



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

document

EC SFG
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCE



Enfield County School for Girls

Onward Ever, Together

How do I begin a conversation with children about race and racism?

It may feel uncomfortable opening conversations about race, equality and diversity, especially for families from non-black people of colour. If cultural identity doesn't negatively impact on our daily lives it can be easy to disregard race and racism.


Sometimes adults feel so anxious about saying the 'wrong thing' about race and racism that they don't raise the topic at all. However, the more we can talk about discrimination the better. Ignoring or avoiding difficult discussions isn't protecting children, it's leaving them exposed to prejudice.

Making a conscious effort to encourage discussion on racism helps reshape our children's understanding of bias. If we immediately shut down our children's remarks or comments on race, we risk making it into a taboo topic.



Teenagers may know more than adults think they do and have strong reactions to race and racism. It is adults' responsibility to have positive conversations. We can find out what children already know about discrimination; ask questions; introduce them to different perspectives and encourage positive action by celebrating diversity. We can help children to acknowledge cultural history and appreciate how race has an impact on people's life experiences.

Ask children questions:



What do you already know about race?

Have you ever seen racism or unkindness to someone about their skin colour?

What have you heard about race in the media, at school, from friends?

It is important to understand the behaviour of our own children. Young people often pick up on their peers' ideas and behaviours without adults realising and can adopt prejudiced ideas as their own. By asking questions and listening to our children about what they already know, we can build on conversations and help fill the more difficult or challenging gaps. Adults can challenge racism, model kindness and advocate every person's right to be treated with dignity and respect.

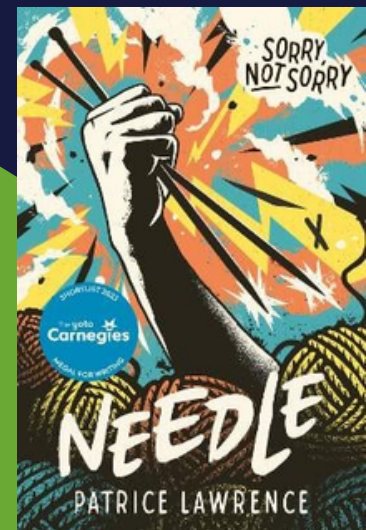
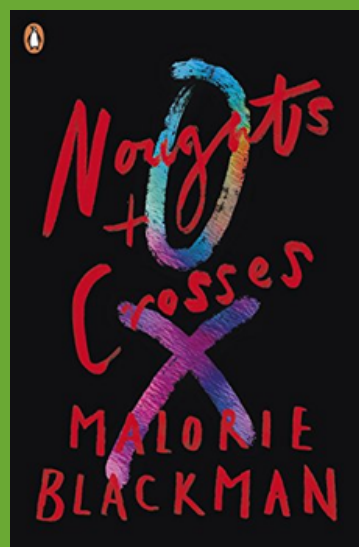
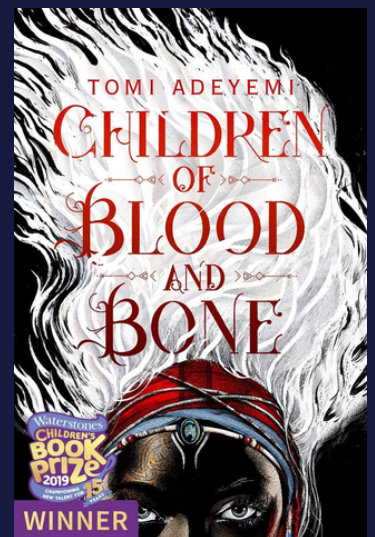
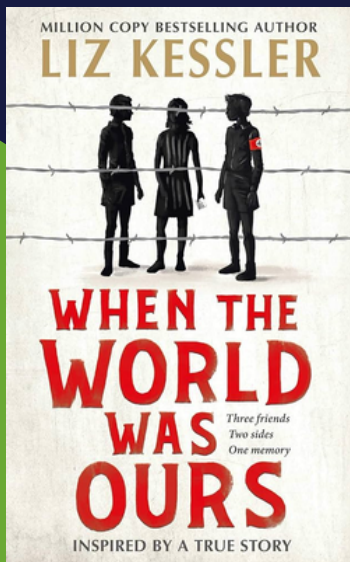
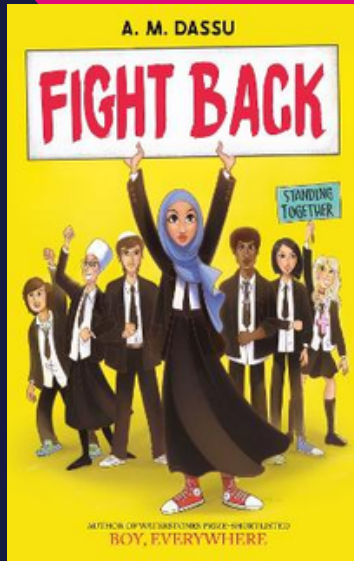
Following the death of George Floyd, it is important that adults emphasise the need to eradicate discrimination today whilst acknowledging that racism has existed historically. However, it is also important to also celebrate Black achievements, contributions and history outside a frame of just struggle. Adults can demonstrate that the diverse ethnic heritage and contributions of our communities is valuable.



