



## Reading Resource Library Guide: Civil Rights

The following high interest books were selected to support an exploration of the Civil Rights movement. 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>X: A Novel</i>	Ilyasah Shabazz	580
<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Angie Thomas	590
<i>Dear Martin</i>	Nic Stone	720
<i>Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March</i>	Lynda Blackmon Lowery	780

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	990
<i>I've Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	Walter Dean Myers	1010
<i>Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement</i>	John Lewis, Michael D'Orso	1050
Engaging books for adults and children		
<i>Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged!</i>	Jody Nyasha Warner	640
<i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i>	Robert Coles	730
<i>Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker</i>	Patricia Hruby Powell	790
<i>Rosa</i>	Nikki Giovanni	800
<i>Child of the Civil Rights Movement</i>	Paula Young Shelton	840

## Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ Consider the KWL approach to support a discussion on the Civil Rights movement. Here is a link to a simple KWL chart, provided by readwritethink.org: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/printouts/chart-a-30226.html>
- ▶ Create a shared timeline of events. Post the timeline on chart paper in the meeting area. If teaching online, create a shared document for learners. Encourage students to add pictures with captions, important text evidence, etc., of events during the Civil Rights era.
- ▶ Analyze primary source documents from the Civil Rights era (give examples of primary and secondary source documents if needed). Discuss why it is important to read and analyze historical documents. Assign primary source documents and place students in small groups. Have them review the document for information, such as who wrote it, who read it, why the author wrote it, when the author wrote it, what was happening in the world when it was written, etc. Conduct a whole class discussion, with each group sharing their documents and notes. Encourage learners to make connections back to the Civil Rights text. Find these resources online by searching topics about **analyzing primary source documents**.

## Helpful Links for Teachers

### Facing History & Ourselves:

Facing History & Ourselves “uses lessons of history to challenge teachers and their learners to stand up to bigotry and hate.” Their website is full of lessons, topics to explore, a current event section that ties to curriculum, a lending library, and much more!

<https://www.facinghistory.org/>

## **National Museum of African American History & Culture, Smithsonian – Talking about Race:**

Talking about Race offers “tools and guidance to empower your journey and inspire conversation.” This website offers resources to educators, parent/caregivers, and all those who are “committed to equity.”

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

## **Poetry Offerings to Explore and Engage on the Civil Rights Movement and Social Justice:**

- ▶ Poets.org – Politics and Social Justice: Poems for Teens: <https://poets.org/text/politics-and-social-justice-poems-teens>
- ▶ Poetry Foundation – Poetry and the Civil Rights Movement: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/146367/poetry-and-the-civil-rights-movement>

## **Anti-racist/Diversity Toolkit:**

This toolkit curated by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy provides resources to support educators in teaching with an anti-racist/anti-bias lens in their classrooms. The many offerings include virtual trainings on anti-racist teaching and racial equity, educator resources, tools to inspire classroom exploration and conversation, book lists, lesson plans, and much more! <https://www.barbarabush.org/diversity-resources/>

## **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.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the Civil Rights books. Explore words that you do not understand.
- ▶ Explain that Civil Rights are basic rights that every citizen has under the law. Explore these questions with your child:
  - What did we learn today about our nation’s history?
  - What did we learn about Civil Rights?
  - How can we accept and include others in our lives?
  - Discuss parts of the book and make connections to your daily life!

## **Expert Reviewers**

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