

Recommendations are in bold blue font

Fiction		
	There, There	<p>“Tommy Orange’s shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to each other in ways they may not yet realize... Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Hailed as an instant classic, <i>There There</i> is at once poignant and laugh-out-loud funny, utterly contemporary and always unforgettable.”- Amazon</p> <p>Pulitzer Prize Finalist Winner of the PEN/Hemingway Award Winner of the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize Winner of the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize Shortlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction</p>
	Beloved	<p>“Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, this spellbinding novel transforms history into a story as powerful as Exodus and as intimate as a lullaby. Sethe, its protagonist, was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe’s new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. Filled with bitter poetry and suspense as taut as a rope, <i>Beloved</i> is a towering achievement” – Amazon</p> <p>Nominated as one of America’s best-loved novels by PBS’s The Great American Read</p>
	Negroland	<p>“Negroland’s pedigree dates back generations, having originated with antebellum free blacks who made their fortunes among the plantations of the South. It evolved into a world of exclusive sororities, fraternities, networks, and clubs—a world in which skin color and hair texture were relentlessly evaluated alongside scholarly and professional achievements, where the Talented Tenth positioned themselves as a third race between whites and “the masses of Negroes,” and where the motto was “Achievement. Invulnerability. Comportment.” At once incendiary and icy, mischievous and provocative, celebratory and elegiac, <i>Negroland</i> is a landmark work on privilege, discrimination, and the fallacy of post-racial America”- Amazon</p> <p>Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award Winner of the Heartland Prize A New York Times Notable Book One of the Best Books of the Year: The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Time, Vanity Fair,</p>
Non-Fiction	Becoming	<p>“In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her</p>

		<p>childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, <i>Becoming</i> is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.”- Amazon</p>
	<p>White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism</p>	<p>“In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.”-- Amazon</p>
	<p>“White Fragility” Reading at the Seattle Central Library (Video)</p>	<p>University of Washington professor Dr. Robin DiAngelo reads from her book "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism," explains the phenomenon, and discusses how white people can develop their capacity to engage more constructively across race. Video link</p>
	<p>Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It</p>	<p>“Witnessing Whiteness invites readers to consider what it means to be white, describes and critiques strategies used to avoid race issues, and identifies the detrimental effect of avoiding race on cross-race collaborations. The author illustrates how racial discomfort leads white people toward poor relationships with people of color. Questioning the implications our history has for personal lives and social institutions, the book considers political, economic, socio-cultural, and legal histories that shaped the meanings associated with whiteness. Drawing on dialogue with well-known figures within education, race, and multicultural work, the book offers intimate, personal stories of cross-race friendships that address both how a deep understanding of whiteness supports cross-race collaboration and the long-term nature of the work of excising racism from the deep psyche. Concluding chapters offer practical information on building knowledge, skills, capacities, and communities that support anti-racism practices, a hopeful look at our collective future, and a discussion of how to create a culture of witnesses who support allies for social and racial justice.” - Amazon</p>
	<p>So You Want to Talk About Race</p>	<p>“In <i>So You Want to Talk About Race</i>, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.”- Amazon</p>

		<p>"Oluo gives us--both white people and people of color--that language to engage in clear, constructive, and confident dialogue with each other about how to deal with racial prejudices and biases." --<i>National Book Review</i></p> <p>"Generous and empathetic, yet usefully blunt . . . it's for anyone who wants to be smarter and more empathetic about matters of race and engage in more productive anti-racist action." --<i>Salon</i> (Required Reading)</p>
	Courageous Conversations	"This updated edition of the bestseller continues to explain the need for candid, courageous conversations about race so that educators may understand why achievement inequality persists and learn how they can develop a curriculum that promotes true educational equity and excellence."- Amazon
	Race Matters	"Cornel West is at the forefront of thinking about race. In <i>Race Matters</i> he addresses a range of issues, from the crisis in black leadership and the myths surrounding black sexuality to affirmative action, the new black conservatism, and the strained relations between Jews and African Americans. He never hesitates to confront the prejudices of all his readers or wavers in his insistence that they share a common destiny. Bold in its thought and written with a redemptive passion grounded in the tradition of the African-American church, <i>Race Matters</i> is a book that is at once challenging and deeply healing"- Amazon
Spiritual	Living Into God's Dream	<p>"Living into God's Dream presents compelling perspectives on racial healing and justice-making through the voices of a diverse group of authors. The book addresses the complexities of structural and cultural racism, and offers hopeful responses that will resonate with readers, whether they are experienced racial justice advocates or just beginning to explore antiracism ministries. This book is a wonderful resource for Christian communities seeking to deepen their engagement with racial reconciliation." -Heidi J. Kim, Missioner for Racial Reconciliation, The Episcopal Church</p> <p>"Living into God's Dream is a gift to the church, to be sure, but it is also a gift to the American people. With insights that penetrate and probe the biases that lurk in the most unexamined chambers of our hearts, these essays will help even the most reluctant readers to grapple with the truth about white privilege, white supremacy, and what it means to be Black in America. Better still, these essays provide us with the tools we need-including the motivation-to take up the hard work of dismantling racism in our time." -Richard T. Hughes, Lipscomb University and author, <i>Myths America Lives By</i></p>
	America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America	"It's time we right this unacceptable wrong," says bestselling author and leading Christian activist Jim Wallis. Fifty years ago, Wallis was driven away from his faith by a white church that considered dealing with racism to be taboo. His participation in the civil rights movement brought him back when he discovered a faith that