Adults can help children recognise and celebrate difference by upholding equal treatment for all, justice and respect for people of all skin colour. We can question racial bias in books and films and celebrate positive representations. We can affirm valuable contributions to our society by exposing our children to a wide variety of food; literature by Black authors; Black musicians; Black artists; Black inventors; Black scientists and Black politicians.

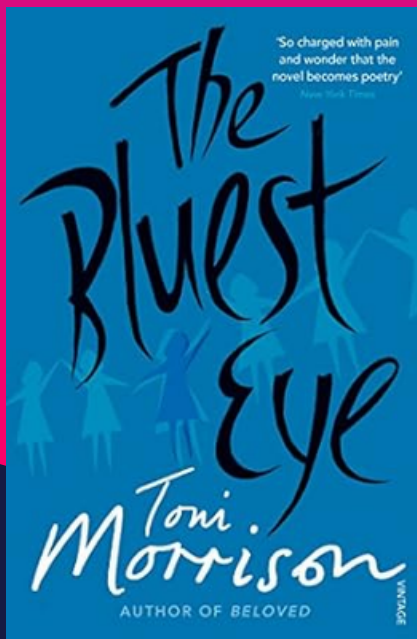
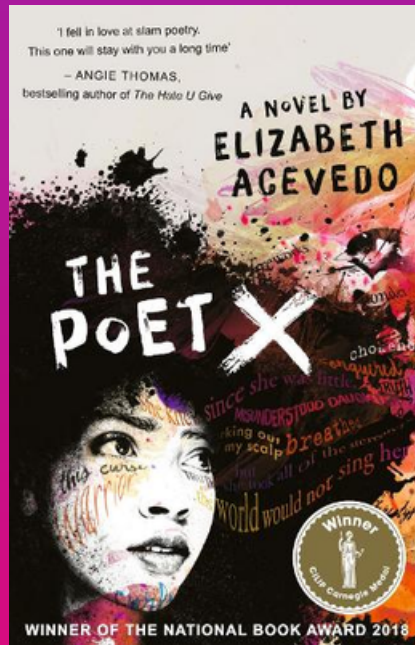
Suggested Resources

