

# The Power of Words:

Using Children's Literature to Discuss Race Relations,  
Racism, and Injustices

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# Racism



# Why is it difficult to discuss race relations with children?

- They are too young to understand race.
- I don't want to put racist thoughts in their heads.
- I don't want them to think white people are bad
- I don't want them to feel police officers are bad.
- What if I say the wrong thing?

# Is Racism Learned?



# Talking Race With Young Children

- Don't shush or shut them down if they mention race.
- Don't wait for kids to bring it up.
- Be proactive, helping them build a positive awareness of diversity.
- When a child experiences prejudice, grown-ups need to both address the feelings and fight the prejudices.
- You don't have to avoid topics like slavery. Instead, give the facts and focus on resistance and allies.

# How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism

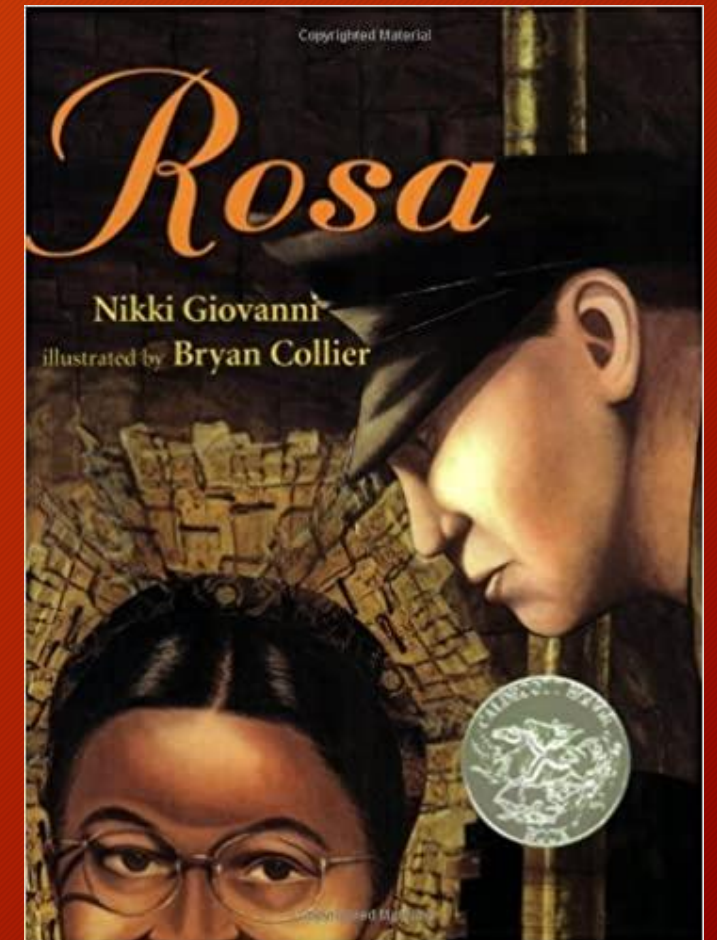
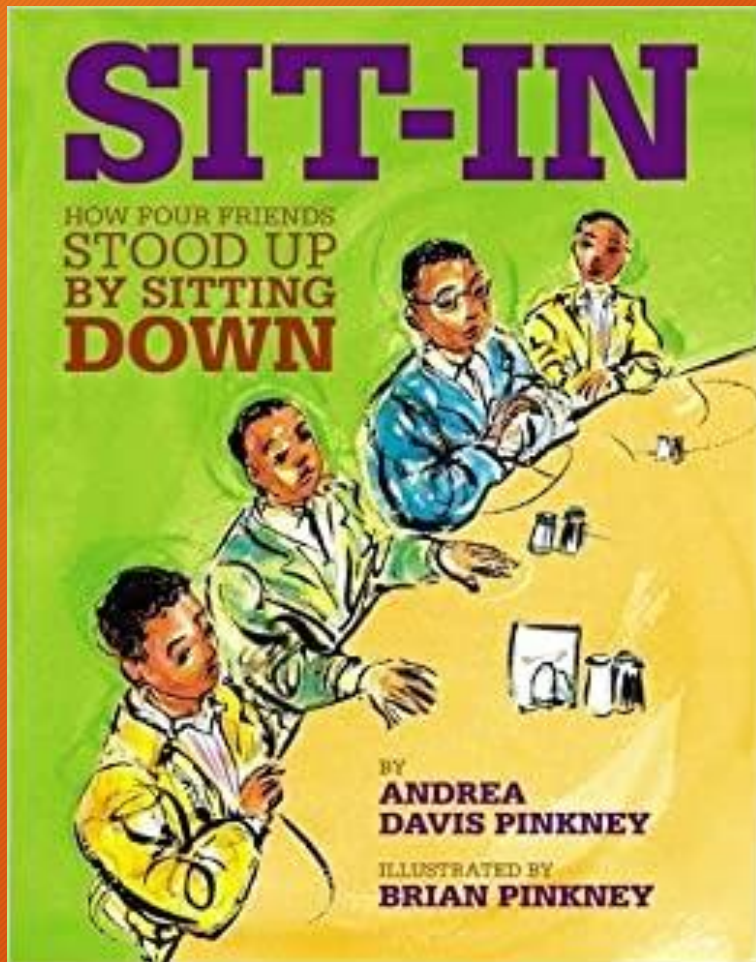
- Actually talk about it.
- Set the example.
- Navigate their curiosity.
- Make it relatable.
- Address mistakes.
- Be an advocate.



