

A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TOOL KIT

DEAR EDUCATOR,

As a teacher, you already know that teaching books that depict experiences beyond our own not only teaches empathy but also encourages students to examine the world around them with a critical eye. Through discussion, students can learn to recognize and speak out against injustice in all its forms. But in order to speak up, students must first believe in the power of their own voices.

Use our Culturally Responsive Tool Kit and the activities that correspond to our titles as a way to include, affirm, and celebrate diverse voices—including the voices of your students. When we invite students to bring their own experiences and cultural references to the books they read, we create more equitable outcomes for learners. Be sure to incorporate stories with tough topics, which are vital to culturally responsive teaching, as well as stories that joyfully depict the experiences of marginalized people.

Your friends,

RHCB School & Library Marketing

BE RESPONSIVE

Culturally responsive teaching brings an awareness of social issues to every lesson. Use our thematic guidance to seamlessly incorporate culturally responsive books into each of your existing units. Pose these broad, essential questions to intellectually, emotionally, and politically engage students with every book you teach.

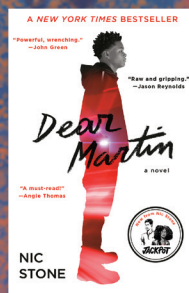
- Whose voices are represented in this text? How does this representation reflect or counter gender, class, and racial dynamics in our society and, more specifically, our community?
- What is the role of media (social media, print journalism, books, television, etc.) within the book itself? How does contemporary media affect our understanding of the issues raised by the book?
- To what extent do characters internalize or resist expectations and attitudes of society? Discuss the impact of normalized societal views and the effect of a “dominant narrative.”
- What structural injustices are discussed in this book? What are the benefits and challenges of taking action to deconstruct these injustices?
- Encourage students to create a podcast or another form of oral presentation that connects a book’s themes to their experiences.

A SOCIAL JUSTICE PRIMER

Set your class up for deep discussions by introducing students to how privilege, power, and literature intersect.



The Book Thief
Markus Zusak
Anti-Semitism, compassion, human nature, the power of words, World War II and the Holocaust



Dear Martin
Nic Stone
Belonging, coming-of-age, implicit bias, media, privilege, the power of words, racism

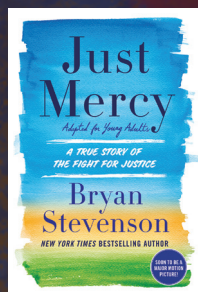


Discovering Wes Moore
Wes Moore
Belonging, class, coming-of-age, education, the power of mentors, privilege, race

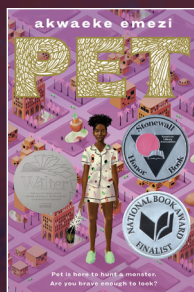
RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM



Dear Justyce
Nic Stone
Justice, prison-industrial complex, racism



Just Mercy
(Adapted for Young Adults)
Bryan Stevenson
Human rights, justice, prison-industrial complex, racism



Pet
Akwaeke Emezi
Magical realism, nonbinary experience, racism, utopia vs. dystopia

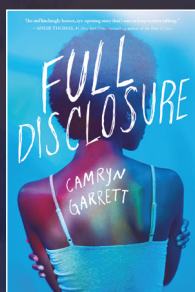


The Talk:
Conversations About Race, Love & Truth
Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson
Racism, prejudice, short stories and anthologies



This Is My America
Kim Johnson
Justice, the power of writing, prison-industrial complex, racism

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Full Disclosure
Camryn Garrett
Differently abled, health and wellness, peer pressure



Girl in Pieces
Kathleen Glasgow
Addiction, agency, coming-of-age, girls and women, mental health



Home Home
Lisa Allen-Agostini
Agency, belonging, immigration, mental health, the power of hope



Nick and June Were Here
Shalanda Stanley
Choices, mental health, star-crossed love

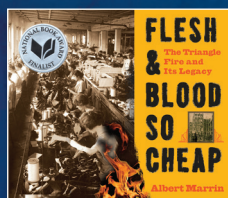


The Running Dream
Wendelin Van Draanen
Differently abled, growth mindset, maturity, perseverance



Who Put This Song On?
Morgan Parker
Differently abled, identity, mental health, perseverance

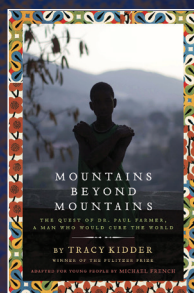
CLASS



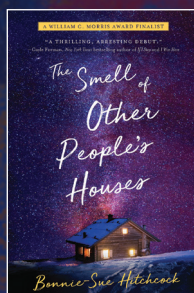
Flesh & Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy
Albert Marrin
Immigration, power, workers' rights



