

READING LIST FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021

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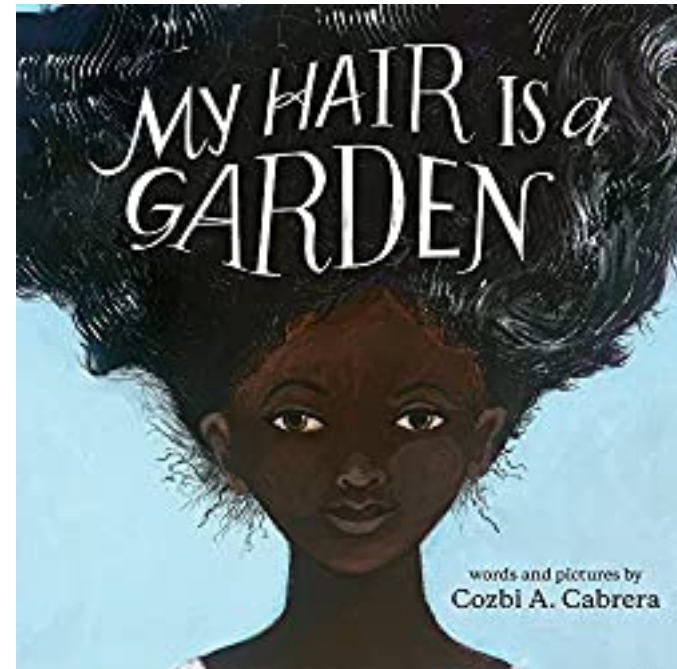
AGES 3 AND UP

THIS JAZZ MAN BY KAREN EHRHARDT



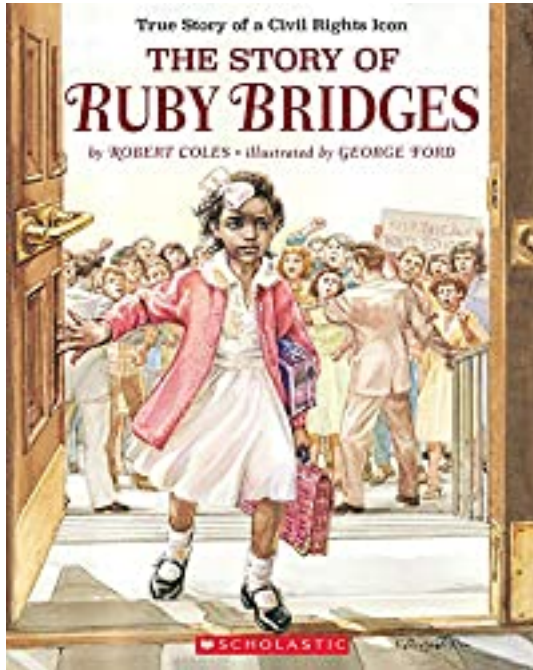
Music and dance are great themes to explore with little kids during Black History Month. Preschoolers will love this toe-tapping, finger-snapping tribute to African-American jazz giants, set to the rhythm of the classic children's song "This Old Man." The lively illustrations invite kids to "Deedle-di-bop!" along with classic musicians Charlie Parker, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bill "Bojangles" and more.

MY HAIR IS A GARDEN BY COZBI A. CABRERA



This beautiful book exposes kids to the differences and challenges a little girl of color faces because of her hair. This book is for children of color to help feel more comfortable with themselves, and also for other children to accept physical differences.

THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES BY ROBERT COLES



Although it is based on the true events of Ruby Bridges in 1960, the book is child-friendly and approaches the subject of segregation in schools. It's also good for the child to see how far we have come while leaving the subject open to how far we have to go.