# Race Relations & Children's Books

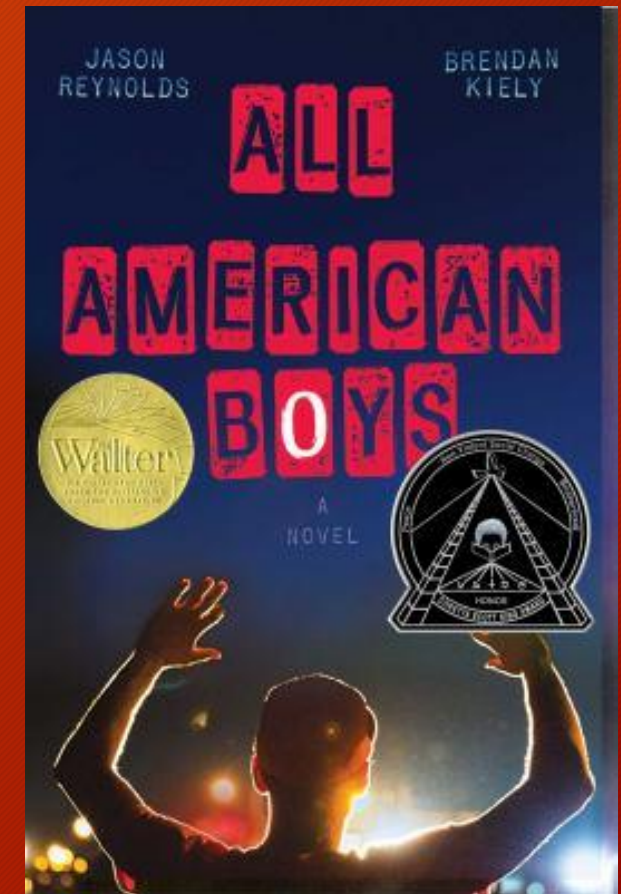
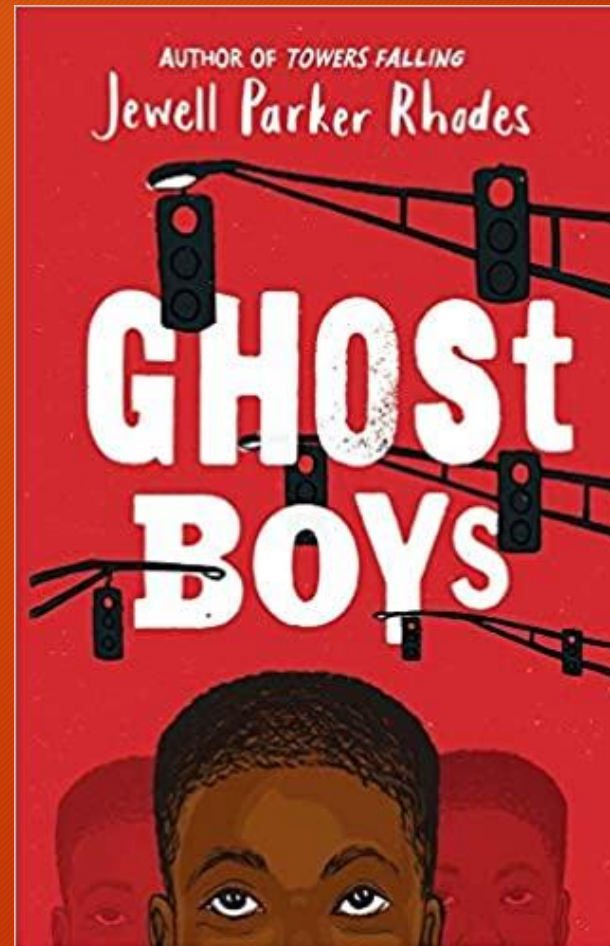
