



# THE CONVERSATION:

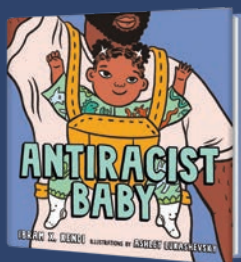
## Raising the Next Generation of Antiracist Kids

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.

A Guide for Parents and Caregivers





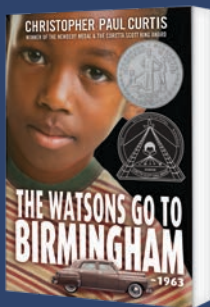
### ALSO AVAILABLE

A IS FOR ACTIVIST  
EACH KINDNESS



### ALSO AVAILABLE

THE DAY YOU BEGIN  
HAIR LOVE



### ALSO AVAILABLE

CLEAN GETAWAY  
BROWN GIRL DREAMING

## FOR LITTLE ACTIVISTS

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** What is an activist? What does an activist do? How can you be an antiracist activist in your everyday life?

**CONVERSATION STARTERS:** Parents and caregivers can talk to children about how to be an activist and an antiracist. As you read *Antiracist Baby*, stop and discuss each step Kendi describes. Ask children how they can live out the steps in their daily lives. What local issues can you talk about with your child to help them build awareness of injustice? How might you explore, attend, and support local events sponsored by community activists around causes that are important to your family?

## IDENTITY

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** Who am I? What is race? What is my racial identity and the racial identity of others? How does racial identity affect how I am treated? How does it affect how others are treated?

**CONVERSATION STARTERS:** Although race is a social category and not a biological fact, the impact of race in our lives is real. Because race can be an uncomfortable subject, it's critical that parents and caregivers talk about race in ways that are open and honest. Point out to children that race is one characteristic of their identity that can affect how they or others are treated. When did they realize race mattered and how? How does racial identity lead to unfair rules or treatment? At the same time, how can we celebrate our own racial identity and those of others?

## HISTORY

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** What is the history of race and racial injustice in the United States and elsewhere? How does knowing this history help us understand the role of race and racism today?

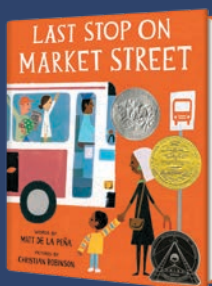
**CONVERSATION STARTERS:** Reading, studying, and talking about the history of racial injustice can provide children and young people with background and historical context that can help them better understand the racial injustice they see in our world today. What parallels can we see between the present and the past? What solutions to our current racial problems can be found by studying history? What additional parts of history can we continue to study?





### ALSO AVAILABLE

THE STARS BENEATH  
OUR FEET  
BRONX MASQUERADE



### ALSO AVAILABLE

JUST MERCY  
WE RISE, WE RESIST,  
WE RAISE OUR VOICES



### ALSO AVAILABLE

THE DAY YOU BEGIN  
ALL ARE WELCOME

## BLACK BOYHOOD

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** What are the diverse experiences of Black boys and young men? How does being a boy or young man intersect with being Black?

**CONVERSATION STARTERS:** Open conversations with children and young people by discussing the impact of race or gender in their own lives. How have stereotypes regarding race or gender affected them or others? How does the media perpetuate racial and gender stereotypes? What images of Black boys and Black young men have they seen in the news, advertising, or social media? What patterns exist? How do these patterns affect the way Black boys and Black young men are perceived and treated?

## JUSTICE

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** What is justice? How have rules, laws, and policies affected Black people in ways that are unfair and discriminatory? How have Black people organized to resist and challenge these injustices?

**CONVERSATION STARTERS:** Although children and young people can understand whether something is fair or unfair, the concept of justice is more complex. Individual actions might be fair or unfair, but justice is about a system of rules or laws that work together. A just system is one in which no one is discriminated against or affected differently because of their race. Ask children and young people to identify and discuss rules or laws in their own lives that might affect people differently because of race. How might rules or laws be changed so that they are more fair? What rules or laws might we need to ensure that people are not treated differently because of their race?

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

**ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:** What is community? How can people work together to learn from and with each other to advance social justice and antiracism?

**CONVERSATION STARTERS:** Because racism is embedded into nearly every aspect of our society, it will take more than individual people or small groups to dismantle racism; it will take groups of people, working together across racial differences. Discuss the power of learning from and working in groups with your children and young people. How can working together lead to greater and more lasting change? Look at historical and contemporary examples of organizations that have worked together for racial justice. What organizations in your own community can you, children, and young people join?



# DON'T MISS THESE CONVERSATION-STARTING BOOKS FOR EVERY AGE GROUP!

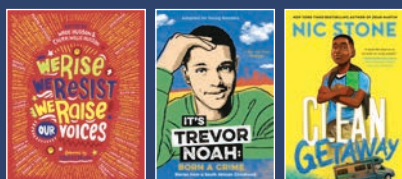
## FOR PRESCHOOLERS



## FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS



## FOR MIDDLE GRADERS



## FOR YOUNG ADULTS



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TO LEARN MORE!**

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Penguin  
Random  
House

