

Antiracism Recommended Media Resources

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1. Reading List Recommendations Organized by Questions

I don't have a lot of time to read, but I want to learn more. What should I do?

First, go to the **website** www.justiceinjune.org. Depending on how much time you have to learn about antiracism each day--whether it's 10, 25, 45 minutes a day, this website will help you maximize the time you do have.

Also, see the section on **YouTube Videos**.

In terms of reading, it depends on your specific area of interest.

What do I read if I'm just getting started?

If you're just wanting to learn more in general, I'd suggest [White Fragility](#), [How To Be An Antiracist](#), and either [So You Want To Talk About Race](#) or [Uncomfortable Conversations With A Black Man](#) as a bare

minimum. Or both. Also read Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?

Me and White Supremacy is also a good resource because it's a series of short chapters followed by five or six questions for self-reflection. It was originally designed to be a 28-day process, but the author is clear that it can be modified for a slower or faster pace.

Listen to Black voices. Read Trespassing: My Sojourn In The Halls Of Privilege, read John Lewis's graphic novel trilogy March, read Tell The Truth And Shame The Devil.

As a White person, I want to learn how to be a better ally to people of color. What should I read?

Read White Fragility, How To Be An Antiracist, Me and White Supremacy, Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?, and either So You Want To Talk About Race or Uncomfortable Conversations With A Black Man--or, preferably, both.

I'm a teacher/parent of a school-age child. How can I learn more about antiracism in schools?

Read We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching And The Pursuit Of Educational Freedom, Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria. You might also be interested in Leading For Equity: The Pursuit of Excellence In Montgomery County Public Schools. (This book isn't listed below because it's pretty heavy on education policy and statistics. I've worked in three different school systems, but there were times when I wanted toothpicks to keep my eyelids open.) You might also want to read A Framework For Understanding Poverty by Ruby K. Payne. (I didn't list it below because it's not a book on race, it's a book on poverty. This book was written 23 years ago, but it nonetheless sheds some valuable light on the intersectionality of race, wealth, and education.)

I just don't understand how racism can still be an issue--slavery ended over 150 years ago. We've had a Black President, now we have a Black Vice-President. Isn't it time to move on?

Read White Fragility, So You Want To Talk About Race and/or Uncomfortable Conversations With A Black Man, (read both if you can!) Stamped From the Beginning, (either the grown-up or YA version), From Here To Equality: Reparations For Black Americans In the Twenty-First Century. Read Me And White Supremacy. Read Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria? Definitely read White Rage, but don't make it the very first book you read.

As a White person just beginning to explore this topic, the most critically important thing you can do is to identify and reduce your White fragility.

2. Thumbnail Reviews

General Education

How To Be Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. An absolute must-read for any human being who wants to interrupt racism. Dr. Kendi discusses racism and antiracism in terms of personal behavior. The result is both deliverance and obligation for the reader: A single person can behave in both racist and antiracist ways. If you're a human being, please read this book. That's all I can really say: Please. Read. This. Book.

From Here To Equality: Reparations For Black Americans In the Twenty-First Century by William A. Darity and Kristen Mullen. I admit it--I was so intimidated about reading a book co-written by an economist that I owned it for three months before cracking the cover. (I haven't been able to help my son with his math homework since fourth grade; Jeff Foxworthy? I'm not smarter than a fifth grader.)

But don't let math-anxiety prevent you from reading this book. Darity and Mullen's publication is a clarion call to action. In terms of a "White Fragility" score, I'd score it as a hairsbreadth below Carol Anderson's **White Rage** (reviewed below in this section). Both **From Here To Equality** and **White Rage** are critically important reading as well as breathtakingly well-researched and written. But don't lead with either one if you're White and just beginning to educate yourself about systemic racism. Reduce your white fragility first. Then--*please*--read both of them.

Me And White Supremacy by Layla Saad. This book originally started as an internet-based 28 day racism-interrupt challenge. Saad, a Black Muslim woman who grew up in the UK and now lives in Qatar, guides readers through a self-reflection journey of examining different aspects of white supremacy. Topics include white privilege, white fragility, tone policing, anti-blackness. Saad is very clear that this particular book is only intended for audiences of White people, and White-passing people of color.

Overcoming Bias by Tiffany Jana and Matthew Freeman. An interracial couple, Jana and Freeman are co-founders of TMI Consulting, a diversity and inclusion management company. Tiffany Jana has a TED Talk about the power of privilege, mentioned below.