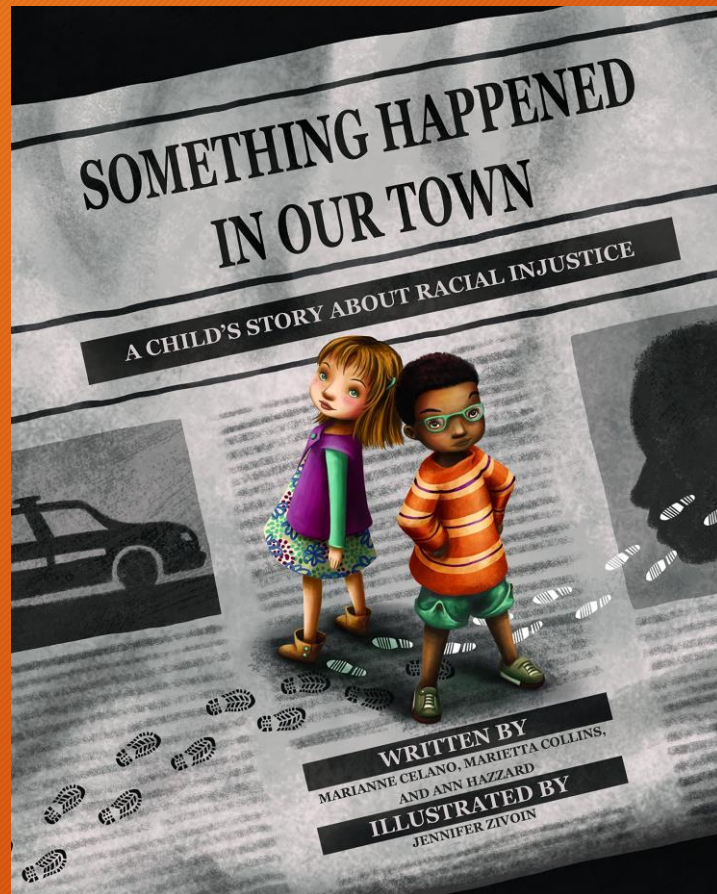
- Protests
- Police Brutality
- Segregation
- Racism (Past & Present)
- Biographies
- Understanding Differences

