



Resources for White Learning: Books and Media

"Do not expect to be taught or shown. Take it upon yourself to use the tools around you to learn and answer your questions." [Guide to Allyship](#)

August 2023

Available online at <https://www.naacpberkshires.org/white-learning-programs/>

Resources for White Learning: A Starting Point¹

Unless otherwise noted, authored/created by Black persons or other POC

**Deemed especially important by White Learning Circle members*

The Basics

History - Books

**The 1619 Project: a New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah-Jones
African American Heritage in the Upper Housatonic Valley David Levinson, editor
All that She Carried: the Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Family Keepsake by Tiya Miles
**Caste: the Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson
Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019 edited by Ibram X Kendi and Keisha N. Blain
Half American: the Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II At Home and Abroad by Matthew F. Delmont
How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith
**Stamped from the Beginning: the Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi
They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South by Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers
The Third Reconstruction: America's Struggle for Racial Justice in the Twenty-first Century by Peniel E. Joseph
Traveling Black: a Story of Race and Resistance by Mia Bay
**The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson
Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts by Rebecca Hall
Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Riotous Black Girls, Troublesome Women, and Queer Radicals by Saidiya Hartman
Important works by other than Black authors
**The Half has Never been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* by Edward Baptist

History - Media

[*The 1619 Project](#)
[The Origin of Race in the USA](#) from a PBS Series
[The Myth of Race Debunked in 3 min.](#)
[Race and Racist Institutions – from Stonybrook University](#)
The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross author/host Henry Louis Gates, PBS documentary – widely available in libraries
[Elizabeth Freeman: From Slavery to Freedom](#) OLLI talk by Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed

Biography

Black Radical: the Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter by Kerri K. Greenidge
Black Revolutionary: William Patterson & the Globalization of the African American Freedom Struggle by Gerald Horne
The Dead are Rising: the Life of Malcolm X by Les Payne
Dean Dixon: Negro at Home, Maestro Abroad by Rufus Jones, Jr.
Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision by Barbara Ransby
The Grimkes: the Legacy of Slavery in an American Family by Kerri K. Greenidge
Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry by Imani Perry
Until I Am Free: Fannie Lou Hamer's Enduring Message to America by Keisha N. Blain
W.E.B. DuBois by David Levering Lewis

1 This by no means an exhaustive list. Most of the book titles were published between 2010 and 2023. There are many important older ones and new titles, as well as online and media sources created by Black and other POC coming out all the time.

Important works by other than Black authors

A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth by Andrew M. Manis

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight

Being Black - Books

**Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Black is the Body by Emily Bernard

Black Skinhead: Reflections on Blackness and Our Political Future by Brandi Collins-Dexter

Chasing Me to My Grave: an Artist's Memoir of the Jim Crow South by Winfred Rembert

Eloquent Rage: a Black Feminist Discovers her Superpower by Brittney Cooper

**Heavy* by Kiese Laymon

How to be Less Stupid about Race by Chrystal Fleming

Hunger by Roxanne Gay

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown

Letters to My White Male Friends by Das-Devlin Ross

Men We Reaped by Jesmyn Ward

My Remarkable Journey by Katherine Johnson

No Ashes in the Fire by Darnell Moore

Thick by Tressie McMillan Cottom

We're Going to Need More Wine: Stories that are Funny Complicated, and True by Gabrielle Union

When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir by patrice khan-cullors and asha bandele

The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom

Being Black – Media

[Who Is Black In America \(CNN Documentary\)](#)

[Race Matters: America in Crisis PBS NewsHour Special](#)

Whiteness - Books

A Race is a Nice Thing to Have: a Guide to Being a White Person or Understanding the White Person in Your Life by Janet E. Helms

Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald

History of White People by Nell Irvin Painter

Mediocre: the Dangerous Legacy of White Male America by Ijeoma Oluo

So You Want to Talk about Race by Ijeoma Oluo

Tears We Cannot Stop: a Sermon for White America by Michael Eric Dyson

White Fear: How the Browning of America is Making White Folks Lose Their Minds by Roland S. Martin

**White Rage: the Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson

White Women: Everything You Already Know About Your Own Racism and How to Do Better by Regina Jackson and Sairo Rao

Important works by other than Black authors

Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland by Jonathan M. Metz

Nice Racism: How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm by Robin DiAngelo

No More Heroes: Grassroots Challenges to the Savior Mentality by Jordan Flaherty

Waking Up White by Debby Irving

**White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo

White Tears, Brown Scars: How White Feminism Betrays Women of Color by Ruby Hamad

Whiteness - Media

[**Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*](#) Peggy McIntosh, feminist, activist

