

Black Pasts, Presents, and Futures: Resource Guide for Families

February is Black History Month, but it would be a mistake to only situate conversation about Black life in the past. The past is rich and complex; it has led to an equally important present, which in turn will be the foundation for the future of today's Black communities. In 2021, the Dobbs Ferry Schools are celebrating an intersectional Black History Month and Black Lives Matter Week that will highlight topics that must be discussed year-round. Springhurst librarian Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School media specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 literacy coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library children's librarian Gina Elbert to create this resource list to help you dive deeper into Black literature, queer culture, and more. **This is a sampling of available resources and not an exhaustive list. If you would like help finding more, please contact your librarian(s).**

Social Media Accounts to Follow

An easy way to add to the Black voices in your daily life are by following social media accounts. Below are several you can start with, accompanied by bios from these pages or written by Gina:

- **@antiracismdaily** on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#): Take action to dismantle white supremacy. Stories by incredible writers, founded by @nicoleacardoza.
- **@blackatdobbs** on [Instagram](#): This is a safe space for current, former and graduated Black (& other POC) Students of DFSD to anonymously share their stories. (student run)
- **@blm_in_kindergarten** on [Instagram](#): Queer, Black/Latinx, intersectional, surfer who hangs out with little kids because they're smarter than grownups.
- **@britthawthorne** on [Instagram](#): Coffee-drinking, homeschooling momma living in Texas. Dedicated to anti-biased anti-racist teaching practices.
- **@theconsciouskid** on [Instagram](#): Parenting and Education through a Critical Race Lens. Diverse #OwnVoices Books. Black and Brown Owned.

- **@dfptsa.diversity** on [Instagram](#): We are the Dobbs Ferry PTSA Diversity Committee. Here to share books and relevant information.
- **@multiculturalkidsbooks** on [Instagram](#): Two sisters: a teacher and a children's book editor (UK) championing books with Black & ethnic minority characters & creators.
- **@ProjectLITComm** on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#): A grassroots literacy movement empowering readers and leaders in hundreds of schools & communities across the country.
- **@thetinyactivists** on [Instagram](#): Educate to Empower. Redefine Your Readalouds. Spotlights diverse reads and offers workshops in anti-bias education.
- **@thetututeacher** on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#): Black kindergarten teacher and book influencer.
- **@tiffanymjewell** on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#): Black biracial educator and author of *This Book is Anti-Racist*.
- **@wokekindergarten** on [Instagram](#): Global abolitionist early learning community.
- **#disruptTexts** on [Instagram](#) and **@disrupttexts** on [Twitter](#): A movement to rebuild the literary canon using an antibias, antiracist critical literacy lens.

Booklist

Below is a list of recently published books that the DF school librarians and DFPL children's librarian recommend as starting points for education and discussion. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available.

Picture Books

- *Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed ● ●
- *I am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes ●
- *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes ● ●
- *All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles ● ●
- *Hair Love* by Matthew Cherry ●
- *Let the Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson ● ●
- *Bunheads* by Misty Copeland ●
- *Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña ●
- *Chocolate Me* by Taye Diggs ●
- *Parker Looks Up* by Jessica and Parker Gorman ●

- *Always an Olivia: A Remarkable Family Story* by Carolivia Herron
- *Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy ●
- *Antiracist Baby* by Ibram X. Kendi ● ●
- *My Princess Boy* by Cheryl Kilodavis ●
- *When Aidan Became a Brother* by Kyle Lukoff ● ●
- *Sing a Song* by Kelly Starling Lyons ●
- *Hands Up!* by Breanna J. McDaniel ●
- *Don't Touch My Hair* by Sharee Miller ●
- *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammed and S.K. Ali ● ●
- *Lubaya's Quiet Roar* by Marilyn Nelson and Philomena Williamson ●
- *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o ● ●
- *Hey Black Child* by Useni Eugene Perkins ● ●
- *Cool Cuts* by Mechel Renee Roe ●
- *Your Name is a Song* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow ● ●

Easy Readers, Series Books, and Early Chapter Books

- *Jaden Toussaint* series (series of early chapter books) by Marti Dumas ●
- *Dyamonde Daniel* series (series of early chapter books) by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *Ty's Travels* (series of easy readers) by Kelly Starling Lyons ●
- *Jada Jones* (series of early chapter books) by Kelly Starling Lyons ●
- *Sadiq* series by Simon Nurali ●
- *Mia Mayhem* (series of easy readers) by Kara West ●

Elementary Non-Fiction

- *A Child's Introduction to African American History: The Experiences, People, and Events That Shaped Our Country* by Jabari Asim ● ●
- *Preaching to the chickens : the story of young John Lewis* by Jabari Asim ● ●
- *What Do You Do with a Voice Like That? The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan* by Chris Barton ●
- *Shirley Chisholm is a Verb* by Veronica Chambers ●
- *The ABC's of Black History* by Rio Cortez ● ●
- *Sylvia and Marsha Start a Revolution! The Story of the Trans Women of Color Who Made LGBTQ+ History* by Joy Michael Ellison ●
- *Simone Biles* by Jon M. Fishman ●
- *Barack Obama : Son of Promise, Child of Hope* by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *Talkin' about Bessie : The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman* by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison ● ●

- *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read* by Ria Lorraine Hubbard ○
- *Brave. Black. First.: 50+ African American women who changed the world* by Cheryl Willis Hudson ○
- *Let's Talk About Race* by Julius Lester ● ○
- *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a young civil rights activist* by Cynthia Levinson ● ○
- *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams* by by Lesa Cline-Ransome ○
- *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry ; foreword by Jason Reynolds. ● ○
- *Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich ○
- *Hidden Figures : the true story of four black women and the space race* by Margot Lee Shetterly ● ○
- *28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World* by Charles R. Smith ○
- *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe ● ○
- *Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery* by Sandra Neil Wallace ● ○
- *Harlem's Little Blackbird* by Renée Watson ○
- *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford ● ○
- *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library* by Carole Boston Weatherford and Eric Velasquez ○