AGES 5 AND UP

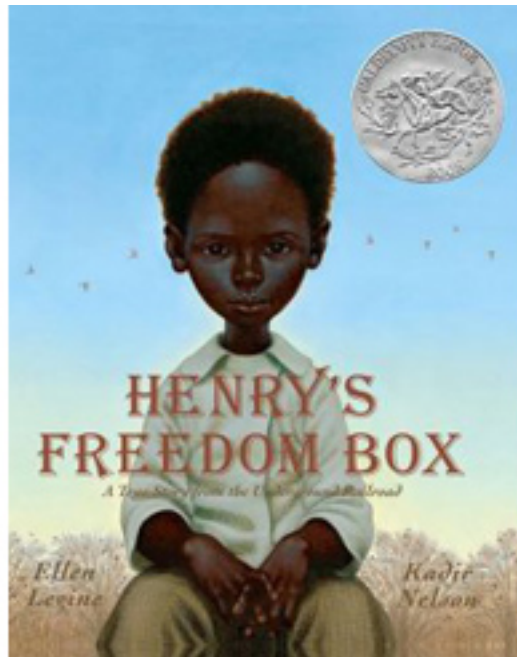
MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BY DOREEN RAPPAPORT



The author weaves immortal quotes from Martin Luther King Jr.'s writings and speeches into this award-winning biography for kids. The multimedia illustrations carry readers from King's youth — when he first noticed "Whites Only" signs — through his remarkable life as a leader of the U.S. Civil Rights

Movement. (Check out these additional resources for [Martin Luther King Day](#).)

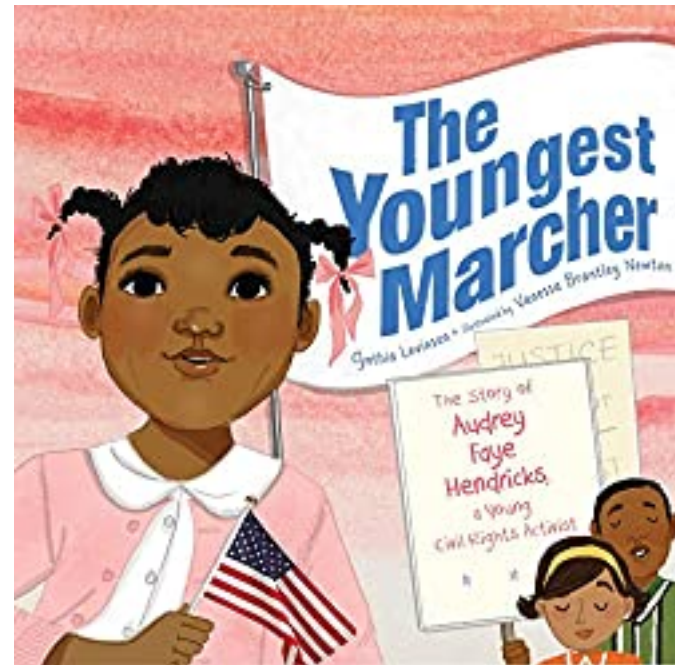
HENRY'S FREEDOM BOX: A TRUE STORY FROM THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BY ELLEN LEVINE



This is the incredible story of Henry "Box" Brown escaping slavery by shipping himself to the north in a wooden crate. We learn that as a boy, Henry doesn't know his age because nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. As an adult working in a warehouse, he decides to take a major risk and mail himself in

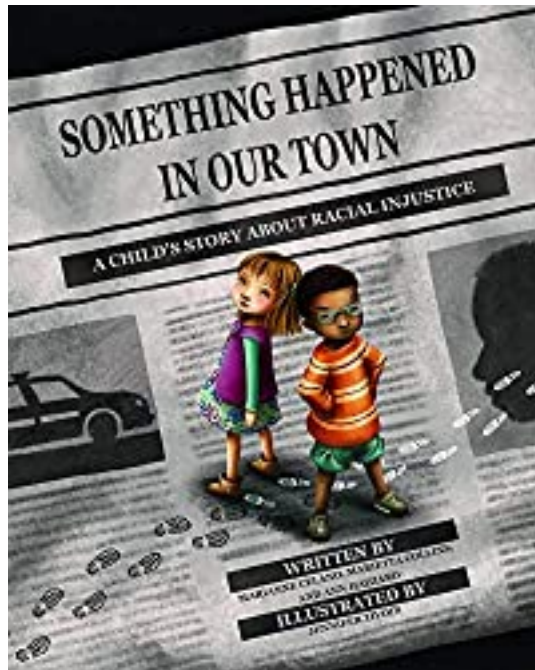
a box — to a world where he can have a "birthday" (his first day of freedom).

