Children’s Books for These Times

Beautiful Blackbird

A summer-long celebration of children’s books of the African diaspora. For read alouds, interviews, and activities:
BeautifulBlackbird.com

Picture Books for Ages 4-8

Beautiful Blackbird by Ashley Bryan; Original African Folktale

Going Down Home with Daddy by Kelly Starling Lyons & illustrated by Daniel Minter; African American

Overground Railroad by Lesa Cline-Ransome & illustrated by James E. Ransome; African American History

Sing a Song: How “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Inspired Generations by Kelly Starling Lyons & illustrated by Keith Mallett; African American History

Magnificent Homespun Brown by Samara Cole Doyon & illustrated by Kaylani Juanita; Black & Brown Community

Auntie Luce’s Talking Paintings by Francie Latour & illustrated by Ken Daley; Haitian & Haitian American

Wherever I Go by Mary Wagley Copp & illustrated by Munir D. Mohammed; Ethiopian & Ethiopian American

Graphic Novel for Ages 9+

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed; Somali

Using K-3 Picture Books to Talk About Race & Racism With Children


Happy in Our Skin by Fran Manushkin & Lauren Tobia; Multiracial

Shades of People by Shelley Rotner; Multiracial

Skin Again by bell hooks & Christopher Raschka; Multiracial

All the Colors We Are / Todos Los Colores de Nuestra Piel by Katie Kissinger & Chris Bohnhoff; Multiracial

The Barefoot Book of Children by Kate DePalma, Tessa Strickland & David Dean; Multicultural / Multiracial

Can I Touch Your Hair? by Irene Latham, Charles Waters & Sean Qualls; Multiracial / Cross-Group

I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoet; Multiracial / Cross-Group

The Diverse BookFinder is a comprehensive collection of children’s picture books featuring Black and Indigenous people and People of Color (BIPOC): DiverseBookFinder.org

Presented by Indigo Arts Alliance
http://IndigoArtsAlliance.me

Recommended by Maine’s Curious City, Diverse BookFinder, Indigo Arts Alliance, & I’m Your Neighbor Books
Children’s Books for These Times

**i’m your neighbor**

*These books feature the stories of Maine New Arrivals and New Americans.*

**Novel for Ages 8-12**
*Unidentified Suburban Object* by Mike Jung, paired with the guide “Discussing Identity, Difference, and Cross-group Friendship”; *Korean American*

**Novel for Ages 12-18**
*Piecing Me Together* by Renee Watson, paired with “A Discussion Guide About Race, Class, Gender, and Intersectionality”; *African American*

**Picture Books for Ages 4-8**
*Joseph’s Big Ride* by *Terry Farish & illustrated by Ken Daly; Sudanese American

*My Friend Jamal* by Anna McQinn & illustrated by Ben Frey; *Somali American*

*I’m New Here and Someone New* by *Anne Sibley O’Brien; Guatemalan, Somali, Korean American*

**Novel for Ages 8-12**
*Something About America* by *Maria Testa; Kosavar American and Somali American*

**Novel for Ages 12-18**
*Call Me American: The Extraordinary True Story of a Young Somali Immigrant* by *Abdi Nor Iftin; Somali American*

*The Good Braider* by *Terry Farish; Sudanese American*

*Out of Nowhere* by *Maria Padian; Somali American*

*MMaine Author*

**Other Lists**

*An Anti-Racist Children’s and Young Adult Reading List*
Recommended fiction and nonfiction about race and activism from creators of color, as well as suggested fiction that celebrates the diversity of the Black experience by #OwnVoices authors and illustrators.

*Building Social Justice Starting in the Classroom: Book List*

*20 Picture Books for 2020: Readings to Embrace Race, Provide Solace and Help Us Work for the Common Good*

Recommended by Maine’s Curious City, Diverse BookFinder, Indigo Arts Alliance, & I’m Your Neighbor Books