Learning About Social Justice and Activism

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A stunning visual and inspirational poetic tribute to Black Americans who have persevered with grit, passion, strength, and courage.

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This Is Your Time is both a personal recounting of Ruby’s childhood experience as one of the first Black students to integrate into New Orleans’ all-White public school system and an appeal to future generations to effect change.

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By Sonja Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi, Illustrated by Rachelle Baker
This straight-forward education on the story of racism and antiracism allows the reader to see themselves in the story and empathize with others through the journey toward an antiracist society.

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With suggestions and ideas for action, Chelsea Clinton shares her passion for helping others and shows readers that the world belongs to every single one of us, and every one of us counts—no matter how young.

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By Tiffany Jewell
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MAKE THE MOST OF FAMILY READING TIME

Use these tips to help you and your children develop critical reading comprehension skills, gain knowledge and insight, and build relationship all at once.

Make the connection…

• Make a HEART connection…
  • How did this book relate to you personally?
  • Does the character have anything in common with you?

• Make an IDEA connection…
  • Did you learn something new?
  • Were you inspired by something you read?

• Make a LIFE connection…
  • How does this story relate to your personal experience?
  • Does the story remind you of something that happened in your life?

SILENCE SPEAKS…

Research supports that children as young as two years old recognize racial differences. When adults ignore the issue of race in society, children are left to shape their own conclusions. Rather than allow social media, news, peers, and others in the community to influence your child’s understanding and ideas on race, speak up and guide them.

Approaching sensitive and mature topics, like race, with children can feel daunting. Read-alouds and picture books provide age-appropriate, relatable stories that can be enjoyed by adults and children together. When children feel safe in the comfort of home with those they love, they are more likely to ask questions, wonder aloud, and engage in discussion, allowing adults to respond, expound and explain accordingly.

Say It Out Loud…

As you and your child share and converse about a book, encourage each other to finish these open-ended sentences:

1. Because I read this book, I now know...
2. Because I read this book, I wonder...
3. Because I read this book, I understand...

Adapted from “Rebellious Read Alouds: Inviting Conversations About Diversity With Children’s Books” by Vera Ahihya

Learning About the Civil Rights Movement

Rosa
By Nikki Giovanni, Illustrated by Bryan Collier
Illustrated in striking cut-paper images, Giovanni retells the story of this historic event from an original perspective, including the impact of Emmett Till on Rosa Parks and her actions.

Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation
By Andrea Davis Pinkney, Illustrated by Brian Pinkney
This poetic and musical text, accompanied by swirling colorful images, tells the inspirational feet-on-the-ground tale of the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1956.

I Have a Dream
Words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Illustrated by Kadir Nelson
Two-time Caldecott Honor winner, Kadir Nelson’s bold and powerful paintings are matched only by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s memorable and inspiring speech.

Midnight Without a Moon
By Linda Williams Jackson
In 1955, thirteen-year-old Rose Carter lives and works in a small Mississippi town with dreams of moving north. When her community is rocked by the murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till a few towns over, Rose is thrown into a terrifying and liberating movement for change.

28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World
By Charles R. Smith Jr., Illustrated by Shane W. Evans
Walk through 28 colorful stories about Americans of color who helped to shape US history, from the Revolutionary War to the first African-American President.

Child of the Dream
By Sharon Robinson
Written by the daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, this is the story of how one girl finds her voice in the fight for justice and equality.

March: Book One
By John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, Illustrated by Nate Powell
March is a graphic novel trilogy and first-hand account of Lewis’ lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. Book One spans John Lewis’ youth in rural Alabama through his participation in nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
By Phillip Hoose
After refusing to give her seat to a White woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 2, 1955, fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin found herself shunned and ignored. Undaunted, a year later she dared to challenge segregation again as a key plaintiff in the landmark case that struck down the segregation laws of the Jim Crow South.

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