THE YOUNGEST MARCHER: THE STORY OF AUDREY FAYE HENDRICKS, A YOUNG CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST BY CYNTHIA LEVINSON



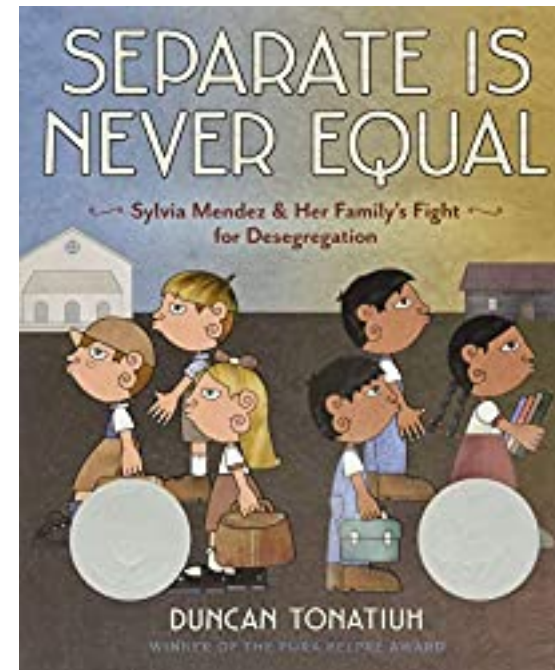
For a child to read a true story about another child getting arrested for marching is likely to make an impact. Not only for the injustice your child might feel but also because of the contagious confidence of Audrey, who was only nine years old!

SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN: A CHILD'S STORY ABOUT RACIAL INJUSTICE BY MARIANNE CELANO, MARIETTA COLLINS AND ANN HAZZARD



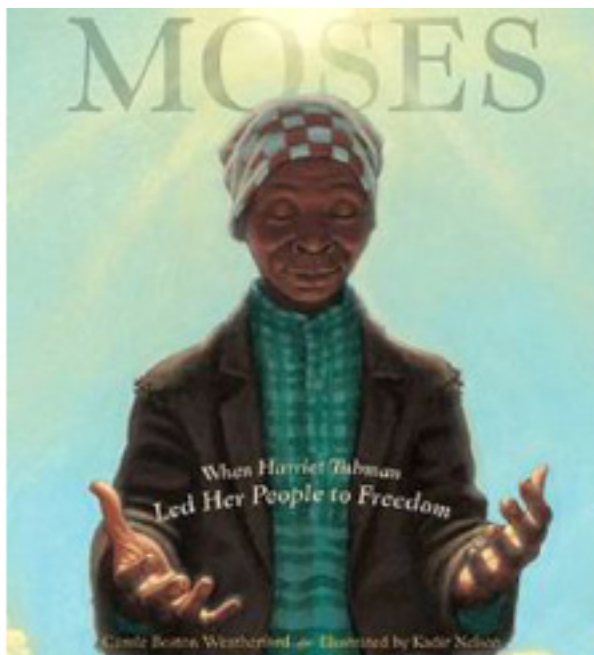
This book will need more parent involvement and discussion because it is a story about racism and a police shooting. It won the National Parenting Product Award and was written by two child psychologists with the intention of helping parents find ways to open the dialogue about negative racial stereotypes.

SEPARATE IS NEVER EQUAL: SYLVIA MENDEZ AND HER FAMILY'S FIGHT FOR DESEGREGATION BY DUNCAN TONATIUH



Boasting two awards and all five stars out of hundreds of reviews, this picture book exposes the 1947 public school desegregation in Orange County, CA. It teaches kids that children of different ethnicities and skin tone, not just African American, have had to stand up for equality.

MOSES: WHEN HARRIET TUBMAN LED HER PEOPLE TO FREEDOM BY CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD



Introduce children to [Harriet Tubman](#), the champion of the Underground Railroad who earned the nickname "Moses" for leading hundreds of slaves to freedom. Spirited text and paintings portray how Tubman's compassion, courage, and deep religious faith helped her lead 19 trips from the south to the north in order to help fellow African-Americans.