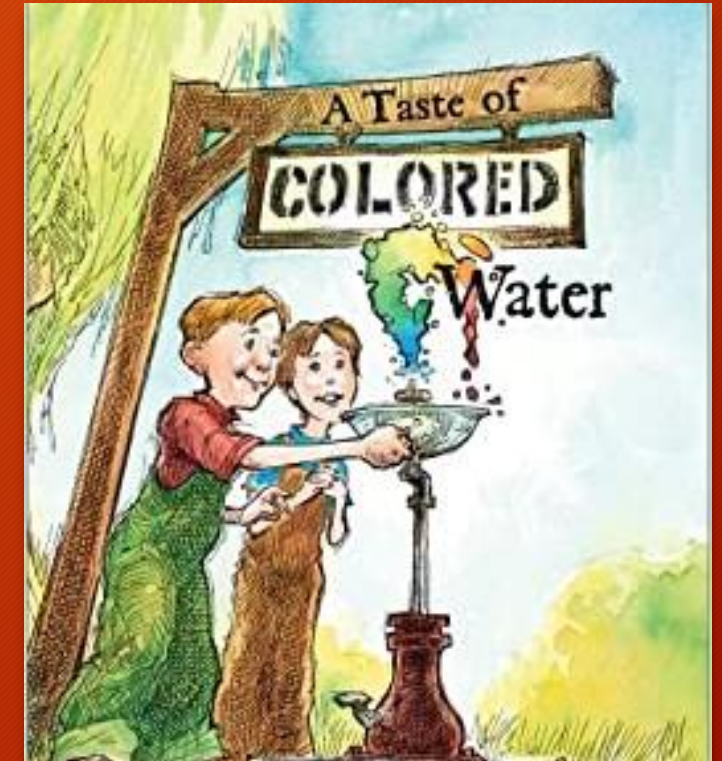
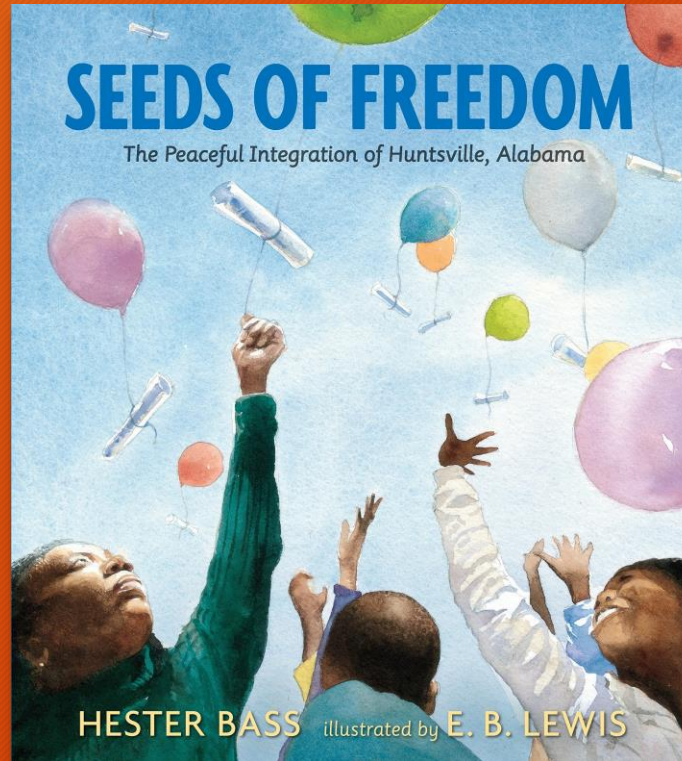
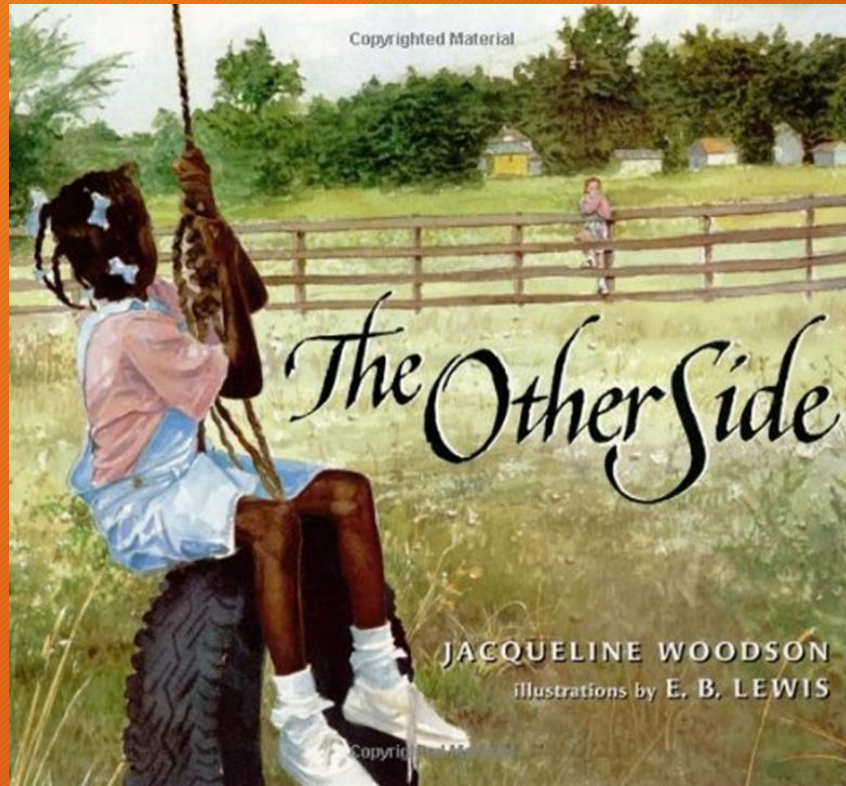
# Protests





