

# Anti-Racism

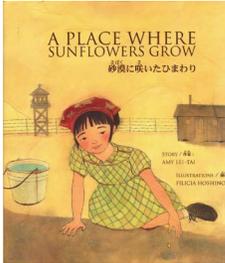
*Diverse Reading List*



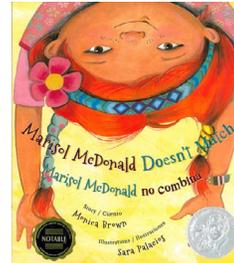
Check each book's link for corresponding lesson ideas and activities.

Are you looking to add anti-racist books to your library but don't know where to start? Have you been thinking about how to have meaningful conversations with young people about race, but lack confidence in how to begin? The books in this collection will help you take the first steps or continue the critical discussions about anti-racism work relevant to your setting.

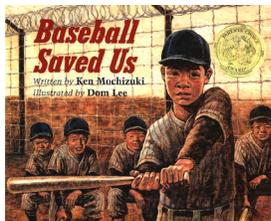
# Grades PreK-2



**A Place Where Sunflowers Grow** • written by Amy Lee-Tai, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino • During World War II, a young Japanese-American girl finds things to be joyful about in the Topaz concentration camp. (Bilingual English/Japanese).  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/a-place-where-sunflowers-grow>



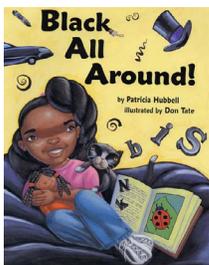
**Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no combina** • written by Monica Brown, illustrated by Sara Palacios • Mismatched and fabulous Marisol McDonald celebrates her Peruvian and Scottish heritage. Winner of the Pura Belpré Award Honor. (Bilingual English/Spanish)  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/marisol-mcdonald-doesn-t-match-marisol-mcdonald-no-combina>



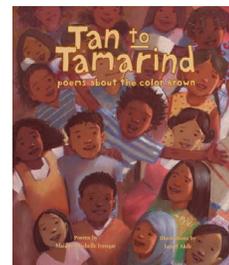
**Baseball Saved Us** • written by Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee  
 This classic, award-winning picture book tells the story of Shorty and his family, placed in a concentration camp along with thousands of other Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor. (Also available in Spanish)  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/baseball-saved-us>



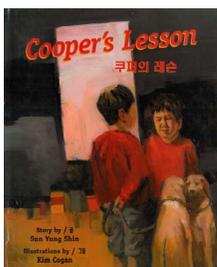
**Mamá the Alien/Mamá la extraterrestre** • written by René Colato Laínez, illustrated by Laura Lacámara • A young girl sees the word "alien" on her mother's Resident Alien card and worries Mamá is from another planet, until she finds out that the word has more than one meaning. (Bilingual English/Spanish)  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/mama-the-alien-mama-la-extraterrestre>



**Black All Around!** • written by Patricia Hubbell, illustrated by Don Tate • "Look high, look low, look everywhere . . . The wonderful color black is there!" A young girl discovers all the marvelous things that are black – just like her!  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/black-all-around>



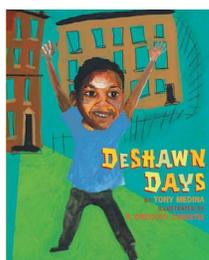
**Tan to Tamarind** • written by Malathi Iyengar, illustrated by Jamel Akib • This warm and inviting poetry collection helps young readers see every shade of skin tone is beautiful.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/tan-to-tamarind>



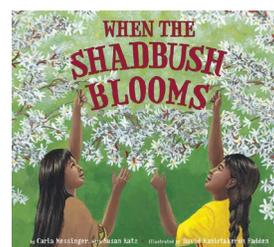
**Cooper's Lesson** • written by Sun Yung Shin, illustrated by Kim Cogan • In this story of identity and intergenerational friendship, Cooper comes to appreciate his Korean heritage through an unlikely ally. (Bilingual English/Korean)  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/cooper-s-lesson>



**Under My Hijab** • written by Hena Khan, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel  
 A young girl celebrates the many women in her life who choose to wear the hijab in this lovely book.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/under-my-hijab>

