

KDE Motivates Reading List

***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism:* By Robin DiAngelo**

The *New York Times* best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

In this “vital, necessary, and beautiful book” (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

***So You Want To Talk About Race:* By Ijeoma Oluo**

We’ve all seen a conversation about race go wrong. People hurt each other’s feelings, overlook experiences. Sometimes people don’t possess enough information to actually *have* the discussion in the first place. It ends in tears, or a screaming match. But it doesn’t have to. Ijeoma Oluo offers straightforward solutions to these divides and inspires everyone to have difficult, crucial discussions. She answers the questions you’re afraid to ask, and does it beautifully.

***How To Be Less Stupid About Race:* By Crystal M. Fleming**

“Not all white people.” “All lives matter.” “I don’t see color.” These are statements that often *mean well*, but often derail a larger conversation that needs to be had. Fleming takes a no-BS approach to the ridiculous proverbs that plague common racial rhetoric. She expertly breaks down why these sayings are useless and ineffective. Plus, the writing is exquisite. Every line is a mic drop. Paired with Oluo’s book above, these will get you understanding a lot in a little bit of time.

***A People's History of the United States:* By Howard Zinn**

A classic since its original landmark publication in 1980, Howard Zinn's *A People's History of the United States* is the first scholarly work to tell America's story from the bottom up - from the point of view of, and in the words of, America's women, factory workers, African-Americans, Native Americans, the working poor, and immigrant laborers.

From Columbus to the Revolution to slavery and the Civil War - from World War II to the election of George W. Bush and the "War on Terror" - *A People's History of the United States* is an important and necessary contribution to a complete and balanced understanding of American history.

Bad Feminist: By Roxane Gay

As you'll soon learn, oppression is always intersectional. Race, class, and gender intersect in various forms, creating various affects. Roxane Gay's collection of essays offers a simple introduction to this concept. Her essay on *The Help*, a much beloved book but an unfortunately ignorant one, will have you seeing everything differently.

The New Jim Crow: By Michelle Alexander

Michelle Alexander's book revolves around her central claim: the prison industrial complex is the new Jim Crow. While to some it may seem melodramatic, Alexander quickly offers foolproof evidence, testimony, and data to support her thesis. The statistics in this book will make you furious, and passionate about prison reform (or abolition). For example: "75% of people in state prison for drug conviction are people of color, although blacks and whites see and use drugs at roughly the same rate. In New York State, 94% of those imprisoned for a drug offense are people of color." Yikes.

Dear White America: Letter To A New Minority: By Tim Wise

In response to the rapidly growing tea party movement, anti-racism activist and essayist Tim Wise published a scathing call for white Americans to disabuse themselves of the belief in their oppression and the notion of a better past.

"In a style that is biting, honest yet occasionally humorous, *Dear White America* is a direct appeal to white Americans that takes us to task for failing to see how we continue to benefit from white privilege," wrote MacMullan. "This is a tough read for any white person, especially so for someone who thinks that white people are somehow on the receiving end of racism."

This Bridge Called My Back: Writings: By Radical Women Of Color

This is a feminist anthology. What is it doing here, you might ask? Well, on your journey to wokeness you will soon come to know that all struggles are intersectional. That is, they exist at intersections with each other. For example, a black woman's oppression is much different from a black man's, or a white woman's. Why? Because they exist at the *intersection* of racism and sexism. These writings, which explores queer, gender, race, and class theory, are the backbone of much modern discussion. It also includes well-known names like Audre Lorde and Gloria Anzaldúa.

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race: By Debby Irving

For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people

she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.

Borderlands/La Frontera: By Gloria Anzaldúa

Which brings me to *Borderlands/La Frontera*, a semi-autobiographical work from Anzaldúa. She discusses her life growing up on the Mexico/Texas border as Chicana (or Mexican woman or girl), and how colonialism, homophobia, and patriarchy influenced her. Anzaldúa also writes in many variations of English and Spanish, deliberately invoking her common theme of hybridization. This a masterful work, and important more than 30 years later.

