy makers interested in reaching young people on issues of social justice. It is divided into five sections: early learning (pre-K – 3rd grade), elementary reading and chapter books (grades 4-6), young adult literature (grades 7-9), secondary/adult literature, and texts to help teachers create equitable learning environments.

We trust that you will find it useful and appreciate your utilization of this resource.

With warm regards,

Katherine Bassett
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Network of State Teachers of the Year

It is most exciting to introduce the first in a series of booklists drawn from recommendations by State and National Teachers of the Year and Finalists for State Teacher of the Year.
Introduction

Angie Williams, Ed.D.

I applaud the National Network of State Teachers of the Year for taking the initiative to compile the list of books that relate to different perspectives of children living and going to school in the U.S.

It is important to share stories that are inclusive and broad that reflect the diversity of our students, country, and our own multi-ethnic societal fabric.

At University of Phoenix, we share the same goals of helping bring together different ideas and promoting respect among those who share different viewpoints. The University has a more than 40-year history of making higher education more accessible for working adults from all walks of life. As an educator, I also support efforts to promote inclusiveness and a sense of connectedness.

It is important we help our children understand the diversity and what it means to belong, no matter one’s background. It is also essential to provide stories that relate to their own experience as young Americans.

We must learn from the experiences of those in the past who faced discrimination, prejudice and other unjust treatment provide a powerful testimony to students today, in order not to repeat the tragedies and build a more just and inclusive world.

As a society, we thrive when we understand, accept, and celebrate our differences. Therefore it’s my hope that children grow up to understand there are diverse viewpoints and backgrounds while also not diminishing their own unique identities.

I hope this list inspires children to be who they are unapologetically all while promoting kindness, activism, justice, and rights for all.

All My Best,

Angie Williams, Ed.D.
Dean of Multicultural Affairs & Diversity
University of Phoenix
Early Learning

The picture books of childhood are one of our most early shared cultural experiences. We are brought together with Green Eggs, Magic Pebbles, Giving Trees and Mike Mulligan’s Steam Shovels. When these picture books have cultural lessons our entire society shares the experience. We all know Ferdinand who would not fight and the Sneetches who judged so harshly. How many of us have sat and pondered that fence in The Other Side and wondered when it was finally torn down? The lessons learned in those early picture books last a lifetime and make us who we are as a nation.

Last Stop on Market Street
Matt de la Peña, Illustrated by Christian Robinson

“He wondered how his Nana found beautiful where he never even thought to look.” An African-American grandmother helps her grandson notice and appreciate the differences and similarities in the lives and hearts of people in their city.

Awards
2016 Newbery Medal
2016 Caldecott Honor Book
2016 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book

Fiction

Each Kindness
Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Classism affects a group of young girls who learn the power of small acts of kindness after it is too late.

Awards
Jane Addams Children’s Book Award

Fiction

Those Shoes
Maribeth Boelts, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones

Classism

A story of the struggle between wants and needs and the power of friendship and sacrifice as children see the greater value in the human heart and people above a pair of “those shoes.”

Fiction

The Name Jar
Written and illustrated by Yangsook Choi

Classism and racism are addressed in the moving story of Unhei, who has just moved from Korea. She is anxious about what American kids will think of her and what will happen when nobody can even pronounce her name?

Fiction

Strictly No Elephants
Lisa Mantchev, illustrated by Taeeun Yoo

Inclusion

A wonderful lesson about inclusion and acceptance is learned when a boy and his pet are excluded from the neighborhood Pet Club.

Fiction
Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky
Written and illustrated by Faith Ringgold

A young girl is guided by Harriet Tubman on the journey of slaves seeking freedom through the Underground Railroad in this picture book fantasy.

Painting for Peace in Ferguson
Carol Swartout Klein

This book tells the story of Ferguson, Missouri, and the local artists who came together to rebuild and beautify their community after racial riots left businesses and homes with broken windows and doors.

The Great Migration: An American Story
Written and illustrated by Jacob Lawrence

In 1941 Jacob Lawrence painted 60 paintings with captions that represented the Great Migration of African-American communities leaving the Southern states. Published in 1993 the artwork creates a bridge between today's students and families who struggled in 1920s America.

Baseball Saved Us
Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Don Lee

The story of the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II is told through the eyes of a young boy who, with his father, builds a baseball diamond in the camp in which his family is being held, to raise spirits and regain dignity.

Here We Go: A Poetry Friday Power Book
Sylvia Vardell and Janet Wong

Amazing poets! Love them! This book focuses on activism and how we can change our world.

Young Martin's Promise
Walter Dean Myers

A biography of a young Martin Luther King Jr. and his life growing up in Atlanta, Georgia.
For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai’s Story
Rebecca Langston-George, illustrated by Janna Bock

A wonderful picture book biography of Malala Yousafzai and her struggle for equal education.
Fiction

Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey
Margriet Ruurs, art by Nizar Ali Badr

This book is written in both Arabic and English—and I’m thinking of the impact that has on the children in my school who have never even seen their language in print in an American library or classroom.
Fiction

Freedom Over Me
Ashley Bryan

All around AMAZING! Author Ashley Bryan uses historical records of slave auctions and plantation documents as the basis for this story about the value of a human being.
Narrative Poetry

The Family Book
Written and illustrated by Todd Parr

I love this book. It helps kids understand that all our families can be unique, treasured, and loved.

Yo! Yes?
Written and illustrated by Chris Raschka

It’s a very simple and sweet story about a budding friendship between an African American boy and a white boy, told with very few words and beautiful, vibrant illustrations.

The Other Side
Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

This is a great book to introduce the topics of segregation, tolerance, and interpersonal relationships. The watercolor illustrations are beautiful.

Reading List 2017

EARLY LEARNING (PK–3)
Oliver Button is a Sissy
Written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola
LGBT BULLYING
This is a good book to discuss bullying, stereotypical gender issues, and acceptance in the classroom.