So You Want To Be Less Stupid About Race by Crystal Fleming. (First thing: If you have younger children who like to pick up Mommy's books, be warned that Fleming uses "adult words" throughout the text.) She writes about her experience as a Black, bisexual journalist in a biracial lesbian relationship. One of the things I think about the most is her description of her experience working in France, and the racism she encountered there.

So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. Oluo is a biracial, Black-identified lesbian who was raised by a White mom. Reading this warm, honest, poignant book felt like sitting at the kitchen table, listening to a good friend.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, And You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Have you ever wondered “*How in the world did racism become systemic in the first place? How could it possibly have become this entrenched?*” This book, (the YA version of Dr. Kendi’s **Stamped From The Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas In America**) provides the architectural blueprint. Jason Reynolds is the most engaging writer I’ve had the pleasure of reading in a scholarly context. The adult version is also excellent, and definitely more detailed, but if you enjoy reading YA books, or are looking for a kid-friendly educational resource on systemic racism, definitely pick this one up.

Uncomfortable Conversations With A Black Man by Emmanuel Acho To me, this book has the same warm, feeling of **So You Want To Talk About Race**—sitting across the kitchen table from a trusted friend who is calmly answering questions you didn’t even realize you had. Both of these books are excellent places to begin reading about anti-racism awareness.

We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching And The Pursuit Of Educational Freedom by Bettina L. Love. Love writes from the perspective of a Black lesbian educator, and like many of authors on the topic of race, she does an excellent job of discussing the intersectionality of race, gender, sexual orientation, and other factors. One of the most compelling aspects of Love’s work for me was her discussion of how charter schools negatively impact Black students, and how teaching the concept of “Grit” (White educational psychologist Angela Duckworth’s work) in schools is anti-Black. Important reading for anyone in education.

White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard For White People To Talk About Race by Robin DiAngelo. An absolute must-read for any White person who wants to become more racially aware. *If you’re White, please read this book.* The most significant contribution as White people can make to ending systemic racism is to identify and reduce our White fragility. Only then are we able to clearly examine and begin addressing the myriad, excruciating facets of systemic racism.

White Rage: The Unspoken Truth Of Our Racial Divide by Carol Anderson is only five chapters long. It's an incredibly important book, and in my personal opinion every White person who cares about racial healing should read it. Anderson is a gifted scholar and writer—but be warned: This book is a no-punches-pulled sampling of vicious acts of racism and racial cruelty. I implore you not to begin with this one. At the very least, first read **White Fragility**, **How To Be Antiracist**, and **So You Want To Talk About Race**. But do read it. Because **White Rage** is as painful to read as it is important to read.

Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race By Beverly Daniel Tatum. Is it possible to fall in love with a book? Because if it is, I have. Dr. Tatum, a licensed psychologist and President Emerita of Spelman College has created a dazzling book. Her professional knowledge of child and young adult developmental stages was anticipated, but the compassion and thought she puts into teaching blew me away. Specific examples provided in addressing questions asked by her own (young-at-the-time) children, her college and adult students are crafted with love, deliberation, and grace. Dr. Tatum articulates the evolving needs young Black children, teenagers and adults must meet in order to forge a positive Black identity. She discusses the need for Whites doing antiracist work to support one another, preventing burnout. She also addresses affirmative action, implicit bias, identity issues for other groups (Latinx, Native American Asian and Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern/North African), the needs of children in multi-racial families, and cross-racial dialogue. All of this material is in one well-written book--it's like finding netherite armor in the MineCraft Battle Against Systemic Racism.

Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge. The author is a Black female living and working in the UK. I read this account because I was hoping to learn that racism isn't as severe in the UK. (Spoiler alert: Evidently, it is.) Lodge provides a well written, clear perspective of her experiences.

Memoirs:

Abina And The Important Men: A Graphic History by Trevor Getz and Liz Clarke. In 1876, a wrongfully enslaved West African young woman named Abina escaped to a British-controlled territory and sued her former master. This graphic novel is based on the court transcript.

Born A Crime by Trevor Noah. First, to explain the title: Trevor Noah was born in South Africa during apartheid to a Black mother and a White father. When his parents took him on outings, they literally had to pretend they didn't know each other—Trevor and his mom had to walk on one side of the street, and his dad had to walk on the other. As one would expect from Trevor Noah, his account is honest, moving, and often hilarious.