The Making of Asian America: By Erika Lee

Asian Americans swung from being interned in work camps to being named "the model minority" within a few decades. How did this happen, and why? Erika Lee offers a comprehensive history of Asian immigrants to America, one we rarely learn in school. Lee offers powerful lines like, "[as the]first immigrants to be excluded from the United States, Asians became the first undocumented immigrants," sharply rewriting our narrative of history with a single sentence.

Ghosts In The Schoolyard: By Eve L. Ewing

Schools are nearly as segregated now as they were in the 1960s. How is that possible, you wonder? Well, racism of course. It rears its ugly head in the form of school closings, gerrymandering, and neglect. This book will break your heart as it details everything from a hunger strike to stop a school from closing to parents fighting for their child's right to learn. Although this book focuses on Chicago, the poster child for racist schooling systems, this is an issue *everywhere*. Unfortunately, schools have always been a breeding ground for racism.

White Kids: By Margaret A. Hagerman

Many sociology books discuss the struggles of children of color in an attempt to educate. This is, of course, *crucial*. But what's often left out is the study of white children. These are the children who will go on to become voices against racism or voices reproducing it. Therefore, they are important subjects as we study how racism lives on today. Much of the prejudice in this book, explicit or implicit, revolves around schools. White parents choose the "best" schools, which, whether they admit it or not, have mostly white, affluent children. Besides this, there is so much more to learn from this text. When it comes to books about race, this is a must read.

Stamped From The Beginning: By Ibram X. Kendi

This National Book Award winner stamps out (heh) the notion of a post-racial society with its history of racist ideas. Racist ideas, this book argues, evolve into different language as other language becomes politically incorrect. And, you guessed it, it has evolved into the year 2018, where it is alive and well. In addition, Kendi suggests that racism did not grow from “ignorance” but malicious, intelligent minds. These minds knew that they would land on top if they pushed others to the bottom. This is surely an insidious idea, but a well-supported one, as seen in the text.

The Politics Of The Veil: By Joan Scott

Finally, a book that takes place outside of America. I know these books about race are very America-centric, but I find when just beginning to study, it’s easier to learn about your own country. Yet, the politics in this book most certainly affect us here as well. In 2004, France banned obvious religious items. This was a thinly veiled (HA!) attempt to oppress the growing Muslim community in France. *The Politics of the Veil* destroys this ban, offering nuanced debate against Islamophobia in the West.

Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong: By James W. Loewen

Ready for your mind to get blown? Helen Keller and Martin Luther King Jr. were socialists. Most people knew the world wasn’t flat when Columbus “discovered” America. And Lincoln was a racist.

Okay, so maybe you already knew all that. But the point is, a lot of people don’t. The American education system fails so completely in historical study, and Loewen points it out in a scathing indictment. Not only does it isolate students of color, it romanticizes history and sets up American heroes as gods capable of no wrong.

Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee: An Indian History Of The American West: By Dee Brown

In line with the last entry, it’s important to know how badly Native Americans have been treated in this country to reckon with the past. (And it’s important to learn about how they are treated now, which isn’t that great either.) This is a thorough discussion of the history of Native Americans in the late 19th century. A history that should disturb you, but hopefully illuminate any misinformation you’ve consumed throughout your years in American schooling.

White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide: By Carol Anderson

In the aftermath of the Ferguson riots, Carol Anderson wrote an op-ed in *The Washington Post* arguing the nation's attention should be on the rage that had sparked them — but, she wrote, it wasn't black rage. In her 2016 book, Anderson continues her piercing analysis of white rage, and the ways in which it has fueled, and continues to fuel, political decisions which push back against the advancement of black Americans.

"Anderson's writing is uncompromising, exactly documented and heartfelt," wrote MacMullan. "The greatest value of this work is its ability to help us see how the events like those in Charlottesville (and Ferguson, the election of Donald Trump, the War on Drugs, the Southern Strategy, and countless other racial flashpoints in our history) are not just isolated events, but are instead moments in our nation's dreadful history of white rage. She challenges white people to see that at least as far back as Reconstruction we have failed to live up to our nation's still-unrealized promise to treat all people as equal because we lash out in fear at any perceived threat to our power and we still do not know how to live in peace with people of color."

