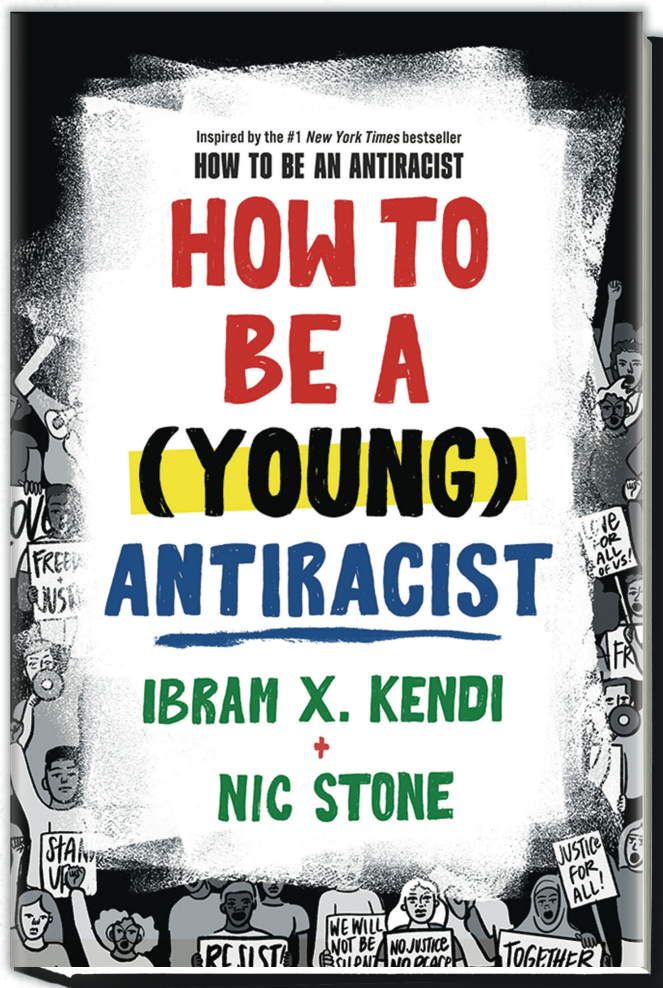


# A Book Club Discussion Guide For Your Community



# “**STAMPED: RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU WAS THE BACKGROUND, HOW TO BE A (YOUNG) ANTIRACIST IS THE ACTION PLAN.**”

— **Nic Stone**, bestselling co-author of *How to Be A (Young) Antiracist* on how Jason Reynolds *STAMPED (YA edition)* and *How to Be A (Young) Antiracist* pair

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The #1 *New York Times* bestseller that sparked international dialogue is now a book for young adults! Based on the adult bestseller by Ibram X. Kendi, and co-authored by bestselling author Nic Stone, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* will serve as a guide for teens seeking a way forward in acknowledging, identifying, and dismantling racism and injustice. The *New York Times* bestseller *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi is shaping the way a generation thinks about race and racism. *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* is a dynamic reframing of the concepts shared in the adult book, with young adulthood front and center. Aimed at readers 12 and up, and co-authored by award-winning children’s book author Nic Stone, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* empowers teen readers to help create a more just society. Antiracism is a journey—and now young adults will have a map to carve their own path. Kendi and Stone have revised this work to provide anecdotes and data that speaks directly to the experiences and concerns of younger readers, encouraging them to think critically and build a more equitable world in doing so.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



### IBRAM X. KENDI

is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University and the founding director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. He is the author of many books,

including *How to Raise an Antiracist*, the National Book Award-winner *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, and five #1 *New York Times* bestsellers, including *How to Be an Antiracist*; *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, co-authored with Jason Reynolds; and *Antiracist Baby*, illustrated by Ashley Lukashovsky. He was awarded a 2021 MacArthur Fellowship, popularly known as the “Genius Grant.” Find Dr. Kendi online @ibramxk on Instagram, and @DrIbram on TikTok and Twitter.



