

Recommendations for Self-Education on Race and Equity

Curated by the Sustainable Ballard DEI Task Force

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	A Good Time for the Truth	Sun Yung Shin	Non Fiction
<p>In this provocative book, sixteen of Minnesota's best writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like to live as a person of color in Minnesota. They give readers a splendid gift: the gift of touching another human being's inner reality, behind masks and veils and politeness. They bring us generously into experiences that we must understand if we are to come together in real relationships.</p>			
	As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice From Colonization to Standing Rock	Dina Gilio-Whitaker	Non Fiction
<p>The world became aware of current-day Native resistance to multiple injustices only a few years ago when the Standing Rock protests dominated news cycles and social media threads. As Long as Grass Grows connects the dots to the history that led up to Standing Rock and explores where we need to go as a nation to achieve full environmental justice. Gilio-Whitaker writes that the purpose and goal of the book is to highlight the importance of building alliances across social and racial divides.</p>			
	Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents	Isabel Wilkerson	Non Fiction
<p>This book points to our entire US social structure as an unrecognized caste system. In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. Beyond race, class, or other factors, this powerful caste system influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate.</p>			
	How to be an Anti-Racist	Ibram X. Kendi	Non Fiction
<p>Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In How to Be an Antiracist, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities.</p>			

	<p>How to Be Less Stupid About Race: On Racism, White Supremacy, and the Racial Divide</p>	<p>Crystal M. Fleming</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>How to Be Less Stupid About Race is as straightforward as it sounds and is not for the faint of heart. In it, Fleming pulls no punches in her analysis of racism and White supremacy. How to Be Less Stupid About Race is sometimes academic (Fleming teaches sociology at Stony Brook University) and sometimes broken-down. She draws on critical race theory and uses personal anecdotes that even a kindergartner can understand, and peppers How to Be Less Stupid About Race with wry humor, because sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying—or doing something you may regret.</p>			
	<p>Just Us</p>	<p>Claudia Rankine</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>As everyday white supremacy becomes increasingly vocalized with no clear answers at hand, how best might we approach one another? Claudia Rankine, without telling us what to do, urges us to begin the discussions that might open pathways through this divisive and stuck moment in American history.</p>			
	<p>Me and White Supremacy</p>	<p>Layla Saad</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>This eye-opening book challenges you to do the essential work of unpacking your biases, and helps white people take action and dismantle the privilege within themselves so that you can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.</p>			
	<p>Passing</p>	<p>Nella Larsen</p>	<p>Fiction</p>
<p>About a black woman passing as white in the Harlem Renaissance period, written in 1929</p>			
	<p>So You Want to Talk About Race</p>	<p>Ijeoma Oluo</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>Seattle area writer, with practical advice on conducting conversations. In So You Want to Talk About Race, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to “model minorities” in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.</p>			

	Stamped from the Beginning	Ibram X. Kendi	Non Fiction
<p>History of racism in the US. The National Book Award winning history of how racist ideas were created, spread, and deeply rooted in American society. Some Americans insist that we're living in a post-racial society. But racist thought is not just alive and well in America—it is more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. And as award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues, racist ideas have a long and lingering history, one in which nearly every great American thinker is complicit.</p>			
	The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America	Richard Rothstein	Non Fiction
<p>Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation, with undisguised racial zoning, public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities, and more.</p>			
	The Dark Fantastic: Race and the Imagination From Harry Potter to the Hunger Games	Ebony Elizabeth Thomas	Non Fiction
<p>Over 85 percent of all published books for children and young adults feature White characters. Author and educator Ebony Elizabeth Thomas refers to this “diversity crisis” as an imagination gap. The gap she explains extends far beyond the mere lack of representation of characters of color, but also shows up in “stereotyping, caricature, and marginalization of people of color, poor and working-class children and families, gender and sexual minorities, immigrants, and other minoritized groups.” In Dark Fantastic she offers a scholarly analysis of this phenomenon, providing critical counterstorytelling.</p>			
	The Love Songs of W.E.B DuBois	Honorée Fanonne Jeffers	Fiction
<p>Covers many generations of a family from the 17th century to the present on land in Georgia.</p>			
	The New Jim Crow	Michelle Alexander	Non Fiction
<p>Seldom does a book have the impact of Michelle Alexander’s The New Jim Crow. It has spawned a whole generation of criminal justice reform activists and organizations motivated by Michelle Alexander’s unforgettable argument that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.”</p>			

	<p>The Purpose of Power</p>	<p>Alicia Garza</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>An essential guide to building transformative movements to address the challenges of our time, from one of the country's leading organizers and a co-creator of Black Lives Matter</p>			
	<p>The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations</p>	<p>Toni Morrison</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>Divided in parts, The Source of Self-Regard is Morrison taking on the socio-cultural-political justice issues that have spanned the ages. In the introduction, aptly named "Peril," she writes, "Certain kinds of trauma visited on people are so deep, so cruel, that unlike money, unlike vengeance, even unlike justice, or rights, or the goodwill of others, only writers can translate such trauma and turn sorrow into meaning, sharpening the moral imagination."</p>			
	<p>Thick: And Other Essays</p>	<p>Tressie McMillan Cottom</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>Want an honest, unfiltered opinion of what is right and wrong in the world? Settle in for Cottom's second published work that explores identity, pop culture, social media, and, of course, Donald Trump. Cottom is fearless on her musings across the eight pieces that constitute Thick. In them, she gives us something to ponder, weaponry of sorts to engage in transformative dialogue.</p>			
	<p>Trailblazer: A Pioneering Journalist's Fight to Make the Media Look More Like America</p>	<p>Dorothy Butler Gilliam</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>Over the past 60 years, social justice movements have had their peaks and valleys, and Dorothy Butler Gilliam has covered them all. Falling in love with journalism at the age of 16, Gilliam was the first Black woman to be hired at the Washington Post. In her memoir, Trailblazer, she shares her journey of breaking down the color barrier in an industry dominated by White men.</p>			
	<p>Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?</p>	<p>Beverly Daniel Tatum</p>	<p>Non Fiction</p>
<p>Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.</p>			