

From: Challenging Racism (mail@networkforgood.com)

To: porozco\_98@yahoo.com

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021, 06:58 PM EDT

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## SEPTEMBER 2021

## END OF SUMMER NEWSLETTER



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## CHALLENGING RACISM BOARD UPDATE

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The Challenging Racism Board met on August 17, 2021.

During the meeting the Board approved the 2021-2022 budget and discussed the close of the fiscal year on August 31, 2021.

The Board will meet again on September 21, 2021 at 7 PM.

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## UPDATE FROM CR EVENTS

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**"Housing Equity and Race: Fair Housing in the DMV Region"**

**MWCOG**

**July 14, 22 and 31**

The [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#), [Ochoa Urban](#), and [Challenging Racism](#) partnered to present a series of three Community Dialog zoom sessions in July. Sessions were offered in English and in Spanish.

At issue is the question of how we expand accessible, affordable and equitable housing opportunities for residents in the DC Metro area. In an unprecedented collaboration, jurisdictions in Maryland, DC and Virginia are working together to develop [a regional fair housing plan](#). The Challenging Racism team: Dawn Kyser and Pat Harden along with Judith Knight and Pilar Afshar led participants in conversations about the history of housing and race, and the intersectionality of housing, transportation, education, healthcare, and barriers to equitable housing.

CR Executive Director Alicia Jones McLeod provided the context for the conversations. We were joined by storytellers from across the region including Whytni Kernodle, president of Black Parents of Arlington. Participants received a handbook that included maps, definitions, and further resources for continued study. These conversations concluded with a call to action with a variety of opportunities to become more involved in fair housing advocacy.

Last year Challenging Racism partnered with Montgomery County in a series of urban planning and equity conversations to inform future conversations and effect change in planning for equitable housing.



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## "How to Talk to Children & Adolescents About Race"

CIS-NOVA

August 12th, 2021

Dawn Kyser, Gail Perry, and Amy Polishuk facilitated an exciting interactive conversation on "How to Talk to Children & Adolescents About Race" with [Communities in Schools - NOVA \(CIS-NOVA\)](#), thirteen educators, and the CIS-NOVA program coordinator on Thursday, August 12, 2021. The two and one-half hour presentation included videos, slides, small group conversations, and pair-share conversations. Several of the educators are graduates of Arlington Public Schools or Alexandria City High School. They work with students in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Northern Virginia.

The facilitators also provided lists of resources and actions that the educators may wish to implement as they work with students.



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# NOT TO BE MISSED!

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## CR Continued: "Echo Chambers"

Thursday, September 23

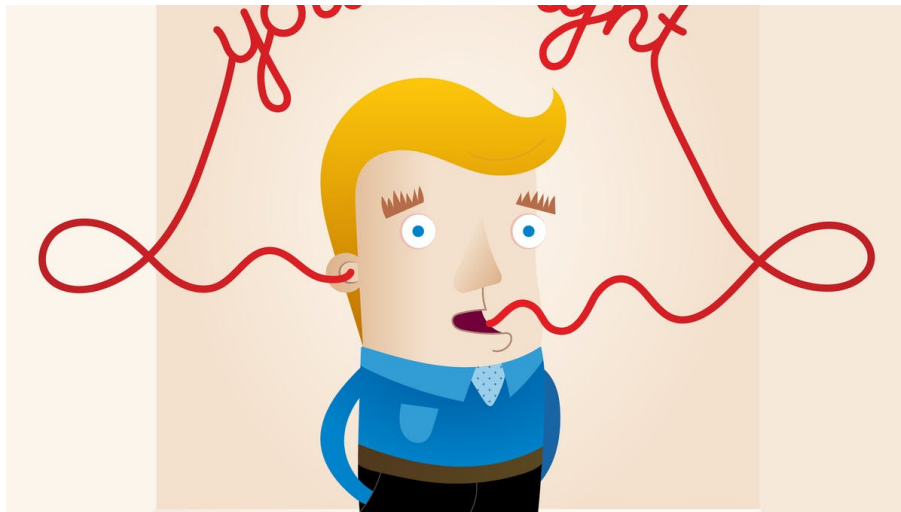
6:30 - 8:30 pm

[Registration](#) open now

The discussion will be centered in the article "[The Problem of Living in Echo Chambers](#)" published in [The Conversation](#) in 2019, and will focus on what echo chambers are and how they affect our thoughts and actions.

This program is free but [registration](#) is required.

Zoom link and more information will be emailed to participants the day prior to the event.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Embodying Antiracist Allyship: A Workshop for White Allies

September 12, 2021

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

Discover a new, compassionate way of relating to racism in America.

Do you feel overwhelmed by "white guilt," yet don't know what to do with it?

Do you consider yourself an anti-racist ally, but aren't exactly sure what that means or looks like?

Do you want to have different conversations about race in the United States, and don't know where to start?

We affirm that Black Lives Matter. Yet, in order for the lives of Black Americans to be treated like they matter in daily practice across this entire country, change needs to happen in the hearts, minds, and lives of white Americans first.

Join us in learning and doing what it really takes to combat white supremacy.

This is a space for white and white-passing people to do the real work of dismantling their racism. You will be invited to awaken to painful truths about the white supremacist beliefs that operate within yourself and the spaces you occupy. With radical compassion and self-acceptance, you will be guided on the first steps of a lifelong journey of dismantling these destructive and traumatizing systems of belief and power.

The workshop will be led by Angelina Gomez, MA. Click [here](#) for more information.



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## Anti-Racism in Action: How to (Safely) Call Out Racial Discrimination at Work

September 13, 2021

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

Leaders today understand that making progress with diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility is a journey of cultural change that they must undertake.

**What are you doing to propel change and inclusion within your company culture and beyond?** Diversity, equity and inclusion — commonly referred to as DEI — has become increasingly important in the workplace. Employers must now actively work to create meaningful change in spite of the history of injustice that has marginalized underrepresented groups within the workplace.

As communicators, we are charged with shaping our organization's reputation and creating value for brands. No matter the title or position at work, we all have a responsibility to further cultivate diversity, advance equity and practice inclusion in our communications.