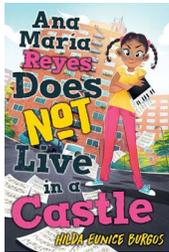


**DeShawn Days** • written by Tony Medina, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie • In this uplifting story told in verse, a young boy living in the projects of the inner city speaks about his hopes, fears, and dreams.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/deshawn-days>

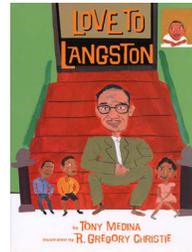


**When the Shadbush Blooms** • written by Carla Messinger with Susan Katz, illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden • A young Lenape Indian girl observes and reflects on the small, important ways both her family and her ancestors celebrate the cycle of seasons.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/when-the-shadbush-blooms>

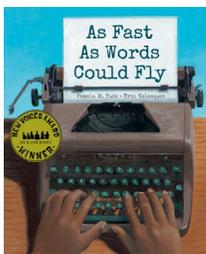
# Grades 3-5



**Ana María Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle** • written by **Hilda Eunice Burgos** • In this sparkling middle-grade debut, Ana María Reyes has to figure out life with three sisters, a tiny two-bedroom apartment, and one chance to shine in the upcoming city piano showcase.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/ana-maria-reyes-does-not-live-in-a-castle>



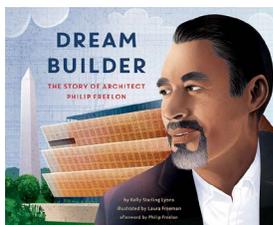
**Love to Langston** • written by **Tona Medina**, illustrated by **R. Gregory Christie** • This biography in verse of the beloved poet Langston Hughes shows how he overcame numerous obstacles to follow his dreams and become a poet.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/love-to-langston>



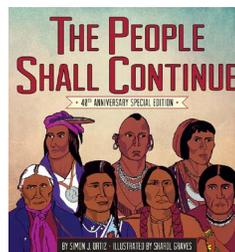
**As Fast As Words Could Fly** • written by **Pamela M. Tuck**, illustrated by **Eric Velasquez** • Mason Steele, an African American boy in 1960s Greenville, North Carolina, relies on his inner confidence and typing skills to face challenges and break racial barriers after he begins attending a "whites-only" high school.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/as-fast-as-words-could-fly>



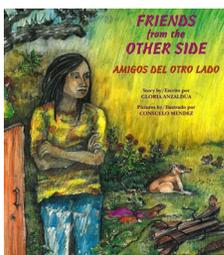
**Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh** written by **Uma Krishnaswami** While her parents and neighbors are struggling through World War II, working for India's independence, and trying to stay on their farmland, nine-year-old Maria Singh learns to play softball just like her heroes in the All-American Girls' League.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/step-up-to-the-plate-maria-singh>



**Dream Builder** • written by **Kelly Starling Lyons**, illustrated by **Laura Freeman** • You've seen the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Now meet the man whose life went into building it.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/dream-builder>



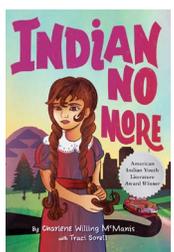
**The People Shall Continue** • written by **Simon J. Ortiz**, illustrated by **Sharol Graves** • Renowned Acoma Pueblo poet and storyteller Simon J. Ortiz traces the progress of Native/Indigenous people in North America from the time of creation to the present. (Also available in Spanish)  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-people-shall-continue>



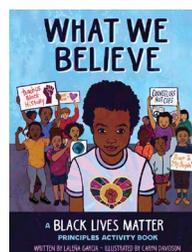
**Friends from the Other Side/ Amigos del otro lado** • written by **Gloria Anzaldúa**, illustrated by **Consuelo Méndez** • This poignant immigration story captures not only the hardship of daily life on the border, but also the beauty of the landscape and the dignity and generosity of spirit that Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants share. (Bilingual English/Spanish)  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/friends-from-the-other-side-amigos-del-otro-lado>



**The Wind Called My Name** • written by **Mary Louise Sanchez** • In this heartwarming historical middle-grade novel set in the 1930s, Margarita Sandoval and her family navigate the shifting winds of belonging in their new Wyoming town.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-wind-called-my-name>

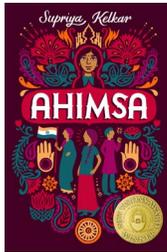


**Indian No More** • written by **Charlene Willing McManis** with **Traci Sorell** • Winner of the American Indian Youth Literature Award! In this middle-grade novel set in the 1950s, when the US government terminates the tribal rights of the Umpqua people, Regina and her family must leave their beloved reservation in Oregon and move to Los Angeles.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/indian-no-more>



