

Racial Awareness Book Titles

How To Be Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. An absolute must-read for any human being who wants to interrupt racism. If you're a human being, please read this book.

***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.

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.

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.

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 to as a racial justice educator and writer.

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" (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.

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 write—but be warned: This book is a no-punches-pulled account of a sampling of vicious acts of racism and racial cruel. 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**. 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. I'm currently reading this book. So far—excellent, insightful.

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 disengage from the white supremacist movement. He compares membership in ws ranks to addiction, and offers a clear-eyed analysis of how ws groups recruit, and how to effectively intervene.

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.

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

Tuhoy (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.

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.

Love In Black And White: The Triumph Of Love Over Prejudice and Taboo by interracial married couple Mark Mathabane and Gail Mathabane (see above). Gail reports about 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.

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 would up 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.

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 interment camps with his parents and two siblings during World War II. (Takei has also recorded a TED Talk on this topic, which I haven't yet seen.)

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.

Fiction

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 publication status of her first book.

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.'

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, and 45 minutes a day.

This site is an excellent resource. If you don't have time to read books, this is the perfect resource 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.

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.

Coming Attractions (Part 2!) Books Not Yet Reviewed SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME!!!!

A Promised Land A by Barack Obama

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Blind Spot:Hidden Biases of Good People by Mahzarin Banaji

Eating Dr. King's Dinner by Chuck Fager

From Here To Equality: Reparations For Black Americans In the Twenty-First Century by William A. Darity and Kristen Mullen

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

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls In School by Monique Morris

The Racial Healing Handbook: Practical Activities To Help You Challenge Privilege, Confront Systemic Racism, and Engage In Collective Healing by Anneliese A. Sigh

Selma 1965 by Chuck Fager

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Subtle Acts of Exclusion:How To Understand, Identify, and Stop Microaggressions by Tiffany Jana and Michael Baran