Chrysanthemum
Written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes
BULLYING
I recommend this book because it takes place in a school and addresses bullying, self-esteem, and acceptance of people who are “different.”

Across the Alley
Richard Michelson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
ANTISEMITISM FIC'TION
I like this book because it brings two different cultures together. The main characters are an African American boy and a Jewish boy and the book encourages friendship regardless of race.

The Story of Ruby Bridges
Robert Coles, illustrated by George Ford
CIVIL RIGHTS
I like sharing this book because it's great to teach civil rights in simpler terms. It's a story about 6-year-old Ruby Bridges who was selected by the courts to attend an all-white school during the Civil Rights Movement.

And Tango Makes Three
Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell illustrated by Henry Cole
FAMILY OTHERING
A delightful book about the enduring love of two male penguins who want a family of their own, and work hard at creating one. Although different, their family is definitely special.

A Peacock Among Pigeons
Tyler Curry, illustrated by Clarione Gutierrez
LGBT DIFFERENCES
This book is listed as an outstanding children’s book touching on LGBT themes but it is much more than that; it is about acceptance, courage and compassion.
One Green Apple
Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ted Lewin

Fiction

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down
Jane Adams, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Nonfiction

Grandfather Gandhi
Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Evan Turk

Nonfiction

The Crayon Box That Talked
Shane DeRolf

Fiction

The Black Book of Colors
Menina Cottin, illustrated by Rosana Faria

Nonfiction

The Story of Ferdinand
Munro Leaf, illustrated by Robert Lawson

Fiction

The Crayon Box That Talked
Shane DeRolf

Fiction

The Black Book of Colors
Menina Cottin, illustrated by Rosana Faria

Nonfiction
**Chocolate Me**

Taye Diggs, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

A book that helps small children understand how people of color could potentially feel in spaces where no one looks like them. It teaches us to accept differences.

*Fiction*

**Heather Has Two Mommies**

Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Diana Souza

Groundbreaking when it came out, this book helps small children begin to understand that families come in all types.

*Fiction*

**A is for Activist**

Written and illustrated by Innosanto Nagara

This book starts the conversation about our responsibility to be active in and responsive to issues of justice in our communities.

*Fiction*

**One of a Kind, Like Me/Unico Como Yo**

Laurin Mayeno, illustrated by Robert Liu-Trujillo

This is a unique book that looks at gender stereotypes through the eyes of a youngster named Danny who wants to be a princess in the school parade and his family that loves and supports him.

*Fiction*

**Lillian’s Right to Vote**

Jonah Winter, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Another picture book great for all kids. This book is about Lillian recollecting about her ancestor’s experiences earning the right to vote.

*Fiction*

**The Sneetches and Other Stories**

Written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss

This book is about our continuing need to make a group “other” by way of some small difference. It also speaks to the economic impulses that underlie these divisions and why someone would want to keep us divided against ourselves.

*Fiction*
Elementary

Grades 4 – 6

There has never been a more urgent time than now to teach and practice cultural awareness. The following books for upper elementary students will expose them to social injustices in the form of racism, religious or political intolerance, make them examine their own beliefs and values and help them build better relationships in a diverse environment. Teach each book in the context of the current events of that region and you have a comprehensive fiction and non-fiction ELA unit that will make learning enjoyable.

Freak the Mighty
Rodman Philbrick

An emotional story that follows the friendship of two students who struggle to fit in. Together, they provide each other the strength and courage to take on the world.

Fiction

Stealing Home: The Story of Jackie Robinson
Barry Denenberg

This biography about Jackie Robinson provides students with an important lesson on the courage it takes to face racism.

Nonfiction

Island of the Blue Dolphins
Scott O’Dell

Based on the haunting true story of a 19th century Native American girl abandoned for 18 years on an island and how she must ignore gender roles and prejudices in order to survive.

Fiction

Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman
Nikki Grimes, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Classism and racism are addressed in the moving story of Ushoi, who has just moved from Korea. She is anxious about what American kids will think of her and what will happen when nobody can even pronounce her name?

Fiction

Rules
Cynthia Lord

This book shares the relationship of a sister who creates “rules” that she thinks will assist her autistic brother. A great choice for helping students accept the uniqueness that we all bring to the classroom and life.

Fiction

AWARDS

Newbery Medal

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

Coretta Scott King Author Honor

Awards
**George**
Alex Gino

*GENDER IDENTITY*  
*Stereotypes*

Everyone thinks George is a boy but George knows different in this important book that addresses the issues around being transgender.

Fiction

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**Sylvia & Aki**
Winifred Conkling

*RACISM*  
*SEGREGATION*  
*INTERNMENT*

The lives of two girls intertwine in this novel about the injustice of racism, segregation and the Japanese internment camps of WWII.

Fiction

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**Gracefully Grayson**
Ami Polonsky

*GENDER IDENTITY*  
*Stereotypes*

A heartwarming novel that follows the life of Grayson, a young transgender teenager who has dreams of playing the female lead in the school play.

Fiction

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**A Little Piece of Ground**
Elizabeth Laird and Sonia Nisar

*RACISM*  
*SEGREGATION*  
*INTERNMENT*

The story of a boy who grows up in the Gaza strip amongst the fight between Israel and Palestine. It shares the story of ordinary people who are caught in the middle of the conflict.

Fiction

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**Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution**
Ji-Li Jiang

*Stereotypes*  
*RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE*  
*OTHERING*  
*WARRAP*  
*CLASSISM*  
*INTOLERANCE*

Ji-Li Jiang talks about her days during the cultural revolution in China and about the choices she had to make as her family faced their darkest times.

Nonfiction

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**Chain of Fire**
Beverley Naidoo

*RACISM*  
*APARTHEID*

A moving story about South Africa and how the natives had to endure the atrocities of apartheid.