American Lynching: By Ashraf H.A. Rushdy

In *American Lynching*, Ashraf Rushdy gives a comprehensive, eloquently interpreted history of lynching as it has evolved and been redefined over the course of three centuries in American history.

"This book offers a critical discussion of the distinctiveness of mob violence in the United States by linking it to the traditions of white popular sovereignty," wrote Connolly. "Historically, Rushdy points out, white people, not the state, have been understood as the highest source of political authority in America. Lynching represented a violent articulation of 'We the People.' And the country's own struggles to realize democracy in the nineteenth and twentieth century can be understood, in part, as a struggle to make the rule of law either sovereign over or in line with perceived white interests."

Representation: Edited By Stuart Hall, Jessica Evans, and Sam Nixon

Representation might be less famous in the mainstream than others on this list (Nexica attributed this to the fact that it was "intended as a university textbook"), but it is a key tool for understanding the ways in which media informs our understanding of identity. Nexica pointed specifically to Hall's essay "The Spectacle of the Other," which, she said, "uses popular culture examples to talk about the ways that whiteness is centered in journalism (including sports reporting), advertising, and 'high' art. I consider this essay a great primer in the complex social constructions that overlap to create represent 'truths' that impact people with their representations."

The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit From Identity Politics: By George Lipsitz

In *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness*, George Lipsitz offers an exhaustive analysis of the many ways in which whiteness is centered and rewarded in housing, education, health care, employment, and culture, as well as an examination of white privilege as it's long been defined and critiqued in radical black culture.

"Lipsitz deftly weaves a diverse set of knowledge into social histories of popular culture that simultaneously shapes and is shaped by society with analyses that are both accessible to a general reader and containing sharp cultural critique," wrote Nexica. "*The Possessive*

Investment in Whiteness looks at whiteness in America from many angles, including OJ Simpson ('White Fear: O.J. Simpson and the Greatest Story Ever Sold'), Stephen King's *Lean on Me* (where Lipsitz complicates things by describing how 'not all white supremacists are white'), and the ways that different nonwhite communities are impacted by whiteness."

Racism Without Racists: By Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

In *Racism Without Racists*, political sociologist Bonilla-Silva illuminates the insidious form of racism that exists among those who insist they don't see race at all. By poking holes in deracialized justifications for things like nonwhite communities' higher rate of imprisonment and poverty and lower levels of education and health care coverage, Bonilla-Silva exposes the weakness of any claims that America is "post-racial." Professor Robin Kelley, in one review, praised the book for its ability to "make many readers uncomfortable, as it should," adding, "With care and a wicked sense of humor, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva explores the kind of subtle, everyday racism that some of 'our best friends' unconsciously perpetuate."

A World More Concrete: Real Estate And The Remaking Of Jim Crow South: By N.D.B. Connolly

In *A World More Concrete*, Nathan Connolly takes two assumptions held widely among those interested in race in America — that urban renewal projects and power of public domain were ultimately tools for white property owners to enact racism at the expense of black citizens — and complicates them. Looking specifically at South Florida, Connolly draws out ways in which modern segregation was profitable for property owners across color lines, and examines how both black and white Americans adapted to real estate laws for their own benefit and at the expense of integrated equality. In a blurb by Princeton professor of history Julian Zelizer, Connolly is praised for "meticulously analyzing all the various institutional actors who shape this market in order to understand the political economy of racism."

When Affirmative Action Was White: By Ira Katznelson

Political scientist and Columbia professor Ira Katznelson's book is a shrewd and revelatory examination of civil rights programs which came out of the 1930s and 1940s, exposing the deep discriminations that allowed the economic gap between blacks and whites to continue to widen after the war. When the book published in 2006, historian Eric Foner described it as an "incisive book [that] should change the terms and debate about affirmative action, and about the last seventy years of American history."