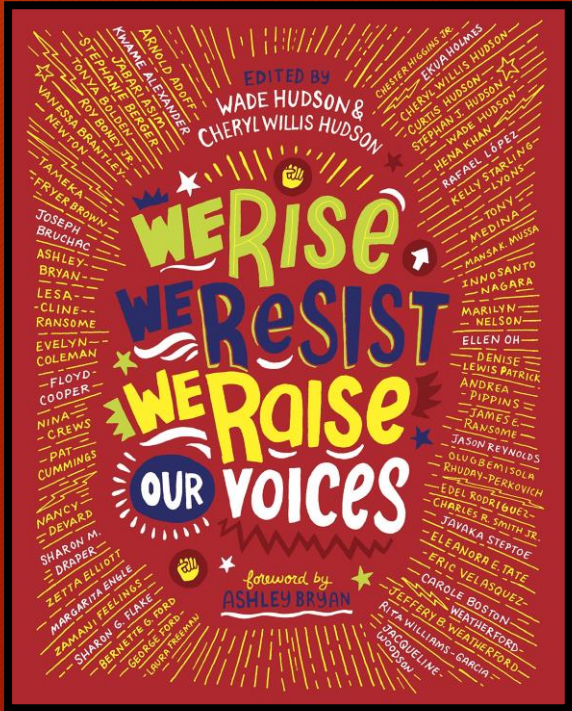
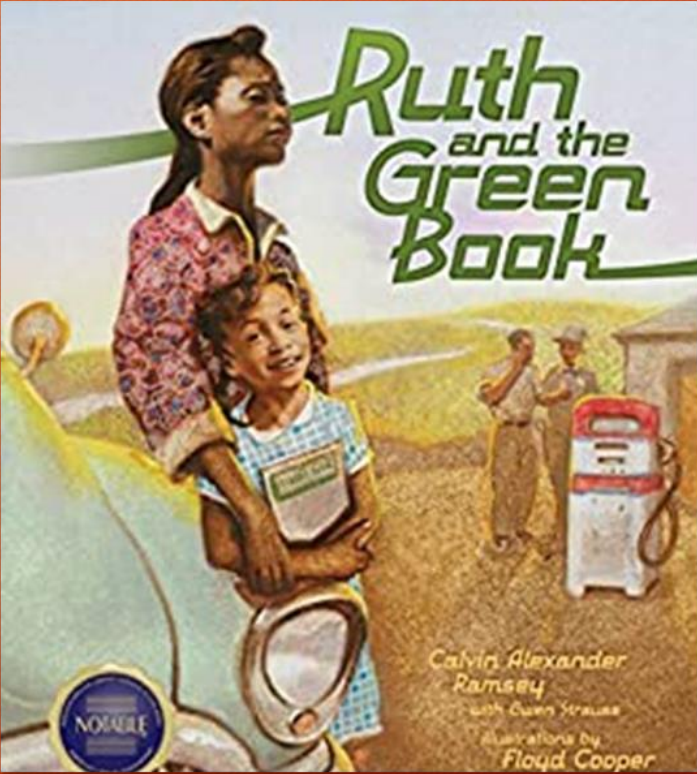