**Anti-racism means taking action and calling out racial discrimination when you see it happening. However, in the workplace, this can be a risky thing to do as it can lead to real and personal consequences. But because silence means complicity, we have to be brave. In this presentation, we suggest a plan for calling out racial discrimination at work that can hopefully minimize the risks involved.**

Join us as we strive to move the conversation forward. This discussion is open to professionals and business owners interested in learning more about leadership for a changing demographic. Let's discuss how transformational leadership is enacted for diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility within your teams and programs. This forum provides a safe space to have relevant discussion, with an emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and



accessibility. We invite leaders from throughout the country to infuse their knowledge and wisdom with the group so that we can have an enriching and deepening shared experience.

More information and registration [here](#).



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## Robin DiAngelo and Beverly Tatum - Conversations About Race | In Conversation with Hannah MacInnes

September 16, 2021

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

Two of the most influential thinkers on race and racism in the 21st century join us to explore how we can move forward. What we can do to have better conversations with our children and with each other about race, and build a better world?

Beverly Daniel Tatum and Robin DiAngelo have dedicated their lives to anti-racist education. The bestselling authors of, respectively, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* and *White Fragility*, their insights are essential for anyone interested in understanding the dynamics of race in the United States.

In this livestream, In Conversation event, they will explore how well-meaning white progressives can unknowingly cause harm to people of color – from romanticizing black and indigenous people to hesitating to speak to children about racism or fear of creating problems where none exist, afraid they will make “color-blind” children unnecessarily color-conscious. In the age of Trump, Black Lives Matter, and increasingly polarization, this is an urgent call to embrace courage, lifelong commitment and accountability in the struggle for equality.

**Robin DiAngelo**, PhD is an academic, lecturer, and author working in the fields of critical discourse analysis and whiteness studies. She is an affiliate associate professor of education at the University of Washington. DiAngelo has been a consultant and educator for more than twenty years on issues of racial and social justice and is the author of the international bestseller *White Fragility*.

**Beverly Daniel Tatum**, PhD, is president emerita of Spelman College and in 2014 received the Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology, the highest honor presented by the American Psychological Association. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Hannah MacInnes** is a broadcaster and journalist. Alongside hosting How To Academy's live programs and podcast, she presents a cultural show on Times Radio and interviews on-stage at a number of other major literary events. She is the

host of The Klosters Forum Podcast series and has written for the Radio Times, the Evening Standard and TLS. Before going freelance she worked for 8 years at BBC Newsnight, as Planning Editor and as a Producer / Filmmaker.

Find more information about this event [here](#).



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## Many Voices One Community: The Healing Power of Poetry

### Free Poetry Workshops

4 sessions

Registration necessary

The workshops will provide writing prompts and craft guidance to respond to Arlington's segregationist history, including Hall's Hill Segregation Wall, Fire Station 8, and the Nazi party. The project will culminate in a public poetry reading on January, 2022, date and place TBD.

Come to all or any:

Saturday, September 18, 2021: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (virtual)

Sunday, October 3, 2021: 2:00 - 4:00 pm (hybrid)

Wednesday, November 18, 2021: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (hybrid)

Sunday, December 5, 2021: 2:00 - 4:00 pm (hybrid)

Workshops led by Susan Bucci Mockler. To register and for Zoom link please contact her at [sbuccimockler@gmail.com](mailto:sbuccimockler@gmail.com) or 703.615.4083.

This program is supported in part by Arlington County through the Arlington Cultural Affairs division of Arlington Economic Development and the [Arlington Commission for the Arts](#).

# Free Poetry Workshops



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## Let's Talk About Race: Anti-Racism and Racial Literacy Dialogue Sessions

September 19, 2021

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

Did you know that we have been trained to not talk about race in an era of white supremacy?

Collectively, we need to dismantle white supremacy. Part of this action is to talk about race in our society. Join us if you want this work. This session is also for you if you have any questions or curiosities about racial/white privilege, anti-racism, racism, why civil rights activists are protesting in the streets and/or institutional racism. All of us are welcome to attend these dialogue sessions. If interested, check out the readings and films to help prepare [here](#).

We will hold these sessions online using Zoom. Expect a zoom link to be sent out prior to the session. Expect 2 facilitators present at each event. Click [here](#) for background information about each of the facilitators.

Suggested donations for white bodied participants \$5-25. Venmo: @Aliyya-Hatcher and/or @Megan-Thiele-2. If you are unable to make a donation, please do not let that keep you from attending.

Find more information about this event [here](#).



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## Connections: The FOR ALL Conference Unpacked

September 21, 2021

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) is proud to present **Connections: The FOR ALL Conference Unpacked**, a 3-month education series to continue and elaborate on teachings from this year's conference. This series offers an excellent opportunity to interact with several amazing speakers, dive deeper into the subjects and get your burning questions answered.

The first session features **Elisa Chinn-Gary, JD**, who will expound on teachings from the breakout: "Liberty & Justice For All?" Chinn-Gary, an attorney, judicial official and racial equity organizer, was elected to the office of Mecklenburg County Clerk of Superior Court and became the Judge of Probate in 2014. Elisa is a co-founder of Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, a court-lead initiative designed to dismantle racism in the justice system. Her work focuses on the impact of race and racism on institutions, communities and individuals.

**[Register now](#) to join us for this engaging conversation!**



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## Webinar: When We Have Conversations About Race

September 21, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

**Strong interpersonal relationships is the key to moving us towards racial equity and to an anti-racist and anti-oppressive society.**

How do we have conversations about race in a way that's productive and impactful, especially when this country is more divided than ever on these issues? What happens when we have these conversations and our fragility shows up? Join us for this free webinar and:

- Learn about the key elements you need in order to foster a brave space for conversations about race
- Understand the difference between calling in vs. calling out vs. calling within

*Additionally, Healing Equity United is launching a new program this fall that will equip you with the skills and tools needed to build strong interpersonal relationships where you can call in your friends, family, co-workers, etc. We'll talk about this new program and how you can apply for one of the 10 spots available.*

More information about this event [here](#).