Fiction
Rain Reign
Ann M. Martin

*Disability Stereotypes*

Rose, the narrator, shares her special relationship with her dog, her life dealing with Asperger's Syndrome, and the struggle to make the right decision even when it is painful.

Fiction

Separate Is Never Equal
Written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

*Racism, Segregation*

The 1947 California court ruling is the setting for this thoughtful book that addresses school segregation.

Nonfiction

Number the Stars
Lois Lowry

*Anti-Semitism*

Learn about the heroic efforts of ordinary people who risked everything to protect Jewish families during the Holocaust. This book challenges every reader to think about what they would do if they too were witness to extraordinary injustice.

Fiction

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963
Christopher Paul Curtis

*Racism*

A coming of age story that is heartfelt, passionate, and brings fiction and non-fiction together to set the stage for a story that will stay with the reader and remind them that civil rights are not always available to all.

Fiction

Maniac Magee
Jerry Spinelli

*Racism*

Through the lens of a child this book examines a small town's division between the black community and the white community and teaches about the ignorance that comes with racism.

Fiction

Iggie’s House
Judy Blume

*Anti-Stereotypes*

Everyone knows Judy Blume, but this book about a black family moving into an all white neighborhood has been lost in the shuffle, but it shouldn’t have been. It gently raises all kinds of questions for my students, like “If children have racist parents, when do they become responsible for their own actions?”

Fiction
The Outsiders
S. E. Hinton

The fight for equity in society is depicted through the unraveling of the stories of two sets of teens: those with money and those without.

Fiction

Seedfolks
Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Judy Pedersen

Centered around an urban garden, this short book of vignettes threaded together helps show that although people are different, a common goal and place can bring us all together to turn something ugly into something beautiful and filled with promise.

Fiction

The Diary of a Young Girl
Anne Frank

One of mankind’s darkest hours as seen through the eyes of a doomed yet hope-filled girl.

Nonfiction

El Deafo
CeCe Bell

This 2015 Newbery Honor Book is the autobiography of Cece Bell and how her new hearing aid brought her a world of sound but at the cost of isolation from people at her new school.

Nonfiction

Out of My Mind
Sharon Draper

Disability is rarely discussed and is largely misunderstood. This book challenges students to think about disability in meaningful ways.

Fiction

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Mildred D. Taylor

This book is special because the author used a strong young female character to narrate the oppression of her family during the Great Depression.

Fiction
Molly’s Pilgrim
Barbara Cohen, illustrated by Daniel M. Duffy

Molly is an immigrant student in a class that has been asked to make Pilgrims as part of a Thanksgiving project. Molly’s mother helps to redefine the term “Pilgrim” for students and her teacher through her creation.

Fiction

I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children’s Drawings and Poems from the Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942-1944
Edited by Hana Volavkova

An impactful collection of art and poetry by Jewish children who lived and perished in Terezin. It presents a picture of their strength and creativity in the face of horrific adversity.

Nonfiction

Crenshaw
K.A. Applegate

Jackson is a young boy who is struggling with his parents’ unemployment, financial setbacks, and living with the fear of having to move back into the family minivan. He confides his fears to his imaginary cat, Crenshaw.

Fiction

Full Cicada Moon
Marilyn Hilton

Beautifully written in verse, the book tells the story of a young girl, half-black, half-Japanese, and her courageous spirit as she deals with racism in 1969.

Fiction
Through My Eyes
Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges tells her story of the discrimination she faced and helped to overcome as she attended a white school as a 6-year old child.

Nonfiction

Granddaddy’s Gift
Margaree Mitchell, illustrated by Larry Johnson

This is a story of the segregated South and a grandfather teaching how to stand up for equality in school and in voting rights. It is a powerful statement about the Jim Crow South.

Nonfiction

And the People Could Fly: American Black Folktales
Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon

Through a series of African-American folktales, lessons abound about slavery, the spirit of the enslaved, and the constant human search for freedom.

Nonfiction

Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story
Kim Mochizuki, illustrated by Don Lee

Chihune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania, uses his authority to gain passage for Jews to escape the Holocaust, actions which ultimately caused him and his family to be disgraced.

Nonfiction

The Hiding Place
Corrie Ten Boom with John and Elizabeth Sherrill

This is the harrowing autobiography of Corrie Ten Boom and how her family opened their home up to their Jewish friends to hide them from the Nazis, but they are found out and sent to the concentration camps themselves.

Nonfiction

90 Miles to Havana
Written and illustrated by Enrique Flores-Galbis

Enrique Flores-Galbis uses his own life experiences in this tale of Julián and his brothers who are airlifted from Cuba, only to face a difficult life in a camp for exiled children in Miami.

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Nonfiction
Diary of a Real Bully
Melody Arabo, Illustrated by Jessica Rohrhoff

A young girl realizes she is a bully, acknowledges the pain she has caused, and dedicates herself to being a better person.

Fiction

TESTIMONIAL
"Literature’s best work as social justice is to provide the “shock of recognition” that Melville describes when you see your experience reflected back to you in another’s words. Literature lets us know that others survive, especially those who are like us. These books are narratives of hope to help us process our lives.”

SHANNA PEEPLES
2015 US National Teacher of the Year
**Middle School**

**Grades 7 – 9**

**Novels like “Ninth Ward”** explore being displaced during Hurricane Katrina, and highlights the challenges of the characters dealing with race and class. “To Kill a Mockingbird,” a novel central to the fabric of American Literature, examines race, class, integrity, and development of perspective through the eyes of a young girl that defies female stereotypes in the South during the 1930s. Empowering literature and diverse, global perspectives that explore cultural appreciation, belonging, oppression, trauma, racism makes these must read Young Adult novels.