[Robin DiAngelo and the Problem With Anti-racist Self-Help: What two new books reveal about the white progressive pursuit of racial virtue](#) By Danzy Senna

[White People: I Don't Want You To Understand Me Better, I Want You To Understand Yourselves](#) by Ijeoma Oluo

[The White Man's Guilt](#) - Ebony article by James Baldwin

[The March of the Karens](#) by Lagaya Mishan in NYT Magazine

[The White Savior Industrial Complex](#) by Teju Cole (Atlantic Magazine)

White Supremacy - Books

**Backlash: What Happens when We Talk Honestly About Racism in America* by George Yancey

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla Saad and Robin DiAngelo

They Want to Kill Americans: the Militias, Terrorists, and Deranged Ideology of the Trump Insurgency by Malcolm Nance

Important works by other than Black authors

American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movements Hidden Spaces of Hate 2nd ed. By Pete Simi and Robert Futrell

Everything You Love will Burn: Inside the Rebirth of White Nationalism in America by Vegas Tenold

The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory by Adam Domb

When Hate Groups March Down Mainstreet: Engaging a Community Response by Deborah Levina and Marc Brenman

White Supremacy – Media

Important sources created by other than Black persons

[White Supremacy Culture](#) Tema Okun's contribution to "our shared anti-racist racial justice commitment"

[Southern Poverty Law Center: White Nationalism](#)

Anti-Racism - Books

Against Civility: the Hidden Racism in Our Obsession with Civility by Alex Zamalin

Anti-Racism: an introduction by Alex Zamalin

**How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi

Racing to Justice: Transforming Our Conceptions of Self and Other to Build an Inclusive Society by John A. Powell

What White People Can do Next: From Allyship to Coalition by Emma Dabiri

Important works by other than Black authors

America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America by Jim Wallis

Dispatches From the Race War by Tim Wise.

How I Shed My Skin: Unlearning the Racist Lessons of a Southern Childhood by Jim Grimsley

Anti-racism – Media

[African American Policy Forum](#)

[Color of Change](#)

[The difference between being "not racist" and antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi TED talk

[Ezra Klein Interviews Ibram X Kendi](#) Transcript from the *New York Times*

[Guide to Allyship](#) by [amélie lamont](#)

[A People-powered Movement to end Harassment](#) ihollaback

Ruminations on Race

Fear of Black Consciousness by Lewis R. Gordon

In the Wake: On Blackness and Being by Christina Sharp

One Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race by Yaba Blay

Ordinary Notes by Christina Sharp

The Origin of Others by Toni Morrison

Out of the Sun: On Race and Storytelling by Esi Edugyan

Racecraft: the Soul of Inequality in American Life by Karen E. Fields and Barbara J. Fields

South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon Line to Understand the Soul of a Nation by Imani Perry

NAACP “Gamechangers” Issues

Criminal Justice - Books

Chokehold: Policing Black Men by Paul Butler

The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime and the Making of Modern Urban America by Khalil Gibran Muhammad

**Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor’s Fight for Fairness by Laura Coates

Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America by James Forman

**The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander

No More Police: a Case for Abolition by Mariame Kaba and Andrea J. Ritchie

The Rage of Innocence: How America Criminalizes Black Youth by Kristin Henning

They Can’t Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore and a New Era in America’s Racial Justice Movement by Wesley Lowery

Important works by other than Black authors

American Prison: A Reporter’s Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment by Shane Bauer

**Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration and a Road to Repair* by Danielle Sered

Criminal Justice – Media

[The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarceration](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

[Slaves of the State](#) 13th Amendment, mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex
Educating4Democracy blog

[What prosecutors and incarcerated people can learn from each other](#) by Jarrell Daniels TED talk

[Othering and Belonging Institute](#)

Economic Justice - Books

**The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap* by Mehrsa Baradaran

**Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance* by Edgar Villanueva

The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap by Matt Taibbi

Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics by Lester K. Spence

**The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee

Economic Justice – Media

[Racism has a cost for everyone](#) by Heather C. McGhee TED talk

[Racial Justice also means Economic Justice](#) excerpt The Laura Flanders Show

[Othering and Belonging Institute](#)

Education - Books

Blackballed: the Black & White Politics of Race on America’s Campuses by Lawrence Ross