LET THE CHILDREN MARCH BY MONICA CLARK-ROBINSON



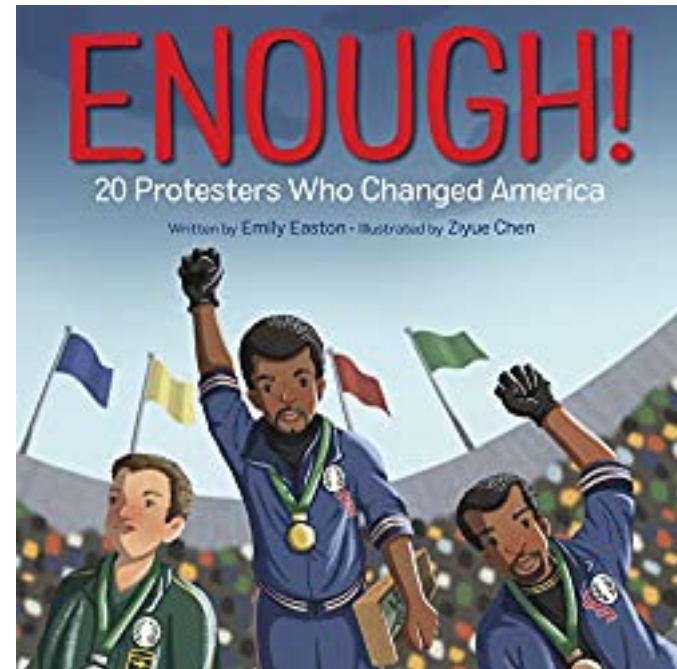
This beautifully illustrated book features the brave marching of thousands of children in Birmingham who were inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to stand up for their rights. Written poetically, this book will not only teach history but will instill a sense of courage and understanding in what they're seeing today.

WHO WAS ROSA PARKS? BY YONA ZELDIS MCDONOUGH



Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott will always have an important legacy in Black History. This 112-page biography from the kid-friendly "Who Was ..." series shares lesser-known facts about the black woman who bravely refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Alabama in 1955.

ENOUGH! 20 PROTESTORS WHO CHANGED AMERICA BY EMILY EASTON



Courage is a way to describe protesters and their persistence knowing that they are shunned by so many people for their beliefs. This book is perfect for young activists who want to know more about past and present protesters who helped change America.

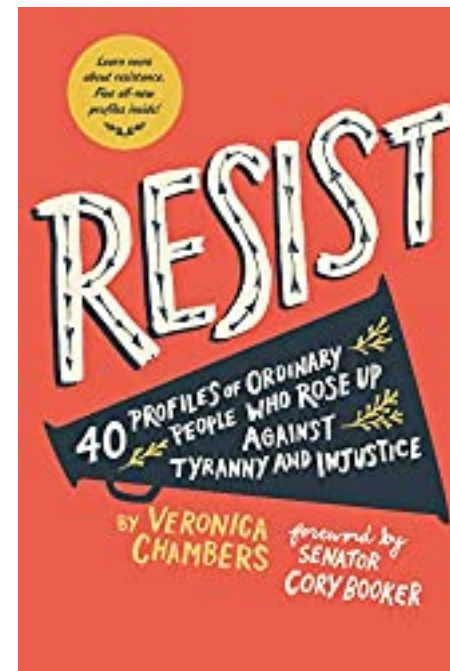
JUNETEENTH FOR MAZIE BY FLOYD COOPER



Juneteenth marks our calendars more now than ever before. This book takes children through the day of Mazie who is celebrating the anniversary of the day her ancestors were no longer slaves.

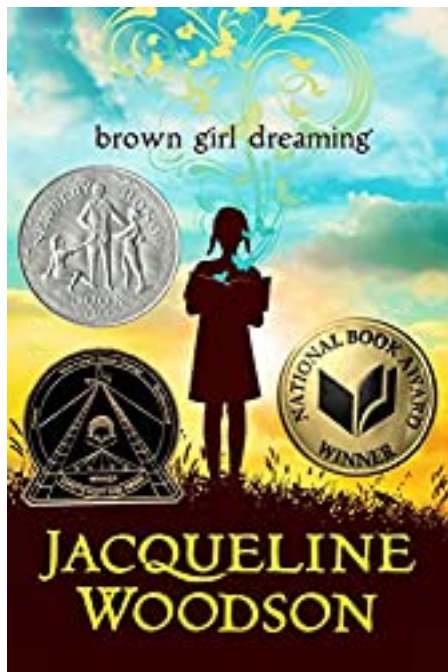
AGES 9 AND UP

RESIST: 40 PROFILES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO ROSE UP AGAINST TYRANNY AND INJUSTICE BY VERONICA CHAMBERS



This book inspires kids to be leaders of tomorrow and to stand up for what is right. It will help them to understand why people have resisted and protested in the past and currently.

