DAY 13: Talking to Children about Race

We know that talking about topics like race can feel challenging, especially with those closest to us—Thanksgiving dinner, anyone? To help, Kekere Freedom School has curated resources below to help parents and caregivers talk to children about race and racism.

We asked the team at Black Men Read to offer guidance on how to build a more diverse library of books for the children in your life. Here are the questions they ask themselves before making a purchase:

- Does this book center a Black child enjoying a playful, happy childhood?
- Does this book promote the historical and cultural contributions of Black people throughout the African diaspora?
- Does this book affirm or counter stereotypes about Black people?
- In concert with other books in our library, does this book give voice to the diverse experiences of Black people (including gender, ability, family structure, ethnicity, religion, etc.)?
- Is the author or illustrator of this book Black? If not, can a similar story be told using the book of a Black author or illustrator?
- Can this book be purchased from a Black retailer online or brick and mortar?

Below are tools to empower you to spark a conversation.

**Today’s Challenge:**

**Option 1:** Nuola Akinde has prepared three weeks of learning for your family and you that begin with inward reflection and end with advocacy. [If you haven’t done so already, check out the weekly prompts here.](#)

**Option 2:** Black Men Read is an Ypsilanti-based organization with youth programming all summer long. [Click here for their schedule of book parties and virtual book club](#), and then follow them on FaceBook.

**Option 3:** Explore the lists of books, movies, and activities for adults, children, and families that are designed to elevate the conversation and [promote learning on race and racism from the librarians at Ypsilanti District Library](#).
Option 4: Watch songs and short documentaries of Sesame Workshop’s Coming Together, developmentally appropriate resources to help you guide your child to be an upstander to racism.

Option 5: Watch Common read “Let’s Talk About Race,” a book by Julius Lester which offers us the opportunity to discuss race and how racial identity affects the way we view ourselves and one another.

Option 6: Watch PBS KIDS Talk About: Race, Racism, and Identity, where real families sat down to have honest conversations about these important topics in an age-appropriate way and offer viewers ideas to build on as they continue these important conversations at home.

Option 7: Watch Raising Antiracist Kids: Empowering the Next Generation of Changemakers with Ibram X. Kendi in conversation with Derecka Purnell.

Share your reflections on today’s topic on social media using the hashtag #unitedforequity and tag @uwwashtenaw.