

Anti-Racism & Social Justice Resources for Grades 3 and 4

In [Don't Stay Silent](#), an article in the Teaching Tolerance publication, Jamilah Pitts writes, "Students pay attention to everything we say and do. They particularly pay attention to our silence. We may be uncomfortable talking about race, but we can no longer afford to be silent."

Below resources collated to support our work as educators so that we can better engage in conversations with students about race, racism, and social justice.

Suggested Activities for Synchronous Time

Background Knowledge on Race and Racism:

- [Let's Talk About Race](#) by Julius Lester--- [resources for discussion](#)
- Allyship: [Ally Poem](#) from [Dictionary for a Better World](#) by Irene Latham & Charles Waters
- [See, Think, Wonder activity](#) with Norman Rockwell Painting-New Kids in the Neighborhood
- [Show Way Read Aloud and Resources](#)

and/or

Activities to prompt further reflection and discussion:

- [Draw, Write, Share Messages of Action for Black Lives](#)
- Read aloud of [Something Happened in Our Town](#) with [info and questions for use with students](#)
- [Write a Protest Poem with 8 Powerful Words](#)

Ongoing Classroom Resources

Additional Activities to Consider

- *As Fast as Words Could Fly* [Teacher's Guide](#) and [read aloud by Dulé Hill](#)
- [Freedom Summer Lesson Ideas](#)
- K-8 distance learning about BLM and George Floyd [K-8 Distance Learning Resources-colorfulpages.org](#)
- Langston Hughes "[Dream](#)" Poetry
- Link the current protests to the events of the Boston Tea Party (if students have sufficient background knowledge of that event) [Venn Diagram](#)
- [The Other Side](#) - [resources for discussion](#)

Teaching Tolerance

- [Defenders of Justice \(Gr 3-5\)](#)
- [Little Rock Nine \(4-6\)](#)
- Looking at Race and Racial Identity Through Children's Books (K-2, 3-5)
- [Sharing Our Colors: Writing Poetry \(K-2, 3-5\)](#)

Sources for further reflection and discussion:

- *As Fast as Words Can Fly* by Pamela M. Tuck (read by Dule Hill) [Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Dictionary for a Better World](#) by Irene Latham & Charles Waters
- [Diverse Book Finder](#)
- [Embrace Race](#) and [The Conscious Kid](#)
- [Freedom Summer - Lesson Ideas](#)
- [Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets \(part 1\)](#)
- [Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets \(part 2\)](#)
- [Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets \(part 3\)](#)

- [Social Justice Book list](#), compiled by the National Network of State Teachers of the Year
- [Something Happened in Our Town](#)
- [The Other Side](#) - resources for discussion
- [The Undeclared](#) by Kwame Alexander
- [We are Kid Lit Collective](#)
- ["28 More Black Picture Books that Aren't About Boycotts, Busses or Basketball"](#) compiled list
- ["Racism" poem by Ayan Salat](#)

National Museum of African American History & Culture (Smithsonian)

- [Talking About Race](#)

Edutopia

- [10-Powerful Community-Building Ideas](#)

Common Sense Education

- [Social and Cultural Literacy Resources for classrooms](#)

Additional Resources

- [ALA](#)
- [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#)
- [Language and Literacy Resources](#) - This is a view-only resource that is updated regularly. If you'd like to contribute an idea, please send Sharon Ryan an email

Resources for Teacher Learning

Teacher Professional Development (with some self-guided learning):

- District SEED Seminar (stay tuned for future offerings on SmartEDU)
- [Social Justice Standards \(Teaching Tolerance\)](#)
- [The National SEED Project](#)
- [Teaching Tolerance](#)

Websites and Lists of Resources:

- [Teaching for Change](#)
- ["What we know"](#) some research-based notes about race and racial bias
- [Anti-Racism and Cultural Competency Resources](#) a expansive list for teachers by a MA educator
- [Speak Up: Responding to Everyday Bigotry](#), Southern Poverty Law Center
- [Anti-Racism Resources](#) a list of compiled resources
- [Disrupting a Destructive Cycle](#) - Part 1 (with Cornelius Minor)
- [How to Talk to Your Kids About Race and Justice \(WBUR podcast\)](#)
- [Goals and Strategies for White Educators Working Toward Antiracism and Social Justice by Jennifer Serravallo](#)
- [Kid Lit for Black Lives Recorded Rally](#)

Books:

- [Being the Change - Lessons and Strategies to Teach Social Comprehension by Sara K. Ahmed](#)
- [40 books for Anti-Racist Teachers](#) compiled by Joe Truss, Culturally Responsive Leadership
- ["A Reading List for America"](#) from New York Public Library

General information about kids, race, and racial identity development:

- [They're Not Too Young to Teach about Race](#)

- [Summary of Stages of Racial Identity Development](#)

Family Resources

Websites and documents to explore race as parents or caregivers:

- [They're Not Too Young to Teach about Race](#) (infographic on the importance of talking about race with kids)
- [PBS Teaching Your Child About Black History](#)
- [Talking About Race for parents or caregivers](#) (National Museum of African American History & Culture)
- [100 Race-conscious things you can say to your child to advance racial justice](#)
- [Story Starters](#) (family program)
- [Kid Lit for Black Lives Recorded Rally](#)

Books for parent or caregiver learning:

- [Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America](#) ([interview on NPR](#) with the author)

Organizations:

- [Wee The People](#)
- [Embrace Race](#)
- [The Conscious Kid](#)
- [Raising Race Conscious Children](#)

They're not too young to talk about race!



Young children notice and think about race. Adults often worry that talking about race will encourage racial bias in children, but the opposite is true. **Silence about race reinforces racism** by letting children draw their own conclusions based on what they see. Teachers and families can play a powerful role in helping children of all ages develop positive attitudes about race and diversity and skills to promote a more just future—but only if we talk about it!

Do some learning of your own to get ready for conversations with children.

Here are some good places to seek *information* and *training*:

- Teaching Tolerance — tolerance.org
- Raising Race Conscious Children — raceconscious.org
- Embrace Race — embracerace.org
- Teaching for Change — teachingforchange.org
- AORTA Cooperative — aorta.coop
- Fortify Community Health (CA) — fortifycommunityhealth@gmail.com
- Delaware Valley Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (PA) — dvaecv.org



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 The Children's Community School
 1212 South 47th Street, Philadelphia PA 19143
childrenscommunityschool.org