BROWN GIRL DREAMING BY JACQUELINE WOODSON



A collection of poems from an author of color who experienced the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s and 1970s. This is a great genre of literature that helps children to learn about a

childre’s feelings during this time, and also for others to navigate their own emotions of not feeling accepted.

THIS BOOK IS ANTI-RACIST BY TIFFANY JEWELL

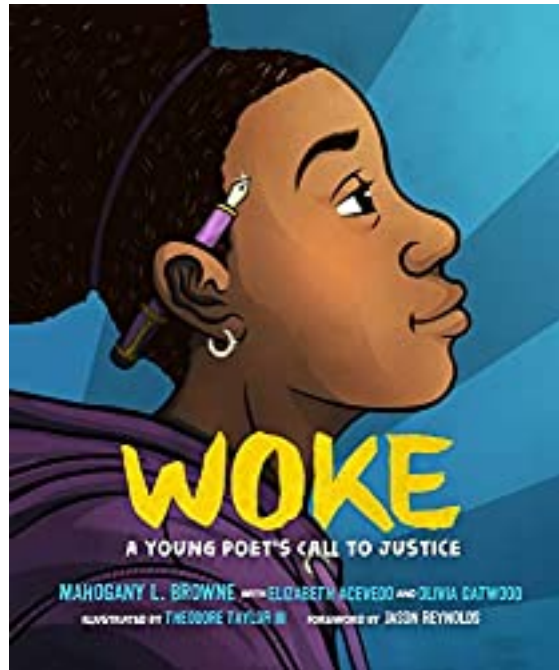


As a young mother, activist, and Montessori teacher, Jewell not only helps children to combat racism, but it’s also a workbook

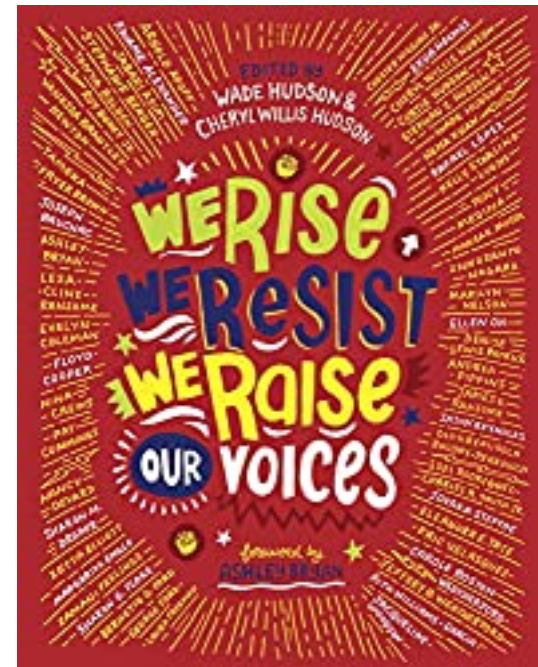
that donates 100% of its proceeds to Black Lives Matter and Color of Change.

This collection of poems was created to inspire kids to stay aware and “woke” while becoming a new generation of activists.

WOKE: A YOUNG POET’S CALL TO JUSTICE BY MAHOGANY L. BROWNE



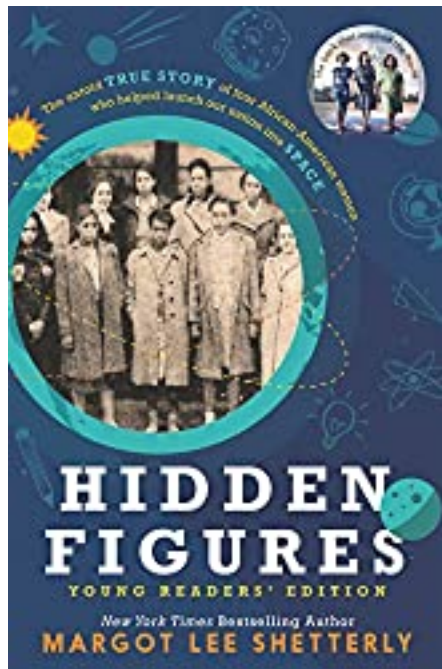
WE RISE, WE RESIST, WE RAISE OUR VOICES BY WADE HUDSON AND CHERYL WILLIS HUDSON



With stories from fifty of the most popular children's authors and illustrators on diversity, children will gain inspiration and courage in times of fear and sadness.