**Ninth Ward**

Jewell Parker Rhodes

*Race, Class*

This book focuses on residents of the Ninth Ward during Hurricane Katrina. The characters are compelling and issues of class and race are central to the story.

**A Long Walk to Water**

Linda Sue Park

*Refugees* *Immigration* *War*

A Long Walk to Water is based on a true story about coping with the challenges of surviving in Sudan. The book helps students understand the struggles of teens growing up in other areas of the world.

**It’s Kind of a Funny Story**

Ned Vizzini

*Racism* *Inclusion* *Mental Illness* *Fitting In* *Awards*

A very capable student, admitted into a prestigious program, succumbs to pressure and goes into a psychiatric unit. There he meets others dealing with issues related to drug use, eating disorders and depression.

**Brown Girl Dreaming**

Jacqueline Woodson

*Nonfiction, Poetry*

Written in verse, Jacqueline Woodson describes a life divided between the North and the South, learning about the civil rights movement and discovering a passion for writing stories.

**Uglies Series**

Scott Westerfeld

*Othering* *Racism* *Inclusion* *Awards*

Uglies, Pretties, Specials, Extras. The Uglies takes place in a society where beauty and uniformity are everything and those who don’t fit in are either forced to change or choose to flee.
A Child Called “It”  
Dave Pelzer  

**AWARDS**  
Coretta Scott King Honor Book  

Young Dave's world is torn apart as his mother sinks into abusive behavior and he must figure out a way to survive in a home where harm lurks around every corner.  

Nonfiction  

Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary  
Walter Dean Myers  

**AWARDS**  
Coretta Scott King Honor Book  

An engaging and informative read for students about a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. This book exposes young people to Malcolm X's views, which were often in contrast to those of Dr. King.  

Nonfiction  

The Breadwinner Trilogy  
Deborah Ellis  

This trilogy covers a wide range of issues including sexism, the cost of war, the experiences of refugees, and the courage it takes for a young girl and her family to survive in these extreme circumstances.  

Fiction  

Maus: A Survivor’s Tale  
Written and illustrated by Art Spiegelman  

**AWARDS**  
National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography  

This accessible graphic novel powerfully tackles one of the 20th Century’s most gruesome events; the Holocaust.  

Fiction, Graphic Novel  

Journey to Jo’Burg: A South African Story  
Beverley Naidoo, illustrated by Eric Velasquez  

The racist system of Apartheid plays a major role in this story of a young sister and brother who must make their way to Johannesburg in order to save their dying sister.  

Fiction  

Zlata’s Diary: A Child’s Life in Wartime Sarajevo  
Zlata Filipović  

As her city of Sarajevo is destroyed around her, Zlata contemplates the horrors of war and the cruelty of religious and cultural intolerance.  

Nonfiction
Lay That Trumpet In Our Hands
Susan Carol McCarthy

A nonfiction story about a 12 year old girl growing up in rural Florida as she struggles to understand the death of her friend at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan.

Samurai Shortstop
Alan Gratz

The story of Toyo, a young man dealing with social status and the massive changes in culture Japan faced in the late 19th century.

To Kill a Mockingbird
Harper Lee

This American classic is a gently accessible, yet powerful story for teens to understand the role of justice in a small town society grappling with racism.

Monster
Walter Dean Myers

Steve Harmon lands in jail and fills his time writing diaries and a screenplay that tell the story of his poverty-filled life and how racism has impacted the world around him.

Wonder
R.J. Palacio

This intriguing and gentle book explores how the main character, who has facial deformities, moves from being home-schooled to being in a public school. It explores the reactions of those around him because he is different and at the same times allows the reader to consider the meaning of hope, compassion, and empathy in a sometimes unforgiving world.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March
Lynda Blackmon Lowery, retold by Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley, illustrated by PJ Loughran

An outstanding book about 15-year old Lynda Blackmon Lowery who was the youngest person to participate in the Selma to Montgomery march alongside Martin Luther King Jr and the leaders of the Civil Rights movement.
A Raisin in the Sun
Lorraine Hansberry

In 1959 this groundbreaking play was a great exploration of how to respond to discrimination by retaining your pride as an African-American family buys a house in an all-white neighborhood.

AWARDS
Tony Award Nominee Best Play
New York Drama Critics Circle Best Play

Boxers and Saints
Gene Luen Wang

This graphic novel shows two versions of the same history and is a great way to look at the complex process of examining bias and how history gets told.

AWARDS
Los Angeles Times Book Prize
National Book Award Finalist

Every Day
David Levithan

Imagine waking up in a different body every day and having to explain to your girlfriend who you are. This is a great novel to examine the concepts of gender.

Eleanor and Park
Rainbow Rowell

Eleanor’s home is full of abuse and fear but when she meets Park she finds hope and learns to deal with the difficult situations she faces.

AWARDS
Michael L. Printz Honor Book

Satyagraha — a short story from Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports
Alden R. Carter

A fantastic short story that highlights how non-violence can be used as a way to resist bullying for a young man from India attending an American school.

Nonfiction

March — 3-Book Series
John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell

This graphic novel trilogy details Congressman John Lewis’s involvement in the Civil Rights movement in a way that immediately grips readers of all ages. It brings the full ugliness of racism and true beauty of nonviolent resistance to life.

AWARDS
Coretta Scott King Book Award
National Book Award
Michael L. Printz Award
Robert F. Kennedy Book Award
Special Recognition

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Nonfiction

March — 3-Book Series
John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell

This graphic novel trilogy details Congressman John Lewis’s involvement in the Civil Rights movement in a way that immediately grips readers of all ages. It brings the full ugliness of racism and true beauty of nonviolent resistance to life.

AWARDS
Coretta Scott King Book Award
National Book Award
Michael L. Printz Award
Robert F. Kennedy Book Award
Special Recognition
Refugees
Catherine Stine

Poverty | Xenophobia | Immigration

Set in the days preceding 9/11 and the weeks and months after, this book explores cultural values and empathy through two main characters, an Afghani teenage boy and a young girl who fled her California foster home.