KS3 Texts



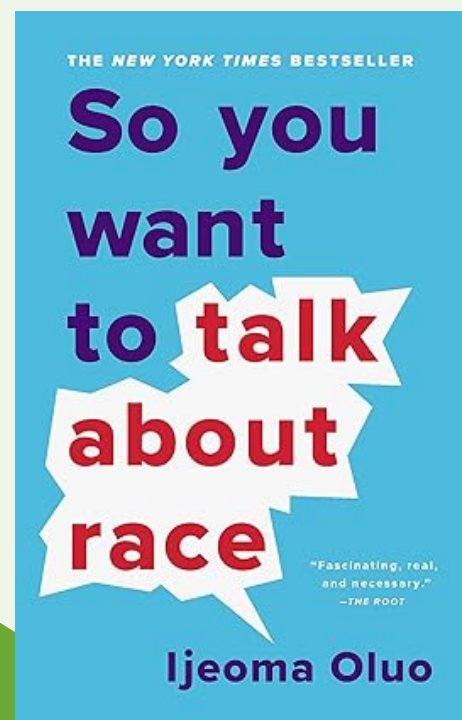
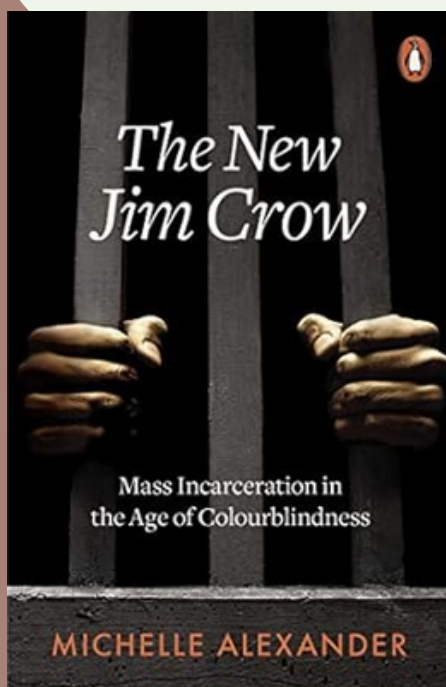
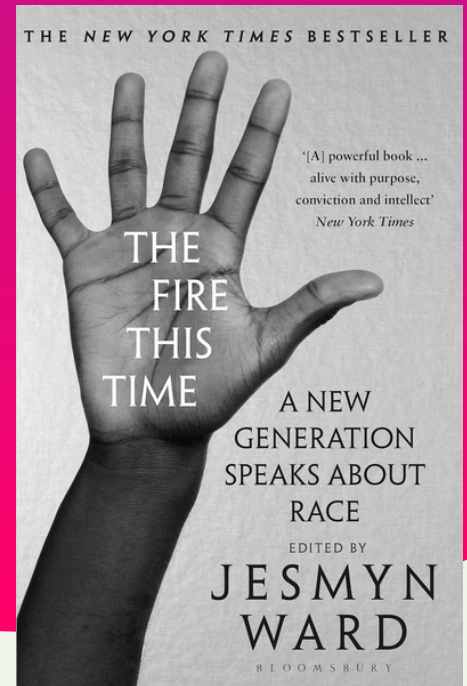
Suggested Resources

KS4 Texts



Suggested Resources

KS5 Texts



Suggested Resources



PODCAST

[Life Kit: Parents. Talking Race with young children About Race](#)

For parents

[\(Reni Eddo-Lodge\) Code: Switch NPR. Race in your Face](#)

For parents/older children

[Ted Talk: Not All Superheroes Wear Capes](#)

For parents/older children

[8 podcasts that help you talk to kids about race](#)

For parents/older children

[The Response: Inequality, structural racism and the fight for justice after the Grenfell Tower fire](#)

For parents/older children



Suggested Resources

Films

Becoming (PG)

An intimate documentary about former first lady Michelle Obama: her life, hopes and relationships.

Becoming Mandela (Long walk to freedom) (12A)

Nelson Mandela's life journey from his childhood in a rural village through to his inauguration as the first democratically elected president of South Africa.

Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight (15)

Muhammad Ali: his heavyweight boxing career, conversion to Islam and criticism of the Vietnam War during a time of social and political upheaval.

What Happened, Miss Simone? (15)

A chronicle of Nina Simone, American singer and civil rights activist, combining archive footage and personal interviews.

Harriet (12A)

Harriet Tubman's courageous escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes: freeing hundreds of slaves and changing the course of history.

Suggested Resources

Films

Hidden Figures (PG)

The team of female African-American mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program.

Selma (12A)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.

To Kill A Mockingbird (PG)

In Depression-era Alabama, lawyer Atticus Finch defends a Black man whilst trying to educate his young children against prejudice.

Soul (PG)

Having landed the gig of a lifetime, a New York jazz pianist finds himself trapped in a strange land between Earth and the afterlife.

The Princess and the Frog (U)

Disney's first black animated princess: start conversations about the history of representation and inclusivity in media.



Suggested Resources

Political films for older children

Green Book (12A)

Inspired by a true story, working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver for an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues confronting racism and danger through the American South during 1960s segregation.

The Help (12A)

Set during the Civil Rights Movement, the story of a young white aspiring journalist writing a book from the perspective of two black maids, exposing racism in their small town.

Amistad (15)

Historical drama based on true events: the revolt of Mende captives aboard a Spanish owned ship causes a major controversy when the ship is captured off the coast of Long Island. The courts must decide whether the Mende are slaves or legally free.

12 Years a Slave (15)

Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery.



Suggested Resources

Wider reading for parents/
older children

The Guardian

“These anti-racism protests show
it's time for Britain to grapple with
its difficult history.”

National Geographic

The Race Issue

Gal Dem

Online Magazine

NSPCC

Talking to Children about Racism

Waterstones

Celebrating Black History and Achievements