### NIC STONE

is an Atlanta native and a Spelman College graduate. Her debut novel for young adults, *Dear Martin*, was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. She is also the

author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Clean Getaway*, the 2020 NPR Best Book of the Year selection *Dear Justyce* (a sequel to *Dear Martin*), the Rainbow Book List Top Ten selection *Odd One Out*, *Jackpot*, and *Shuri: A Black Panther Novel*. She is one of the authors in the *New York Times* bestselling book *Blackout*, recently optioned for as a new anthology program for Netflix by Barack and Michelle Obama’s production company, Higher Ground. Find her online at nicstone.info or @nicstone.

This guide was written by **ERIKA LONG**, a certified school librarian, is a consultant and library advocate. Long spent just under a decade in school libraries and presenting at the local and national levels. She co-authored the “Equity” chapter in *Core Values in School Librarianship: Responding with Commitment and Courage*. Connect with her on Twitter @erikaslong and Instagram @notyomamaslibrarian.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Stone writes about Kendi's parents taking on the perspective of a 'White standard' as it relates to advancing as Black people. She wrote, "they wanted to liberate but felt the need to assimilate." How does the practice of assimilation contribute to the idea that Black people are inferior? Does assimilation perpetuate anti-Blackness? (p. 31)
- "What a powerful construction race is. And I do mean a construction. As in a thing that is built or made out of existing pieces." (p. 38)
  - What does it mean for race to be a construction?
  - What are the existing pieces that it was made from?
  - If we subscribe to the idea that race was built/constructed, can it also be destroyed?
- The narrator provides examples of reclaimed slurs for various groups of people. Why is it important to highlight these in a book about antiracism? Can one truly be antiracist and also use reclaimed slurs? (p. 66-69)
- The narrator defines the origin of colorism dating back to when Europeans were enslavers. How does the concept of colorism evolve over time to become a form of intraracial discrimination? In what ways does the beauty industry and society's ideas of beauty exacerbate the issue within ethnic racial groups? (p. 81-86)
- What factors or instances may have contributed to Ibram being afraid of his body as it begins to change during puberty? (p. 96-97)
- Unlike the way behaviors are attributed to Black people as a whole, violence by White people is often individualized. The narrator argues, "If these behaviors can be individualized, so can those of Black people." Is it possible for this mindset to be unlearned? If so, where does one begin the process of unlearning? (p. 102)



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Ibram chose to live in Hunting Park because he “bought into the idea that elite and middle-class Black people . . . need to be reminded of what it really means to be Black in the United States.” What factors contribute to Ibram’s belief that Blackness equates to struggle and hardship? (p. 123-124)
- Explain what the author means when she says the guiding principles in Ibram’s educational spaces were governed by Whiteness. Is this still the “universal standard?” (p. 135)
- The narrator writes, “Racist policies aren’t fixed; they can be exposed and changed.” What actions must take place for racist policies to be changed? What can you do? (p. 148)
- Are there instances in your life where you can identify a form of racism discussed in the text? Consider racism, ethnic racism, gender racism, class racism, queer racism, cultural racism, etc.
- Has your definition of antiracism evolved after reading *How to Be a (Young) Antiracist*? How?
- When asked what the difference is between Jason Reynolds’ remix of *STAMPED* with Dr. Kendi and this book, Nic Stone said that “*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* was the background, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist* is the action plan.” After reading the book, what is your action plan to make the world more equitable?



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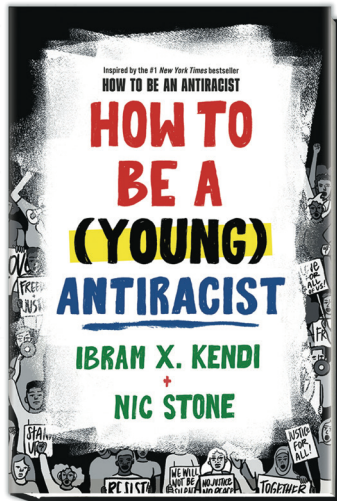
# HOW TO BE A (YOUNG) ANTIRACIST

“Here’s a glowing review of very short length.”

-PERSON NAME, AND AND THEIR INFO

“Here’s a glowing medium-length review from some publication that’s a real joy to read from start to finish and makes everyone buy the book immediately in hardcover and paperback.”

-PUBLICATION NAME AND STAR



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