
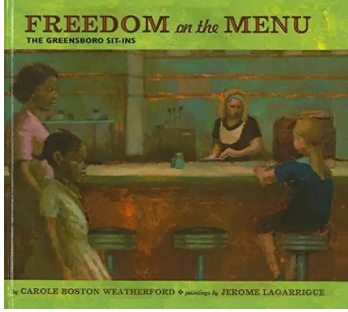
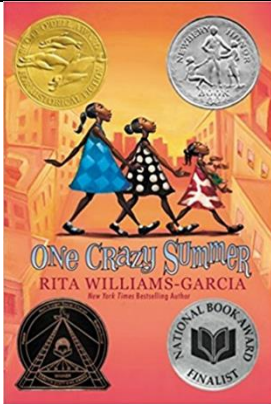


Recommended readings and other resources for families to promote equity and education in race relations, social justice, and civil and human rights issues

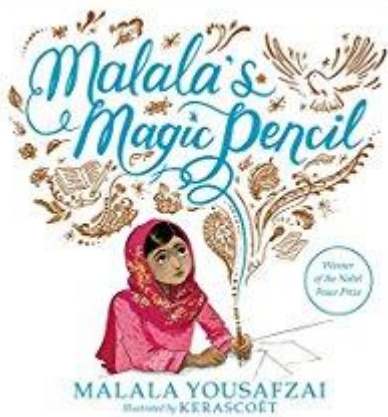
😊 Books Recommended for grades K-5

 <p><i>Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice</i> by Marianne Celano PhD, Marietta Collins PhD</p>	<p><i>Emma and Josh heard that something happened in their town. A Black man was shot by the police.</i> "Why did the police shoot that man?" "Can police go to jail?"</p> <p><i>Something Happened in Our Town</i> follows two families — one White, one Black — as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events, and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives.</p> <p>Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers with guidelines for discussing race and racism with children, child-friendly definitions, and sample dialogues. Free, downloadable educator materials (including discussion questions) are available at www.apa.org.</p>
 <p><i>Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins</i> by Carole Boston Weatherford and Jerome Lagarrigue</p>	<p>There were signs all throughout town telling eight-year-old Connie where she could and could not go. But when Connie sees four young men take a stand for equal rights at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, she realizes that things may soon change. This event sparks a movement throughout her town and region. And while Connie is too young to march or give a speech, she helps her brother and sister make signs for the cause. Changes are coming to Connie's town, but Connie just wants to sit at the lunch counter and eat a banana split like everyone else.</p>



One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

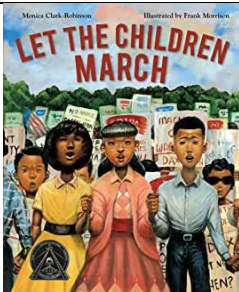
In *One Crazy Summer*, eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined.



Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai

Malala's first picture book will inspire young readers everywhere to find the magic all around them.

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.



Let the Children March by Monica Clark- Robinson and Frank Morrison

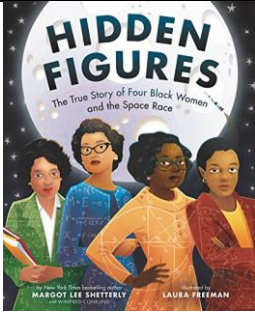
I couldn't play on the same playground as the white kids.

I couldn't go to their schools.

I couldn't drink from their water fountains.

There were so many things I couldn't do.

In 1963 Birmingham, Alabama, thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their civil rights after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. They protested the laws that kept black people separate from white people. Facing fear, hate, and danger, these children used their voices to change the world. Frank Morrison's emotive oil-on-canvas paintings bring this historical event to life, while Monica Clark-Robinson's moving and poetic words document this remarkable time.

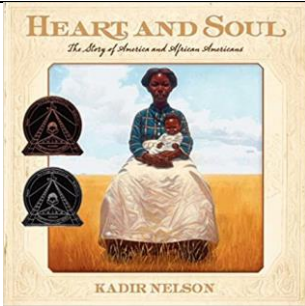


Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly and Laura Freeman

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were good at math...really good.

They participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America's first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do. But they worked hard. They persisted. And they used their genius minds to change the world.

In this beautifully illustrated picture book edition, we explore the story of four female African American mathematicians at NASA, known as "colored computers," and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career.

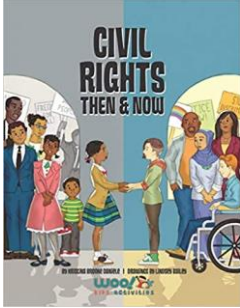


Heart and Soul by Kadir Nelson

Heart and Soul is about the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would dare bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination, and triumphs.