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## Let's Talk... Conversations on Race, Equity, & Belonging

September 22, 2021

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

**It's been a year since George Floyd's murder and our nation has been re-awakened to the systemic racism that exists.... So, Let's Talk...**

There is still **SO MUCH** to talk about when it comes to **systemic racism** and often times there is not a safe space with which to have these conversations, ask questions, self reflect, learn from others and identify the next action step. Let's Talk...Conversations about Race, Equity & Belonging is a **SAFE** space for all colors, all races, and all ethnicities in which to grow ourselves and our community to create a more inclusive world.

We ask that you come to the conversation with:

- An open heart
- An open mind
- Respect for others
- Confidentiality - when in small breakout groups

Gandhi said it best when he said: "Be the change you wish to see in the world". This platform is an opportunity for all of us to **be the change!** So, Let's Talk... and then **TAKE ACTION!**

Join us every month as we will discuss various topics as it relates to systemic racism, identity, equity, and belonging. We will have guest facilitators, panelists, speakers, along with breakout rooms for more meaningful and intimate discussion and connection.

More information [here](#).



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## Family Workshop: Talking About Race and Racism with my Child

September 28, 2021

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Suggested minimum donation \$25

Online event, register [here](#)

**Race: I know I have to talk to my child about this, but where do I start? What do I do? What do I say? How much is too much?**

\*Note: This Workshop is the prerequisite to sign up for any of the proceeding Family Workshops. Upon completing this Workshop, a code will be given to participants that will unlock the ticket to the below Family Workshops.

The deadly effects of institutional and interpersonal racism have been brought to the forefront of our national discourse. The home / school wall has been lifted and the need for families to engage in conversations around race, racism, power, privilege and bias, is critical. What we hear all the time is: I know I have to talk to my child about this, but where do I start? What do I do? What do I say? How much is too much? In the workshop, Talking about Race and Racism with Your Child, our experienced facilitators will share practical ways to support families in engaging in meaningful conversations with their children. This workshop will be followed by a second series of workshops covering specific topics ranging from:


- Preparing For the Unexpected: Addressing Racist and Biased Remarks with My Kids
- Raising Anti-Racist White Children: Discussing Privilege and Power with My Kids
- How We Read Matters Just As Much As What We Read: Using A Critical Literacy Lens with My Kids
- Understanding My Biases and Helping My Kids Understand Theirs

Facilitators: [Michelle Harris](#), [Susan Park](#), [Sophie Rutstein](#)





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TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM INVITES YOU

*Unheard Histories:  
Understanding Racism  
in our Communities*

**WEDNESDAYS**

**SEP 29 - OCT 20 - NOV 10**

**7:00-8:30PM**

Join us to learn about the past, present, and future of racism in our own neighborhoods. In a series of three webinars, we will hear from local storytellers, experts, and advocates about the role of racism in shaping, in particular, housing, education, and economic opportunities throughout Northern Virginia.

Not long ago, Virginia was a state known for massive resistance to racial integration. Our local governments supported or ignored systems that perpetrated racism; officials actively maintained segregated schools; banks redlined neighborhoods; and housing developments enforced restrictive covenants.

In each webinar, historians will set the stage, focusing primarily on Arlington and Fairfax Counties, as well as the City of Falls Church; and local storytellers will discuss their experiences growing up in segregated and desegregated communities. Moving to the present, representatives from local governments will provide an overview of equity efforts underway; and advocates from organizations working to address systemic racism will describe their work and how we can get involved.

Regardless of where you live, you'll benefit from learning our shared history, and importantly you'll discover how you can help your neighborhood move toward greater racial equity.

Please register to join each webinar [here](#). (It's free.)

## Diversity and Inclusion Conversation "Another Seat at the Table"

October 13, 2021

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

**D&I perspectives are intended to recognize and compliment our history and leverage our inherent qualities both personal and in business**

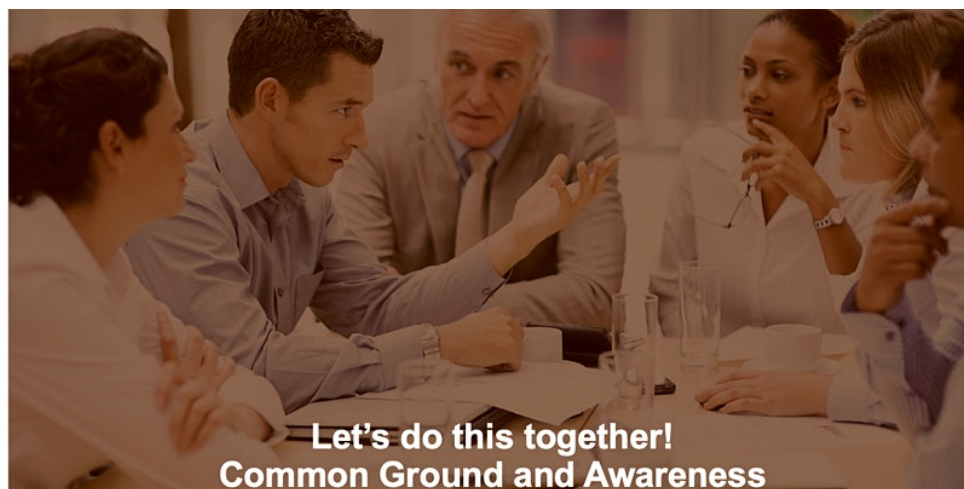
**These conversations will help address the following question:** Has a fear of saying the wrong thing about diversity paralyzed you into inaction?

### **It will showcase how:**

1. The diversity of markets, customers, ideas, and talent are driving the need for inclusion in all aspects of leadership.
2. Learning to speak up about diversity can feel uncomfortable but it is critical for leaders who want to build inclusive workplaces.
3. SCORE teammates continue to understand that diversity is the norm and will build teams with competency to communicate about culturally sensitive issues and invite diverse insights for greater workplace collaboration.

