This online resource list accompanies the book *Something Happened in Our Town*, a picture book that introduces young children to the topics of racial injustice and police shootings. The book also includes information for parents or caretakers to help them encourage children to value diversity. In this resource list, the authors provide the following additional information:

1. Lists of books for young children about
   - resisting racial bias and advocating for civil rights, and
   - accepting oneself and valuing diversity;
2. Additional resource lists including
   - books supporting racial pride for children of diverse ethnicities
   - books about Africa
   - books about slavery
   - resources for multicultural families
   - anti-bullying books
   - resources about community violence
   - resources about racial injustice for older children;
3. Additional resources for parents; and
4. Additional resources for teachers.

**BOOK LISTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

This section includes two lists of picture books designed for children ages 4 to 8. List 1 contains books about racial discrimination or civil rights which include an anti-racist message. Although the terms “anti-bias” and “anti-racist” are often used interchangeably, only the latter term describes the practice of disrupting white supremacy and fighting policies that discriminate against racial groups. List 2 includes books which promote general self-acceptance and the value of diversity. A suggested age range is also offered for each book, although some books may also be appropriate for younger or older children. The books listed below were reviewed by one of the three psychologists who authored *Something Happened in Our Town*, or by Nell H. Booker, a retired elementary school librarian for the Nashville Public Schools, or Glenda Harvey, a retired elementary school principal and teacher in the Detroit Public School system.

**Book List 1: Resisting Racial Bias and Advocating for Civil Rights**


*This poem celebrates the endurance and spirit of great African American artists, athletes, and activists. (Ages 4–8).*
This book encourages all of us to use our voices, be they loud, soft, or via sign language to speak up for what is right and speak out against what is wrong. Our voices can unite us. (Ages 3–7)

Illustrated by historic photographs, this is the story of a courageous 6-year-old Black girl who integrated an all White New Orleans school. (Ages 4–5)

Sonja Cherry-Paul adapts the Reynolds and Kendi book for children. (Ages 5–10)

This book tells the story of children and teens who marched in Birmingham in 1963 to protest Jim Crow laws. (Ages 6–8)

A Black child’s parents explain in sparse, rhyming text what the term “Black Lives Matter” means to them, in protest and song, in sorrow and joy. (Ages 6–9)

Harriet Tubman’s life is told in reverse, highlighting her many roles from suffragist to nurse to general to conductor and back to her early days as an enslaved person when she dreamed of the freedom she later attained. (Ages 4–8)

This inspirational book covers key figures in the civil rights movement who paved the way for the first African American president. (Ages 4–8)

This book offers an unflinching exposé of white privilege and racial injustice in the form of an allegorical tale easily understood by elementary school students. The discussion notes feature questions that can jump-start important conversations with children about racism, white privilege, and how to fight racial injustice in their own lives. (Ages 6–9)

With engaging illustrations and brief text, this picture book can spark children’s curiosity about Americans who fought for justice in unique ways. End notes provide brief information to help parents answer children's questions about each person’s life and legacy. (Ages 5–8)

This powerful poem articulates the depth and nuances of a child’s emotions following a police shooting, through grief and protests, healing, and community support. (Ages 4–8)

Sarah Roberts and her family challenge school segregation in 1840s Boston. (Ages 6–8)
Amanda Gorman’s lyrical text and Loren Long’s bold, colorful illustrations demonstrate that diverse children have the power to make societal changes. Amanda Gorman is the inaugural National Youth Poet Laureate. (Ages 4–8)

This book explains how Black Americans have a proud origin that does not begin in slavery. Using the tradition of oral history, a grandmother shares the family’s multigenerational story. The story includes the historical consequences of slavery and the Black resistance movement in America. (Ages 7–10)

After hearing about a police shooting of an unarmed African American man, a white girl becomes aware of race and racism. (Ages 8–12)

Classmates tell Grace that she can’t play Peter Pan because she is a Black girl, but that’s not the end of the story! (Ages 4–8)