		<p>commands racial justice. Yet as recent tragedies confirm, we continue to suffer from the legacy of racism. The old patterns of white privilege are colliding with the changing demographics of a diverse nation. The church has been slow to respond, and Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour of the week.</p> <p>In America's Original Sin, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.</p> <p>Whenever divided cultures and gridlocked power structures fail to end systemic sin, faith communities can help lead the way to grassroots change. Probing yet positive, biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America, galvanizing a movement to cross the bridge to a multiracial church and a new America."- Amazon</p>
	Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines	<p><i>"Those people. Their issues.</i> The day's news and the ways we treat each other, overtly or subliminally, prove we are not yet living in post-racial America. It's hard to talk about race in America without everyone very quickly becoming defensive and shutting down. What makes talking race even harder is that so few of us actually know each other in the fullness of our stories. A recent Reuters poll found 40% of White people have no friends of other races, and 25% of people of color only have friends of the same race.</p> <p>Sandhya Rani Jha addresses the hot topic in a way that is grounded in real people's stories and that offers solid biblical grounding for thinking about race relations in America, reminding us that God calls us to build Beloved Community.</p> <p>Discussion questions at the end of each chapter provide starting points for reading groups."-- Amazon</p>
Children	Separate Is Never Equal	<p>"Almost 10 years before <i>Brown vs. Board of Education</i>, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites only" school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California."- Amazon</p> <p>2015 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Book 2015 Robert F. Sibert Honor Book</p>
	Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer	<p>"Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964, Ms. Hamer gave a speech at the Democratic National Convention that, despite President Johnson's interference, aired on national TV news and spurred the nation to support the Freedom Democrats. Featuring vibrant mixed-media art full of intricate detail, <i>Voice of</i></p>

		<p><i>Freedom</i> celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer's life and legacy with a message of hope, determination, and strength." - Amazon</p> <p>A 2016 Caldecott Honor Book</p> <p>A 2016 Robert F. Sibert Honor Book</p> <p>A 2016 John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award Winner</p>
	<p>When Harriet Tubman Led Her People</p>	<p>"Weatherford's handsome picture book about Harriet Tubman focuses mostly on Tubman's religious inspiration, with echoes of spirituals ringing throughout the spare poetry about her struggle ("Lord, don't let nobody turn me 'round"). God cradles Tubman and talks with her; his words (printed in block capitals) both inspire her and tell her what to do ("SHED YOUR SHOES; WADE IN THE WATER TO TRICK THE DOGS"). Nelson's stirring, beautiful artwork makes clear the terror and exhaustion Tubman felt during her own escape and also during her brave rescue of others. There's no romanticism: the pictures are dark, dramatic, and deeply colored--whether showing the desperate young fugitive "crouched for days in a potato hole" or the tough middle-aged leader frowning at the band of runaways she's trying to help. The full-page portrait of a contemplative Tubman turning to God to help her guide her people is especially striking. "--Hazel Rochman, <i>Booklist</i></p>
<p>Teens</p>	<p>March, Book 1</p>	<p>"An astonishingly accomplished graphic memoir that brings to life a vivid portrait of the civil rights era, [John] Lewis' extraordinary history and accomplishments, and the movement he helped lead... its power, accessibility and artistry destine it for awards, and a well-deserved place at the pinnacle of the comics canon." - <i>NPR</i></p>
	<p>Monster</p>	<p>"Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is on trial for murder. A Harlem drugstore owner was shot and killed in his store, and the word is that Steve served as the lookout.</p> <p>Guilty or innocent, Steve becomes a pawn in the hands of "the system," cluttered with cynical authority figures and unscrupulous inmates, who will turn in anyone to shorten their own sentences. For the first time, Steve is forced to think about who he is as he faces prison, where he may spend all the tomorrows of his life.</p> <p>As a way of coping with the horrific events that entangle him, Steve, an amateur filmmaker, decides to transcribe his trial into a script, just like in the movies. He writes it all down, scene by scene, the story of how his whole life was turned around in an instant. But despite his efforts, reality is blurred and his vision obscured until he can no longer tell who he is or what is the truth. This compelling novel is Walter Dean Myers's writing at its best." - Amazon</p>
	<p>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</p>	<p>"Phil Hoose, who has done pioneering work in bringing to our attention the crucial role of young people in social movements, here tells the extraordinary, yet little-known</p>

		<p>story of Claudette Colvin, who, even before the famous incident involving Rosa Parks, sparked the historic bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. Claudette Colvin was a remarkable teenager. With great courage she acted upon her principles -- and played a significant role in the drama of the civil rights movement. This is a story that if taught in every classroom in the nation, might well inspire a new generation of young activists to join the on-going struggle for social justice.” —<i>Howard Zinn, author of A People's History of the United States</i></p> <p>National Book Award Winner for Young People's Literature a Newbery Honor Book A YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Finalist, Robert F. Sibert Honor Book.</p>
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