



Middle Grade Books about Racism, Intolerance & Inclusion

Nonfiction

Bryan, Ashley. *Freedom Over Me*

Inspired by a historical document assessing the monetary value of 11 enslaved people, Bryan presents the imagined faces and voices of these individuals who were regarded as less than human.

Dias, Marley. *Marley Dias Gets it Done: And So Can You!*

After noticing the lack of black kids represented on her school reading list, Marley Dias did something about it. This book is the story of her #1000BlackGirlsBooks campaign and includes accessible advice for engaging in activism and bringing about change.

Hudson, Wade, ed. *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise our Voices*

Fifty diverse writers, poets and artists lend encouragement, comfort and inspiration to young people facing a world of prejudice and racism.

Jewell, Tiffany. *This Book is Anti-Racist*

This book gives kids the language and ability to recognize racism and understand its roots, while empowering them to undo it.

Latham, Irene. *Dictionary for a Better World*

Organized as a dictionary, entries in this book present words related to creating a better, more inclusive world. Each word is explored via a poem, a quote from an inspiring person, a short personal anecdote from one of the co-authors, and a prompt for how to translate the word into action

Mara, Wil. *I Am an Activist*

This introduction to activism teaches about people who are changing the world by campaigning for peace, equality, and conservation.

Mir, Saira. *Muslim Girls Rise*

This book introduces 19 powerhouse Muslim women who, throughout history, rose up and made their voices heard.

Robeson, Theresa. *Queen of Physics*

This picture book biography tells the story of Chinese physicist Wu Chien Shiung who battled sexism at home and racism in the United States to become the “Queen of Physics” for her work on how atoms split.

Winter, Jonah. *Thurgood*

This picture book biography celebrates the life and achievements of Thurgood Marshall, America’s first Black Supreme Court Justice, while giving an unvarnished account of the racism that shaped his life.

Fiction

Bruchac, Joseph. *Walking Two Worlds*

Fictionalized account of Seneca leader Ely Parker, who during the 18th century endured racism and deceit while in a Mission boarding school, but still managed to learn about and honor his own heritage.

Cline-Ransom, Lesa. *Finding Langston*

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes's poetry helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago during the great migration, and being bullied.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963*

The ordinary routines of the Watsons, a Black family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they visit Grandma in Birmingham in 1963.

Gino, Alex. *George*

Everyone thinks George is a boy, but she knows she's a girl. She thinks she'll have to keep her secret forever, until a school play changes everything.

Day, Christine. *I Can Make This Promise*

Eddie finds letters and photos in her attic that change what she thought she knew about her Native American mother's adoption, and lead her on a journey to discover her family's history and her own identity.

Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*

Forced to leave her home along with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, Nisha uses her diary entries addressed to her deceased Muslim mother to find her own voice and make sense of the chaos around her.

Jackson, Linda Williams. *Midnight Without a Moon*

After the murder of Emmett Till in 1955, 13 year old Rose is torn between seeking a life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields and staying behind to be part of an important movement.

Johnson, Varian. *The Parker Inheritance*

12 year old Candace and her friend Brandon get caught up in a mystery involving her grandmother's dismissal from her job and a related injustice committed against an African-American family in their town.

Kelkar, Supriya. *Ahimsa*

When her mother is jailed for her involvement in India's fight for independence against Britain, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Season of Styx Malone*

Caleb's father knows how dangerous the world can be for young Black boys, but when Caleb and his older brother meet foster kid Styx Malone they long for the sort of adventure their father wants to protect them from.

Marks, Janae. *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*

When Zoe unexpectedly gets a letter from her incarcerated father her life is thrown into emotional disarray. She begins to question whether he is truly guilty of the crime that sent him to prison before she was born, and if her white stepfather would have been treated the same way.

Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*

In Dakota territory in the 1880s half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

Parsons, Karyn. *How High the Moon*

Ella leaves the segregated south in 1944 to visit her mother in Boston, and there seeks information about her white father.

Ramee, Lisa Moore. *A Good Kind of Trouble*

Shayla begins wearing a Black Lives Matter armband to school, and when given an ultimatum must choose between her education and her identity.

Reynolds, Jason. *As Brave As You*

In this coming of age story two African-American brothers from Brooklyn visit their grandparents in rural Virginia; the resulting culture shock leads to a richer understanding of family and heritage.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother*

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

Stone, Nic. *Clean Getaway*

11 year old Scoob is whisked away on a road trip by his white grandmother, who uses the historical Green Book to retrace the South's segregationist past and reveal their own family history.

Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

A Black family living in Mississippi during the Depression faces prejudice and discrimination that the children struggle to understand.

Woods, Brenda. *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong USA*

12 year old Gabriel, who is white, gains some perspective when he gets to know Meriwether a Black WWII hero who has returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow south.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me*

A diverse group of students, chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults present, discover that when they're together it's safe to share the hopes and fears they hide from the rest of the world.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk*

In this story of a young girl struggling to achieve her dreams Mia Tang has many secrets, including that she lives in a motel, manages the front desk while her parents clean, and that her parents hide immigrants.