Through the eyes of one child, this book celebrates the first African American Emancipation Day, when freedom finally reached the last slaves in the South. (Ages 4–8)

This book presents Rosa’s life story as she stood up for civil rights and justice. (Ages 4–8)

Sections of MLK’s famous speech are beautifully illustrated in this introduction to the notable civil rights leader. (Ages 6–8)

A week of protests left many shops boarded up after the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. This inspirational book documents the art that volunteers and artists created on those boards, conveying messages of hope for healing. (Ages 4–8)

Two Black kids’ friendship is challenged when the Black Lives Matter protests erupt in response to police violence; Nene defends cops like her uncle, but Cody becomes upset about racial injustice. The teen authors are part of an innovative program run by Reach Incorporated. (Ages 7–9)

The author’s family participated in community protests which led to the integration of a Baltimore amusement park in 1963. (Ages 6–9)
Spirituals challenged racist institutions from slavery to Jim Crow laws. This story illustrates how an iconic song has transcended communities of color to support movements against injustice globally. (Ages 4–8)

Based on the 1964 Mississippi Freedom School Summer Project, this story features a brave teacher and student facing violent resistance to change. (Ages 4–8)

Tosh learns that his grandmother’s tea cake recipe was passed down from an ancestor who was an enslaved person. (Ages 4–8)

This intergenerational tale contrasts the discrimination faced by Joseph’s grandfather in the 1950s and 1960s with his many strengths. Readers learn about overcoming racial discrimination and striving to use your hands to do whatever inspires you. (Ages 4–8)

Set in the segregated South, two girls find an inventive way to overcome Jim Crow laws. (Ages 6–8)

At night, an African American boy secretly shows his best friend, a Jewish boy, how to throw a big-league slider, and his friend lets him try his violin. With family support, they summon the courage to cross the alley and reveal their friendship during the day. (Ages 4–8)

Frederick Douglass began life as an enslaved person but learned to read and escaped to the North. He was an inspirational leader in the campaign to abolish slavery. (Ages 4–8)

This inspiring book tells the story of Nelson Mandela as he challenges apartheid in South Africa and wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Young readers will learn the importance of standing up for the equality of all people. (Ages 4–8)

A quiet girl’s artwork makes a big impression at a protest rally, showing that all kids can stand up for social justice in their community. (Ages 5–8)

A boy writes about meeting Malcolm X and his father’s bookstore, the National Memorial African Bookstore. (Ages 6–8)

With poetic storytelling and vibrant illustrations, this book tells the story of the sit-in by four young Black activists at the Woolworth’s lunch counter in the 1960s. (Ages 6–8)
In the 1950s, Ruth and her parents drive from Chicago to Alabama and use the Green Book to find places that will welcome them in the segregated South. (Ages 6–8)

This beautifully illustrated brief biography of the civil rights icon includes some of MLK’s memorable quotes. (Ages 4–8)

The daughter of Jackie Robinson writes about an American family visiting their extended family in Tanzania and learning about slavery. The story encourages children’s interest in their family roots and genealogical history. (Ages 4–8)

The daughter of Malcolm X writes about how his childhood and family experiences shaped his identity and values. (Ages 6–8)

The daughter of civil rights leader Andrew Young provides a humane and community-oriented account of her experiences. (Ages 6–8)

The White House was built by diverse individuals, including enslaved people, some of whom were able to buy their freedom. (Ages 4–5)

In 1947, a Latino family successfully challenges school segregation in California. (Ages 6–8)

Jeremiah talks to his parents about a series of high-profile shootings. As he struggles to make sense of senseless killings, he is inspired by his parents’ advocacy efforts to work for a better world.

