

# DAY 18: 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?

**BLACK BOOKS EVERY KID SHOULD HAVE**

**NEWCOMERS**

- A Chicken in the Kitchen - Nnedi Okorafor
- Antiracist Baby - Ibram X. Kendi
- Black is a Rainbow Color - Angela Joy
- I Am Every Good Thing - Derrick Barnes
- Mommy's Khimar - Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
- The Patchwork Bike - Maxine Beneba Clarke
- Your Name is a Song - Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
- Thank You, Omu - Oge Mora
- Another - Christian Robinson
- Ana & Andrew Series - Christine Platt
- Where's Rodney? - Carmen Bogan

**THE CLASSICS**

- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters - John Steptoe
- Happy to Be Nappy - bell hooks
- Be, Boy, Buzz - bell hooks
- Rain Feet - Angela Johnson
- Flossie and the Fox - Patricia C. McKissack
- The Clubhouse Mystery Series - Sharon M. Draper
- Please, Baby, Please - Spike & Tonya Lewis Lee
- The Talking Eggs - Jerry Pinkney

**BLACK MEN READ**  
Expanding Possibilities Through Storytelling

**UWWC Equity Challenge: Community Conversations**

**Final Session:**  
• January 31 @ 8 AM

**Click here to sign up for a FREE and VIRTUAL session!**

Share your reflections on today's topic on social media using the hashtag [#unitedforequity](#) or [#uwwcequitychallenge](#) and tag [@uwwashtenaw](#).

Below are tools to empower you to spark a conversation.

## Today's Challenge:

### Listen:

- Listen to this episode of the Good Life Project featuring [Ibram X. Kendi on how to raise an antiracist](#).

### Read:

- 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](#).
- Explore one of the many [Black Lives Matter reading lists for teens, kids, and talking about race](#) curated by the Ann Arbor District Library.

### Watch:

- 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](#).
- [Watch musician and actor 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.
- [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.

### Act:

- We're featuring opportunities for learning as a family during each Friday of the Equity Challenge. [If you haven't done so already, check out the weekly prompts here](#).
- Check out the work of these two Ypsi-based organizations:
  - [Black Men Read](#), elevates Black men as storytellers and community leaders. They offer a book club subscription, virtual book parties and more.
  - [Our Community Reads](#) works replace the negative, traumatic stories that Black and Brown children see growing up.
- Journal, Reflect and Share: What are some emerging opportunities to talk with our children and create space for race-brave learning and being? What might this look like in your home, if applicable? With your extended family? In your children's school and community activities?

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**Discrimination?  
Injustice?  
Racial Inequities?**



**Click here to learn more  
and join the  
21-Day Equity  
Challenge: 2023 Edition**

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