



## Reading Resource Library Guide: Activism

The following high interest books were selected to support an exploration of Activism. Each book has a summary and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews, in a separate slide deck. Visit [this link](#) to explore the books.

### Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter one slide deck to explore with your class: Civil Rights, Activism, Inspirational Stories, and Fantasy/Science Fiction.
- ▶ Books in the collection span different reading levels. Also included is a separate collection, “Engaging Books for Children and Families,” which offers a selection of books that can be used with children, families, and adults.
- ▶ Explore the slides for your topic in the provided link. Each book listed in the table below has a summary and additional information with links to websites that offer supplemental material. Consider selecting one book to read aloud to your students while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with students and explore the books and websites. Allow students individual time to explore the slide deck and choose a book or excerpts from several books to read.
- ▶ Decide how you will interact with these topics and texts. This *information guide* has suggestions for activities for the classroom, tools for teachers, and activities for families, which are starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ▶ The “Activities for Families” section may be copied into another document and sent home with families for engagement suggestions while reading the books.
- ▶ Use this tool to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners!

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Hoot</i>	Carl Hiaasen	760
<i>March: Book One</i>	John Lewis, Andrew Aydin	760
<i>Tyler Johnson Was Here</i>	Jay Coles	800
<i>Putting Peace First: 7 Commitments to Change the World</i>	Eric David Dawson	850
<i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i>	Phillip Hoose	1000

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice (Young Adult Version)</i>	Bryan Stevenson	1040
<b>Engaging books for adults and children</b>		
<i>The More We Get Together</i>	Celeste Cortright	AD 60
<i>Ron's Big Mission</i>	Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden	540
<i>I Can Do Hard Things: Mindful Affirmations for Kids</i>	Gabi Garcia	540
<i>The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist</i>	Cynthia Levinson	720
<i>No Steps Behind: Beate Sirota Gordon's Battle for Women's Rights in Japan</i>	Jeff Gottesfeld	840
<i>Fred Korematsu Speaks Up</i>	Laura Atkins	930

## Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ Consider the KWL approach to support a discussion on Activism and what it means to be an activist. Here is a link to a simple KWL chart, provided by readwritethink.org: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/printouts/chart-a-30226.html>
- ▶ Discuss various terms related to a topic: **activism, activist, community**. Place students into small groups and have them discuss the terms, give definitions, develop examples, and explore the words in context. Then, have the class as a whole share their findings.
- ▶ Explore the word **community** in more detail and connect their ideas to their classroom being a community. If you have not already created a shared vision for your classroom, consider extending this activity to do this.
- ▶ Discuss your community. Consider creating a T chart with one column listing what the class likes about the community and one column listing what they would like to change. Extend the conversation into how they could become activists in their community, focusing on some things about their community that they would like to change. Activities can include practice in writing emails to the mayor, city council, and other city organizations. See the "Helpful Links for Teachers" section to explore ways to support activism for individual learners or the classroom of learners. Links are provided to specific activism lessons in the "Helpful Links for Teachers" section.

## Helpful Links for Teachers

### Teaching Tolerance:

Teaching Tolerance shares, “our mission is to help teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.” Their site includes lessons on many topics, including defining activism. While they focus on lessons for K-12 students, many lessons can be used or modified for adult learners.

- The following link provides a detailed lesson on “Defining Activism.” <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/defining-activism>
- The following link provides detailed lessons on “Art and Community Activism.” <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/art-and-activism>

### wikiHow: How to Become an Activist

This detailed article provides a step-by-step guide on how to become an activist and includes information such as finding and supporting your passion for change, partaking in online activism, being an informed activist, and pursuing a career in activism.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Become-an-Activist>

## Activities for Families

- ▶ Choose a book to explore from the “Engaging Books for Adults and Children” section in the table above.
- ▶ Look at the front cover with your child. What do you notice? Explore the pictures and text. Have your child guess at what the story may be about using the picture on the front cover. This is called making a prediction.
- ▶ Check to see if the book has text features (table of contents, glossary, index, pictures with captions). This will help you explore how the book is organized.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the activism books you are reading. Explore words that you do not understand.
- ▶ Explain that activism is the action taken to cause change. An activist is the person who performs the action that brings about the change. Explore these questions with your child:
  - What did we learn today about being an activist?
  - What are some things that you care about very much?
    - ▶ playing at the park
    - ▶ taking care of animals
    - ▶ taking care of the environment
  - Are there any actions you could take to show you care?
    - ▶ volunteering at the park
    - ▶ picking up trash in your community
    - ▶ joining a community event to collect trash or clean up local parks
    - ▶ volunteering at the local animal shelter

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