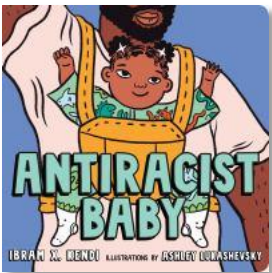


# Anti-Racism Resources

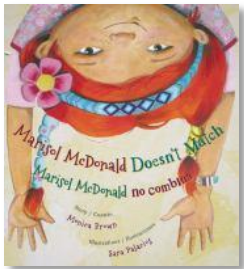
Looking for books to share with your children to encourage inclusiveness and help answer difficult questions? In need of reading recommendations for teens hoping to understand current events and begin working for change? The resources listed below are a perfect place to start.

## Resources for Kids



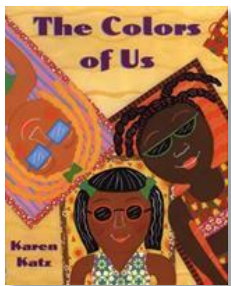
### [Antiracist Baby](#) - Ibram X. Kendi

For ages 3 and under. A fresh new board book that empowers parents and children to uproot racism in our society and in ourselves. The book uses images and text to engage all readers, especially children, to the concept and language of antiracism.



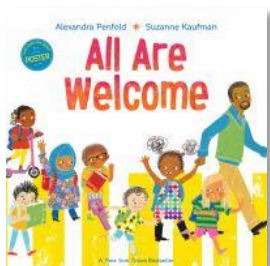
### [Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match](#) – Monica Brown

For ages 3-7. Marisol McDonald, a biracial, nonconformist, soccer-playing pirate-princess with brown skin and red hair, celebrates her uniqueness.



### [The Colors of Us](#) – Karen Katz

For ages 3-7. A positive and affirming look at skin color, from an artist's perspective. Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades.



### [All Are Welcome](#) – Karen Katz

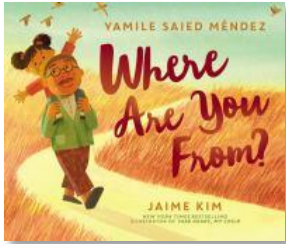
For ages 3 to 7. Illustrations and simple, rhyming text introduce a school where diversity is celebrated and songs, stories, and talents are shared.

This title is also available in French – [Bienvenue!](#)



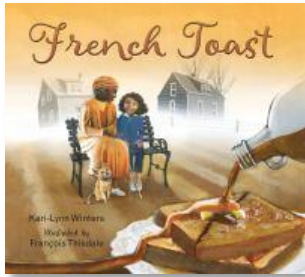
**Lovely** – *Jess Hong*

For ages 3-7. Big, small, curly, straight, loud, quiet, smooth, wrinkly. Lovely explores a world of differences that all add up to the same thing: we are all lovely!



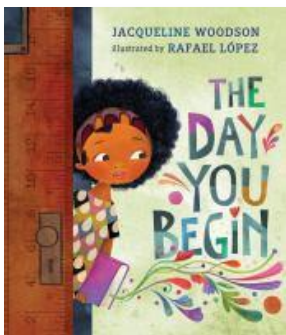
**Where Are You From?** – *Jaime Kim*

For ages 3-7. When a girl is asked where she's from - where she's really from - none of her answers seems to be the right one.



**French Toast** – *Kari-Lynn Winters and François Thisdale*

For ages 4-7. The story of a girl who feels as though her cultural identity makes her quite different from others. Phoebe, who is half Jamaican and half French, dislikes being called French Toast by her classmates since it seems to point out how her skin color is different.



**The Day You Begin** – *Jacqueline Woodson*

For ages 4-8. National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson has created a poignant, yet heartening book about finding the courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.

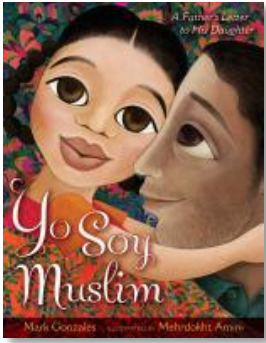
This title is also available in French – [Un Jour, Tu Découvriras](#)



**Say Something** – *Peter H. Reynolds*

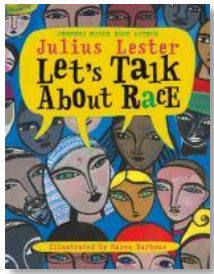
For ages 4-8. *Say Something* is an empowering picture book that explores the many ways that a single voice can make the world a better place. The book inspires children to share their ideas and voice to help create a better world for everyone.