Overall, this will be an opportunity to understand ourselves and issues surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion, and become more confident in guiding important workplace conversations to affect positive change for those around us.

More information about this event [here](#).



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## **Racial Equity in Education: Deepening the Conversation**

8 sessions between October 19, 2021 and May 17, 2022

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Online event, register [here](#)

**Join a virtual cohort with global educators to expand and share discussions about racial equity in schools.**

In this monthly group, we will get together to collaborate, learn about, and discuss racial equity and diversity in schools. Each month we will rotate between sessions led by a facilitator with new content and sessions led by members of the cohort as they share something they are working on to inspire others, share resources, and receive feedback. Monica

Belton, along with MiniPD, will share their expertise and facilitate the dialogue each month as the cohort learns, shares, and grows together.

### Why Attend?

During the 2020-2021 school year, educators from around the world participated in a Racial Equity in Education cohort. This event was a resounding success as educators were able to explore the background about racism and take actionable steps towards supporting students and making their school communities anti-racist. We are excited to offer another event aimed at deepening the conversation!

### Who should attend?

This event is for teachers and leaders who have already begun learning about racism and have begun using anti-racist strategies and practices in your school. This will provide you with the opportunity to deepen your learning, connect with a community of educators, and both share and gain practical ideas.

**Interested in attending? Share this [justification letter](#) with your school administrators!**

*\*Please note that the topics may shift based on the needs and interests of the cohort.*

If you are just beginning the process of examining racial equity or looking for building your understanding, please join our Racial Equity in Education: Beginning the Conversation cohort.

More information [here](#).



### Leading for Change: Join LGW's Anti-Racist Leadership Series

LGW's commitment to creating racial equity continues with the third iteration of our impactful Anti-Racist Leadership Series. We are now offering new 101, 201, and 301 programs to build opportunities for anti-racism, racial reconciliation, advocacy, and activism in our organizations, communities, and society.

The series fosters a community of support and collaboration and provides trusted resources to participants. Sessions occur virtually once per month. 645 diverse, cross-sector leaders have participated in past programs, hailing from 266



different organizations, businesses, and government agencies.

Please join us today by registering at the links below. Sponsorship opportunities are available now for organizations and businesses seeking a key role in dismantling systemic racism and helping others create more inclusive work cultures.



**ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 101:  
Taking Awareness into Action:  
Allyship, Advocacy and Activism**

LEADERSHIP  
GREATER WASHINGTON

*Series Begins January 25, 2022  
Registration is Open and  
Sponsorship Opportunities  
are Available Now*

This six-month program is designed to give us the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the topic of race, then use exposure to information, group interaction, and personal sharing to explore the way systemic racism impacts each, and all of us, and to take that awareness into action as leaders and allies.

[Register](#)



**ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 201:  
Further Explorations into Creating  
Anti-Racist Organizations**

LEADERSHIP  
GREATER WASHINGTON

Sponsored by:

Volunteers  
of America

TD Bank

The three-month 201 program is focused on organizational change. How can we design the cultures of our organizations to actively dismantle patterns of bias and race that have been deeply embedded in the system? Who do we need to be as leaders to take our organizations to the next level? Participants in this program should have completed the 101 series as a prerequisite. Exceptions can be granted based on interviews. The series begins on January 27, 2022. being Black and a woman.

[Register](#)



**ANTI-RACIST LEADERSHIP SERIES 301:  
Building an Anti-Racist Organization**

LEADERSHIP  
GREATER WASHINGTON

Sponsored by:

Volunteers  
of America

During the three virtual meetings of this program, participants will first be given a model for assessing an organization, based on Howard Ross's book, "ReInventing Diversity: Transforming Organizational Community to Strengthen People,

Purpose, and Performance" and then will assess their organization. Participants in this program should have completed the 201 series as a prerequisite. Exceptions can be granted based on interviews. The series begins on April 28, 2022.

Register

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## FROM OUR FACEBOOK FEED

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### 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge - America & Moore

Change takes time. A lot of time. Rearranging the deeply ingrained beliefs, conscious and unconscious, takes, perhaps, even more. So let's make sure all that time is structured.

Check out Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr.'s [21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge!](#) For 21 days, do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The plan includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections. Make sure to check out the other versions of the challenge available on the website, including the ones on Indigenous peoples and Protest and Rebellion.



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### The Guide to Allyship

Allyship is complicated. Deciding to become an ally is easy, but figuring out where to go from there can be confusing. Need help? Check out this open source starter guide to help you become a more thoughtful and effective ally, [Guide to Allyship!](#)



# GUIDE TO ALLYSHIP

An open source starter guide  
to help you become a more  
thoughtful and effective ally.

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## Resources from the [NMAAHC](#)

The National Museum of African American History and Culture's [resources page](#) is truly invaluable when learning about antiracism and filling in the gaps in your education!

This ["Talking About Race List"](#) of 139 free documents, videos, articles and more is certainly worth bookmarking.



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## White Supremacy Culture

Looking to find and deconstruct white supremacy culture in your workplace or organization? Make sure to read [this resource](#) in order to not only understand the external characteristics of white supremacy culture, but also your place in it. Special thanks to [Tema Okun](#), creator of this resource.



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## The Case for Reparations

You've probably heard of reparations in one context or another, likely in theory, but how much time and effort have you really put into understanding what reparations really means or what it could really look like in practice? Well, here's a good place to get started on expanding your knowledge. Check out this [Atlantic article](#) written by Ta-Nehisi Coates on the subject, and his follow-up in the form of a [podcast interview](#) with The New Yorker.



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## Addressing Racial Privilege: A Mental Model for White Anti-Racists

Need some more help working in institutional white supremacist spaces? Need more guidance about how to carry yourself as a white person in a White Supremacist Culture? Check out this [free PDF](#) resource on [Addressing Racial Privilege](#).

Feel free to share the document with anyone you feel is struggling.