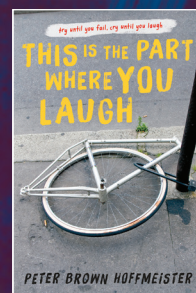
Jackpot
Nic Stone
The American dream, class, coming-of-age, privilege



Mountains Beyond Mountains
(Adapted for Young People)
Tracy Kidder and Michael French
Class, health care, medicine, politics, wealth



The Smell of Other People's Houses
Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock
Addiction, Native American interest, rural living, the transformative power of love



This Is the Part Where You Laugh
Peter Brown Hoffmeister
Addiction, class, the cycle of poverty, self-fulfilling expectations

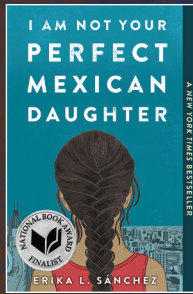


What I Carry
Jennifer Longo
Acceptance and belonging, coming-of-age, foster care

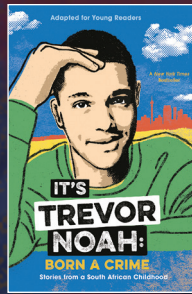
RACE AND ETHNICITY



Color Me In
Natasha Díaz
Coming-of-age, identity, the power of place, religious intolerance



I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter
Erika L. Sánchez
Coming-of-age, culture clash, family secrets, identity, loyalty, mental health



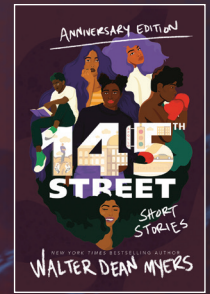
It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime (Adapted for Young Adults)
Trevor Noah
Belonging, coming-of-age, the cycle of poverty, identity



Mexican WhiteBoy
Matt de la Peña
Coming-of-age, identity, the transformative power of love

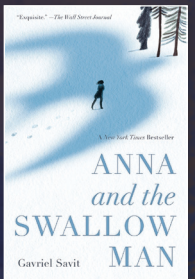


Suncatcher
Jose Pimienta
Coming-of-age, family, heritage, self-discipline

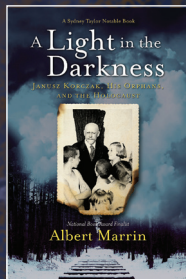


145th Street: Short Stories
Walter Dean Myers
African American interest, community, death and grief, short stories and anthologies

RELIGIOUS INJUSTICE



Anna and the Swallow Man
Gavriel Savit
Language, power, loss of innocence, World War II and the Holocaust



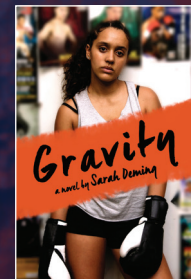
A Light in the Darkness
Albert Marrin
Compassion, the Holocaust, human nature



Watched
Marina Budhos
Coming-of-age, fairness, immigration, Islam, surveillance



Chinese Cinderella
Adeline Yen Mah
Coming-of-age, identity, sexism



Gravity
Sarah Deming
Choices, the cycle of poverty, female empowerment, media, sexism

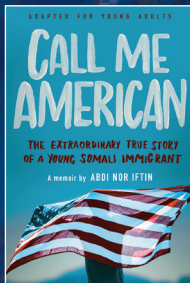


Odd One Out
Nic Stone
Coming-of-age, LGBTQ, self-discovery

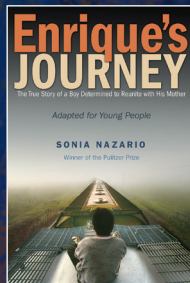
IMMIGRATION



Americanized: Rebel Without a Greencard
Sara Saedi
The American dream, coming-of-age, experiences of undocumented immigrants, identity



Call Me American
Abdi Nor Iftin
The American dream, effects of war, human rights



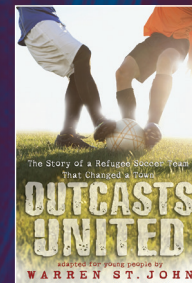
Enrique's Journey (Young Adult Adaptation)
Sonia Nazario
The American dream, family, journeys, perseverance



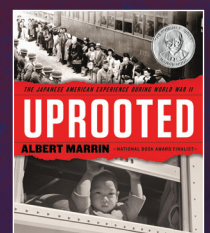
The Far Away Brothers
Laura Markham
The American dream, experiences of undocumented immigrants, exploitation, perseverance, trauma



The Go-Between
Veronica Chambers
Coming-of-age, identity, stereotypes



Outcasts United (Adapted for Young Adults)
Warren St. John
Community, cultural differences



Uprooted
Albert Marrin
Internment, racism, World War II, xenophobia