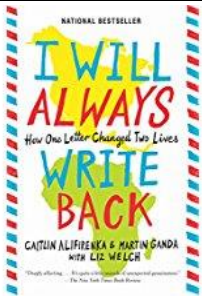
Kadir Nelson's Heart and Soul—the winner of numerous awards, including the Coretta Scott King Author Award and Illustrator Honor, and the recipient of five starred reviews—is told through the unique point of view and intimate voice of a one-hundred-year-old African-American female narrator.

This inspiring book demonstrates that in striving for freedom and equal rights, African Americans help our country on the journey toward its promise of liberty and justice—the true heart and soul of our nation.



Civil Rights Then and Now by Kristina Brooke Daniele , Lindsey Bailey, et al.

Take a crash course in the social justice issues that keep the United States from realizing its promise of equality! This civil rights book for kids is simultaneously a guide for parents and educators who worry about broaching the topics of racism, discrimination, and prejudice. *Civil Rights Then and Now: A Timeline of the Fight for Equality in America* presents the reader with facts, biographies, and landmark supreme court cases in an easily digestible manner and within a historical context.



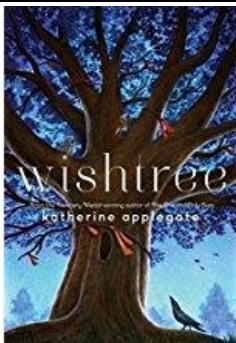
I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place.

Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.

That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends --and better people-- through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.



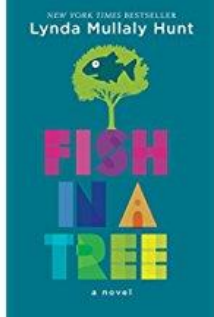
Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. . . .

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood.

You might say Red has seen it all.

Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.



Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

“Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.”

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there’s a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don’t always think alike.

Digital Resources and Documentaries

- Website from Debbie Irving- Racial Justice Educator and Writer: 21 Day Racial Justice Challenge, resources and reading recommendations <https://debbyirving.com/>
- Digital resources available to students on BCPS One for reading and research: Baltimore County Public Library, Culture Grams, Discovery Education, World Book, Pebble Go, Tumble Book Library
- PBS ‘American Experience’ documentary series, topics on race and civil rights- intended for adults or intermediate students with parental guidance <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/>
- PBS Independent Lens ‘Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities’, rated NR: <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/videos/tell-them-we-are-rising/>
- BCPS Reading and Resources About Race: <https://teambcps.exposure.co/readings-and-resources-about-race>
- Scholastic diverse books for Grades K-2: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lists/2017-book-lists/diverse-books-grades-prek-2/>
- Scholastic diverse books for Grades 3-5: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lists/2017-book-lists/diverse-books-grades-3-5/>
- YouTube read-aloud of “Something Happened In Our Town” by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, Ann Hazzard, Donald Moses: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcOhOFGcWm8>

Museums and Tours

- Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum:
300 Oella Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21228
<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/countyparks/mostpopular/banneker/>
- Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park:
4068 Golden Hill Road
Church Creek, MD 21622
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/tubman.aspx>
- Harriet Tubman Underground Byway Tour:
driving map and link to audio tour
<https://harriettubmanbyway.org/>
- Banneker Douglas Museum:
84 Franklin Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
<https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/>
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site:
1411 W Street SE
Washington, DC, 20020
<https://www.nps.gov/frdo/planyourvisit/directions.htm>
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture:
830 East Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
<https://www.nps.gov/frdo/planyourvisit/directions.htm>
- The National Blacks In Wax Museum:
1601 E North Ave
Baltimore, MD 21213
<http://www.greatblacksinwax.org/index.html>
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House:
1318 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005
<https://www.nps.gov/mamc/index.htm>
- National Museum of African American History and Culture:
1400 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20560
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/>
- National Museum of The American Indian:
Fourth Street and Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20560
<https://americanindian.si.edu/>

Come out to support a black owned and operated local business!

We are inviting our Rodgers Forge Community members and stakeholders of Rodgers Forge Elementary to support our black owned and operated local businesses. These websites have compiled a list of a few great spots. We also recommend visiting the links below from Baltimore Black to get more ideas of black owned local businesses if you are looking for a specialized service or something a little off the beaten path!

<https://www.baltimoremagazine.com/section/fooddrink/black-owned-food-businesses-to-support-in-baltimore>

<https://madeinbaltimore.org/2020/06/03/baltimore-black-owned-businesses/>

<https://baltimore.org/what-to-do/african-american-owned-restaurants-in-baltimore/>

<https://www.willdrinkfortravel.com/posts/black-owned-restaurants-you-need-to-visit-in-baltimore>