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# RECOMMENDED BOOKS FROM OUR INSTAGRAM FEED

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## On the Come Up! by [Angie Thomas](#)

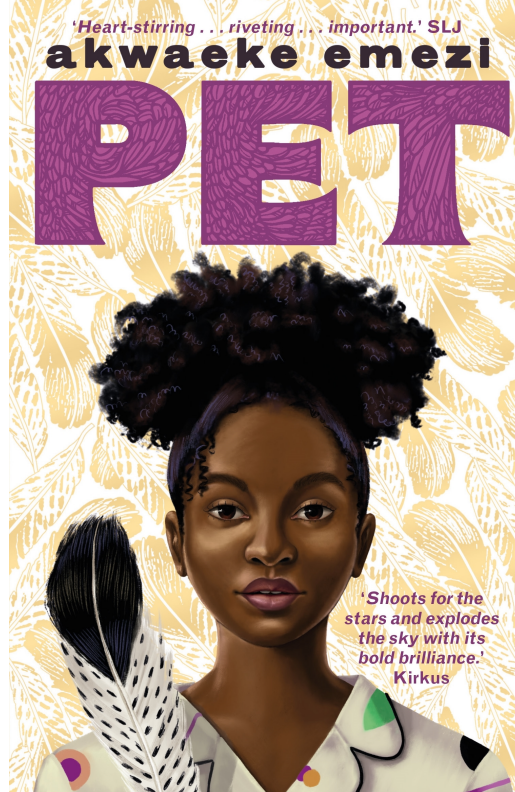
In this highly anticipated second novel by Angie Thomas, the author of the #1 New York Times bestselling, award-winning [The Hate U Give](#), sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill.

But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum at school, and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. So Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral...for all the wrong reasons.

Bri soon finds herself at the center of a controversy, portrayed by the media as more menace than MC. But with an eviction notice staring her family down, Bri doesn't just want to make it — she has to. Even if it means becoming the very thing the public has made her out to be.

Insightful, unflinching, and full of heart, *On the Come Up* is an ode to hip hop from one of the most influential literary voices of a generation. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; and about how, especially for young black people, freedom of speech isn't always free.

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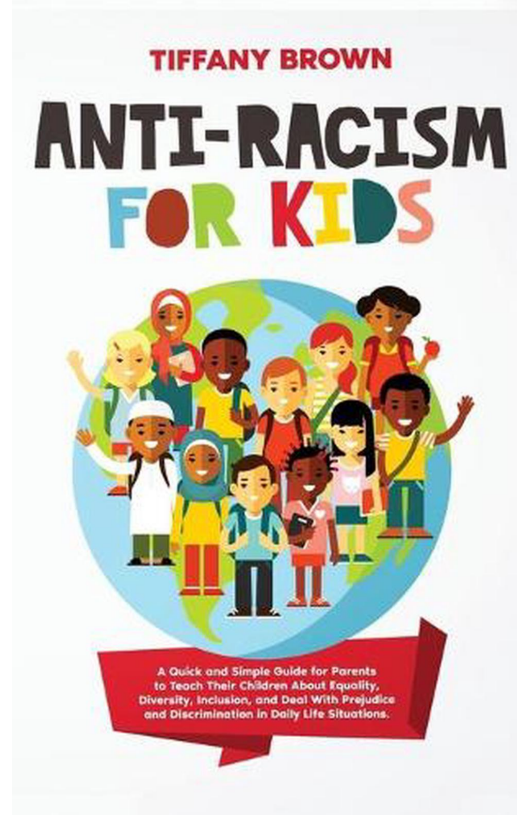
## Pet by [Akwaeke Emezi](#)

In this beautifully constructed novel, there are no monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with this lesson all their life. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colors and claws, who emerges from one of her mother's paintings and a drop of Jam's blood, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has come to hunt a monster, and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth, and the answer to the question--How do you save the world from monsters if no one will admit they exist?

A riveting and timely young adult debut novel that asks difficult questions about what choices you can make when the society around you is in denial.

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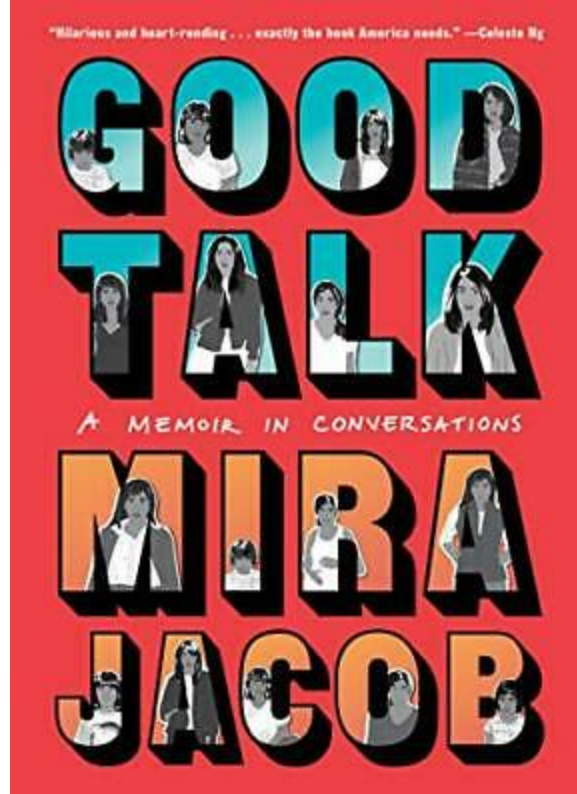
## Anti-Racism for Kids by [Tiffany Brown](#)

This quick and simple guidebook is ideal for teaching kids of all ages about the vital concepts of prejudice, discrimination, and how they can help achieve racial equality. With an in-depth look at diversity and inclusion, explained in an easy-to-digest way that children will relate to, this book is perfect for parents and educators who want to bring up this important topic in a meaningful way. Covering the psychology behind racism, the best ways you can bring up racism around your children, and even how you can take steps toward stopping loved ones from exhibiting racist behaviors, inside you'll also discover important ways you can protect your kids from being a victim of racism.