Fiction

Inside Out & Back Again
Thanhha Lai

Immigration | Empathy

Ha and her family, forced to flee Vietnam as Saigon falls, begins life as an immigrant in Alabama. Written in verse, this story helps us to better understand the challenges immigrant children face when they enter our classrooms.

Awards
Newbery Award
National Book Award

Fiction

La Linea
Ann Jaramillo

Immigration | Stereotyping

This novel brings the plight of migrant and immigrant families to life through the story of its 15 year-old main character. Highly recommended for those who are seeking to understand the immigration debate on a micro level through a family’s experience.

Fiction

If You Come Softly
Jacqueline Woodson

Stereotyping | Xenophobia

This is a poetic, beautiful, emotional testament to the complexities interracial couples face in society and black males face with law enforcement.

Fiction

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education and Changed The World
Young Readers Edition — Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick

Human Rights | Sexism

Malala’s voice is a powerful one advocating for girls’ education, peace, and human rights. She doesn’t position herself as a victim, but as a warrior for education.

Nonfiction

The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette’s Journey to Cuba
Margarita Engle

Economic Injustice | Racism

Slavery, women’s rights, and economic inequality are experienced through the true-life experience of Swedish suffragist Fredrika Bremer, who became aware of all of these issues during her visit to Cuba.

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Nonfiction
Esperanza Rising
Pam Munoz Ryan

Fiction

After a young girl and her mother flee tragedy in Mexico, they must adapt to life in a labor camp in California. One of my favorite books to read with students.

Counting Descent
Clint Smith

Poetry

This book of poems allows students to explore issues of prejudice that people face. Some of the most powerful poems in this collection explore stereotypes that black males encounter at the hands of police, cab drivers, and school systems. Other poems celebrate love, family and the emotions that connect all people. Also good for high school.

Follow the Blackbirds
Gwen Nell Westerman

Poetry

Westerman’s book of poems captures post-colonial issues faced by the Dakota people including loss of language, land, and ways of life. Some poems even weave in fragments of the Dakota language to show the importance of cultural roots.

All American Boys
Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely

Drama

Rashad is clean cut, in ROTC, and he is African-American whose life changes when he stops at a convenience store to buy a snack. He trips over a woman in the store, and a white police officer assumes he is robbing her. He is brutally beaten and arrested. In this dual narrative, Quinn, a white student and family friend of the police officer, is torn between his loyalty to his friend, and his questions about the brutal beating and arrest.

“Books, perhaps more than any other form of media, have the power to transform minds and perspectives. We’ll never make real progress as a society unless we’re able to broaden our horizons—that’s the real power of books.”

NATHAN BOWLING
2016 Washington Teacher of the Year
High School

Grades 10 – 12

“Literature such as Black Boy or The Color Purple opens the door to so many meaningful discussions with students. The titles in this section are not just rich in historical detail about this country, but they also serve as a tool to help students see the importance of empathy for the plight of others. Equally as important, literature allows students to see their own stories and concerns validated through amazing fiction and prose.”

**Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock’s Central High**
Melba Pattillo Beals

As one of the Little Rock Nine, Melba describes in painful detail exactly how difficult and heartbreaking it was for her and her classmates to be the first black students to attend Little Rock High School.

**Between the World and Me**
Ta-Nehisi Coates

Written as a series of letters to his son, Coates directly confronts race in America and the impact structural racism plays in our history and modern society.

**Five Smooth Stones**
Ann Fairbairn

David Champlin worked his way out of poverty to become a successful man, only to find he might lose everything if he becomes a leader during the Civil Rights Movement.

**The Tattoo (in English and in Creole English)**
Chris McKinney

We teach this book largely because it serves as a social critique of Hawai’i that provides us a very rich and relevant stimulus for our children to consider and grapple with issues concerning racism, genderism, sexism, classism, education, and militarism, just to name a few.

**Th1rteen R3asons Why**
Jay Asher

A girl leaves behind thirteen tapes that explain why bullying and sexual violence have lead to her suicide in this gripping novel.

MONICA WASHINGTON
2014 Texas State Teacher of the Year
Americanah
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

With a remarkably blunt and powerful voice, this book tells the story of a young Nigerian woman who emigrates to the United States to attend college.

The Tortilla Curtain
T.C. Boyle

Class, poverty, xenophobia and illegal immigration; The Tortilla Curtain tackles them all.

The Short Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League
Jeff Hobbs

A tragedy. The biography of Peace shares his story as a boy whose brilliant mind allowed him to leave Newark for Yale University but who could not escape the place he called home.

Americanah
Fiction

The Tortilla Curtain
Fiction

The Short Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League
Nonfiction

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
Bryan Stevenson

In this moving autobiography, Stevenson founds the Equal Justice Initiative and dedicates his life to seeking freedom for people who have been wrongly imprisoned. Moving, inspired and devastating.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption
Nonfiction

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America
Barbara Ehrenreich

Ehrenreich shines a lens on class, welfare reform, and living on minimum wage as she documents the challenges of daily survival for America’s working poor.

Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America
Nonfiction

Climate Refugees
Collectif Argos

Climate Refugees present facts via interviews with key people whose homes are threatened or already compromised by rising water or changing weather. Anecdotes and vivid photos give the reader close up views of nine sites threatened by global warming.

Climate Refugees
Nonfiction
War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America’s Campaign to Create a Master Race

Edwin Black

Arguably one of the best books on the history of the American eugenics movement, and its impact on laws, immigration and the Holocaust.

Fiction

Holding Up the Universe

Jennifer Niven

In this amazing novel Libby goes from being “America’s Fattest Teen” who had to be cut out of her house, to a young woman who has become healthy and is ready to fight to be known as herself, not as the fat girl.