Breaking Hate: Confronting The New Culture Of Extremism by Christian Piccolini. Piccolini was only fourteen years old when he was recruited into the ranks of Hammerskin Nation. A former leader in the white supremacist movement, Piccolini describes the planning and implementation of the “boots to suits” movement. He has spent the last 20 years mentoring others and helping them disengage from the white supremacist movement. He has trained FBI agents, worked abroad with the State Department, and has several compelling TED Talks. He compares membership in these groups to addiction, offering a clear-eyed analysis of how these groups recruit, and how to effectively support members who are trying to leave.

Climbing The Broken Stairs by Frieda A. Adkins. Adkins and her five brothers grew up in—there's no other way to say it—a horrifying environment. Some kids grow up in poverty, some kids grow up with abuse, and too many grow up with both. Adkins credits her experience in the military with giving her a way to climb the broken stairs of her childhood experience. This is a deeply moving, honest, courageous account of a survivor.

The Complete Maus written and illustrated by Art Spiegelman. A two volume set of graphic novels. Art Spiegelman's parents were Holocaust survivors, and his mother took her life when Art was 20 years old. The novels are based on interviews with his father.

The Gift of Our Wounds: A Sikh and a Former White Supremacist Find Forgiveness After Hate by Arno Michaelis and Pardeep Singh Kaleka.

Two months after the 2012 Sikh temple shooting in Oak Creek, WI, Michaelis and Singh Kaleka met for the first time. Singh Kaleka, who had lost his father in the shooting, needed answers. Michaelis, a former skinhead, tried his best to provide them. Fast-forward a dozen years, and the two men now work with *Serve 2 Unite*, a nonprofit co-founded by Singh Kaleka. *Serve 2 Unite* brings together Wisconsin school students, providing education about collaboration, peace, and forgiveness.

This book is at once painful and compellingly beautiful. It alternates between Michaelis's and Singh Kaleka's viewpoints. Michaelis exhibits tremendous courage in facing his own past in order to move beyond rage, to help others and to forgive himself. That being said, I found the narrative on his skinhead days jarring, even sickening.

Singh Kaleka's narrative is deeply moving: His love for his father, his determination to honor his memory by making the world a better place, and his faith are palpable. Unexpectedly, **The Gift of Our Wounds** also educated me about basic tenets of the Sikh faith. (Spoiler alert: there's a lot of Sikh-Quaker commonality I was totally unaware of.)

This book is about pain, loss, forgiveness, and growth.

I Beat The Odds by Michael Oher. Yes, that Michael Oher—the pro football player. The “Blind Side” guy. After seeing the film, I wanted to learn more about Oher. As one would expect, his personal account differs significantly from the Hollywood version of his life. It's a very inspiring read. Both Oher in this memoir and his adoptive parents Leigh Ann and Sean Tuohy (in their own memoir **In A Heartbeat: Sharing The Power of Cheerful Giving**) maintain that the film portrayal of Oher as a passive foil for white

saviors is inaccurate. Sean Tuhoy said having Leigh Anne teach Michael how to block and Sean, Jr. explain the playbook with condiments was “pure cinematic nonsense...by the time he got to us, Michael was already a fairly impressive athlete.”

Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane. Mark Mathabane grew up in extreme poverty South Africa during apartheid. Think midnight police raids, gang warfare, hunger, and rats. Tennis skill earned him a scholarship to a US university. Mathabane has been a college professor, lecturer, author, Clinton-era White House educational advisor, and school principal. He lived in North Carolina with his wife Gail and their three children until 2004.

Life In Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina by Misty Copeland. Misty Copeland is the first Black dancer to become a principal in the American Ballet Theater’s 75-year history. Copeland is an extraordinary talent who never even attended a ballet class until age 13. That’s *really* late for a professional dancer to begin learning the craft. She’s like the Grandma Moses of classical ballet. Her memoir is well written, moving (no pun intended), and incredibly inspiring. Copeland overcame multiple formidable obstacles, reminiscent of ones described by Michael Oher in “I Beat The Odds.” Fully present in her trailblazing role, Copeland has written several other books and directly mentors young Black dancers.

Love In Black And White: The Triumph Of Love Over Prejudice and Taboo by interracial married couple Mark Mathabane (see above) and Gail Mathabane. Gail describes facing her family’s resistance to her interracial marriage, and about how falling in love with Mark brought her previously unexamined racist programming into focus.