Here's what you'll find inside this practical guide: Understanding Racism and What It Really Means, Real-Life Examples and Demonstrations of Racism In Children, Breaking Down The Psychology of Racism In a Simple, Easy-To-Understand Way, Exploring Racism In Schools, In Society, and In The Health Industry, How You Can Raise Anti-Racist Kids and Teach Them To Combat Racism, The Best Ways To Deal With a Loved One Who Exhibits Racist Behaviors, Practical Ways To Protect Your Kids From The Impact of Racism, And Much More...

This book is ideal for people of all backgrounds and races, this book explains in simple terms why racism is a damaging force to everyone in society, no matter who you are. Packed with a wealth of advice, as well as tips on how you can bring up your children with anti-racist mindsets, Anti-Racism for Kids offers you a profoundly helpful way of bringing up this essential conversation.

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## Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations by [Mira Jacob](#)

“How brown is too brown?”

“Can Indians be racist?”

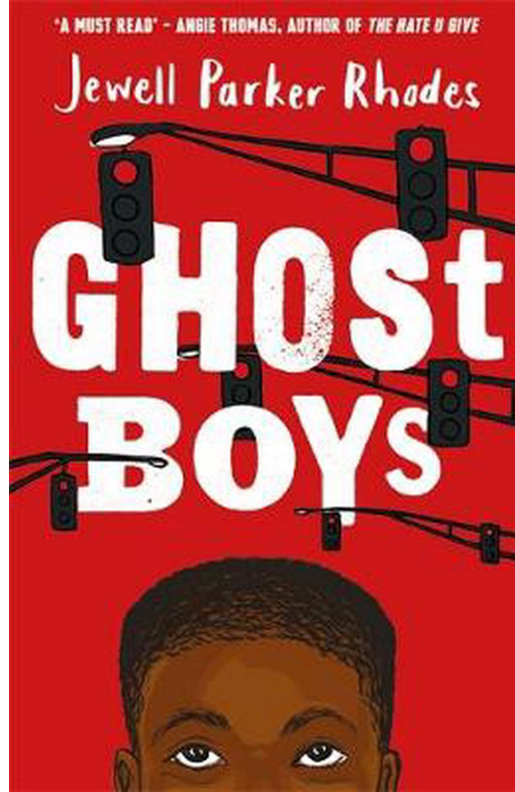
“What does real love between really different people look like?”

Like many six-year-olds, Mira Jacob’s half-Jewish, half-Indian son, Z, has questions about everything. At first they are innocuous enough, but as tensions from the 2016 election spread from the media into his own family, they become much, much more complicated. Trying to answer him honestly, Mira has to think back to where she’s gotten her own answers: her most formative conversations about race, color, sexuality, and, of course, love.

Written with humor and vulnerability, this deeply relatable graphic memoir is a love letter to the art of conversation—and to the hope that hovers in our most difficult questions.

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## Ghost Boys by [Jewell Parker Rhodes](#)

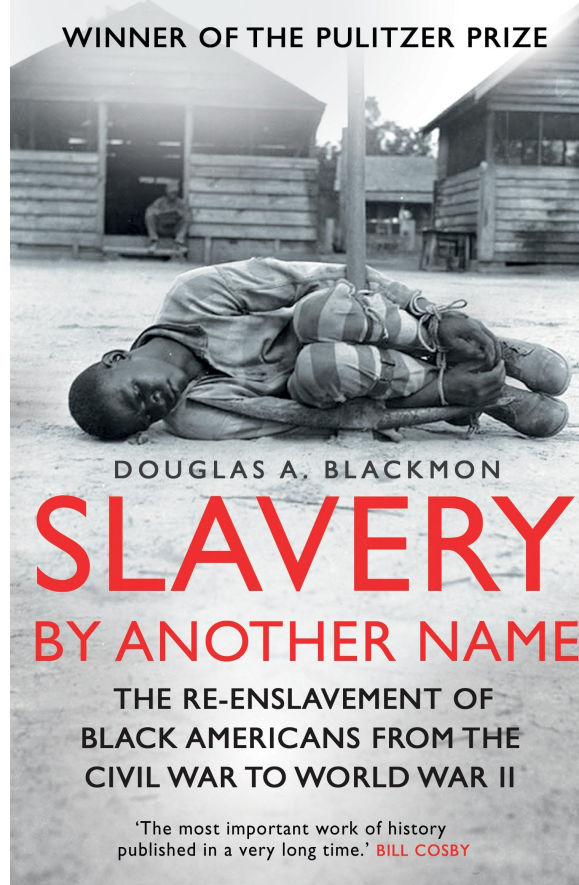
A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a police officer, drawing connections through history. Only the living can make the world better. Live and make it better.

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions.

Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

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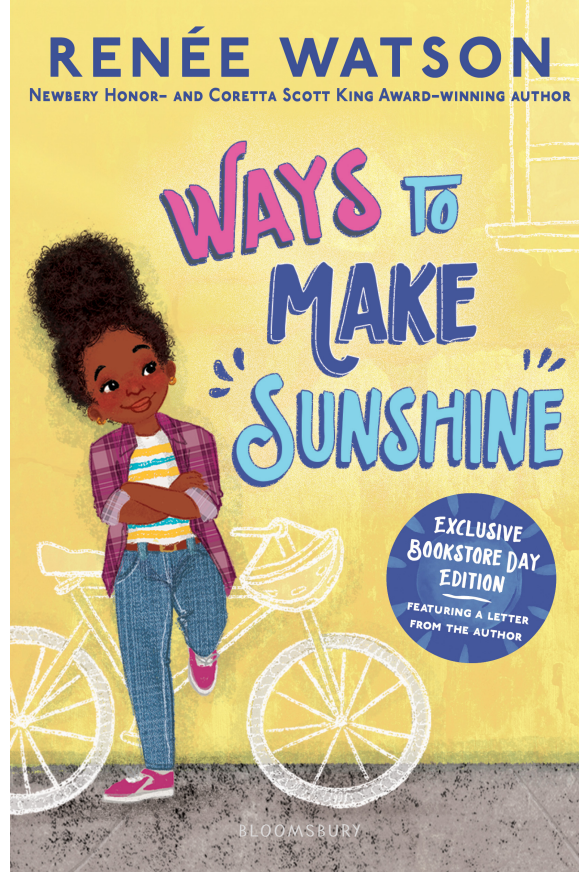
## Slavery by Another Name by [Douglas A. Blackmon](#)

This groundbreaking historical expose unearths the lost stories of enslaved persons and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude shortly thereafter in “The Age of Neoslavery.”