Fiction

The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez

Alan Lawrence Sitomer

Sonia is a native-born citizen with Mexican immigrant parents. Her father works faithfully in multiple jobs to put food on the table, but his daughter, Sonia, has big dreams.

Fiction

The Kikuchi Diary: Chronicle from an American Concentration Camp

Author: Charles Kikuchi Editor: John Modell

A stunning account of life during WWII as written by one of the 100,000 Japanese-Americans who were stripped of their rights and forced into internment camps across the United States.

Nonfiction

If I Was Your Girl

Meredith Russo

There is a reason ‘If I Was Your Girl’ was on the Best Book of the Year lists by Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, Amazon, Goodreads and Barnes & Noble—because it is amazing. As Amanda transitions from a boy to girl you will be moved by her struggles and successes.

Fiction
The Help
Kathryn Stockett

This book examines not only race relations, but also class structure as it delves into the lives of African-American maids in 1960s Mississippi.

The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants Seeks His Own America
Daniel Connolly

The biographical story of an immigrant teenage child’s journey through the American education system and the trials he faces to succeed.

Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival
Sean Strub

This is the memoir of the first openly HIV-positive Congressional candidate who was one of the founders of the modern LGBT fight for equal rights.

Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America’s First Black Paratroopers
Tanya Lee Stone

It is a powerful investigation and the true story of the Triple Nickles in the segregated U.S. military during World War II.

Luna
Julie Anne Peters

This is really a story about acceptance and belonging wrapped within a narrative about gender dysphoria. It is for those who have trouble understanding what it means to be transgender.

Small Great Things
Jodi Picoult

This book helps the reader develop a different perspective regarding race relations and discrimination.
My Soul Looks Back in Wonder: Voices of the Civil Rights Experience
Juan Williams

RATING: A

Williams wrote this series of deeply moving personal essays that individualize experiences of a variety of people during the civil rights era. A guide for discussion follows at the end of the book.

Nonfiction, Memoir

Of Mice and Men
John Steinbeck

This novel that provides an opportunity to talk about classism alongside disabilities and sexism. Students, even reluctant readers, empathize with Lenny and George.

Fiction

The Perks of Being a Wallflower
Stephen Chbosky

This book teaches the principles of social justice through the authentic lens of experience. By following the life events of the main character, this bildungsroman will give the reader empathy for contemporary issues that face young people, and an appreciation for social justice.

Fiction

The Beast Side: Living (and Dying) While Black in America
D. Watkins

Watkins is from the streets. He is a compelling and provocative writer who is not afraid to tell it like it is. Note: there is explicit language and material in the essays.

Nonfiction

When the Emperor Was Divine
Julie Otsuka

Written in stark, lyrical prose, this novel relates the experience of one Japanese family that was interred in America during WWII.

Fiction

The Souls of Black Folk
W.E.B. DuBois

This classic book of essays explores what DuBois calls “the problem of the 20th Century... the problem of the color-line.”

Nonfiction
A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison
Dwayne Betts

This book details the journey of one family of refugees fleeing the Middle East and the injustices that they face.

When the Moon is Low
Nadia Hashimi

This book details the journey of one family of refugees fleeing the Middle East and the injustices that they face.

Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus
Mary Shelley

Frankenstein deals with science and making decisions that have ethical issues, such as robots, climate change, and extending life—real things we are facing today.

Wuthering Heights
Emily Brontë

Originally published in 1847, this classic book is relevant today and the lessons learned in gender and class issues are tremendous.

A Thousand Splendid Suns
Khaled Hosseini

The difficult struggles of a young woman born illegitimately in Afghanistan. The book takes a hard look at gender, ethnicity, religious issues, not to mention poverty and class issues.

The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark
William Shakespeare

"Frailty, thy name is woman"
Hamlet is one the most quoted piece of literature in the English language and highly accessible to students.
The social justice areas my students and I connect it to are poverty, race, ethnicity, and constitutionality of the death penalty. That our school is 30 miles from the prison where Hitchcock and Smith were executed makes it even more relevant.

In Cold Blood
Truman Capote

The social justice areas my students and I connect it to are poverty, race, ethnicity, and constitutionality of the death penalty. That our school is 30 miles from the prison where Hitchcock and Smith were executed makes it even more relevant.

The Beautiful Struggle
Ta-Nehisi Coates

This is the memoir of one of the strongest voices for social justice in our country today:

Fiction

Solar Storms and Mean Spirit
Linda Hogan

These connected books are Bildungsromans focused on young native women. They focus not only on race and generational relationships, but also on reestablishing a relationship with nature through the confrontation of patriarchal perspectives of nature with gender and cultural connections with it.

Fiction

Wench
Dolen Perkins-Valdez

Wench tells the story of a resort in Ohio that white Southern men bring their black enslaved mistresses to for vacation. The questions it raises confront the some of the most fundamental contradictions of the institution of American slavery and those who perpetuate it.

Nonfiction, Novel

Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People
William L. Iggiagruk Hensley

This book offers a unique Native perspective on traditional Alaskan Native tradition and culture within a larger encroaching assimilation-based power structure.

Nonfiction

The Known World
Edward P. Jones

This historical novel, epic in scope, tells the story of black slave owners in antebellum Virginia.

Fiction

Wench
Dolen Perkins-Valdez

Fiction

In Cold Blood
Truman Capote

Nonfiction, Novel

The Beautiful Struggle
Ta-Nehisi Coates

Fiction

Solar Storms and Mean Spirit
Linda Hogan

Nonfiction

Fifty Miles from Tomorrow: A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People
William L. Iggiagruk Hensley

Nonfiction

The Known World
Edward P. Jones

Fiction
The Residue Years
Mitchell S. Jackson

This book tells the story of a street-smart college student in Portland, Oregon, turned drug dealer whose path collides with his addicted mother.

