

# Children's Books for These Times



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

[BeautifulBlackbird.com](http://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*

*Presented by Indigo Arts Alliance*  
<http://IndigoArtsAlliance.me>



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

*Look for conversation starters at*  
<https://bit.ly/DBFTalkRace>

**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](http://DiverseBookFinder.org)

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## CURIOUS CITY

### Novel for Ages 8-12

**Unidentified Suburban Object** by Mike Jung, paired with the guide “Discussing Identity, Difference, and Cross-group Friendship”; *Korean American*  
<https://bit.ly/CCMicroaggression>

### Novel for Ages 12-18

**Piecing Me Together** by Renee Watson, paired with “A Discussion Guide About Race, Class, Gender, and Intersectionality”; *African American*  
<https://bit.ly/CCIntersectionality>

## 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.

<https://bit.ly/PWAntiRacist>

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

<https://bit.ly/T4CSocialJustice>

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

<https://bit.ly/EmbraceRaceBooks>

## i'm your neighbor

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

### 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; *Kosovar American and Somali American*

**One Good Thing About America** by \*Ruth Freeman; *Congolese 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*

*\*Maine Author*

*Discover children's books set in our national New Arrival/New American communities at:*

[ImYourNeighborBooks.org](http://ImYourNeighborBooks.org)