



BUILD A MORE INCLUSIVE BOOKSHELF + BLM READING CHALLENGE

It is so important for parents to make sure that the books on their shelves reflect the diversity of America (and the kind of world they want for their children). How many books on your children's shelves feature Black and Brown characters? Characters of color are still **significantly underrepresented** in children's books. This is an issue that affects all children. Black and Brown children need to see themselves and people who look like them on the pages of the stories that they read, while white children will benefit from the opportunity to learn about, appreciate and honor other cultures. **When children encounter diversity through books, they can learn to be empathetic, informed members of their communities who fight back against racism and other injustices.**

2-IN-1 CHALLENGE

We invite you to diversify your bookshelf and participate in a reading challenge for both kids and adults.

CHALLENGE #1 *Build a More Inclusive Bookshelf.* Add books that center, reflect, and affirm Black children, and are written and illustrated by Black authors and artists, to your home library. We've made it easy by providing multiple book lists for all ages and reading levels, plus helpful resources for selecting and purchasing diverse books.

CHALLENGE #2 *Anti-Racist Reading Challenge.* We have selected a children's book for families to read and discuss together, plus two excellent options for adults to guide you on your learning journey.

SO PICK AN ACTIVITY (OR TWO!) TO DO WITH YOUR FAMILY THIS WEEK.



EXPLORE books in the **BLM virtual living room** & this **playlist** of kid's books centering black authors to find some new titles for your bookshelf.

4TH & 5TH GRADERS can check out the **BLM reading list** created by Cascadia Elementary's librarian (AND GH PARENT), Merrick Bodmer.



PARTICIPATE in a monthly (2ND SUNDAY AT 1PM) **interactive story time** at the **Northwest African American Museum** (NAAM). Check out upcoming **events at the NAAM**.

DONATE to the NAAM's **Black History K-12 Book Giveaway Program** and give a book on Black history to a local child.



BORROW BLM & Anti Racism books from the library. The amazing librarians at Seattle Public Library & King County Library System have compiled comprehensive book lists for every audience.

HELPFUL HINT: ALL SPS STUDENTS CAN GET THEIR OWN LIBRARY CARD TO ACCESS E-BOOKS DIRECTLY FROM THEIR SCHOOL IPAD/LAPTOP.

SPL: **Kids E-book Portal** | **Picture Books Celebrating Black Joy** | **Talking with Kids About Race and Racism** | **Toolkit for Anti Racism Allies**

KCLS: **Anti-Racism Picture Books** | **Anti-Racist Resources for Young People** | **An Anti-racism Reading List (adult)** | **Black Lives Matter (adult)**



LEARN about **Black history** with your kids to broaden your family's knowledge about the events and Black historical figures that helped shape our country.



LISTEN to the **Talking Race & KidLit podcast** about the importance of representation in kids' literature with award-winning author, Kwame Alexander.



EXAMINE your home library for books that reinforce racial stereotypes and learn how to select high-quality, **anti-bias children's books**.



BUY from Black-owned bookstores. Order from **Estelita's Library** in Seattle or from this list of **online independent bookstores**.

Purchase a diverse book as a baby shower present or to donate to your child's classroom/the school library. **Sign up here** to buy a book from Ms. Njoku's Black Books Matter wish list.

Books have to be mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors. We have to be able to see ourselves, to see each other, and to see the relationship between the two of us in the books.



The mind of an adult begins in the imagination of a kid. If you want to create beautiful human beings—you want to create adults who become teachers who care about all their kids; you want to create adults who become police officers who have an imagination that sees beyond stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. And, if you want to create human beings who are empathetic and loving and caring, it starts now. Give them the books that will help shape and mold their minds to become beautiful.

KWAME ALEXANDER
NEWBERY MEDAL AWARD-WINNER

★ ★ ★ READING CHALLENGE ★ ★ ★

FOR STUDENTS: Read **Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice** with your family and talk about connections to the BLM lessons being taught at school. You can also watch the **read aloud**.

ADULTS: Read **So You Want to Talk About Race** by Seattle author Ijeoma Oulo and/or **How to Be An Anti-Racist** by Ibram X. Kendi to raise your own awareness and turn it into action for change.

↔ STRETCH READING CHALLENGE ↔

Once you complete the book, form a book club with other GH families to continue these courageous conversations!

Black Lives Matter. Black Books Matter.

AS WE STRIVE TO HAVE A MORE JUST SOCIETY, BOOKS THAT CELEBRATE BLACK CHILDREN AND BLACK LIVES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.