



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



“Alicia Garza, Patrice Cullors and Opal Tomti founded #blacklivesmatter as a direct response to racist backlash in the form of police brutality. From the minds and hearts of these three black women - two of whom are queer - this declaration of love intuitively signified that in order to truly be anti-racists, we must also oppose all the sexism, homophobia, colorism, ethnocentrism, nativism cultural prejudice and class bias teaming and teaming with racism to harm so many Black lives... Collectively, these activists were pressing against discrimination in all forms, in all areas of society, and from a myriad of vantage points.”

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

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It is never too soon to begin important conversations with children about equity, race, diversity and social justice. The Black Lives Matter movement has brought these issues to the forefront, both in the USA and Canada. The resources below support educators in beginning these courageous conversations in age-appropriate and compassionate ways.



The Breaking News by Reul (2018)

When devastating news rattles a young girl's community, her normally attentive parents and neighbours are suddenly exhausted and distracted. At school, her teacher tells the class to look for the helpers—the good people working to make things better in big and small ways. She wants more than anything to help in a BIG way, but maybe she can start with one *small* act of kindness instead . . . and then another, and another.

FEBRUARY 2021



CBC curio: *What Canadian Kids Should Know About #blacklivesmatter* (Canada, June 2020)

Suitable for ages 9-14. Read and view it [here](#).

CBC curio: *Black Lives Matter Canada - A Call For Racial Equality* (Canada, 2020)

Suitable for ages 13+. Read and view it [here](#)

BrainPop: *Helping Kids Understand the Black Lives Matter Movement* (USA, June 2020)


Suitable for ages 10+. Read and view it [here](#)

Teaching Kids News: *Black Lives Matter*

Suitable for ages 10+ . Read and view it [here](#).

Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice by Browne et al.

Woke is a collection of poems by women that reflects the joy and passion in the fight for social justice, tackling topics from discrimination to empathy, and acceptance to speaking out.



This Book is Antiracist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action and Do the Work by Jewell and Durand (2020)

Learn about social identities, the history of racism and resistance against it, and how you can use your anti-racist lens and voice to move the world toward equity and liberation.

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Teaching Tough Topics – How do I Use Children’s Literature to Build a Deeper Understanding of Social Justice, Equity and Diversity by Swartz (2020)

Teaching Tough Topics shows teachers how to lead students to become caring citizens as they read and respond to quality children’s literature. It focuses on topics that can be challenging or sensitive yet significant for building an understanding of social justice, diversity and equity. Racism, homophobia, bullying, religious intolerance, poverty, and physical and mental challenges are just some of the themes explored.