Courageous Conversations: Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools by Glenn E. Singleton
For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood by Christopher Emdin
A Most Tolerant Little Town: the Explosive Beginning of School Desegregation by Rachel Louise Martin
"Multiplication is for White People": Raising Expectations for Other People's Children by Lisa Delpit
The Price of Nice: How Good Intentions Maintain Educational Inequity edited by Agelina E. Castagno
The Race Card: Leading the Fight for Truth in America's Schools by H. Richard Milner IV
The Skin We Speak: thoughts on Language and Culture in the Classroom by Lisa Delpit
Street Data: A Next Generation Model for Equity, Pedagogy, and School Transformation by Shane Safir and Jamila Dugan
Unconscious Bias in the Schools: A Developmental Approach to Exploring Race and Racism by Tracey A. Benson and Sarah E. Fiarman
We Want to do More than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom by Bettina Love
**Why are all the Black Kids Sitting in the Cafeteria: and Other Conversations About Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Important works by other than Black authors

Learning and Teaching While White: Antiracist Strategies for School Communities by Jenna Chandler-Ward and Elizabeth Denevi
Schooltalk: Rethinking What We Say About—and to—Students Every Day by Mica Pollock

Education – Media

[Teaching for Black Lives](#) Conversation with the editors (Dyan Watson, Jesse Hagopian, Wayne Au) of the book *Teaching for Black Lives*
[Pushout: the Criminalization of Black Girls in School](#) Documentary based on the book *Push-out: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School* by Monique W. Morris. Streaming on Kanopy; available for cardholders at Berkshire Athenaeum and other local libraries.
[Hechinger Report: Covering Innovation & Inequality in Education](#)
[Teaching While White](#)

Environmental Justice - Books

Black Faces, White Spaces: Re-imagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors by Carolyn Finney
**The Color of Food* by Natasha Bowens
Educator and Activist: My Life and Times in the Quest for Environmental Justice by Bunyan Bryant Jr.
**Farming While Black* by Leah Penniman
A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind by Harriet A. Washington
Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility by Dorceta Taylor

Important work by other than Black author

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Clean and White: a History of Environmental Racism in the United States by Carl A. Zimring
What the Eyes Don't See: a Story of Crisis, Resistance and Hope in an American City by Mona Hanna-Attisha

Environmental Justice – Media

[David Lammy: Climate justice can't happen without racial justice](#) TED talk
[Majora Carter: Greening the ghetto](#) TED talk
[Climate Justice Alliance](#)
[Sunrise Movement](#)

[Othering and Belonging Institute](#)

Housing - Books

**White Space, Black Hood: Opportunity Hoarding and Segregation in the Age of Inequality* by Sheryll Cashin

Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership by Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor

Important works by other than Black authors

**The Color of Law: a Forgotten History of how our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein

**Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond

How to Kill a City: Gentrification, Inequality and the Fight for the Neighborhood by P.E. Moskowitz

Race and Place: How Urban Geography Shapes the Journey to Reconciliation by David P. Leong

Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities by Jessica Trounstein

Housing – Media

[Shelterforce: the Original Voice of Community Development](#)

[What if gentrification was about healing communities instead of displacing them? By Liz Ogbu](#) TED talk

[Mass Fair Housing](#)

[Dudley Neighbors Community Land Trust](#)

[Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies](#)

[Citizen's Housing and Planning Association](#)

[Othering and Belonging Institute](#)

Health - Books

Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, body, and Spirit by Mary-Frances Winters

**Black Man in a White Coat* by Damon Tweedy

The Body is Not an Apology: the Power of Radical Self-Love by Sonya Renee Taylor

Just Medicine: a Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care by Dayna Bowen Matthew

**Medical Apartheid* by Harriet Washington

**My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem

Unapologetic Guide to Black Mental Health by Rheedra Walker

Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation by Linda Villarosa

Important works by other than Black authors

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Health – Media

[Why your doctor should care about social justice by Mary Bassett](#) TED talk

[How racism makes us sick by David R. Williams](#) TED talk

[The Use of Race in Medicine and Implications for Health Equity](#) session 1 UCSF School of Medicine

[Othering and Belonging Institute](#)

Reparations – Books

**From Here to Equality* by William Darity and Kirsten Mullen

Long Overdue: the Politics of Racial Reparations by Charles P. Henry

Important works by other than Black authors

Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson

Stolen Wealth, Hidden Power: the Case for Reparations for Mass Incarceration by Tasseli McKay

Reparations – Media

[The Case for Reparations](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates in *The Atlantic*

[Interview with Gregory Thompson](#) co-author of *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair*

[Why We Need Reparations for Black Americans](#) by Rashawn Ray and Andre M. Perry

Voting Rights - Books

**One Person, No Vote* by Carol Anderson

Our Time is Now: Power, Purpose and the Fight for a Fair America by Stacey Abrams

Say It Louder by Tiffany Cross

Uncounted: the Crisis of Voter Suppression in American by Gilda Daniels

The Voting Rights War: the NAACP and the On-going Struggle for Justice by Gloria J. Browne-Marshall

Important works by other than Black authors

On Account of Race: the Supreme Court, White Supremacy and the Ravaging of African American Voting Rights by Lawrence Goldstone

Voting Rights – Media

[Making the Constitution Safe for Democracy](#) African American Policy Forum

[Voting Rights Roundup](#) Brennan Center for Justice

All In: the Fight for Democracy with Stacey Abrams – documentary on Amazon Prime

[Whose Vote Counts?](#) Frontline

Other Approaches

Offered to suggest different windows into the Black experience with a small sampling of authors and titles.

