



A Statement from the Ossining Public Library About Racism in Our Country June 6, 2020

I wish to share, on behalf of the Ossining Public Library, grief and outrage in response to ongoing acts of racism and brutality in our country. Racism undermines the aspirations of our society and prevents many in our communities from achieving the freedom and security that others take for granted. The struggle for equity is real and ongoing.

Public libraries have long viewed themselves as the great equalizer, though they, too, have a past in which inequity was perpetuated. These days, librarians, library workers, trustees, and volunteers strive everyday to be better, to be compassionate, and to be part of the solution. Racism is, in part, a product of ignorance and fear. That is where libraries can do some good. It has always been our mission to provide access to wide-ranging literature and resources to enhance and promote education and to combat ignorance. Reading widely and thoughtfully, across cultures and ethnicities, is mind-opening. It builds compassion and understanding. It opens our eyes to the struggles, joys, and dreams of people both in our own communities and on the other side of the world.

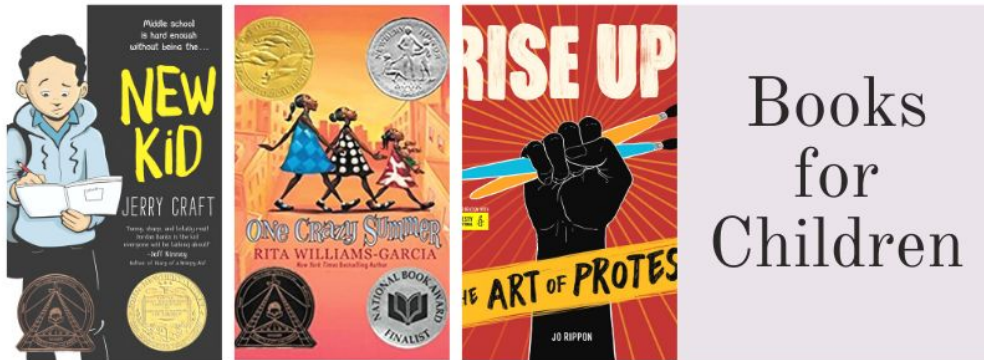
I invite you to consider some of the books that are listed below. I also welcome your ideas for ways that the library can be helpful during this time. We miss you. Be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Karen LaRocca-Fels

Ossining Public Library Director

Antiracist Resources for All Ages



Children's Fiction

[*From the Desk of Zoe Washington*](#) by Janae Marks

[*A Good Kind of Trouble*](#) by Lisa Marie Ramee

[*New Kid*](#) by Jerry Craft

[*One Crazy Summer*](#) by Rita Williams Garcia

[*The Other Side*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

Children's Nonfiction

[*Are You Being Racially Profiled?*](#) by Alexandra Hanson-Harding

[*A Ride to Remember*](#) by Sharon Langley

[*Rise Up! The Art of Protest*](#) by Jo Rippon

[*Standing Up to Hate Speech*](#) by Alison Morretta

[*What's Racism*](#) by Amy B. Rogers



Young Adult Fiction

[*All American Boys*](#) by Jason Reynolds

[*Dear Martin*](#) by Nic Stone

[*I'm Not Dying With You Tonight*](#) by Gilly Segal & Kimberly Jones

[*The Poet X*](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo

[When You Ask Me Where I'm Going](#) by Jasmin Kaur

Young Adult Nonfiction

[A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919](#) by Clare Hartfield

[Hidden Figures](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly

[March: Book One](#) by Jon Lewis , Andrew Aydin and Illustrated by Nate Powell

[Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism and You](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X.Kendi

[White Privilege](#) by M.T. Blakemore



Adult Fiction

[The Bluest Eye](#) by Toni Morrison

[Juneteenth](#) by Ralph Ellison

[Sing, Unburied, Sing](#) by Jesmyn Ward

[Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) by Zora Neale Hurston

[The Underground Railroad: A Novel](#) by Colson Whitehead

Adult Nonfiction

[Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

[Heavy: An American Memoir](#) by Kiese Laymon

[How to Be an Anti-Racist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson

[Me and White Supremacy](#) by Layla F. Saad

[So You Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo

[White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo, PhD