By turns moving, sobering, and shocking, this unprecedented Pulitzer Prize-winning account reveals the stories of those who fought unsuccessfully against the re-emergence of human labor trafficking, the companies that profited most from neoslavery, and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

Following the Emancipation Proclamation, convicts—mostly black men—were “leased” through forced labor camps operated by state and federal governments. Using a vast record of original documents and personal narratives, Douglas A. Blackmon brings to light one of the most shameful chapters in American history.

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**Ways to Make Sunshine by [Renée Watson](#) and illustrated by [Nina Mata](#)**

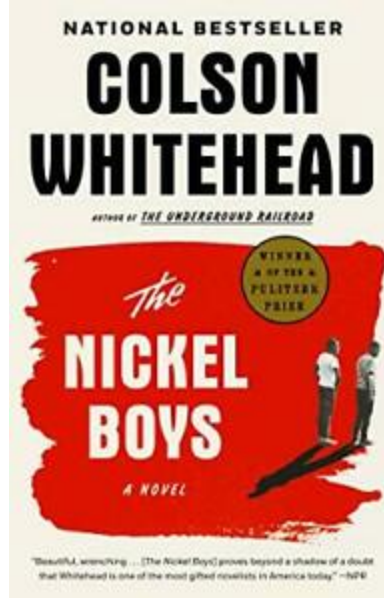
This is the first book in a young middle grade series about Ryan Hart, a girl who is pure spirit, kindness, and sunshine.

Ryan Hart has a lot on her mind--school, self-image, and especially family. Her dad finally has a new job, but money is tight. That means some changes, like selling their second car and moving into a new (old) house. But Ryan is a girl who knows how to make sunshine out of setbacks. As her brother says when he raps about her, she's got the talent that matters most: it's a talent that can't be seen, she's nice, not mean!

Ryan is all about trying to see the best in people, to be a good daughter, a good sister, a good friend. But even if her life isn't everything she would wish for, when her big brother is infuriating, her parents don't quite understand, and the unexpected happens, she always finds a way forward, with grace and wit. And plenty of sunshine.

Acclaimed author Renée Watson writes her own version of Ramona Quimby, one starring a Black girl and her family, in this start to a charming new series.

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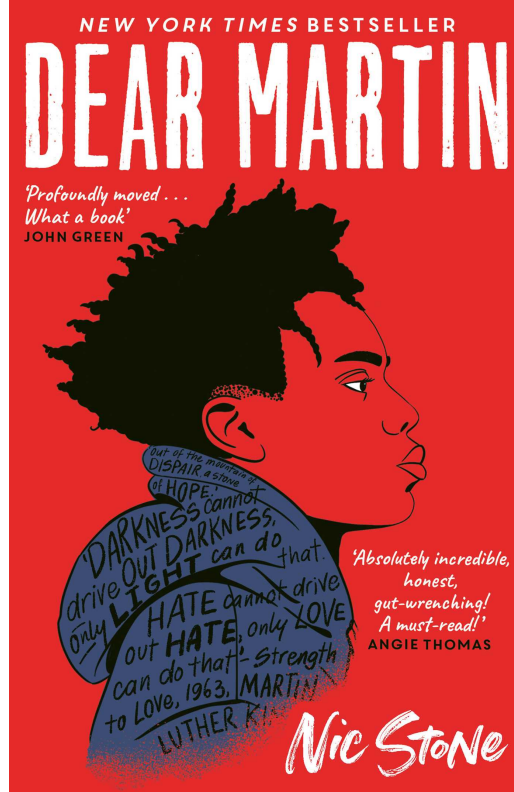
## Nickle Boys by [Colson Whitehead](#)

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times bestselling follow-up to *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naïve, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers and "should further cement Whitehead as one of his generation's best" (*Entertainment Weekly*).

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## Dear Martin by [Nic Stone](#)

Raw, captivating, and undeniably real, Nic Stone joins industry giants Jason Reynolds and Walter Dean Myers as she boldly tackles American race relations in this stunning #1 New York Times bestselling debut, a William C. Morris Award Finalist.

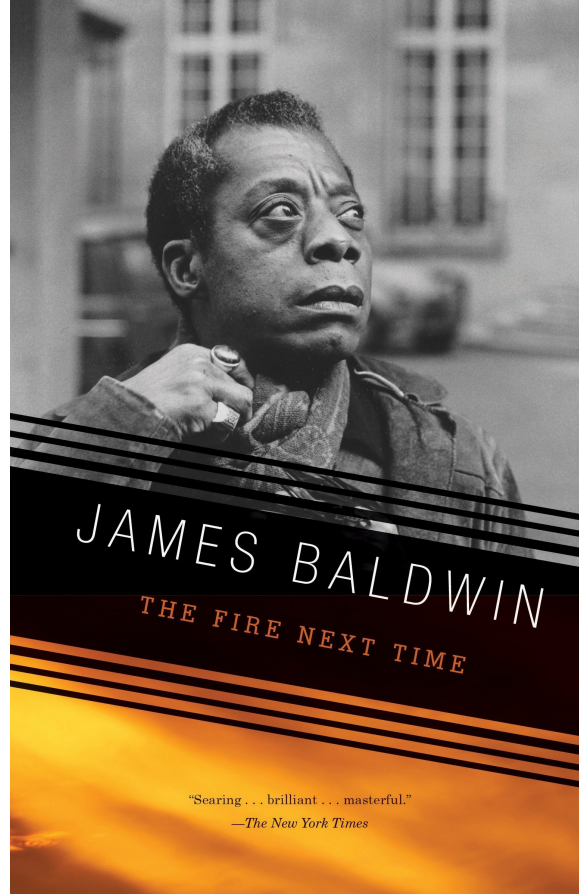
Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates.

Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up—way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

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## The Fire Next Time by [James Baldwin](#)

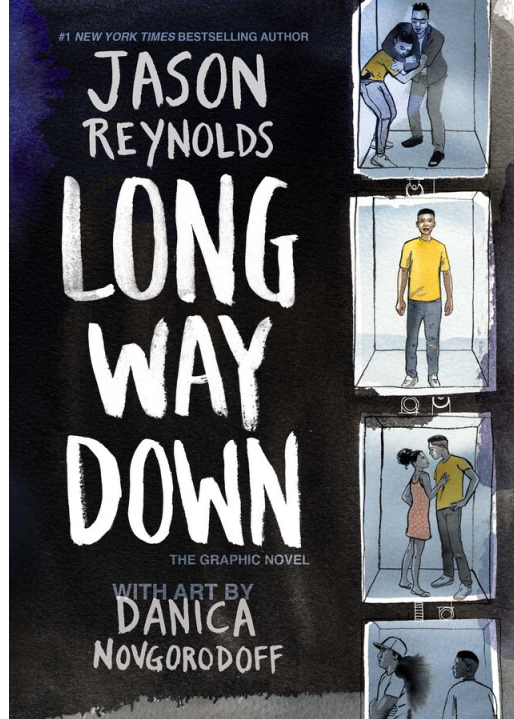
A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, *The Fire Next Time* galvanized the nation, gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement—and still lights the way to understanding race in America today.

"Basically the finest essay I've ever read. . . . Baldwin refused to hold anyone's hand. He was both direct and beautiful all at once. He did not seem to write to convince you. He wrote beyond you." —Ta-Nehisi Coates

At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document from the iconic author of *If Beale Street Could Talk* and *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. It consists of two "letters," written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism. Described by *The New York Times Book Review* as "sermon, ultimatum, confession, deposition, testament, and chronicle...all presented in searing, brilliant prose," *The Fire Next Time* stands as a classic of literature.

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## Long Way Down by [Jason Reynolds](#)

An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds' electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds — the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

A cannon. A strap.  
A piece. A biscuit.  
A burner. A heater.  
A chopper. A gat.  
A hammer  
A tool  
for RULE

Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he?

Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, Long Way Down is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

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## FILMS TO WATCH THIS MONTH

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## **Belle (2013)**

Directed by [Amma Asante](#), this period-piece film focuses on Dido Elizabeth Belle, a real-life biracial woman who was raised by her aristocratic great-uncle in 18th-century England.

Starring [Gugu Mbatha-Raw](#) in the titular role, it shows Belle navigating a secret romance against the backdrop of an important court case that eventually led to the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire. It's an important entry in a genre that has historically only catered to white women's stories.

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## Seven Seconds (2018)

Based on *The Major* by [Yuri Bykov](#), when 15-year-old black cyclist Brenton Butler dies in a hit-and-run accident -- with a white police officer behind the wheel of the vehicle -- Jersey City explodes with racial tension. This crime drama explores the aftermath of the accident, which includes an attempted cover-up by the police department and a volatile trial.

Assistant prosecutor KJ wants to prosecute the hit-and-run as a hate crime, in addition to a negligent homicide. The longer the case drags on without a resolution, the more tense the situation becomes. Emmy winner Regina King stars as Brenton's churchgoing mother, Latrice.

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## Self-Made (2020)

Inspired by the Life of Madam C. J. Walker. [Octavia Spencer](#) leads this miniseries about Black entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker, the real-life woman who built a hair-care empire that made her America's first self-made millionaire. Black stories don't have to all be tales about slavery and oppression—it's equally as important to celebrate our successes and triumphs as well.

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## Boy (2010)

It is a New Zealand comedy-drama film, written and directed by [Taika Waititi](#). The film stars James Rolleston, Te Aho Aho Eketone-Whitu, and Waititi. Boy is a dreamer who loves Michael Jackson. He lives with his brother Rocky, a tribe of deserted cousins and his Nan. Boy's other hero, his father Alamein, is the subject of Boy's fantasies, and he imagines him as a deep sea diver, war hero and a close relation of Michael Jackson. In reality Alamein is an inept, wannabe gangster who has been in jail for robbery. When Alamein returns home after seven years away, Boy is forced to confront the man he thought he remembered, find his own potential and learn to get along without the hero he had been hoping for.

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## The Butler (2013)

Directed by Lee Daniels, the film follows the true story of a butler who worked in the White House and witnessed numerous historical events. So often in movies we view history through the lens of powerful people; it's more rare, and extremely necessary, to see it through the eyes of the working people. The movie stars Forest Whittaker in the title role, alongside Oprah Winfrey, James Marsden, Jane Fonda, and John Cusack.

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## 42 (2013)

Directed by Brian Helgeland, the late Chadwick Boseman stars in the powerful story of Jackie Robinson, the first Black athlete to play in Major League Baseball. What's often glossed over in history books is how difficult it was for Robinson to become a professional athlete in the 1940s. Director Brian Helgeland spoke with Robinson's widow, Rachel Robinson, in order to tell an accurate depiction of events.

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# INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR CR

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Challenging Racism is looking for volunteers to join us as we design and implement a range of fundraising and outreach activities for the Executive Director and Board.

Volunteers help plan events, build partnerships, conduct outreach via social media, apply for grants, and design programs for organizations in need of our conversations.

All skills are needed and welcomed and volunteers can choose their areas of expertise to help with. Areas we currently need volunteer assistance with are:

- Grants writing
- Handling Press Releases & Public Relations
- Fundraising for 2021 including our 3rd Annual Running Against Racism Virtual Run/Walk, Giving Tuesday and many more
- Marketing and Squarespace knowledge to help with our Website
- IT & Database management to help with Google Drive

Please complete the form below and feel free to contact us at [volunteer@challengingracism.org](mailto:volunteer@challengingracism.org)

Volunteer Form



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If you want to support our mission, you can donate here. Thank you!

DONATE



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