Fiction

The House of Sand and Fog
Andre Dubus III

This is a book that discusses what it’s like to be an immigrant in a foreign country and what rights they have.

National Book Award Finalist

Fiction

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet
Jamie Ford

Injustices that occurred during World War II with Japanese internment camps are detailed in a creative way.

Fiction

The Color Purple
Alice Walker

I use this book to discuss issues of race, class and gender with my students. Sexual assault and sexual orientation are other themes that we discuss. This book is one of the most cited on the Advanced Placement College Board English Literature test.

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

National Book Award

Fiction

The Grace of Silence: A Family Memoir
Michele Norris

This memoir discusses many themes of race, racism and whiteness as well as family secrets that are kept to protect children from the racism that exists in the book.

Fiction

Things Fall Apart
Chinua Achebe

This classic novel tells the story of British colonization from an African perspective. Achebe was revolutionary in that regard, so the book is a great way to teach students about the importance of multiple perspectives.

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

National Book Award

Fiction
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Elie Wiesel</td>
<td>Nonfiction, Memoir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wiesel's memoir about his time in the Auschwitz extermination camp during WWII. Themes of empathy and understanding as well as acceptance of differences are included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Boy</td>
<td>Richard Wright</td>
<td>Nonfiction, Memoir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Wright's memoir from 1945 explores systemic racism in the United States and the desire for blacks to migrate north for a better life.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Son</td>
<td>Richard Wright</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One white student enjoyed Black Boy so much that I recommended she read Wright's Native Son. She said that combination of books forever changed her life in terms of racial understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invisible Man</td>
<td>Ralph Ellison</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td>National Book Award</td>
<td>A 1952 novel about an African American man that still has much to teach today's students. This book has appeared more than any other title on the College Board's Advanced Placement English Literature exam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Round House</td>
<td>Louise Erdrich</td>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td></td>
<td>National Book Award</td>
<td>Part mystery, part revenge tale, Erdrich's book explores issues of justice on an Indian reservation, especially the high rates of sexual assault that American Indian women experience compared to other racial groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The House on Mango Street</td>
<td>Sandra Cisneros</td>
<td>Nonfiction, Memoir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Learning how one's identity is embedded in family practices, culture and language is a journey that students often crave. The House on Mango Street helps ignite students’ interest in Esperanza’s experience while offering a terrific point of departure to reflect on their own identity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller
Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

In many schools we teach about social justice by having our kids read To Kill a Mockingbird—written by a white woman. This is a great companion to Mockingbird and details the life of Lewis Michaux—a man who started a bookstore in Harlem despite efforts to dissuade him from doing so.

Sold
Patricia McCormick

Students often do not realize that human trafficking is an issue world-wide and this story of a young woman named Lakshmi is eyeopening and heartbreaking.

A Young People's History of the United States
Howard Zinn

A book that reframes traditional narratives of US history by examining pivotal moments from the perspective of marginalized and oppressed people.

Flight
Sherman Alexie

In “Flight,” the protagonist time-travels to different moments in U.S. history, witnessing conflict from different points of view and drawing conclusions about injustice, revenge, and the truth of history.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Sherman Alexie

I adore this book and protagonist Junior’s wry, hilarious, and heart-breaking take on life as an American Indian living on the rez. Surrounded by forces that conspire to keep him down, Junior’s adolescent struggles to break away and succeed resonate with readers and remind us that all most kids need are chances and people who believe in them.

The Five Stages of Andrew Brawley
Shaun David Hutchinson

This book is an emotional roller coaster with excellent, believable characters. Drew, the protagonist, is hiding from life in the hospital where his family died. He meets a burn victim from a hate crime and they form a bond that allows them both to heal. An amazing read!
The Pink Triangle
Richard Plant

The Pink Triangle depicts the stagnation of progress for civil rights for homosexuals from before WWII to the present. Whereas the other victims of the Holocaust have been given legal recognition, justice and restitution, the homosexual victims are still greatly unrecognized in these areas.

Nonfiction

The Pink Triangle
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Nonfiction

The Men With the Pink Triangle
Heinz Heger

One of the few accounts of a homosexual survivor of the Nazi concentration camps. Brutal, painful and an important book that shows how not only were gay men punished by the Nazis but also by the Americans who liberated them refused to release them from prison.

Nonfiction

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates
Wes Moore

An intricate and fascinating narrative study of how two African-American, inner-city men with similar backgrounds ended up with two different fates because of the family and community support structures around them.

Nonfiction

The Namesake
Jhumpa Lahiri

This story focuses on conflicts of assimilation, clash of cultures, and generational conflict. It follows the story of a family who move from Calcutta to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Fiction

The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts
Maxine Hong Kingston

This work offers opportunities to explore the themes of sexism, racism, assimilation, and stereotypes through the eyes of a Chinese family assimilating into American culture.

Nonfiction, Memoir
**The Poisonwood Bible**
Barbara Kingsolver

The story is told through a missionary family that travels to the Congo. It is a well-written story that offers opportunities to explore racism.

**Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America**
Linda Tirado

Rising out of poverty without a raise in the minimum wage is inhumanely difficult, but Tirado writes about the struggle with deep humanity, humor, and hope.

**Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow**
Leon Litwack

This book provides an exceptional, unvarnished history of the Jim Crow South. As a social studies teacher, this is the most powerful book I have ever read and it provides a sobering reminder about how our nation’s history requires strong social justice education.

**GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Teens**
Kelly Huegel

Help and information for teens (and their parents) to understand what it means to LGBQT, with advice on how to come out, deal with prejudice, find safety, and how to keep yourself healthy both mentally and physically.

**Something to Prove: A Daughter’s Journey to Fulfill a Father’s Legacy**
Yvonne S. Thornton

A memoir about a woman’s journey to becoming the first African-American to be board-certified in maternal/fetal medicine. Her story focuses on determination, triumphs, and challenges.