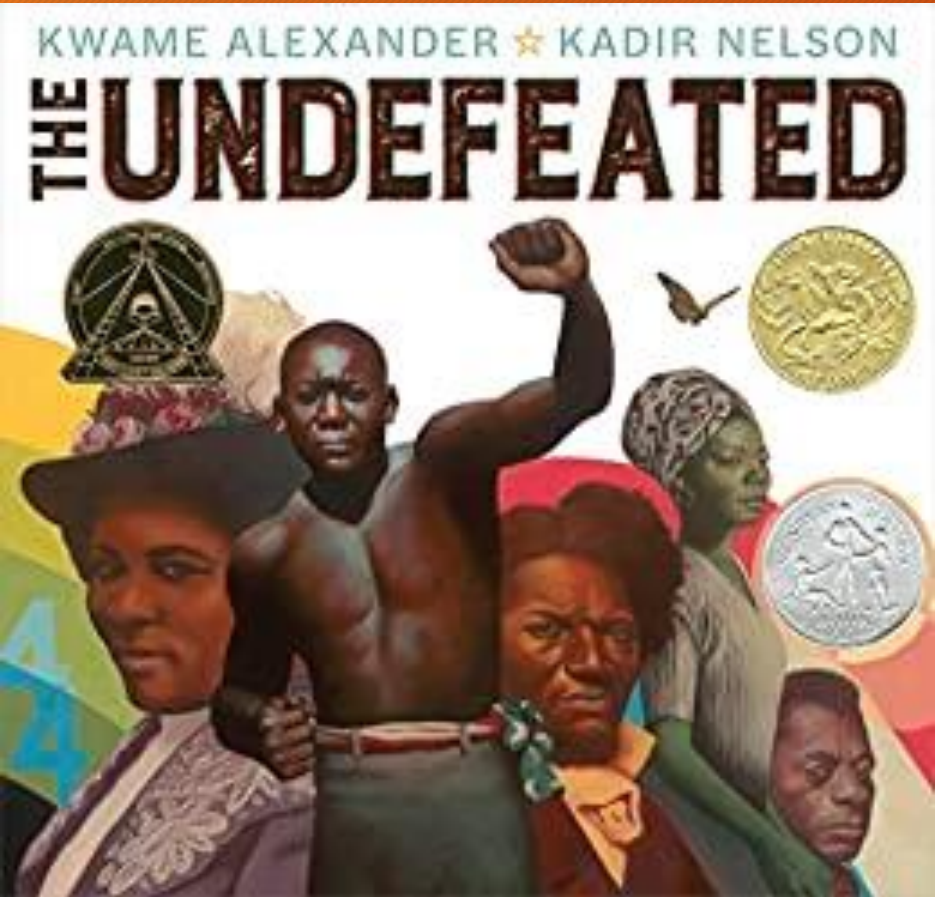
# Police Brutality