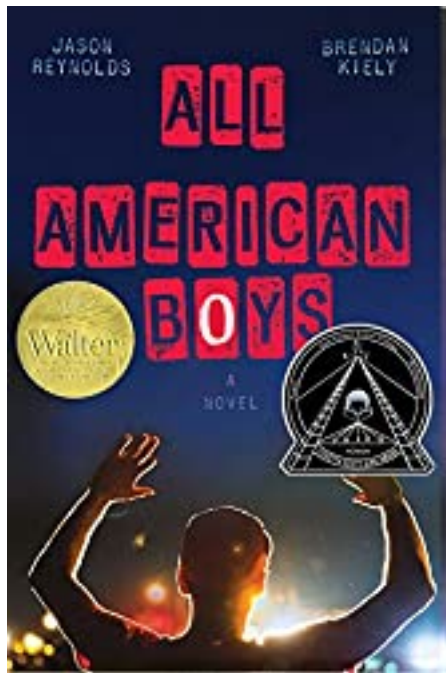
If you're looking for a book for your little scientist, this book tells the story of how four women of color were considered human computers at NASA. It shows that, despite living in the Civil Rights era, they helped to change the face of NASA.

HIDDEN FIGURES: YOUNG READERS EDITION BY MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY



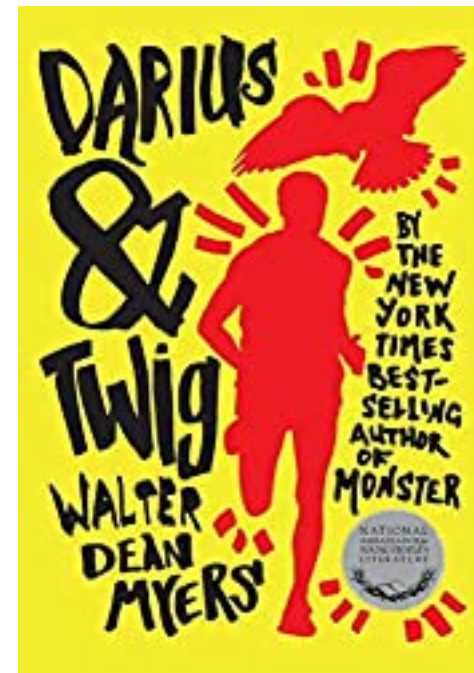
AGES 12 AND UP

ALL AMERICAN BOYS BY BRENDAN KIELY AND JASON REYNOLDS



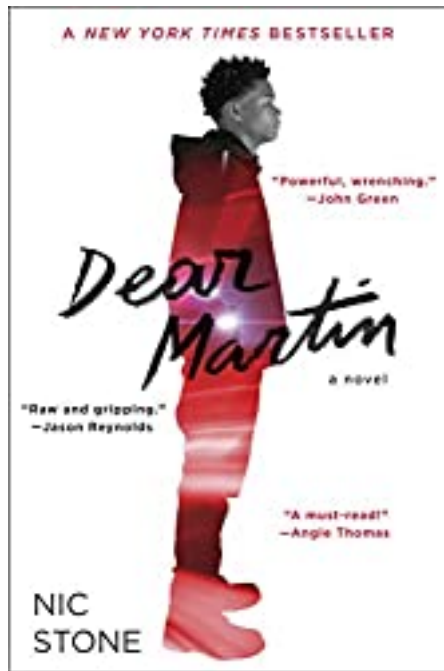
This award-winning book is a timely fiction piece about police brutality towards an innocent African American teenage boy. It will feel relevant towards young adults who are witnessing protests, racial stereotyping, and police brutality through the news and at school.

DARIUS AND TWIG BY WALTER DEAN MYERS



Written by an award-winning author, this book follows two African American boys in Harlem and reveals insight into their daily challenges of being a person of color. It also includes sports, bullies, and the desire to remove obstacles.

DEAR MARTIN BY NIC STONE



From a two-book series, this number one bestseller for teens and young adults is about a teenage African American honor student who experiences racial stereotyping and aggression from policemen on different occasions. This book gives insight into the injustices served to people of color.