

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](#).

BLACK BOOKS EVERY KID SHOULD HAVE 2021

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

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**.