March by John Lewis, with Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. This is a three volume set of graphic novels about John Lewis’s early civil rights work. It’s extremely well done in terms of both artwork and storytelling. Very powerful.

My Life After Hate by Arno Michaelis. Getting right to the point, I'll say that while I admire Michaelis very much for the tremendous life changes he has made, I find his writing to be an acquired taste. Four years later, he co-wrote a book with Pardeep Singh Kaleka, called The Gift of Our Wounds: A Sikh and a Former White Supremacist Find Forgiveness After Hate (see above).

Michaelis is much easier to take when his narrative is balanced with that of Singh Kaleka. I found this "solo" book unsettling and disturbing--there's a *lot* of focus on drinking. And fighting. And fighting while drinking. And drinking while fighting. Some of it's even funny, but overall it's nowhere near as redeeming or as positive as The Gift Of Our Wounds. If you're going to read only one of them, skip this one.

Rising Out Of Hatred by Eli Saslow. Saslow details the experience of Derek Roland Black, a former white supremacist who was raised in a family culture of white supremacy and groomed to inherit the family business of running the white supremacist website *Stormfront*. When Black went to college, however, he formed friendships that conflicted directly with what he'd been taught about race. Black became estranged from his family as a result, even legally changing his name to make a break with his past. This book is especially inspiring in terms of nonwhite friends who, after learning about his ideology, didn't give up on him despite pressure to do so.

Tell The Truth And Shame The Devil by Lezley McSpadden and Lyah Leflore. McSpadden, Michael Brown's mother, describes her childhood, and her experience as a young Black mom. As you can imagine, the foundation of the book itself—the police shooting of her first born child, Michael—makes this memoir a shattering read. The book also details her police reform advocacy work, and her efforts to support other mothers who have experienced this same tragedy.

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei (yes, Lt. Sulu of the USS Enterprise!) co-wrote this graphic novel with Justin Eisinger and Steven Scott about his experience as a four year old child sent to Japanese internment camps with his parents and two siblings during World War II.

Trespassing: My Sojourn In The Halls Of Privilege by Gwendolyn M. Parker. Parker, who grew up in Durham, North Carolina describes her experience as a high-achieving female Black student who constantly had to defend her right to be in law school, and later, her right to be accepted by clients and colleagues as an attorney. To put it simply—it's really, really good.

Waking Up White by Debby Irving. Irving, a white upper middle class woman based in Massachusetts, writes unflinchingly—and I really mean unflinchingly—about her journey from being completely unaware of white privilege to actively working as a racial justice educator and writer.

Fiction

Black Buck by Mateo Askaripour. Meet Darren Vender, valedictorian of Bronx Science High School. Now 22 years old, he's worked at Starbuck's for four years, despite his mom's prodding about college. Barista work gives him plenty of time to enjoy his mom's cooking and his girlfriend's company until the day he's abruptly recruited into an all-White hyper aggressive sales force. Think **The Devil Wears Prada** for a young Black guy, but with a more complex plot and characters. This is a high-speed read about the compromises Black employees are too often faced with in the corporate world.

Push by Sapphire. A painful read about Precious, a Black girl who is viciously abused by both her parents. You have probably heard of or seen the film version—"Precious."

I list it here because Michael Oher's memoir is also on this list, and in a 2009 interview with NPR host Micheal Martin, film critic Wesley Morris compares his experiences of viewing "Precious" and "The Blind Side" as a Black audience member. About "Precious," he says 'I was much more moved by that movie than I was by "The Blind Side" because it does own up to a degree of reality that is true for a lot of black people.'

Young Adult Fiction (Also great for actual adults)

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely is told from the alternating viewpoints of two high school boys, Rashad and Quinn.

Rashad, who is Black, is falsely accused of shoplifting, and in the hospital after being beaten by a police officer. Quinn, who is White, witnesses the attack.

Their lives are forever changed: Rashad struggles with his identity as the public face of police brutality protests. Quinn, who had previously known, trusted, and admired this particular police officer, must now face realities he had never imagined.

I'll let the authors speak for themselves: *"As a black man and a white man, both writers and educators, we came together to co write a book about how systemic racism and police brutality affect the lives of young people in America, in order to create an important, unique, and honest work that would give young people and the people who educate them a tool for talking about these difficult but absolutely vital conversations"*

-authors Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely.