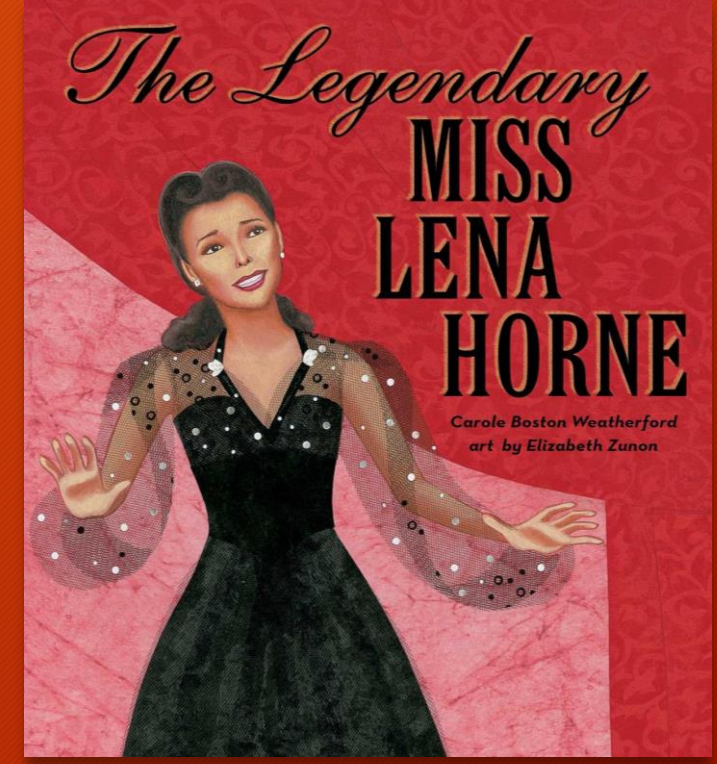
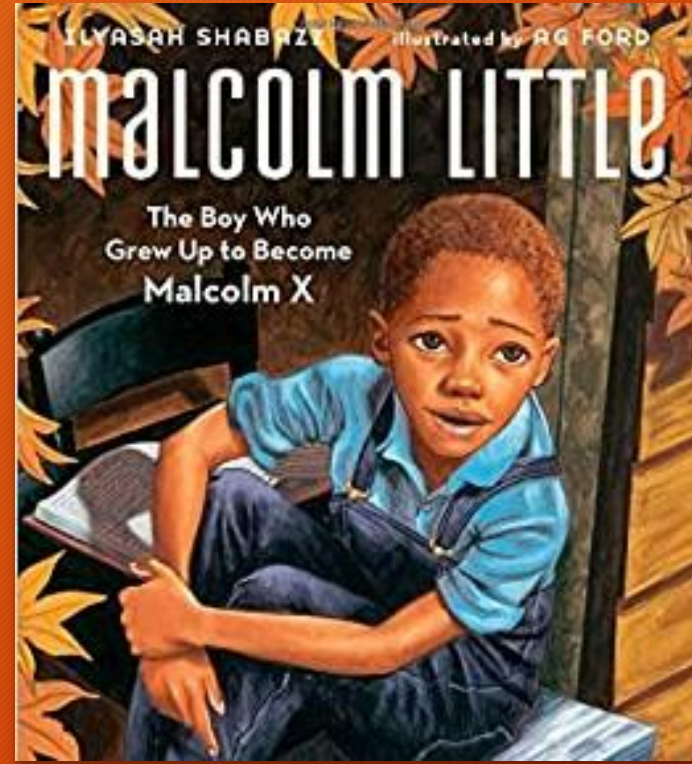
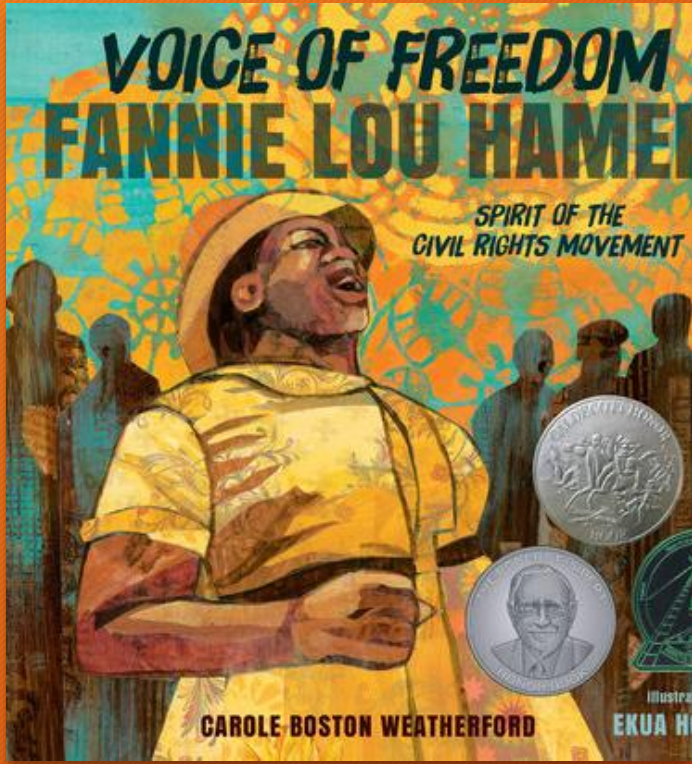