Gordon Parks was a self-taught photographer who documented social injustice and later became the first Black Hollywood director. (Ages 4–8)

Harriet Tubman’s deep faith in God inspires her to free herself and others from slavery. This beautifully illustrated book won a Caldecott Honor Award and a Coretta Scott King Award. (Ages 4–8)

In the 1960s South, laws against segregation are overturned, but attitudes are harder to change at the neighborhood swimming pool. This story is told from the perspective of a White child, with a positive message that friendship can overcome societal barriers. (Ages 4–8)
Book List 2: Accepting Oneself and Valuing Diversity

This beautiful book celebrates the everyday magnificence of curious, resilient, helpful, worthy Black boys. (Ages 3–7)

A young girl’s dress collects what she sees as she dances across the island in this joyous celebration of childhood, culture, and place. (Ages 5–8)

This engaging story of a lost and bullied sweet potato encourages children not to reject others based on their “outsides” but to value everyone’s uniqueness. (Ages 4–5)

Competition between three friends, each trying to be the best, leads to resentment until they learn to appreciate their differences. (Ages 4–5)

A Black girl conveys messages of self-acceptance, inclusion, and kindness. (Ages 4–8)

The lyrical text and beautiful illustrations celebrate the worth of a brown boy. The author alludes to challenges the boy may face, but mostly conveys a sense of connectivity and positive destiny. (Ages 4–8)

In this award-winning story, CJ’s grandmother helps him appreciate the beauty in his life, despite challenging economic circumstances. (Ages 4–5)

A Black child is teased by White peers and initially wishes to look differently but learns to love himself. (Ages 4–5)

A Black child explores his shifting emotions after a police shooting; his fear grows into anger, then pride and peace. (Ages 5–8)

Harris, J., & Wescott, N. (2016). Who we are! All about being the same and being different. Candlewick Press.
On a family excursion, two children discuss many similarities and differences, including skin color, and learn to treat others the way they want to be treated. (Ages 4–5)

After realizing that her racial color, Black, is not in a rainbow, a girl shows how Black culture and history is celebrated via beautiful illustrations. (Ages 4–8)

Kissinger, K., & Bohnhoff, C. (2014, 20th anniversary edition). All the colors we are: Todos los colores de nuestra piel. Redleaf Press.
This book offers children a simple, scientifically accurate explanation of how our skin color is determined by our ancestors, the sun, and melanin. (Ages 4–6)
Using simple language, this book gives straightforward descriptions of the meaning of skin color, the idea of “race,” examples of racism, and the importance of working for racial justice. (Ages 2–5)

This book features the story of a girl who loves colors but is unsure of how she feels about her brown skin color. (Ages 5–8)

A series of 12 short videos in which celebrities read picture books by Black authors featuring Black children and joyous slices of Black life.

As a multicultural group of children play in the park, they recognize their similarities despite some physical differences. Presented as a rap, the story and illustrations capture the joy of childhood. (Ages 4–8)

Sulwe’s skin is “the color of midnight,” but she longs to have the lighter skin of her sister Mich. A magical journey in the night sky changes her view of herself and her beauty. (Ages 4–8)

Our first Black president writes about 13 groundbreaking Americans and encourages each of us to pursue our dreams. (Ages 4–8)

This is a delightful Christmas and Hanukkah story about a cross-cultural friendship between an African American and Jewish family. (Ages 4–8)

Charles, an African American boy, gets to know his new classmate Hector, who is from Puerto Rico. (Ages 6–8)

Keyana handles peer teasing and learns to appreciate her special hair. (Ages 4–8)

This book defines race and racism and encourages children to appreciate diversity while recognizing our common humanity. (Ages 4–5)

This clever rhyming book celebrates the colors and usefulness of our diverse skins. (Ages 4–5)

This book is about finding the courage to connect with others when you feel different from peers in school due to race, culture, or other reasons. (Ages 4–8)
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN
Here are some starting points to identify resources on additional topics:

Books supporting racial pride for children of diverse ethnicities
This is an organization devoted to increasing children's access to books that reduce bias and promote positive identity development.