The Future of Whiteness: By Linda Martin Alcoff

As the country's demographics shift, and white Americans find themselves making up less than half the population, we're seeing a violent national action among some of those whites to "take back" the country. In *The Future of Whiteness*, philosopher Linda Martín Alcoff dissects present turmoil and changes among white Americans in their perception of white identity, especially as they become aware of the ways in which that identity affects nonwhites in the US and abroad. Sullivan called it "especially valuable for its careful treatment of class differences between white people as it envisions a future without white exceptionalism, in which whiteness is merely one race among others."

Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked The Middle Class: By Ian Haney López

Ian Haney López has written extensively on the evolution of racism in the US since the 1960s, and his latest book hones in on the links between racism and the growing wealth gap. According to López, *Dog Whistle Politics* "details how the right has mobilized white anxiety over the last fifty years in order to (1) stoke fear and resentment toward people of color, (2) foment hatred toward (liberal) government, and (3) build popular support for politicians beholden to the billionaire class." Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, described it as "required reading."

Cannibal Culture: Art, Appropriation, And The Commodification Of Difference: By Deborah Root

In *Cannibal Culture*, art history professor Deborah Root gives an unsparing criticism of the ways in which Western culture reduces, commodifies, and consumes the identities and ideologies of the other — or, as Root refers to it, the "so-called 'native experience.'"

Nexica praised the book for its many illustrations, which "show how complex images are, especially at talking about power, the creator and the viewer," adding, "[Root] gives examples from and referring to places throughout the world to describe the different ways and logics used by European eyes in creating (often imaginary and fictional) 'others' depending on the histories at play. The attention she gives to the role of colonialism in classical works of art, travel advertising, and fashion invites Americans to think about how 'we' view the world and where those ideas originate."

Habits of Whiteness: By Terrance MacMullan

MacMullan's book focuses on those who see whiteness as a problem, but don't quite know what to do about it. Weaving in the work of thinkers and writers like John Dewey, W.E.B. DuBois, and Gloria Anzaldua, MacMullan urges white Americans — especially those who consider themselves free of prejudice — to recognize the habits that reveal inherited racism, and unlearning them.

MacMullan reemphasized via email the need for "white folks to first do the hard work of uprooting habits of white racism and privilege, but then plant the seeds of cultural habits that can be sources of pride for white people that are free of the violence and exclusion of the past." Otherwise, he warned, "we will continue to see young white people fall for the lie of white power as we did in Charlottesville."

The Making and Unmaking of Whiteness: Edited by Birgit Brander Rasmussen, Irene Nexica, and Eric Klinenberg

Following the controversial 1997 UC Berkeley conference of the same name, this collection looks at whiteness from a multitude of perspectives, featuring essays from academics, community organizers, and anti-racist activists. In her review, Duke professor Wahneema

Lubiano called the book a "brave work; it proceeds without guarantees of its own outcome, without knowing what questions it might settle."

White Flight: Atlanta And The Making Of Modern Conversation: By Kevin Kruse

In *White Flight* Kevin Kruse looks at the transition of Atlanta during and following the civil rights era — shifting from a site of rare racial harmony to one which whites rapidly fled. Reassessing the assumptions around this "white flight" to suburbs, Kruse digs deep into the meaning of white resistance, demonstrating that it's one aspect of a conservatism that transformed during struggles over segregation and gave birth to causes like tuition vouchers and privatization of public services. In his review, NYU professor Thomas Sugrue wrote, "This important book has national implications for our thinking about the links between race, suburbanization, and the rise of the New Right."

Between The World And Me: By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates' massive 2015 hit is a heartfelt meditation on the realities of life in the US as a black man, and a damning appraisal of the systems and beliefs that make that reality a dangerous one. Written as a letter to his son, it sees Coates touch on the lived experiences that formed his ideology, weaving in the reporting and analysis that have made him one of the leading voices on race today; Toni Morrison called the book "required reading."

