

Black History Month: Past, Present, Future

Resources for Families

February is Black History Month. It is a time to honor the rich and complex past while learning about how it has led to an equally important present, which in turn is the foundation for the future of African-Americans and their role in US History. Springhurst Library Media Specialist Lauren Rodriguez, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, and K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek have teamed up with Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert to create this resource list to help families take a deeper dive into Black History Month. Our hope is that this history will not just stay in February but will be celebrated all year long highlighting Black joy and excellence. **This is a sampling of available resources and not an exhaustive list. If you would like help finding more, please contact your librarians.**

Booklist

Below is a list of published books. You can access items marked with a blue dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry school libraries and items marked with a yellow dot (●) through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library. Please contact your librarians to put them on hold and/or learn more information about the formats in which these titles are available.

Picture Books

- *Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed ● ●
- *I am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes ●
- *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes ● ●
- *All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles ● ●
- *Hair Love* by Matthew Cherry ●
- *Let the Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson ● ●
- *Bunheads* by Misty Copeland ●
- *Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña ●
- *Chocolate Me* by Taye Diggs ●
- *Parker Looks Up* by Jessica and Parker Gorman ●
- *Always an Olivia: A Remarkable Family Story* by Carolivia Herron
- *Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy ●
- *Antiracist Baby* by Ibram X. Kendi ● ●
- *My Princess Boy* by Cheryl Kilodavis ●
- *When Aidan Became a Brother* by Kyle Lukoff ● ●
- *Sing a Song* by Kelly Starling Lyons ●
- *Hands Up!* by Breanna J. McDaniel ●
- *Don't Touch My Hair* by Sharee Miller ●
- *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammed and S.K. Ali ● ●
- *Lubaya's Quiet Roar* by Marilyn Nelson and Philomena Williamson ●
- *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o ● ●
- *Hey Black Child* by Useni Eugene Perkins ● ●

- *Cool Cuts* by Mechel Renee Roe 🟡
- *Your Name is a Song* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow 🔵 🟡
- *C is for Country* by Lil Nas X 🟡
- *We Wait for the Sun* by Dovey Johnson Roundtree & Katie McCabe 🟡
- *Opening the Road: Victor Hugo and His Green Book* by Kaila Dawson 🟡
- *Looking for a Jumbie* by Tracey Baptiste 🟡
- *Change Sings* by Amanda Gorman 🟡
- *Mermaid Kenzie: Protector of the Deeps* by Charlotte Watson Sherman 🟡
- *Stacey's Extraordinary Words* by Stacey Abrams 🟡

Easy Readers, Series Books, and Early Chapter Books

- *Jaden Toussaint* series (series of early chapter books) by Marti Dumas 🟡
- *Dyamonde Daniel* series (series of early chapter books) by Nikki Grimes 🔵 🟡
- *Ty's Travels* (series of easy readers) by Kelly Starling Lyons 🟡
- *Jada Jones* (series of early chapter books) by Kelly Starling Lyons 🟡
- *Sadiq* series by Simon Nurali 🟡
- *Mia Mayhem* (series of easy readers) by Kara West 🟡
- *J.D. the Kid Barber* (series) - J. Dillard 🟡

Elementary Non-Fiction

- *A Child's Introduction to African American History: The Experiences, People, and Events That Shaped Our Country* by Jabari Asim 🔵 🟡
- *Preaching to the Chickens: the story of young John Lewis* by Jabari Asim 🔵 🟡
- *What Do You Do with a Voice Like That? The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan* by Chris Barton 🟡
- *Shirley Chisholm is a Verb* by Veronica Chambers 🟡
- *The ABC's of Black History* by Rio Cortez 🔵 🟡
- *Sylvia and Marsha Start a Revolution! The Story of the Trans Women of Color Who Made LGBTQ+ History* by Joy Michael Ellison 🟡
- *Simone Biles* by Jon M. Fishman 🟡
- *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope* by Nikki Grimes 🔵 🟡
- *Talkin' about Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman* by Nikki Grimes 🔵 🟡
- *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison 🔵 🟡
- *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read* by Ria Lorraine Hubbard 🟡
- *Brave. Black. First.: 50+ African American women who changed the world* by Cheryl Willis Hudson 🟡
- *Let's Talk About Race* by Julius Lester 🔵 🟡
- *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a young civil rights activist* by Cynthia Levinson 🔵 🟡
- *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams* by Lesa Cline-Ransome 🟡
- *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry ; foreword by Jason Reynolds. 🔵 🟡
- *Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich 🟡

