

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

According to Harvard University psychologist and researcher Mahzarin Banaji, children as young as three may embrace and accept racism and prejudice when exposed to it, even though they might not understand the feelings. Exposure to diversity at an early age may buffer these influences, and children's books can help!

The crucial component necessary for children to embrace diversity is to observe different groups interacting as equals in balanced and positive ways. Exposure to diversity will emphasize that there are more important qualities that define someone other than the color of their skin, physical features, ethnicity, or gender ([Burnett, 2012](#)).

EMBRACE RACE, 2020. 31 CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO CELEBRATE RACE, RACISM, AND RESISTANCE ([LINK](#))

- [Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills](#) by Renée Watson. Ages 3-7
- [The Day You Begin](#) by Jacqueline Woodson. Ages 4-8
- [Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis](#) by Jabari Asim. Ages 4-8
- [My Hair is a Garden](#) by Cozbi A. Cabrera. Ages 5-8

RAISING LUMINARIES & BOOKS FOR LITTLES, 2020. CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY BRILLIANT BLACK WOMEN ([LINK](#))

- [Splash, Anna Hibiscus](#) by Atinuke. Ages 2+
- [Baby Goes to Market](#) by Atinuke. Ages 2+
- [Mae Among the Stars](#) by Roda Ahmed. Ages 4-8
- [The Water Princess](#) by Georgie Badiel. PreS-Gr2
- [Dear Baobab](#) by Cheryl Foggo. Gr 1-3
- [Not Quite Snow White](#) by Ashley Franklin. Ages 4-8
- [Mommy's Khimar](#) by Jamilah Thomkins-Bigelow. Ages 4-8
- [Cece Loves Science](#) by Vashti Harrison. Ages 4-8
- [Imani's Moon](#) by Janay Brown-Wood. Ages 6-9

BREWSTER BOOK STORE, VAL'S PICKS

- [Antiracist Baby](#) by Ibram Kendi. All ages
- [The Snowy Day](#) by Ezra Jack Keats. Ages 2-5
- [Last Stop on Market Street](#) by Matt De La Pena. Ages 3-5
- [Saturday](#) by Oge Mora. Ages 3-5 **

- [Thank You, Omu](#) by Oge Mora. Ages 4-8 **
- [The Colors of Us](#) by Karen Katz. Ages 4-8
- [All Are Welcome](#) by Alexandra Penfold. Ages 4-8
- [One Big Umbrella](#) by Amy June Bates. Ages 4-8
- [I Am Human](#) by Peter Reynolds. Ages 4-8
- [The Undeclared](#) by Kwame Alexander. Ages 6-9 **
- [A Kids Book About Racism](#) by Jelani Memory (for children, parents, and caregivers)

OTHER CCC STAFF PICKS

- [Whose Toes Are Those?](#) by Jabari Asim. Ages Baby-3
- [Let's Talk About Race](#) by Julius Lesler. Ages 4-8
- [Children Just Like Me](#) by UNICEF. Ages 7+

ADDITIONAL READING LISTS

25 *Wonderful Children's Books that Celebrate Diversity* by The Bump, 2020

<https://www.thebump.com/a/childrens-books-about-diversity>

The 2020 Ultimate List of Diverse Children's Books by Here Wee Read, 2019

<http://hereweeread.com/2019/11/the-2020-ultimate-list-of-diverse-childrens-books.html>

FURTHER RESOURCES

Anti-Racism For Kids 101: Starting To Talk About Race by Raising Luminaries & Books for Littles, <https://booksforlittles.com/racial-diversity/>

If you're nervous about talking about race with your kids, these books and ideas about racial diversity will give you an easy place to start destigmatizing difference & celebrating racial diversity.

Race and Ethnicity by Teaching Tolerance, <https://www.tolerance.org/topics/race-ethnicity>

Resources for educators and parents to help facilitate discussions about race and guide children through lessons on white privilege, economic inequality, mass incarceration, the complexities of identity and more.

[People Colors Crayon Pack](#), Lakeshore Learning

[Colors of the World](#), Crayola

Talking Race with Young Children by NPR and Sesame Street Workshop [Podcast],

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

A short podcast by NPR and the Sesame Street Workshop on how to talk with young children about race.

References:

Burnett, J.H. (2012, June 10). Racism Learned. *The Boston Globe*, retrieved from <https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2012/06/09/harvard-researcher-says-children-learn-racism-quickly/gWuN1ZG3M4oWihER2kAfdK/story.html>