Feminism and Black Women

Black Feminism Reimagined: After Intersectionality by Jennifer C. Nash

Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Sister Citizen: Shame Stereotypes and Black Women in America by Melissa V. Harris-Perry

Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde

White Tears, Brown Scars: How White Feminism Betrays Women of Color by Ruby Hamad

Why I'm No Longer Talking with White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge ch. 5

Religion and Culture _ Books

Black Joy by Tracey Michael Lewis-Giggets

The Color of Compromise: the Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism by Jemar Tisby

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone

Inciting Joy by Ross Gay

Joy Unspeakable by Barbara Holmes

Traveling While Black: Essays Inspired by a Life on the Move by Nanjala Nyabola

Religion and Culture – Media

The Black Church: [This is Our Story, This is Our Song](#): a PBS 4 part series with Henry Louis Gates Jr.
[Black Joy](#): A Conversation with Tracey Lewis-Giggets hosted by NPR's Michelle Martin and sponsored by the African American Museum of History and Culture

Through the Lens of Literature

Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.
Read Until You Understand: the Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature by Farah Jasmine Griffin

Food - Books

The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through AfroAmerican Culinary History in the Old South by Michael Twitty
High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America by Jessica B. Harris

Food – Media

Afroculinaria Michael Twitty's Blog

High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America Netflix Documentary

How to Talk About Race

The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations by Robert Livingston
Courageous Conversations: Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools by Glenn E. Singleton
How to Have Difficult Conversations About Race: Practical Tools for Necessary Change in the Workplace and Beyond by Kwame Christian

Literature

Poetry - Books

African-American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle & Song edited by Kevin Young

Acclaimed Contemporary Black Poets – a small sample

Jericho Brown	Donte Collins	Ross Gay
Amanda Gordon	Claudine Rankine	Nicole Sealey
Tracy K. Smith	Danez Smith	

Poetry - Media

[Amanda Gorman recites "The Hill We Climb"](#)

[ARD: Support Black Poetry](#)

[August Wilson, The Ground on Which I Stand](#)

Quincy: A Life Beyond Measure documentary about Quincy Jones; Netflix

Classic Black Authors and Works – a starting point

Autobiography of Malcolm X

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin and other Baldwin works

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou and other Angelou works

The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass - An American Slave

The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois and other DuBois works

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Works by Angela Davis

Works by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Works by bell hooks

Works by Audre Lorde

Works by Toni Morrison

Works by Cornell West

Acclaimed Contemporary Black Novelists – a small sample

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Brit Bennett	Lizzie Damilola Blackburn
Octavia Butler	Danielle Evans	Bernadette Evaristo
Yaa Gyasi	Nathan Harris	Marlon James
Honoree Fanonne Jeffers	Robert Jones, Jr.	Asha Lemmie
Imbolo Mbue	Terry MacMillan	James McBride
Tara Stringfellow	Colson Whitehead	Jacqueline Woodson

Fine and Performing Arts

Note: Berkshire County has many fine and performing arts venues that include the works of Black and other marginalized artists and performers in their programming. Attending these events can add a rich dimension to your understanding about race and racism.

Books

Young, Gifted and Black: A New Generation of Artists – The Lumpkin-Bocuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art

A Little Devil in America: In Praise of Black Performance by Hanif Abdurraqib

Fine and Performing Arts- Media

[A storyteller with a paintbrush](#)

[Nina Simone in Ten Songs](#)

[Kehinde Wiley on painting Barack Obama](#)

Feature film and series

Most streaming services now offer a lot of Black created content in both series and feature length film formats such as:

- *Dear White Person* (series)
- *Earth Mama* (film)
- *Insecurity* (series)
- *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (award winning film starring Viola Davis; based on an August Wilson play)
- *Pose* (series)
- *She's Gotta Have It*, (Spike Lee's remake into a series of his earlier film by the same title)
- *A Thousand and One* (film)
- *The Upshaws* (series)

Tik Tok Creators:

[@white_woman_whisperer](#)

[@isetheadvocate](#)

[@zai_rambles](#)

[@royalstar7.0](#)