**What We Believe: A Black Lives Matter Principles Activity Book** • written by **Laleña Garcia**, illustrated by **Caryn Davidson** • This powerful activity book will engage hands, hearts, and minds as it introduces children to the guiding principles of the Black Lives Matter movement.  
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/what-we-believe>

# Grades 6-8+



**Ahimsa** • written by Supriya Kelkar

In this historical novel, Gandhi asks for one member of each family to join the fight for independence from the British, and when Anjali's mother is jailed for doing so, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work.

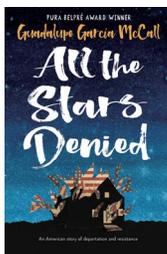
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/ahimsa>



**I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage** • compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins

In a celebration of diversity and family, fourteen poets and sixteen illustrators of diverse backgrounds share memorable childhood experiences and reflect upon their different heritages, traditions, and beliefs.

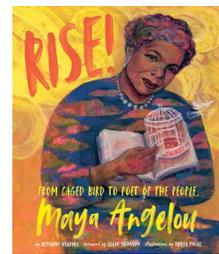
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/i-remember>



**All the Stars Denied** • written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

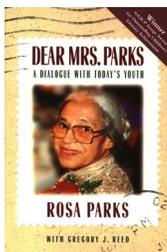
Guadalupe Garcia McCall tackles the hidden history of the United States's first mass deportation event through the story of Estrella del Toro, who fights for her family's land and citizenship during the Great Depression.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/all-the-stars-denied>



**Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou** • written by Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Tonya Engel

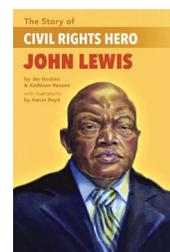
This beautiful biography of Maya Angelou describes how she rose above a childhood of trauma and emotional pain to become one of the most inspiring voices of modern times. <https://www.leeandlow.com/books/rise>



**Dear Mrs. Parks** • written by Rosa Parks with Gregory J. Reed

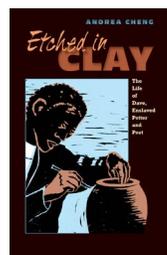
On a December day in 1955, Rosa Parks changed the course of history when she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus. This book pairs children's letters to Mrs. Parks with her wise, powerful reflections on life, history, and protest.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/dear-mrs-parks>



**The Story of Civil Rights Hero John Lewis** • written by Jim Haskins & Kathleen Benson, illustrated by Aaron Boyd

Meet John Lewis, a leader in the civil rights movement of the 1960s who became a revered Congressman of the present day. <https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-story-of-civil-rights-hero-john-lewis>



**Etched in Clay** • written and illustrated by Andrea Cheng

This biography in verse offers a fascinating window into the life of Dave, an enslaved potter who inscribed his works with sayings and short poems in the years leading up to the Civil War.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/etched-in-clay>



**The Story of Movie Star Anna May Wong** • written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Lin Wang

Meet Anna May Wong, whose trailblazing career in Hollywood broke new ground for future generations of Asian American actors.

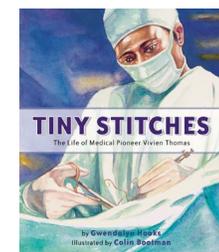
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-story-of-movie-star-anna-may-wong>



**I Am Alfonso Jones** • written by Tony Medina, illustrated by Stacey Robinson & John Jennings

Perfect for fans of *The Hate U Give*: An unflinching graphic novel about the afterlife of a young man killed by an off-duty police officer.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/i-am-alfonso-jones>



**Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas** • written by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman

This thoughtful picture book reveals the life of Vivien Thomas, an African American surgical technician who developed the first procedure used to perform open-heart surgery on children.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/tiny-stitches>

For more resources, consult the following articles and organizations for anti-racism work and how to talk to children about race:

The Conscious Kid:

"How to Talk to Kids About Race"

<https://www.theconsciouskid.org/resources>

EmbraceRace: [embracerace.org](http://embracerace.org)

Teaching Tolerance: Anti-Racist Education: <https://www.tolerance.org/learning-plan/antiracist-education>

Ibram X. Kendi: <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/>



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