This title is also available in French – [Ta Voix Compte](#)



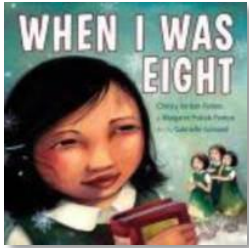
### **Yo Soy Muslim** – Mark Gonzales

For ages 4-8. From Muslim and Latino poet Mark Gonzales comes a touching and lyrical picture book about a parent who encourages their child to find joy and pride in all aspects of their multicultural identity. Written as a letter from a father to his daughter, *Yo Soy Muslim* is a celebration of social harmony and multicultural identities. The vivid and elegant verse, accompanied by magical and vibrant illustrations, highlights the diversity of the Muslim community as well as Indigenous identity.



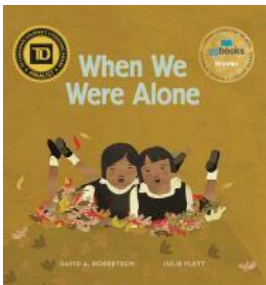
### **Let's Talk About Race** – Julius Lester and Karen Barbour

For ages 4-8. This picture book introduces the topic of race and provides, through storytelling, a way to engage in the conversation.



### **When I Was Eight** – Christy Jordan-Fenton

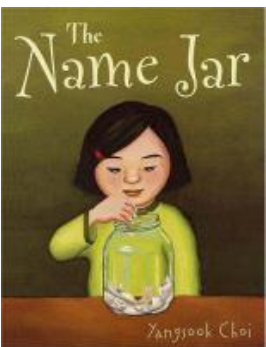
For ages 4-8. Based on the true story of Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, and complemented by stunning illustrations, *When I Was Eight* makes the bestselling [Fatty Legs](#) accessible to younger readers.



### **When We Were Alone** – David Robertson

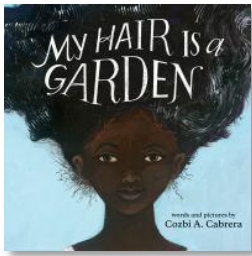
For ages 4-8. While a young girl helps tend to her grandmother's garden, she is told about life in a residential school a long time ago. *When We Were Alone* is a story about a difficult time in history, and, ultimately, one of empowerment and strength.

This title is also available in French – [Quand On Était Seuls](#)



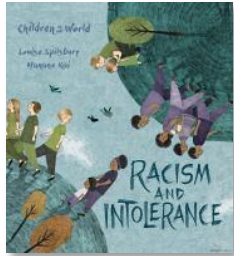
### **The Name Jar** – Yanksook Choi

For ages 4-8. Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it – Yoon Hey.



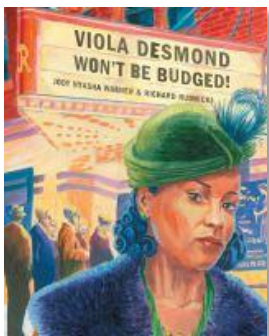
### **My Hair is a Garden** – Cozbi A. Cabrera

For ages 4-8. After being teased yet again about her unruly hair, MacKenzie consults her neighbor, Miss Tillie, who compares hair care with tending her beautiful garden and teaches MacKenzie some techniques.



### **Racism and Intolerance** – Louise Spilsbury

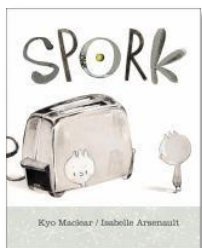
For ages 5-8. Help children explore topics like current affairs, compassion, empathy, and more with this sensitively written, beautifully illustrated book. Kids can find answers to questions like: "What does it mean to be a racist or intolerant?" and "How can I help?"



### **Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged** – Jody Warner

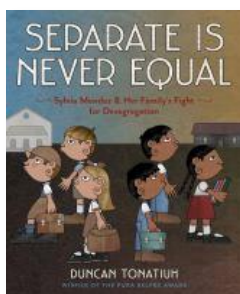
For ages 6-9. In Nova Scotia, in 1946, an usher in a movie theatre told Viola Desmond to move from her main floor seat up to the balcony. She refused to budge. Viola knew she was being asked to move because she was black. After all, she was the only black person downstairs. All the other black people were up in the balcony. In no time at all, the police arrived and took Viola to jail. The next day she was charged and fined, but she vowed to continue her struggle against such unfair rules. She refused to accept that being black meant she couldn't sit where she wanted. Viola's determination gave strength and inspiration to her community at the time. She is an unsung hero of the North American struggle against injustice and racial discrimination whose story deserves to be widely known.

This title is also available in French - [La Détermination De Viola Desmond](#)



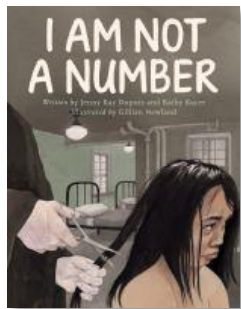
### **Spork** – Kyo Iona Maclear

For ages 6-9. His mum is a spoon. His dad is a fork. And he's a bit of both. He's Spork! Spork sticks out in the regimented world of the cutlery drawer.



### **Separate is Never Equal** – Duncan Tonatiuh

For ages 6-10. Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites only" school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California.

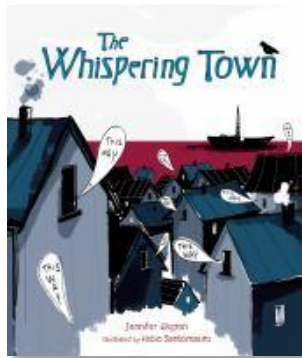


### [I Am Not a Number](#) – Jenny Kay Dupuis

For ages 7-11. When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened and homesick. *I Am Not a Number* brings a terrible part of Canada's history to light in a way that children can learn from and relate to.

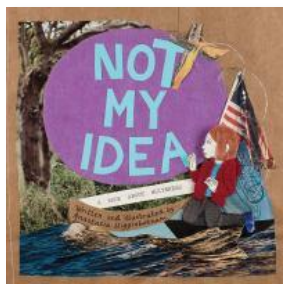
This title is also available in Ojibwe – [Gaawin Gindaaswin Ndawsii](#) =

This title is also available in French – [Je Ne Suis Pas Un Numéro](#)



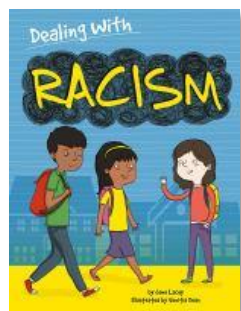
### [The Whispering Town](#) – Jennifer Elvgren

For ages 7-11. It is 1943 in Nazi-occupied Denmark. Anett and her parents are hiding a Jewish woman and her son, Carl, in their cellar until a fishing boat can take them across the sound to neutral Sweden. The soldiers patrolling their street are growing suspicious, so Carl and his mama must make their way to the harbor despite a cloudy sky with no moon to guide them. Worried about their safety, Anett devises a clever and unusual plan for their safe passage to the harbor. Based on a true story.



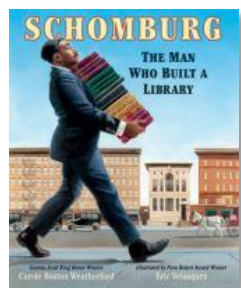
### [Not My Idea](#) – Anastasia Higginbotham

For ages 8-11. *Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness* is a picture book about racism and racial justice, inviting white children and parents to become curious about racism, accept that it's real, and cultivate justice.



### [Dealing with Racism](#) – Jane Lacey

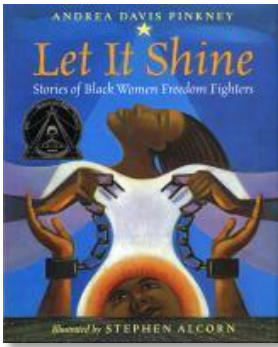
For ages 8-11. Readers are taught to stand up for what is right in a safe way and become comfortable discussing this serious issue with others. Engaging illustrations and age-appropriate text guide readers through navigating this difficult matter.



### [Schomburg: the man who built a library](#)

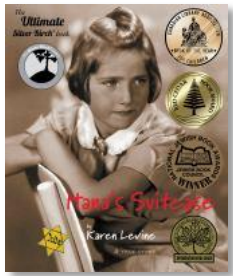
– Carole Boston Weatherford

For ages 8-12. The true story of Arturo Schomburg who created an enormous collection of books highlighting the achievements of people of African descent through the ages. His books are now at the New York Public Library.



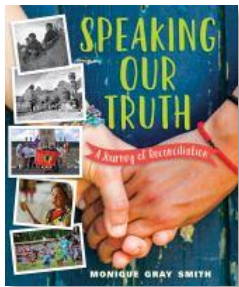
**[Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters](#)** – *Andrea Davis Pinkney*

For ages 9-12. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus and sparked a boycott that changed America. Harriet Tubman helped more than three hundred slaves escape the South on the Underground Railroad. Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The lives these women led are part of an incredible story about courage in the face of oppression; about the challenges and triumphs of the battle for civil rights; and about speaking out for what you believe in – even when it feels like no one is listening. Andrea Davis Pinkney’s moving text and Stephen Alcorn’s glorious portraits celebrate the lives of ten bold women who lit the path to freedom for generations.



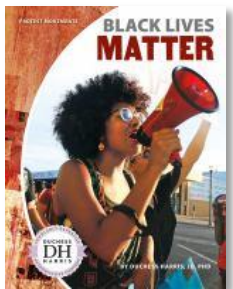
**[Hana's Suitcase](#)** – *Karen Levine*

For ages 9-12. This book traces the life of a Czech girl who died in the Holocaust. It is told in alternating chapters with an account of how the curator of a Japanese Holocaust center learned about her life after Hana’s suitcase was sent to her.



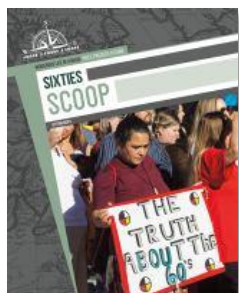
**[Speaking Our Truth: a journey of reconciliation](#)**  
– *Monique Gray Smith*

For ages 9-12. Looks at ways to heal and repair the relationship between Canada and its Indigenous people which has suffered as a result of both the residential school system and the lack of understanding of the impact of those schools.



**[Black Lives Matter](#)** – *Duchess Harris*

For ages 9-12. Explores the protest movement.



**[Sixties Scoop](#)** – *Erin Nicks*

For ages 9-12. Discusses the removal of Indigenous children from their families, the reasons behind their removal, their lives in foster care, and the feelings of identity loss, depression, and anxiety felt by many adoptees as a result of being raised in a non-Indigenous family.



### **Fatty Legs** – *Christy Jordan*

For ages 9-12. Eight-year-old Margaret is determined to learn how to read. Despite her father's warnings about residential school she wants to attend. She becomes the target of a cruel nun, but in the end her dignity and strong-will survive.

This title is also available in French – [Les Bas Du Pensionnat](#)



### **This Book is Anti-Racist** – *Tiffany Jewell and Aurélie Durand*

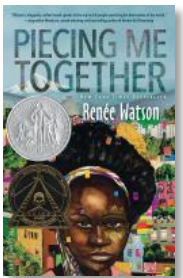
For ages 9-12. Gain a deeper understanding of your anti-racist self as you progress through 20 chapters that spark introspection, reveal the origins of racism that we are still experiencing and give you the courage and power to undo it. Each chapter builds on the previous one as you learn more about yourself and racial oppression. Exercise prompts get you thinking and help you grow with the knowledge.

## **Resources for Teens**



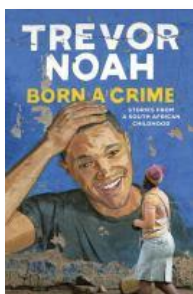
### **Slay** – *Brittney Morris*

Kiera is a Black female honour-roll student, math tutor and game-developer of SLAY. The game is home to thousands of Black gamers. She finds herself stuck between protecting her online identity and being unapologetically Black after SLAY becomes the target of anti-Black racism following a murder resulting from a dispute on SLAY.



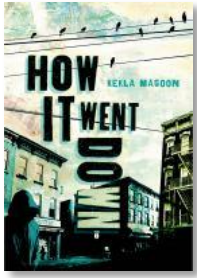
### **Piecing Me Together** – *Renée Watson*

Jade believes that in order for her to succeed, she must leave her neighbourhood that has been described as unsafe. This book follows Jade's last year at a mostly white high school as she faces challenges with her friends, politics within the school and experiences of racial injustice (both within and outside of the black community).



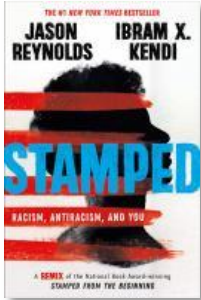
### **Born a Crime** – *Trevor Noah*

This nonfiction text is about the life of Trevor Noah – a young man, who in South Africa, struggles to find himself and fit into a community where he was never meant to exist. Noah was born to a white Swiss father and Black Xhosa mother during the apartheid, which was considered a criminal act. He shares his experiences of racism, poverty and unconditional support from his mother as he navigates the world.



### [How It Went Down](#) – *Kekla Magoon*

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white, and in the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.



### [Stamped](#) – *Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds*

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. This remarkable reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now, shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.



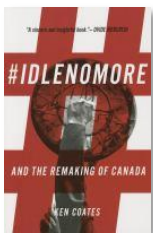
### [The Skin We're In](#) – *Desmond Cole*

Community activist and journalist, Desmond Cole chronicles the struggles Canadians have had and continue to have with race and racism. In the span of one year, Cole examines the systemic inequities experienced by Black Canadians and the role and responsibility we have to engage in anti-racist practices in all aspects of our lives.



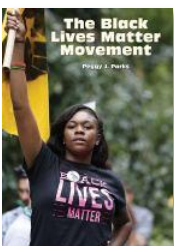
### [The Winter We Danced](#)

*The Winter We Danced* is a vivid collection of writing, poetry, lyrics, art and images from the many diverse voices that make up the past, present, and future of the Idle No More movement.



### [#IdleNoMore and the Remaking of Canada](#) – *Ken Coates*

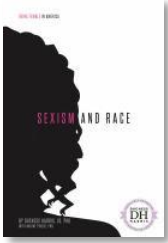
In this investigation, Canadian author and editor Ken Coates shows how the Idle No More movement became the most powerful demonstration of Aboriginal identity in Canadian history.



### [The Black Lives Matter Movement](#) – *Peggy J. Parks*

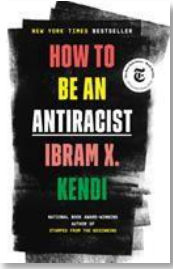
Black Lives Matter was born in July 2013 after a jury exonerated the killer of an unarmed black youth named Trayvon Martin. Since that time it has become known as a formidable, often controversial, civil rights movement that seeks equality and fair treatment of black citizens by law enforcement and by society as a whole.





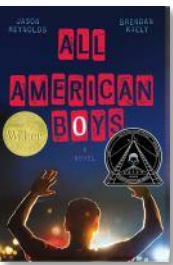
### [Sexism and Race](#) – *Duchess Harris and Nadine Pinede*

Race plays a significant role in shaping women of color's experience with sexism. This title takes a look at the history of sexism that women of color have endured, the current issues surrounding this topic, and steps people can take to eliminate sexist practices.



### [How to Be an Antiracist](#) – *Ibram X. Kendi*

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism--and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other.



### [All American Boys](#) – *Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely*

When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.



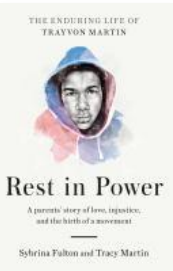
### [So You Want to Talk About Race](#) – *Ijeoma Oluo*

This text examines the realities of racism, power and oppression. Oluo offers a conversational guide to support people as they think about and navigate issues of race and identity. Incorporating many personal stories with practical solutions, this thought-provoking text offers entry into teaching and talking about race and racism.



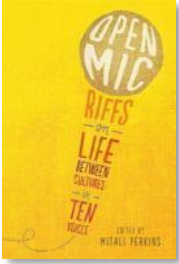
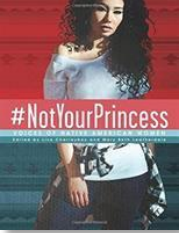
### [The Hate U Give](#) – *Angie Thomas*

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.







### [Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin](#) – *Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin*

An intimate portrait of Trayvon Martin shares previously untold insights into the movement he inspired from the perspectives of his parents, who also describe their efforts to bring meaning to his short life through the movement's pursuit of redemption and justice.

	<p><b><u>Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures in Ten Voices</u></b>  – <i>Mitali Perkins</i></p> <p>Using humor as the common denominator, a multicultural cast of YA authors steps up to the mic to share stories touching on race. Listen in as ten YA authors - some familiar, some new - use their own brand of humor to share their stories about growing up between cultures.</p>
	<p><b><u>#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women</u></b>  – <i>Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale</i></p> <p>A collection of powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America.</p>

## Online Resources

	<p><b>Parent Resources: Uplifting Youth Through Healthy Communication About Race</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources/index">https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources/index</a></li> </ul>
	<p><b>How to Talk to Kids About Race and Racism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.parenttoolkit.com/social-and-emotional-development/advice/social-awareness/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-and-racism">https://www.parenttoolkit.com/social-and-emotional-development/advice/social-awareness/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-and-racism</a></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Dear Child: When Black Parents Have to Give the Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkw1CetjWwl&amp;feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkw1CetjWwl&amp;feature=youtu.be</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Muslim Parents' Open Letter to their Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TBPsFt7w0k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TBPsFt7w0k</a></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Teaching Tolerance Magazine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.tolerance.org/magazine">https://www.tolerance.org/magazine</a></li> </ul>

Adapted from a document created by the Toronto Public Library.