A Library Guide to Readings On Race

Books to further conversations about race and equity in America. The Library has many more resources on this topic, so please visit the desk or ask a librarian for further suggestions!

Things That Make White People Uncomfortable
B Bennet

Michael Bennett, a Super Bowl Champion and three-time Pro Bowl defensive end, adds his voice to the discussion of racism and police violence, the responsibility to speak out against injustice, and the role of protest in history.

Between the World and Me
305.8009 Coates

In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis.

White fragility; why it's so hard to talk to white people about racism
305.8 DiAngelo

Explores counterproductive reactions white people have when discussing racism that serve to protect their positions and maintain racial inequality.

So you want to talk about race
BOCD 305.8 Oluo

A current, constructive, and actionable exploration of today's racial landscape, offering straightforward clarity that listeners of all races need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide.

Your Black Friend and Other Strangers
GN Passmore

An Eisner Award nominated and Ignatz Award-winning collection of culturally charged comics that argues for antiracist action against both overt racism and subtle prejudice.
Stamped; racism, antiracism, and you
YA 305.8009 Reynolds

This reimagining of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by award winning author Jason Reynolds helps readers explore the history of racist ideas in America and how we can identify and stamp out racist thoughts and behaviors in our everyday lives.

Can I Touch Your Hair? poems of race, mistakes, and friendship
J 811 Latham

Irene Latham, who is white, and Charles Waters, who is black, present paired poems about topics including family dinners, sports, recess, and much more. This relatable collection explores different experiences of race in America.

Let’s Talk About Race
J 305.8 Lester

Offers readers a poetic introduction to the topic of race as the differences and unique features of races are celebrated. Julius Lester, the author of the Newbery Honor Book To Be a Slave shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special.

On the Playground; our first talk about prejudice
J 303 Roberts

Crafted around a narrative between a grade-school-aged child and an adult, this inquiry-focused book will help children shape their understanding of diversity so they are better prepared to understand, and question, prejudice witnessed around them in their day-to-day lives and in the media. Sidebars offer further reading for older children or care providers who have bigger questions.

A is for Activist
BOARD BK Nagara

An ABC board book that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and everything else that activists believe in and fight for. This little book delivers a message of equality and action wrapped in engaging rhythm and alliteration.