

# Talking to Our Kids About Racism

## Helpful Resources for Parents

- [NPR Interview on How White Parents Can Talk About Race](#)  
There is a lot of information circulating about how we can move forward and raise more aware children in our current climate. In this NPR conversation, Michel Martin talks with author Jennifer Harvey about how to begin the conversation with white kids about the racially-charged events occurring in our world. This 7-minute conversation can serve as a springboard for further reading, as well as an introduction to her book as a whole.
- [How to Help Combat the “Perpetual Stranger Status” of Jews of Color](#)  
We also recognize that not all of our families are raising white-presenting children. The Union for Reform Judaism shares resources on upholding inclusivity in our Jewish community. A great place to start is with this article addressing Jews of Color as "perpetual strangers" in our community.
- [They're Not Too Young to Talk About Race](#)  
This chart displays some of the ways children are aware of race from an early age and provides resources for learning how to have conversations with children about race, diversity, and justice.
- [Embrace Race](#)  
Check out their website and social media for a wealth of resources and community discussion aimed at helping parents “raise kids who are thoughtful, informed, and brave about race.”
- [The Conscious Kid: Parenting and Education through a Critical Race Lens](#)  
An education, research, and policy organization dedicated to reducing bias and promoting positive identity development in youth. Follow on social media or sign up to receive more resources.

## Share with Your Kids

### Watch with Your Elementary-Aged Kids:

- [Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism](#), a town hall for kids and families hosted by CNN and Sesame Street

### Read with Your Elementary-Aged Kids:

- [Kids Book About Racism](#) by Jelani Memory  
A clear explanation of what racism is and how to know when you see it
- [The Story Of Ruby Bridges](#) by Robert Coles  
A moving picture book about a little girl's calm perseverance, courage, and hope in the ugly face of hate and racism
- [Let's Talk About Race](#) by Julius Lester  
The author's own story exploring what makes each of us special, emphasizing that race is just one of many facets of a person
- [Desmond and the Very Mean Word](#) by Desmond Tutu  
Based on Desmond Tutu's childhood experiences, this book is a touching story about compassion and forgiveness.
- [Amazing Grace](#) by Mary Hoffman  
An engaging story about challenging gender and racial stereotypes

- [Skin Again](#) by Bell Hooks  
This award-winning book, with its myriad of faces, introduces a strong message of loving yourself and others that will appeal to parents of our youngest readers.

### Read with Your Middle School-Aged Kids:

- [Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#) by Mildred D. Taylor  
This classic masterpiece focuses on Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, and learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.
- [Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly  
Tells the amazing true story of four African American female mathematicians at NASA
- [Nelson Mandela: The Authorized Comic Book](#) by The Nelson Mandela Foundation  
This comic book features new interviews, firsthand accounts, and archival material making the story of Mandela's life and work accessible for teenagers.
- [Brown Girl Dreaming](#) by Jacqueline Woodson  
An intimate and moving account of the author's childhood as an African American in the 1960's and 1970's

### Read or Discuss with Your Teens:

- [Genesis Begins Again](#) by Alicia D. Williams  
This deeply sensitive and powerful debut novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.
- [Dear Martin](#) by Nic Stone Raw  
Captivating, and undeniably real, Nic Stone joins industry giants Jason Reynolds and Walter Dean Myers as she boldly tackles American race relations in this stunning debut.
- [All American Boys](#) by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely  
Written by two award-winning authors and alternating between the perspectives of one black and one white teenager, *All American Boys* is a moving novel about privilege and racism that every teenager should read.
- [Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi  
This book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas - and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.
- [X: A Novel](#) by Ilyasah Shabaz  
Co-written by Malcolm X's daughter, *X* follows the formative years of one of the most powerful leaders in African American history.

### Watch with Your Teens:

*Please check the ratings of these before watching with your family*

- [The Hate U Give](#), a film based on the young adult novel offering an intimate portrait of race in America
- [Becoming](#), a Netflix documentary following Michelle Obama on her book tour
- [Dear White People](#), a Netflix series about being black at a predominantly white college
- [Hidden Figures](#), a film about the brilliant African American women of NASA
- [Remember the Titans](#), story of a newly-integrated football team
- These 26 [New York Times mini-films](#) for students
- [Just Mercy](#), a film based on the life work of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson, examining systemic racism in our society and legal system (now streaming for free)