An American Summer: By Alex Kotlowitz

An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago boldly documents the aftermath of gun violence, poverty, and a city's failure to protect its own citizens. With empathy, award-winning journalist Alex Kotlowitz recounts the summer of 2013 by uplifting the voices of mothers who've lost their sons, men who seek forgiveness for the crimes they've created, and teens who mourn the loss of friends whose lives ended far too soon. It's a narrative that dares readers to bear witness, to feel the loss and the "screams and howling and prayers and longing" within its pages. A chilling yet noteworthy read, *An American Summer* is a meaningful account of love, loss, and survival.

Biased: By Jennifer L. Eberhardt

In the opening pages of *Biased*, social psychologist Jennifer L. Eberhardt suggests that "we all have ideas about race, even the most open-minded among us." Throughout *Biased*, Eberhardt sifts through the origins, impact, and implications of racial biases and what they reveal about our culture, while challenging how we consciously and subconsciously perpetuate or internalize racism in our day-to-day lives. Fusing research with personal accounts, Eberhardt traces how racial bias has placed communities of color at risk. From microaggressions to police brutality, *Biased* is an unblinking, in-depth rumination on inequality and its roots.

Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul: By Eddie Glaude

In *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, Eddie Glaude explores the current state of racial equality in post-Obama America and the deferred dreams that Obama's historic presidency failed to fulfill. Each page challenges readers to realize that America's "democratic principles do not exist in a space apart from [its] national commitment to white

supremacy.” An enlightening meditation on American racism, it’s a profound call to arms for citizens who dream of a more just future.

I’m Still Here: By Austin Channing Brown

In her debut essay collection, Austin Channing Brown writes, “I offer this story in hopes that we will embody a community not afraid to name whiteness [and] celebrate Blackness.” Seamlessly, the bestselling activist reflects on her journey as Black woman in American, as a storyteller, and as a believer in freedom and faith. Infused with courage, wisdom, and empathy, Brown’s essays reveal the importance of unapologetically telling your story. As Brown makes clear in the collection’s opening chapter, *I’m Still Here* is “not about condemning white people but about rejecting the assumption—sometimes spoken, sometimes not—that white is right.”

Forty Million Dollar Slaves: By William C. Rhoden

Forty Million Dollar Slaves interrogates the history of Black athletes, the impact of their celebrity, and the historical and contemporary commodification of Black embodiment within American culture. Mapping the evolution of the Black athlete from the late 1880s to present day, each chapter draws parallels between early greats like Jack Johnson and Jackie Robinson to contemporary titans like Michael Jordan. William Rhoden’s book compels readers to remember that “Black athletic culture, like the rest of African American culture, evolved under the pressure of oppression.” This immersive and well-researched title dares us to “remember the history of struggle” and to “understand how much distance has been covered” and “how much more distance remains.

Blood Done Sign My Name: By Timothy Tyson

In Timothy Tyson’s remembrance of a Black man’s brutal death at the hands of a group of white men, the sinister nature and damage of racism is unflinchingly revealed. A snapshot of the racial turmoil in Oxford, North Carolina, during the 1970s, Tyson charts the murder’s impact on his community, his family, and his own childhood. Through Tyson’s eyes, readers bear witness to an all too familiar breach of justice in the American judicial system and the resilience of those forced to survive in its wake. An indispensable yet sobering yet read, *Blood Done Sign My Name* is a testament to America’s past and present.

Stony The Road: By Henry Louis Gates

Throughout *Stony the Road*, award-winning scholar Henry Louis Gates investigates the significance and lingering impact of the era between Reconstruction and the emergence of the civil rights movement. Immersive, vibrant, and impeccably written, *Stony the Road* delves into the ways in which America’s current dilemmas are rooted in its failure to fully reckon with its own history. This crucial homage to struggle, triumph, and justice reminds us of how “the forces of white supremacy did their best to undermine” progress, and the reason why we persist.

Nigger: By Dick Gregory

From the very beginning, Dick Gregory’s literary debut captivates. Selling over a million copies since it hit shelves in 1964, *Nigger: An Autobiography* recounts Gregory’s life with sincerity,

humor, and swagger. Written in three parts, each page delves into Gregory's past, his earliest days as an activist, and the start of his comedy career. As relevant now as it was when it first published, Gregory's provocative autobiography is timeless. A monumental reflection on race, class, and social justice, Gregory's words are an indispensable addition to any reader's bookshelf.