Fast moving and incredibly well written. Commonsensemedia.org rates this novel as appropriate for ages 12+.

Dear Martin by Nic Stone

High school student Justyce McAllister is simply trying to prevent his drunk girlfriend from driving her Mercedes Benz home, but the cop who handcuffs him believes Justyce is trying to harm her and steal her car.

Justyce begins writing to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a way of trying to process the shock of being arrested and accused without cause. I don't want to give too much away in terms of the plot, but this is a richly textured, incredibly engaging novel. Commonsensemedia.org rates this novel as appropriate for ages 14+.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas is a novel about a Black private high school girl who witnesses the police murder of a childhood friend. It's well written and even more impressive when you learn that this is Thomas's second book: She wrote this moving novel as a "keep busy" project while waiting to hear about the publication status of her first book. Impressive; when I have nervous energy, I usually just wind up alphabetizing my spice rack. Commonsensemedia.org rates this novel as appropriate for ages 13+.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers. High school student Steve Harmon loves his parents, his little brother, and his filmmaking class. He's also sixteen years old and abruptly on trial for murder. He tries to cope by writing his experience out, as if it were a screenplay. Commonsensemedia.org rates this as appropriate for ages 13+.

Website

justiceinjune.org is a self-education website "providing a starting place for individuals trying to become better allies." It's also inherently user-friendly and practical—activities are designed in terms of how much time you have available—be it 10, 25, or 45 minutes a day. This site is an excellent resource. If you don't have time to read books, this is the perfect tool for you. (But please, please at least read "White Fragility.") This site also has specific resources for White parents trying to raise non-racist children.

YouTube Videos and TED Talks:

"Why I, As A Black Man, Attend KKK Rallies." In this approximately 19 minute Black musician Darryl Davis shares how he became friends with Robert White, a former police officer and former leader in the Ku Klux Klan. Incredibly powerful.

“The Power of Pride: George Takei at TedxKyoto.” approximately 17 minutes. Very moving. Takei describes how his family was forced to leave their home, his experience as a young boy in US Japanese internment camps, and how his family faced poverty, hostility, prejudice after being released. His clear faith in democracy is absolutely inspiring, given what he experienced.

The Power of Privilege: Tiffany Jana at TEDxRVAWomen.

Approximately 15 minutes long. Tiffany Jana discusses privilege and bias, identifying one’s own privilege even when it seems elusive, and the power of using your privilege to help others.

Emmanual Acho has several YouTube videos. Search for “Emmanual Acho, Uncomfortable Conversations With A Black Man.” I haven’t seen all of them, but in the ones I’ve seen, he is an engaging, accessible speaker.

A Poem For My White Friends: I Didn’t Tell You (YouTube) by Norma J.

Approximately 8 minutes long. This YouTube video is of author Norma J performing the afore-named poem. It’s not easy to watch: Her pain and exhaustion are vivid, searing. Think of this as a **White Rage** video equivalent. Please do watch it--it has *so many* important messages that White people need to hear--but don’t start out here if you’re just beginning to educate yourself about antiracism.

I Grew Up In The Westboro Baptist Church. Here’s Why I Left by

Megan Phelps-Roper. *Approximately 15 minutes long.*

Remember Fred Phelps, the “God Hates Fags” minister? One of his granddaughters, Megan, opened a Twitter account in 2009. Her original goal was to increase the amplitude of Phelp’s message. Instead, she says, strangers showed her “the power of engaging the other.” Slowly, she began to form online friendships with people she’d been taught to hate. Like Derek Black (see **Rising Out Of Hatred**), Phelps-Roper was stunned to realize “other” people weren’t what she’d been taught. She has an extensive understanding of polarization and outlines four steps to follow in terms of reaching across ideological divides.

Films:

White Man's Burden With Harry Belafonte and John Travolta. In **Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race**, Reni Eddo-Lodge recounts watching TV as a preschooler and noticing “all the good people on TV were white, and all the villains were black and brown. I considered myself to be a good person, so I thought I would turn white eventually. My mum still remembers the crestfallen look on my face when she told me the bad news.” To get even the barest glimmer of an idea of what this might feel like—watch this film.

Books I Haven't Read Yet/Coming Attractions:

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson

Eating Dr. King's Dinner by Chuck Fager

The Person You Mean To Be: How Good People Fight Bias by Dolly Chugh

The Racial Healing Handbook by Anneliese Singh