Segregation

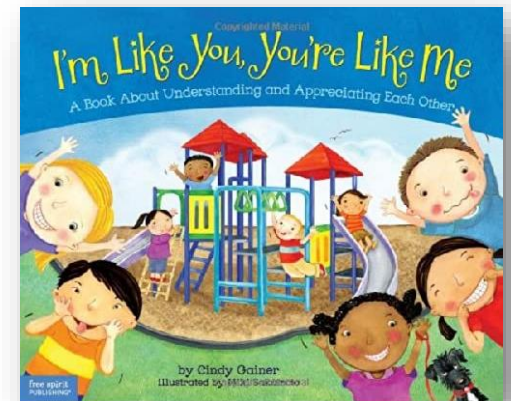
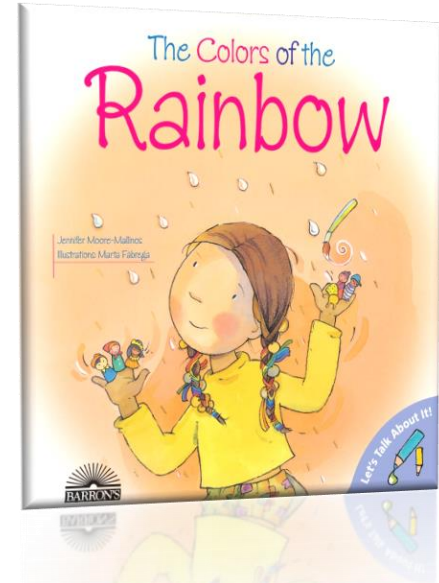
# Racism (Past & Present)





# Biographies

# Understanding & Celebrating Differences



# Selected Resources

- [Anti-racism & Educators as Allies](#)
- [The Brown Bookshelf](#)
- [Community, Connecting, Cultivating, & Constructing Conversations through Literacy](#) (Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children)
- [Coretta Scott King Award Winning Books](#) (Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee)

# Selected Resources

- [How to Talk to Kids about Race and Racism \(Today\)](#)
- [Just Us Books](#)
- [Race Relations, Racism, and Injustices: A Selected Annotated Bibliography](#) (Joyner Library, East Carolina University)

# Selected Resources

- [Raising Race Conscious Children](#)
- [Resources for Race, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Inclusion \(We Need Diverse Books\)](#)
- [Talking Race With Young Children](#) (National Public Radio)
- [TeachingBooks](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)





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