Latinx in Kids Lit. Retrieved 12/16/2020 from https://latinosinkidlit.com/books-we-have-read-reviewed/
This website recommends children’s picture books featuring Latinx characters and themes. Other sections of the website provide suggestions for older children.

The mission of this nonprofit is “putting more books that feature diverse characters into the hands of all children.” Their Our Story app helps one choose books which address particular issues of interest.

Books about Africa
This website provides annotations and scholarly reviews of children's and young adult books about Africa, which celebrate Africa's geography, history, and people. This resource list also includes picture books. We recommend reading some of these selections to children to help balance the negative associations that they may have if they first learn about Africa in the context of enslavement.

From sunset to sunrise, this book contrasts the activities of people in Johannesburg with those of the animals in Kruger National Park. (Ages 4–8)

Set in Uganda, a pair of sisters find lost objects and dream of the future. (Ages 4–8)

This book features the true story of a woman in the Gambia who developed a way to recycle and repurpose plastic bags to improve her community. (Ages 6–8 and older)

Books about Slavery
Many educators are now actively discussing when and how to best teach children about America's history of enslaving people from west Africa. Louise Derman-Sparks, a renowned early childhood and anti-bias educator offers educators some questions to consider about introducing this topic (Retrieved 11/5/2021 from https://www.teachingforchange.org/when-how-children-enslavement). There is consensus that it is important to find a middle ground, neither minimizing the impact of enslavement nor traumatizing young children. Three children's books which offer realistic but humanizing views of enslaved persons are:

This book focuses on the humanity and skill of an actual person, a master potter whose work survives,
despite the challenging circumstances of his life. (Ages 4–8)

Henry devises a unique plan to escape slavery after suffering the pain of multiple family losses. (Ages 4–8)

This beautifully illustrated rhyming book captures the daily life of enslaved persons in New Orleans. On Sundays, free and enslaved African Americans shared music, news, and community in Congo Square. (Ages 4–8)

Resources for multicultural children and families


Diggs, T., & Evans, S.W. (2015). Mixed me!
Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan.
An energetic boy embraces his biracial identity. (Ages 4–8)


The main character has a Caucasian mother and Latino father. In this beautifully illustrated book she finds joy in the colors of the world, including the colors of her family. (Ages 4–5)

A biracial child is inspired by her brother to come up with a power phrase to express who she is, not “what” she is. (Ages 4–8)

Anti-bullying books for children

With his mother’s help, a boy changes a bully’s understanding of him, and gets her to stop teasing him. (Ages 4–8)

A wordless book about a new student who is the victim of bullying and a bystander who becomes an ally. (Ages 4–8)

A girl moves from being a silent bystander to an advocate in her diverse classroom. The book also includes a section of concrete suggestions for children about how to stand up to bullies. (Ages 6–8)

An African American principal helps a bully making racist taunts overcome what he hears at


Books and resources about community violence 


Sherman saw the most terrible thing happen, which caused him to feel nervous, have bad dreams and do mean things. Ms. Maple helped him talk about the terrible thing that he had tried to forget, and now he is feeling much better. (Ages 4–8) 


Books and media resources about racial injustice for older children 
This book explores the origin and history of the Black Lives Matter movement via photographs, quotes, timelines, music playlists, and informative text. It explains how a hashtag became a powerful protest movement aimed at combatting racism while advocating for social injustice. (Ages 10 and older) 

Parents of color discuss instances of police mistreatment with their children and suggest how to respond to police to reduce the likelihood of being injured. Viewers may not agree with all parents’ approaches, but this emotionally intense video challenges us to think about the impact of racially-biased police practices.

Jilly P is a well-intentioned White middle-schooler and fantasy fiction fan. She realizes she has a lot to learn when her sister is born deaf and she becomes online friends with Derek, who is Black and deaf. *(Ages 8–12)*

Hudson, W., & Hudson, C.W. (Eds). (2018). *We rise, we resist, we raise our voices.* Crown Books for Young Readers.