- *Hidden Figures : the true story of four black women and the space race* by Margot Lee Shetterly ● ●
- *28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World* by Charles R. Smith ●
- *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe ● ●
- *Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery* by Sandra Neil Wallace ● ●
- *Harlem's Little Blackbird* by Renée Watson ●
- *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford ● ●
- *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library* by Carole Boston Weatherford and Eric Velasquez ●
- *Jump at the Sun: The True Life of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston* - Alicia D Williams ●
- *Together We March: 25 Protest Movements that Changed History* by Leah Handerson ●
- *Song in a Rainstorm: The Story of Musical Prodigy Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins* by Glenda Armand ●
- *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance* by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* by Nikole Hannah-Jones ●
- *RESPECT: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul* by Carole Boston Weatherford ●

Middle Grade Fiction

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Hurricane Child* by Kacen Callender ●
- *King and the Dragonflies* by Kacen Callender ● ●
- *The Only Black Girls in Town* by Brandy Colbert ● ●
- *New Kid* (graphic novel) by Jerry Craft ● ●
- *Class Act* (graphic novel) by Jerry Craft ● ●
- *Serena Says* by Tanita S. Davis ●
- *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper ● ●
- *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper ● ●
- *Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott ●
- *The Dragon Thief* by Zetta Elliott ●
- *Jazmin's Notebook* by Nikki Grimes ● ●
- *When Stars are Scattered* (graphic novel) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed ● ●
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson ● ●
- *Twins* (graphic novel) by Varian Johnson ● ●
- *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* by Janae Marks ● ●
- *Tristan Strong* series by Kwame Mbalia ● ●
- *The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore ● ●
- *Princess Princess Ever After* by Katie O'Neill ●
- *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramée ● ●
- *Track* series (*Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu*) by Jason Reynolds ● ●
- *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds ● ●

- *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes ● ●
- *Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes ● ●
- *Betty Before X* by Ilyash Shabazz ●
- *Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone ● ●
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor ● ●
- *Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renée Watson ●
- *Princeless* (graphic novel series) by Jeremy Whitley ●
- *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia Williams ● ●
- *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* by Ibi Zoboi ● ●
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis ● ●
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia ● ●
- *Black Boy Joy* by Edited by Kwame Mbalia ● ●
- *Playing the Cards You're Dealt* by Varian Johnson ●
- *Chains* (and *Seeds of America* series) by Laurie Halse Anderson ●
- *Amari and the Night Brothers* by BB Alston ●
- *Flygirl* by Sherri Smith ●

Middle Grade Non-Fiction

- *Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld ● ●
- *We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson with Tonya Bolden ● ●
- *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Philip Hoose ● ●
- *Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City* by Philip Hoose ● ●
- *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices* edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson ● ●
- *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell ● ●
- *March*, Books 1-3 (graphic non-fiction) by John Lewis ● ●
- *Remember: The Journey to School Integration* by Toni Morrison ● ●
- *Becoming Muhammad Ali* by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi ● ●
- *Malcolm Little* by Ilyash Shabazz ●
- *Black Heroes of the Wild West* (graphic non-fiction) by James Otis Smith ● ●
- *Freedom Summer (Young Reader's Edition)* by Rebecca Stefoff ● ●
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson ● ●
- *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre* by Carole Boston Weatherford ●
- *The Promise of Change* by Jo Ann Allen Bryce & Debbie Levy ●
- *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison ●
- *Little Legends: Brave Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison ●
- *A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson ●
- *Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter* by Shani King ●
- *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Patillo Beals ●
- *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson ●
- *Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson* by Katherine C. Johnson ●

Young Adult Fiction

- *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●
- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●
- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi ● ●
- *Children of Virtue and Vengeance* by Tomi Adeyemi ● ●
- *Little & Lion* by Brandy Colbert ● ●
- *Legendborn* by Tracy Deonn ●
- *Pet* by Akwaeke Emezi ● ●
- *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon Flake ● ●
- *Every Body Looking* by Candace Iloh ● ●
- *Grown* by Tiffany D. Jackson ● ●
- *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson ● ●
- *You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson ● ●
- *I Am Alfonso Jones* (graphic novel) by Tony Medina ● ●
- *Slay* by Brittney Morris ●
- *Long Way Down* (print and graphic novel) by Jason Reynolds ● ●
- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely ● ●
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone ● ●
- *Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone ● ●
- *On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas ● ●
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas ● ●
- *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas ● ●
- *Piecing Me Together* by Renée Watson ● ●
- *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam ● ●
- *American Street* by Ibi Zoboi ● ●
- *Pride: A Pride and Prejudice Remix* by Ibi Zoboi ●
- *Black Enough: Stories of Being Black and Young in America* edited by Ibi Zoboi ● ●
- *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight* by Kimberly Jones ● ●
- *Blackout* by various authors ● ●
- *This is My America* by Kim Johnson ● ●
- *Me (Moth)* by Amber McBride ● ●
- *One of the Good Ones* by Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite ● ●
- *The Awakening of Malcolm X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Tiffany D. Jackson ●
- *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi ● ●
- *The Voting Booth* by Brandy Colbert ●

