

UNFAIR, UNEQUAL, UNACCEPTABLE

Dr. King's message is clear: We cannot accept injustice and inequality. His legacy is clear, also. It is up to each of us to do the work we can to stand up for justice, freedom, and equality. Whether we commit to personal transformation to end our complicity in unfair systems that limit opportunities for some, or whether we are engaged in efforts to transform political, social, and cultural systems that perpetuate inequality and discrimination, we have an important role to play in bringing an end to unacceptable practices and building the beloved community.

Because education is a cornerstone of change and growth, the MLK Coalition supports the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's purchase of books about the Civil Rights movement and Dr. King. Each year, we include in our program information about some of the books from the library and other resources that we recommend. Your financial contributions today help fund these purchases.. Thanks to Martha Viehmann and Louise Lawarre for the contributions below and to Dior and Simeon King-Betts for their reviews of books for young people.

Recommended Books and Other Resources

Available at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Resources for Adults

The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear, by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (2016). As Rev. Barber tells the story of his work to grow a movement of resistance to repressive North Carolina political decisions, he offers a lesson and a model for everyone struggling for freedom and justice. He calls for a Moral Movement, a fusion movement, that brings together the many organizations working for justice into a united effort. Committed to change at the state level, Rev. Barber has led the largest state-focused civil disobedience campaign in our history by bringing diverse interests together in common cause. During what became known as Moral Mondays, he led rallies that drew thousands of people to protest voting restrictions and other state policies aimed at disempowering and dividing many North Carolinians. Rev. Barber draws on Dr. King's model resistance and his call for poor and working class people, people of color and white people, to overcome their differences and unite in common voice against all injustice and oppression. Barber's words and his example offer hope and leadership for the way forward. His book is a call to action!

Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism & Wrecked the Middle Class by Ian Haney Lopez (2014). Since the days of Wallace and Goldwater, politicians have used what Lopez calls "strategic racism," coded language, to insert race into politics without openly talking about race. This stirs up fear and resentment among white voters in order to win their votes. Dog whistle politics plays on common ideas about race, such as the association of blacks with welfare, Hispanics with illegal immigration, and Muslims with terrorism, in order to promote a particular political agenda: the evisceration of government programs and a hard line on immigration. The result is a reconfiguration of racism that makes it even more difficult to talk about race. If we can't talk about race, we can't address

institutionalized racism, so we can't discuss how the dismantling of government programs impacts middle class Americans of all races or how this does real harm to the subjects of the implicit racialized imagery, including Hispanic citizens, middle class African Americans, and peaceful Muslims. The last chapter explores ways to end dog whistling.

While the World Watched by Carolyn Maull McKinstry with Denise George (2011). Fourteen year old Carolyn Maull answered the phone at the 16th St. Baptist Church in Birmingham one Sunday morning in September. "Three minutes" a voice said and hung up. Moments later, a bomb ripped through the church, killing her best friend and three other girls. McKinstry provides a personal context and recounts her decades-long struggle to come to grips with the impact of the explosion. The book also includes excerpts from important documents from the 1960s. This chilling and inspiring memoir concludes with a call to forgiveness and action to bring about healing and end racial prejudice and violence as Dr. King urged us to do.

Can We Talk about Race? and Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation by Beverly Daniel Tatum (2007). Dr. Tatum, an educator and past president of Spelman College, has presented workshops across the country on dismantling racism. In this book, a follow-up to *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* (1997), Tatum cogently outlines problems and solutions we face in our "race-conscious" country, especially related to the lack of diversity in K-12 schools. She demonstrates how this system hampers the education of all students. When each school affirms the identity of each student, builds community within the school and between the school and the neighborhood it serves, and cultivates the leadership of all students, our country benefits. One chapter focuses on interracial friendships, and the last chapter focuses on college education. This book presents historical contexts, vivid examples, and compelling solutions for people of all races to participate in conversations about race that will challenge misconceptions and promote continued progress on the long road to racial equality.

The Loving Story, produced and directed by Nancy Buirski: an HBO Documentary Film (2011). The story of Richard and Mildred Loving's marriage changed US history and brought to an end ugly laws rooted in slavery: the anti-miscegenation laws. In 1958 when the Lovings were married, there were still laws prohibiting interracial marriage in Virginia and sixteen other states. The Lovings had to travel to Washington, D.C. to marry but were arrested when they returned to Virginia. Using recent interviews as well as some of the extensive film footage that chronicled their Civil Rights trials, this documentary follows the Lovings as their case moved through the courts. Not only does the film celebrate the unanimous Supreme Court decision on June 12, 1967 that overturned bans on interracial marriage, it focuses on a couple and their three children, who only wanted equal protection under the law. This story is also the basis for the 2016 film *Loving*.

One Life: Martin Luther King, Jr. From 2013-14, the National Portrait Gallery exhibited a selection of portraits of Dr. King. Seven photographs and one watercolor of King are still displayed on-line with detailed captions that provide thumbnails of his life and activism. A link provides access to curriculum resources for teachers in grades 5-12. Find the exhibit on-line at: NPG.SI.edu/exhibit/MLK/portraits.html.

Resources for Youth

The Case for Loving by Selina Alko. Illus. by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko (2015). The true story of Richard and Mildred Loving's challenge to Virginia's outdated laws. Alko briefly describes the background and emphasizes family. The illustrations include collage elements, bright colors, and homey scenes.

When Will I Get In?: Segregation and Civil Rights by Sean Price (2007). Each illustrated two-page spread provides a brief overview of key moments or figures, from Ida B. Wells to the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Adrift at Sea: A Vietnamese Boy's Story of Survival by Marsha Skrypuch with Tuan Ho. Illus. by Brian Deines (2016). Tuan was only six years old when his mother, aunts, and cousin fled Vietnam and ended up among 60 other refugees in a leaking boat with a failed motor. A US aircraft carrier rescues the "boat people." Told from the child's point of view, the book focuses on the emotional experience of the family's flight and can provide some context for understanding the refugee experience.

Miles to Go for Freedom: Segregation and Civil Rights in the Jim Crow Years by Linda Harriet Osborne (2012). A detailed history of the everyday life of young people under segregation in the South and North from the 1890s to the 1950s. Osborne uses first-person accounts to bring the history to life. The book is illustrated with a wealth of photographs, including snapshots and family portraits, youth at school and adults at work, as well as photos of protests and people in public spaces. A great book for tweens, teens, and adults with an interest in history.

Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community by Robin Stevenson (2016). The first section of this book details the history of the gay rights movement. Three other chapters describe the LGBTQ community and Pride festivals in the US and around the world. Colorful photographs emphasize the celebratory aspects of taking pride in being part of and supporting members of the LGBTQ community.

The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. A picture book for independent readers. See Simeon's review!

28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World by Charles R. Smith Jr. Illus. by Shane Evans. Poetry and prose for middle grades. See Dior's review!

**For more information on
books mentioned in this program and other
books & materials about Dr. King and his legacy:**

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