This compilation of poems, essays, illustrations and photographs offers inspiration and encouragement to children of color and their allies during challenging times. *(Ages 8–12)*


Thirty diverse authors and illustrators capture frank discussions about racism, identity, and self-esteem. *(Ages 10–12)*


With an engaging conversational tone and anecdotes from his own life, the author helps adolescents understand their own white privilege and why allyship is so vital. *(Ages 13-17)*


Told primarily in verse, this collection describes how young people advocated for social change in the U.S. *(Ages 6–12)*


This engaging book provides middle school children with pragmatic ideas about different aspects of social justice activism such as volunteering, raising money for causes, making signs, and planning a march. *(Ages 10–12)*


A 7th grade African American girl struggles with friendships and racial identity amidst the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement. 2020 Walter Honors, Young Readers Category. *(Ages 8–12)*


This book makes accessible to middle and high school students Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning*, a narrative history of racist and antiracist ideas in the U.S.


This award-winning young adult novel explores the aftermath of a White policeman’s unjust beating of Rashad, an African American youth. Rashad grapples with his role as a symbol of his community’s experiences of police brutality, while a White classmate who witnessed the incident struggles with conflicting loyalties. *(Ages 12 & up)*


The narrator of this story is Jerome, a 12-year-old Black boy who is killed by a policeman. The book is aimed at middle schoolers and uses the voice of Jerome’s ghost to explore racism, family and peer...
relationships, and the power of bearing witness. (Ages 10 & up)

In this award-winning young adult novel, 16-year-old Starr is drawn to activism when she witnesses her unarmed African American friend being shot by a police officer. (Ages 14 & up)

This book tells the important historical and sad story of the events contributing to the race riot in Tulsa, Oklahoma, one of the worst racial attacks in U.S. history. There is limited information for kids on this massacre, an important part of American history. (Ages 8–12)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ADULTS**

**Parent Resources**
You may have found reading this book to your child to be thought-provoking for yourself. To increase your knowledge about racial issues and to become more comfortable discussing these topics, we have provided a list of helpful articles and websites:


This website offers booklists for diverse age groups and anti-bias topics, anti-bullying resources, and guides for meaningful family discussions about current events/social justice topics.

The author offers a Black feminist perspective on parenting, organized into three sections: re-connecting to self, re-connecting to your children, and re-connecting with your community.

Caminos Lab works in solidarity with communities of color to promote the development of positive racial identity. The One Talk at a Time program provides free online videos and handouts to support conversations among African-American, Asian, and Latinx families.

This nonprofit aims to end police violence by enacting policies to limit police intervention, improve community interaction, and ensure accountability.

This is an engaging and informative 14-part podcast that helps White people critically examine their own racial identity. After listening, you will have
a much clearer and deeper understanding of the social construction of race and institutional racism.

The Center for Policing Equity measures bias in police practices by working directly with the police and advocating for equitable changes in police policies. The goals of the organization include reducing the number of persons killed by police officers.

Coffee Q & A with the Authors of Something Happened in our Town, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association (4/9/21). Retrieved 11/5/21 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_E8_3o6E3Y

A web-based blog and resource library for sharing best practices for raising and caring for all kids in the context of race.

Rebekah Gienapp has created a website full of resources for parents who want to tackle social justice issues with their children. Her recently published e-book inspires readers to openly examine and challenge white privilege in their families and communities.

Based on in-depth interviews with children and their families, a sociologist explores how White, affluent kids learn about race.

Grounded in scholarship on racial identity and racial socialization, this book provides practical advice on how to raise White children to be allies in the struggle against racism.

In this follow-up to his National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning, Kendi describes different forms of racism, personalizing them with anecdotes from his own life, and encourages readers to openly oppose racism in their systems and in themselves.

Moms Against Racism. Retrieved 10/30/21 from https://www.momsagainstracism.org/  
This is a member based non-profit organization with the mission of unifying parenting skills while teaching anti-racism by “doing the work, starting at home.” There are free virtual events and activities for parents and kids, as well as virtual learning opportunities with class cost based on a gift economy structure.

