





MMS Conversations on Racism Bibliography

Books in this list are suggested fiction titles to read with your child and can serve as a point of discussion around racism and prejudice that the characters confront. This curated list covers 5th to 8th grade, so some titles may be young adult in nature (meaning they may be more appropriate for 7th & 8th grade). These books are available in the Mansfield Middle School library and in addition are available in our online Overdrive for Education resource as ebooks. We will be lending books this summer from the MMS library.

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	<p>Bajaj, Varsha. <u>Count me in</u>. New York : Nancy Paulsen Books, [2019]. Told from two viewpoints, when hate crimes against Indian Diaspora are on the rise. Sixth-graders Karina and Chris, who avoid each other, unit to use social media to stand up to racism in Houston, Texas, after an attack puts Karina's Indian American grandfather in the hospital.</p>
	<p>Draper, Sharon M. (Sharon Mills). <u>Blended</u>. New York : Atheneum Books, [2018]. Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, and her parents both become engaged. Tensions escalate when she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.</p>
	<p>Edwardson, Debby Dahl. <u>My name is not easy</u>. Las Vegas, NV : Skyscape, [2011]. In this young adult read, Alaskans Luke, Chickie, Sonny, Donna, and Amiq relate their experiences in the early 1960s when they are forced to attend a Catholic boarding school miles from their homes. They struggle to survive in a world that does not respect their culture, their families, or their rights.</p>
	<p>Feinstein, John. <u>Backfield boys</u>. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017. This young adult story explores what happens when best friends Tom and Jason leave New York City for an elite, sports-focused boarding school in Virginia to play football, they find some coaches and teammates to be steeped in racism. The boys must decide to if they will stand up to the racism.</p>
	<p>Flake, Sharon. <u>The skin I'm in</u>. New York : Jump at the Sun, 2000. Thirteen-year-old Maleeka suffers taunts every day from the other kids in her class. Uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.</p>
	<p>Frazier, Sundee Tucker. <u>The other half of my heart</u>. New York : Delacorte, c2010. Twin daughters of interracial parents, Keira and Minna have different skin tones and personalities, but it is not until their African American grandmother enters them in the Miss Black Pearl competition that red-haired, pale-skinned Minna realizes what life in has been like for her more outgoing, darker-skinned sister.</p>

	<p>Hilton, Marilyn. <u>Full cicada moon</u>. New York, N.Y. : Puffin Books, 2017.</p> <p>It's 1969 and twelve-year-old Mimi, who is half-black and half-Japanese, moves with her family her family to an all-white town in Vermont. There Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider in this novel-in-verse story.</p>
	<p>Ramée, Lisa Moore. <u>A good kind of trouble</u>. New York, NY : Balzer + Bray, [2019].</p> <p>Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's questioning who her friends are and some people are saying she's not black enough. After experiencing a powerful protest, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking.</p>
	<p>Rhodes, Jewell Parker. <u>Black brother, black brother</u>. New York : Little, 2020.</p> <p>In this young adult story, biracial brothers, one presenting as white and the other as black deal with prejudice when one brother is suspended unjustly from their elite Prep school. He studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.</p>
	<p>Rhodes, Jewell Parker. <u>Ghost boys</u>. New York : Little, Brown and Co., 2019.</p> <p>In this young adult book, seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer. After he dies, he observes the aftermath of his death and how it affects those involved. He also meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.</p>
	<p>Watson, Renée. <u>Piecing me together</u>. New York : Bloomsbury, 2018.</p> <p>Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.</p>
	<p>Weaver, Lila Quintero. <u>My year in the middle</u>. Somerville, MA : Candlewick, 2018.</p> <p>At Lu Olivera's school the white kids and black kids sit on different sides of the classroom while Lu just wants to get along with everyone, but growing racial tensions will not let Lu stay neutral about the racial divide in school.</p>
	<p>Williams, Alicia, 1970-. <u>Genesis begins again</u>. New York : Atheneum, [2019].</p> <p>This young adult story follows thirteen-year-old Genesis as she tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles. She is very self-conscious as she struggles to fit in at her new suburban school.</p>
	<p>Woodson, Jacqueline. <u>Brown girl dreaming</u>. New York : Nancy Paulsen, [2014].</p> <p>The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.</p>