Middle Grade Fiction

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander ● ○
- *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander ● ○
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander ● ○
- *Hurricane Child* by Kacen Callender ○
- *King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender ● ○
- *The Only Black Girls in Town* by Brandy Colbert ● ○
- *New Kid* (graphic novel) by Jerry Craft ● ○
- *Class Act* (graphic novel) by Jerry Craft ● ○
- *Serena Says* by Tanita S. Davis ○
- *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper ● ○
- *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper ● ○

- *Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott ● ○
- *The Dragon Thief* by Zetta Elliott ● ○
- *Jazmin's Notebook* by Nikki Grimes ● ○
- *When Stars are Scattered* (graphic novel) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed ● ○
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson ● ○
- *Twins* (graphic novel) by Varian Johnson ● ○
- *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks ● ○
- *Tristan Strong* series by Kwame Mbalia ● ○
- *The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore ● ○
- *Princess Princess Ever After* by Katie O'Neill ○
- *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramée ● ○
- *Track* series (*Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu*) by Jason Reynolds ● ○
- *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds ● ○
- *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes ● ○
- *Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes ● ○
- *Betty Before X* by Ilyash Shabazz ○
- *Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone ● ○
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor ● ○
- *Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renée Watson ○
- *Princeless* (graphic novel series) by Jeremy Whitley ○
- *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams ● ○
- *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* by Ibi Zoboi ● ○

Middle Grade Non-Fiction

- *Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld ● ○
- *We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden ● ○
- *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Philip Hoose ● ○
- *Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City* by Philip Hoose ● ○
- *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson ● ○
- *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell ● ○
- *March*, Books 1-3 (graphic non-fiction) by John Lewis ● ○
- *Remember: The Journey to School Integration* by Toni Morrison ● ○
- *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander ● ○

- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi ● ○
- *Malcolm Little* by Ilyash Shabazz ○
- *Black Heroes of the Wild West* (graphic non-fiction) by James Otis Smith ● ○
- *Freedom Summer (Young Reader's Edition)* by Rebecca Stefoff ● ○
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson ● ○
- *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre* by Carole Boston Weatherford ○

Young Adult Fiction

- *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ○
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ○
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ○
- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi ● ○
- *Children of Virtue and Vengeance* by Tomi Adeyemi ● ○
- *Little & Lion* by Brandy Colbert ● ○
- *Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn ○
- *Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi ● ○
- *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake ● ○
- *Every Body Looking* by Candace Iloh ● ○
- *Grown* by Tiffany D. Jackson ● ○
- *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson ● ○
- *You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson ● ○
- *I am Alfonso Jones* (graphic novel) by Tony Medina ● ○
- *Slay* by Brittney Morris ● ○
- *Long Way Down* (print and graphic novel) by Jason Reynolds ● ○
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely ● ○
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone ● ○
- *Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone ● ○
- *On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas ● ○
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas ● ○
- *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas ● ○
- *Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson ● ○
- *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam ● ○
- *American Street* by Ibi Zoboi ○
- *Pride: A Pride and Prejudice Remix* by Ibi Zoboi ● ○
- *Black Enough: Stories of Being Black and Young in America* edited by Ibi Zoboi ● ○

Young Adult Non-Fiction

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou ● ○
- *Say Her Name* by Zetta Elliott ● ○
- *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson ● ○
- *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Story of Black Lives Matter and the Power to Change the World (Young Adult Edition)* by Benee Knaur, Patrisse Kahn-Cullors, and ashe bandele ○
- *March*, Books 1-3 (graphic non-fiction) by John Lewis ● ○
- *Proud: Living My American Dream (Young Readers Edition)* by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- *Born a Crime: Stories from South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)* by Trevor Noah ● ○
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi ● ○
- *The Awakening of Malcolm X* by Ilyash Shabazz ● ○
- *Hidden Figures (Young Reader's Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly ● ○
- *Just Mercy (Young Reader's Edition)* by Bryan Stephenson ● ○

Poetry and Books in Verse for All Ages

- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ○
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice* by Mahogany L. Browne with Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood
- *Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters
- *A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

Links for More Information

10 Tips for Teaching and Talking to Kids about Race

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/teaching-and-talking-to-kids>

EmbraceRace is a multiracial community dedicated to sharing and developing best practices for raising and caring for kids, all kids, in the context of race. They partnered with MomsRising - a transformative multicultural organization of more than a million members working to increase family economic security and end discrimination against women and mothers - to create these tips for our communities.

Black Stories Have Power

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/cc/black-history-month>

Want more recommendations for books? This is a list of books by and about Black people published by Penguin Random House.

Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism>

Children are never too young to learn about diversity. As young as 3 months old, they may look differently at people who look like or don't look like their primary caregivers. As parents and caregivers, we must have confidence in ourselves and in our children — that we, and they, can handle tough topics and tough situations. We must understand that our role is to be honest, specific, and trustworthy as we raise the next generation to confront racial injustice. Here are tips and resources to help you have a meaningful conversation with young children about race, racism, and being anti-racist.

The Undefeated

<https://theundefeated.com/>

The Undefeated describes itself as is “the premier platform for exploring the intersections of race, sports and culture. We enlighten and entertain with innovative storytelling, original reporting and provocative commentary.” It is a news website that is owned by ESPN.