Young Adult Non-Fiction

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou ● ●
- *Say Her Name* by Zetta Elliott ● ●
- *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson ● ●
- *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Story of Black Lives Matter and the Power to Change the World (Young Adult Edition)* by Benee Knauer, Patrisse Kahn-Cullors, and ashe bandele ●
- *March*, Books 1-3 (graphic non-fiction) by John Lewis ● ●
- *Proud: Living My American Dream (Young Readers Edition)* by Ibtihaj Muhammad

- *Born a Crime: Stories from South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)* by Trevor Noah ● ●
- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi ● ●
- *The Awakening of Malcolm X* by Ilyash Shabazz ● ●
- *Hidden Figures (Young Reader's Edition)* by Margot Lee Shetterly ● ●
- *Just Mercy (Young Reader's Edition)* by Bryan Stephenson ● ●
- *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Brandy Colbert ●
- *Paul Robeson: No One Can Silence Me (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Martin R. Duberman ● ●
- *The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person* by Frederick Joseph ● ●
- *The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History* by David F. Walker ●
- *Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life (Biography in Verse)* by Marilyn Nelson ●
- *Black Birds in the Sky : The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre* by Brandy Colbert ● ●
- *The Beautiful Struggle (Adapted for Young Adults)* by Ta-Nehisi Coates ● ●

Poetry and Books in Verse for All Ages

- *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo ● ●
- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander ● ●
- *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice* by Mahogany L. Browne with Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood ● ●
- *Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters ● ●
- *A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson ● ●
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson ● ●
- *Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters ●
- *Ain't Burned All the Bright* by Jason Reynolds and Jason Griffin ● ●

Resources

Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices on Netflix Jr.

[This YouTube playlist](#) features Black celebrities reading picture books written and/or illustrated by Black authors.

The Undefeated

<https://theundefeated.com/>

The Undefeated describes itself as is “the premier platform for exploring the intersections of race, sports and culture. We enlighten and entertain with innovative storytelling, original reporting and provocative commentary.” It is a news website that is owned by ESPN.

10 Tips for Teaching and Talking to Kids about Race

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/teaching-and-talking-to-kids>

EmbraceRace is a multiracial community dedicated to sharing and developing best practices for raising and caring for kids, all kids, in the context of race. They partnered with MomsRising - a transformative multicultural organization of more than a million members working to increase family economic security and end discrimination against women and mothers - to create these tips for our communities.

Black Stories Have Power

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/cc/black-history-month>

Want more recommendations for books? This is a list of books by and about Black people published by Penguin Random House.

Black Children's Books and Authors

<https://bcbooksandauthors.com/>

An online author directory of Black children's authors and the stories they write.

Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism>

Children are never too young to learn about diversity. As young as 3 months old, they may look differently at people who look like or don't look like their primary caregivers. As parents and caregivers, we must have confidence in ourselves and in our children — that we, and they, can handle tough topics and tough situations. We must understand that our role is to be honest, specific, and trustworthy as we raise the next generation to confront racial injustice. Here are tips and resources to help you have a meaningful conversation with young children about race, racism, and being anti-racist.

GLSEN

<https://www.glsen.org/>

GLSEN was founded by a group of teachers in 1990 who knew that educators play key roles in creating affirming learning environments for LGBTQ youth. But as well as activating supportive educators, they believe in centering and uplifting student-led movements, which have powered initiatives like the Day of Silence, Ally Week, and more.

[Erasure and Resilience: The Experiences of LGBTQ Students of Color](#)

Erasure and Resilience: The Experiences of LGBTQ Students of Color, Black LGBTQ Youth in U.S. Schools is one of a series of reports on LGBTQ students of color that examines the school experiences of Black LGBTQ youth. This site includes the PDF of the report, a webinar on Black LGBTQ+ student experiences, and downloadable infographics.

The Trevor Project

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Founded in 1998 by the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film TREVOR, The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25.

[Approaching Intersectional Conversations](#)

If you're considering engaging with people who identify as non-Black in your life about your identities, it's important to remember that the process of having difficult conversations does not begin or end with the discussion itself. It is essential to consider your well-being and safety at each step in the journey. Click on this link to find some approaches to consider before, during, and after a difficult conversation to make sure the dialogue — and your mental health — stays safe.