Retrieved 11/5/2021 from https://reflections.yale.edu/article/future-race/becoming-trustworthy-white-allies  
A theologian committed to social justice reflects on “doing her own work” as she seeks to more deeply understand what it means to be white in the United States.

The author helps parents understand how most white children develop bias and provides practical tips for how to counteract this phenomenon.


This half-hour video features authentic conversations between real children and their parents. It will help to prepare parents to watch The Power of We: A Sesame Street Special, with their young children. In this animated video, available on HBO Max, Elmo and friends learn how to become “upstanders” to fight unfair treatment based on skin color. A “Watch and Play Together” discussion guide retrieved 11/5/2021 is also available from https://www.sesameworkshop.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/power-of-we-discussion-guide_final-1-4.pdf


A web-based resource primarily geared towards White parents, including blogs, webinars, and podcasts.


Based on a free 28-day Instagram challenge, this book provides education and reflective journaling prompts to help readers understand their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, and dismantle racism.


This engaging 5-part podcast covers the history of one middle school in Brooklyn. It will help white parents think critically about their role in undermining school integration and equity.


Sesame Street has compiled many great resources about racism for families with preschoolers or young elementary children. This website includes Sesame Street characters explaining why racism is wrong, songs supporting fairness and upstanding, and videos of families discussing their antiracism efforts. Additional resources are available at https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/topics/racial-justice/


This well-researched workbook helps both White people and people of color to understand themselves as racial/cultural beings, overcome or cope with power and privilege, develop new racially liberated identities, and become allies in the struggle for racial justice.


This project is a 3-year initiative focused on transforming justice “from the ground up” to improve this country and the world. It focuses on developing new ideas that can help make justice and public safety a reality for all.
TED Talk of interest to all parents.

In down-to-earth language, a professor of Africology and Urban Studies offers seven tips for talking to young children about racism.

**Teacher resources**
The authors have prepared two free handouts to assist teachers who would like to read *Something Happened in Our Town* to a group of young children. You can download Read Aloud Tips for Educators at https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/pdf/441B228-read-aloud-tips.pdf. In addition, there is an Educator Resource Guide at: https://www.apa.org/pubs/magination/pdf/441B228-educator-resource-guide.pdf.

Below we list general resources to support teachers in providing anti-bias and anti-racist education to students of all ages. Some of the resources listed in the Parent Resources section may also be helpful to educators.

Designed primarily for art teachers, this website features BIPOC artists, anti-racist art resources and art lessons, including a discussion of how to represent other cultures responsibly and respectfully within the art room.

Children's book lists and resources for discussing race and racial justice with children.

This collection of short videos includes instructional videos for teachers, several read-alouds of children's books, and references for other video resources.


This website provides educational resources to help teachers address racism, antisemitism, and prejudice at pivotal moments in history so that students can connect choices made in the past to social justice in the present and future.

A teacher provides practical strategies to facilitate meaningful, productive conversations about race in the classroom.

Social justice resource lists, lesson plans, and podcasts.


Raising an Antiracist Generation, 9/10/20 episode in CNN podcast *Silence is Not an Option*, hosted by Don Lemon. *Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD, is interviewed about the right time talk to kids about racism and how to help them navigate a multiracial society.* Retrieved 11/5/2021 from https://www.cnn.com/audio/podcasts/don-lemon-silence-is-not-an-option?episodeguid=b9442c1b-ab86-411e-9cb6-ac310160814b

*The Learning for Justice program, sponsored by the Southern Poverty Law Center, has developed a range of classroom activities to promote social justice, searchable by age and topic. One portion of the curriculum is called Teaching Hard History: American Slavery. This section provides a conceptual framework and resources for providing comprehensive and engaging education about slavery to students, including those in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This section can be accessed at https://www.learningforjustice.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery*