

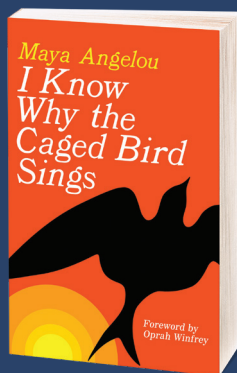


RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Recent events have led many of us to reexamine issues of racial equity and justice. Because parents and caregivers are their child's first teacher, they are on the frontlines, often fielding questions from their children about race, antiracism, and related issues that require thoughtful responses. If we want to raise antiracist children, we have to start talking to them about racism and how to be antiracist.

Books are powerful entry points into conversations with young people, especially books that help them understand how the present moment reflects history and how considering experiences beyond our own helps us develop an equitable foundation. The following books are grouped thematically for parents and caregivers and are framed by essential questions and conversation starters to guide discussion with the children and young people in our lives.





Foundational Texts

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: What are some of the fundamental challenges Black people have faced and overcome to define their humanity amidst racism?

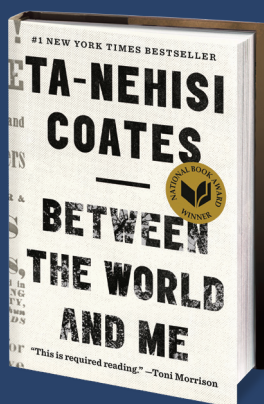
CONVERSATION STARTERS: How is Baldwin's and Angelou's advice about resistance and resilience similar or different from conversations you have had with young people in your life? Kendi argues for clear definitions when we talk about race and racism. How can having shared definitions help facilitate conversations with children and young people?

Identity

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: How do our racial identities impact the opportunities we have and the decisions we make?

How does understanding the racial identities of others help us to better understand how racism functions in society?

CONVERSATION STARTERS: Although biological differences in race do not exist, we know that a person's racial identity affects the way they see themselves and the way they are treated in the world. Talk with children or young people about their own racial identity. When did they realize race mattered? How do the racial identities of others impact the way they navigate the world? How does better understanding the impact of race on others help them be a better ally?

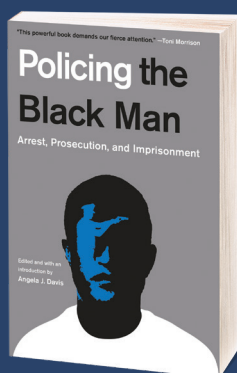


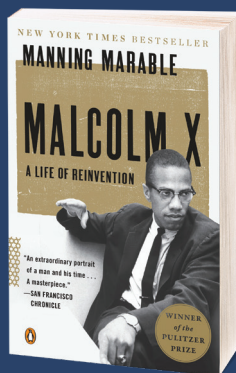
History

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: In what ways does reading about history help us bridge the past and the present?

How does our understanding of history affect the way we see and address injustices today?

CONVERSATION STARTERS: With the various forms of media available today, information and reaction to social injustices are swiftly spread and shared. Talk with children and young people about what they know and don't know. What have they heard about Black history and culture? What do they think has been left out? What can we learn to help us fight injustice today?



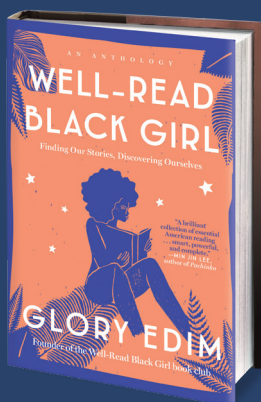


Masculinity

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: How do larger societal stereotypes about men and what it means to be a “man” affect Black men in particular?

What are the particular challenges and opportunities that Black men face?

CONVERSATION STARTERS: Open the conversation by discussing the impact of race or gender in young people’s own lives. How does the media perpetuate racial and gender stereotypes? What images of Black men, in particular, have they seen in the news, advertising, or social media? How does this representation affect the way we perceive and treat Black men and boys?

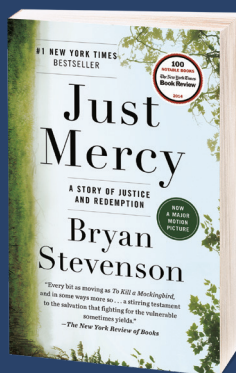


Black Girl Magic

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: As a society, we strive to recognize the achievements of women in science, history, literature, and beyond. How is focusing on Black women in this space important?

How can reading help us understand love, joy, racism, and beauty?

CONVERSATION STARTERS: Ask children and/or young people to reflect on images of Black women they have seen in their schooling and in the media. What patterns do they notice? How do these patterns reinforce harmful stereotypes and the unfair treatment of Black girls and women? How can we listen to and center the wisdom, talent, and strengths of Black girls and women?



Justice

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS: How have rules, laws, and policies affected Black people?

What does it mean to criminalize and police Black people?

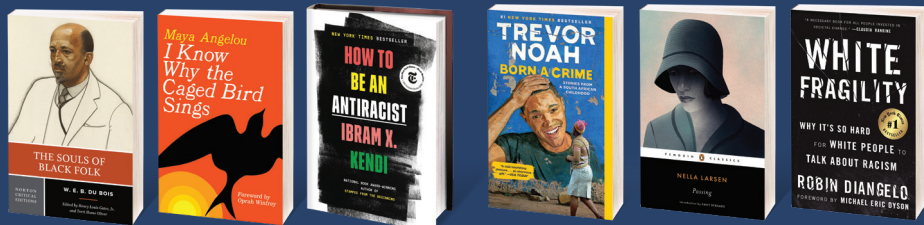
How have Black people organized to resist and challenge these injustices?

CONVERSATION STARTERS: It is critical to openly discuss systemic racism. It is equally important to discuss the resilience and strength needed to confront it. What does systemic racism mean and how does it affect Black people? How has the Black community resisted and challenged systemic racism and how does it affect everyone? What can we learn from the experiences of Black people in their fight for justice?



DON'T MISS THESE CONVERSATION-STARTING BOOKS!

Foundational Texts



Identity



History



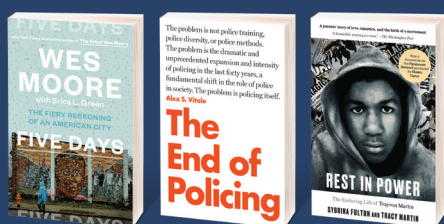
Masculinity



Black Girl Magic



Justice



**VISIT [PRH.COM/THECONVERSATION](https://prh.com/theconversation)
TO LEARN MORE!**

Written by Kimberly N. Parker, PhD, assistant director of the Shady Hill Teacher Training Center (MA), and Tricia Ebarvia, teacher and department chair at Conestoga High School (PA), and co-chair at the Institute for Racial Equity in Literacy. Kim and Tricia are cofounders of #DisruptTexts (disrupttexts.org/)

Penguin
Random
House