**How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accents**
Julia Alvarez

This book takes a journey through the lives of girls who felt compelled to assimilate to American culture, abandoning their cultural identity.
Geography Club
Brent Hartinger

Harrowing, brutal, and honest view into the lives of high schoolers making a club for outsiders.

Fiction

None of the Above
I.W. Gregorio

The searing tale of a homecoming queen who realizes she is intersex.

Nonfiction

Simon vs Homo Sapiens Agenda
Becky Albertalli

In this engaging page-turner, we meet Simon, a young man who has to juggle his high school life along with his secrets.

Nonfiction, Memoir

Enrique’s Journey
Sonia Nazario

A 17-year-old from Honduras makes the journey to the United States to be reunited with his mother in this book based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of articles.

Nonfiction

A Hope in the Unseen
Ron Suskind

An inspiring story about transcending poverty and black excellence.

Nonfiction

The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother
James McBride

McBride tells the story of navigating his world being an interracial person. The book is also a tribute to his white mother who helps him grow in a world in which, at first glance, he does not seem to fit.

Nonfiction, Memoir
The Hate U Give
Angie Thomas

A timely and powerful story that is all too realistic as a teenage girl and her city cannot hide from the issues of race, class, and police brutality.

Fiction

October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard
Leslea Newman

This book of poetry, which received the Stonewall Honor Book Prize from the American Library Association, includes 68 poems that Newman wrote in response to the beating death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student. The collection even includes a few poems written from the perspective of the fence which witnessed Shepard’s beating near Laramie, Wyoming.

Poetry

Testimonial

“This extensive collection of reading has something for everybody. It is one of the most inclusive and divergent collections of reading to which I have ever had the pleasure to contribute.”

John Tierney
2016 Nevada Teacher of the Year
We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock’s Central High

Bell Hooks

About masculinity, fear, and the needs of black men.

Nonfiction

Teaching With Poverty in Mind: What Being Poor Does to Kids’ Brains and What Schools Can Do About It

Eric Jensen

Science has shown that brain development is altered in children who are growing up in poverty. This book explains how you can change your teaching methods to help these different learners.

Nonfiction

What Is It About Me You Can’t Teach?

Eleanor Renee Rodriguez, James Bellanca

This guide is a must for teachers who want to raise student achievement by creating high expectations for the learners and providing the supports that the urban teacher needs.

Nonfiction

Teaching for Social Justice

Edited by William Ayers, Jean Ann Hunt, and Therese Quinn

These are great readings and real-life applications for classroom teachers with additional readings and sources for further reading. They run the gamut in terms of thinking and teaching about social justice issues.

Nonfiction

Power, Privilege, and Difference

Allan G. Johnson

This thoughtful book describes how privilege is created, how it functions, thrives, and how it can be overcome. It also discusses paradoxes and myths with ideas of power and privilege.

Nonfiction
For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education

Christopher Emdin

This is a primer for understanding and practicing cultural literacy in the classroom to be the most effective teacher of students of color.

Nonfiction

Mis-Education of the Negro

Carter G. Woodson

Woodson systematically and with precision breaks down the problem with the educational experience for African-Americans and makes concrete recommendations about what is to be done. Although it was written 80 years ago, it is still applicable today.

Nonfiction

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race

Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D.

Dr. Tatum provides a foundation to have professional conversations on topics such as racism, whiteness, identity development and cross-racial dialogue. There are stories interspersed throughout the book to give concrete scenarios that are real and authentic to discuss and deepen your knowledge.

Nonfiction

This Is Not A Test: A New Narrative on Race, Class, and Education

José Vilson

José’s book is a walk through the complicated world of educational equity, student advocacy, policy making, justice, and whose voices are and aren’t heard. It’s grounded in his classroom experience as a teacher in New York City where he’s served for over a decade.

Nonfiction

Teaching Reading to Black Adolescent Males: Closing the Achievement Gap

Eleanor Renee Rodriguez, James Bellanca

A great book on how to reach out to and teach male African-American readers.

Nonfiction

Open Minds to Equality: A Sourcebook of Learning Activities to Affirm Diversity and Promote Equity, 3rd Edition

Nancy Schniedewind and Ellen Davidson

This book directly addresses the different “isms” and has student activities that work well in the classroom.

Nonfiction
Multicultural Teaching: A Handbook of Activities, Information, and Resources, 8th Edition
Pamela L. Tiedt

If you need activities that will help you roll out a curriculum that respects diversity and celebrates it, this handbook is very helpful.

Tongue-Tied: The Lives of Multilingual Children in Public Education
Edited by Otto Santa Ana

Tongue-Tied provides a richer context for various issues and challenges, both from a teacher awareness standpoint, and also from a broader cultural perspective.

Pedagogy of Confidence: Inspiring High Intellectual Performance in Urban Schools
Yvette Jackson

Jackson deconstructs the drill-and-kill response to low test scores, providing a delightful alternative: rigorous, engaging, confident instruction that engages all learners.

Other People’s Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom
Lisa Delpit

Delpit uses interviews and conversations with teachers, parents and students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds to show how American culture on the whole suffers with power imbalances and how that impacts the school system.

Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research, and Practice
Geneva Gay

Geneva Gay is widely recognized and respected author who offers insights into teaching from shifting cultural viewpoints so that students from other cultures can excel.
Whistling Vivaldi: And Other Clues to How Stereotypes Affect Us
Claude M. Steele

Steele vividly deconstructs stereotypes in a way that helps teachers deconstruct our biases.

Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools and More Courageous Conversions About Race
Glenn E. Singleton

Those titles discuss a protocol for adults to discuss issues of race, racism and whiteness with staff and students as well as case studies of schools that have worked for racial justice and equity.