

# Annotated Booklists and Online Resources

This is by no means an exhaustive list but includes examples of stories and experiences you can incorporate into your instruction. At the middle and secondary level, you can incorporate chapter books (or excerpts of chapter books) to ensure that students get to know the stories of people who are racially different as layered and complex.

## BOOKS FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

*Apple Pie Fourth of July* by Janet S. Wong and Margaret Chodos-Irvine tells the story of a Chinese American girl's relationship with the July 4th holiday and how she navigates two cultures. Students can make connections with their own relationship with Independence Day and share those connections with one another.

*Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes shows what it's like in a Black barbershop. If you're in a community where there are few Black people, this story can give students a window into a place and experience that is important to this young Black boy. Students can make connections to how they take care of their hair and even explore what connections someone who doesn't have hair can make to this story.

*Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard celebrates the connection between food and Native American culture and traditions. It takes the reader beyond the single, inaccurate story that many of us have been told about Indigenous people on the North American continent. Students can make connections to any food traditions they may have in their own families.

*I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes explores what it means for a young Black boy to be proud of what makes him who he is. Students can use this book to reflect on what makes them feel proud about themselves.

*I Love Saturdays y domingos* by Alma Flor Ada tells the story of a young biracial child enjoying spending time with the Mexican and White sides of her family. Students can make connections to the similarities and differences they notice when spending time with different family members or friends.

*Jaden Toussaint, The Greatest* series by Marti Dumas captures the adventures of Jaden, a five-year-old genius Black boy, as he navigates the world. The titles in the series include *The Quest for Screen Time*, *The Ladek Invasion*, *Muffin Wars*, *Attack of the Swamp Thing*, and *Mission-Star Power*.

*Julián Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love shows the importance of self-love and individuality through the story of a Latino boy who loves to dress up and whose interests transcend gender boundaries. Students can talk about how different clothes and toys are marketed based on gender and also explore if someone's gender should determine what they're interested in.

*The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibithaj Muhammad tells the story of Faizah's excitement about her sister's first day of hijab and how she navigates the challenges of being othered as a Muslim family. Students can reflect on what it feels like to practice different traditions than most of the kids in your class or school.

*We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom explores the sacred connection that Indigenous people acknowledge with the earth and what it means to keep the earth's water safe from harm. Although I haven't had the experience of being a water protector, I know what it felt like to protect my niece when I was twelve, and I was her babysitter. Students can make similar connections.

## PICTURE BOOKS THAT CELEBRATE HAIR AND SKIN

*Chocolate Me!* and *Mixed Me!* by Taye Diggs celebrate the skin color of Black and biracial/multiracial children.

*Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry tells the story of a Dad connecting with his daughter and her hair. This is a particularly important narrative for students to experience as the images they encounter of Black men may not show them as loving, supportive, creative, involved fathers.

*I Love My Hair!* by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, like *Hair Love*, tells the story of Keyana as she discovers the beauty of her hair.

*Tan to Tamarind* by Malathai Iyengar explores the spectrum of beautiful shades of brown.

## BOOKS FOR OLDER STUDENTS

*Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston tells the story of Amari Peters' supernatural adventures as she tries to find her missing brother. Amari's story continues in the sequel, *Amari and the Great Game*.

*Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson, for which she won both the NAACP Image Award and Coretta Scott King Author Award, tells the story of ZJ as he and his family navigate his father's memory-related health challenges.

*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi is a fantasy novel that tells the story of Zélie Adebola in the aftermath of the disappearance of magic from her land. Can Zélie overcome the dangers around her to bring magic back to Orïsha? Zélie's adventures continue in the sequel, *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*.

*Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo tells the stories of Camino and Yahaira Rios, who discover that they are sisters who share the same father after his death. The book addresses

grief and loss as well as expanding our view of family across distance, as Camino lives in the Dominican Republic and Yahaira lives in New York City.

*Class Act* by Jerry Craft is a companion graphic novel to *The New Kid* (described below) that tells the story of Drew as one of few kids of color at a prestigious private school.

*Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon tells the story of Liliana Cruz as she navigates changes in her family and the differences between her Boston neighborhood and the affluent suburban high school she has been accepted into.

*The Kane Chronicles* by Rick Riordan is a series based on Egyptian mythology and includes three books: *The Red Pyramid*, *The Throne of Fire*, and *The Serpent's Shadow*. The series features the supernatural adventures of Carter and Sadie, who are siblings navigating the loss of their mother and their relationship with their father Dr. Julius Kane, the brilliant Egyptologist. This fantasy series features main characters who are Black, which, like Tomi Adeyemi's books, provides a much needed opportunity to enjoy Black characters outside of the single story narrative of struggle and oppression.

*Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* by Jason Reynolds explores ten tales of the unexpected things that can happen on the way home from school block by block.

*Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X* by his daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz gives readers the opportunity to get to know what the man who became Malcolm X was like as a child. This Facing History & Ourselves "Limiting Opportunity" [resource](#) explores how Malcolm X's opportunities were limited and how his experiences shaped his perspective.

*Miles Morales: Shock Waves* by Jason Reynolds is the story of Miles Morales as Spider-Man. He's a superhero and a teenager experiencing the joys and challenges of school, family, and friendships and also discovering his purpose. Miles is a biracial character—Black and Latino—and it's important for readers to see examples of Black and Brown superheroes.

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft is a graphic novel that tells the story of Jordan Banks, who wanted to go to art school but ends up enrolling in a prestigious private school outside of his community. This causes him to feel torn between two worlds.

*The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo is the story of Xiomara Batista as she navigates her life in Harlem, her family's expectations, and her budding interest in a boy in her science class through a developing love for spoken word.

*Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson is the story of Melody and her relationships with her grandparents and her mom as she navigates gentrification in her Brooklyn neighborhood and her family's connection to the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921.

*Tell Me Who You Are: A Road Map for Cultivating Racial Literacy* by Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi chronicles the accounts shared with the authors as they traveled around the country to all fifty states gathering stories about race and identity, our perceived differences, and how telling and listening to our respective stories can help us to address racial inequity in the United States.

*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia is the story of Tristan Strong as he navigates the loss of a friend and the battle that ensues when he mistakenly opens a chasm into another world. This story features Black characters, folk heroes like John Henry and Brer Rabbit, and Western African gods. The other books in the series include *Tristan Strong Destroys the World*, and *Tristan Strong Keeps Punching*.

*With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo tells the story of Emoni Santiago and her development as a young mother and granddaughter, discovering how to make her dream of becoming a chef a reality.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

The “[What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?](#)” speech by Frederick Douglass. As a Black person, I feel more of a connection to Juneteenth than I do to July 4th, although I have enjoyed the night before the 4th parade and fireworks in my town for most of the sixteen years that I lived there. It would be interesting to explore excerpts from this speech with students.

Engage your students with PBS Learning Media’s “[Mission US: Flight to Freedom](#),” an interactive experience as Lucy, a fourteen-year-old girl who escapes enslavement in Kentucky and joins the abolitionist movement in Ohio, and/or “[Mission US: A Cheyenne Odyssey](#),” an interactive experience as Little Fox, a Cheyenne boy, as he experiences the impact of colonization.