Tell Me Who You Are: By Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi

In *Tell Me Who You Are*, Winona Guo and Priya Vulchi ask hundreds of people across the U.S. one question: How has race, culture, or intersectionality impacted your life? A journey that began in Anchorage, Alaska and ended in Charlottesville, Virginia, *Tell Me Who You Are* is a collection of first-person accounts that reveal how systemic racism and prejudice shapes our lives. Through the experiences of a Black Creole woman from New Orleans, a young man who stands up for himself and his undocumented friends when they're denied entry into a gay bar, a woman from Waco, Texas, reckoning with her hometown's violent past, a Lakota man who finds strength through restorative justice, and a woman from Philadelphia who survived her family's transphobia, we're reminded that "everybody should be able to speak up" and share their story. Each voice amplified by these pages proves the importance of sharing your truth.

Beneath a Ruthless Sun: By Gilbert King

A harrowing yet significant account of Jim Crow's depravity, *Beneath a Ruthless Sun* exposes the sinister nature of racial bias and its effect on a small town in central Florida in the late 1950s. Through Pulitzer Prize-winner Gilbert King's perceptive prose, readers are given the opportunity to fully understand the danger of judicial corruption, white supremacy, and inequality. King's narrative is a difficult yet enriching account of democracy atrophied by prejudice.

A Sin by Any Other Name: By Robert W. Lee

In *A Sin by Any Other Name*, Robert W. Lee—a direct descendent of the Confederate General Robert E. Lee—wrestles with his family's legacy and the legacy of his nation with profound honesty. What first began as a response to the 2017 Charlottesville rally, during which white supremacists brandished tiki torches in the name of Robert E. Lee, *A Sin by Any Other Name* allowed Lee to investigate his own past as well as America's. A transcendent testament to the power of confronting history, Lee's memoir is a breathtaking testimony of faith.

Love Thy Neighbor: By Ayaz Virji, M.D.

In Ayaz Virji's memoir, *Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle for Home in Rural America*, readers witness the aftermath of Trump's presidency. Virji, who left his position at a Pennsylvania hospital in 2013 to manage a hospital in Dawson, Minnesota, reflects on how the right wing's rise to power disrupted his community and his own sense of identity. Inspired by Virji's lecture of the same name, this riveting memoir dares to challenge misconceptions and hate with dialogue, understanding, and optimism. *Love Thy Neighbor* is an uplifting reminder of how one voice can spark change.

Tigerland: By Wil Haygood

Guggenheim fellow Wil Haygood's journalistic deep-dive into the rise of an Ohio high school's baseball and basketball teams is an uplifting and illuminating tribute to the students, families, and community that triumphed despite the odds stacked against them. Filled with firsthand accounts and archival photographs, *Tigerland* captures a year in the lives of the young men whose passion for athletics and bond as a team became a solace from segregation, poverty, and the lingering devastation of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. An inspiration from beginning to end, readers will find themselves yearning for a docuseries adaptation of Haygood's heart-stirring book.

The Inner Work of Racial Justice: By Rhonda V. Magee

Penned by law professor and mindfulness practitioner Rhonda Magee, *The Inner Work of Racial Justice* is a timely exploration of compassion and its potential to help heal the wounds of injustice. Filled with research, reflections, and exercises, Magee offers her audience an invaluable toolkit for combating racial bias and how to heal the harm it causes within our individual lives as well as our communities. It's an eye-opening essential for anyone dedicated to progress.

White Girls: By Hilton Als

In Pulitzer Prize-winner Hilton Als's genre-bending essay collection, gender, race, and privilege are deconstructed with unblinking scrutiny. Boldly breaching the boundaries between fiction, memoir, and criticism, *White Girls* is an eclectic yet seamless reflection that moves from cultural titans like Richard Pryor, Truman Capote, and Michael Jackson to meditations on human closeness, romance, and grief. Inventive, intimate, and unforgettable, *White Girls* is a book that requires readers to return to its pages more than once.

The Water Dancer: By Ta-Nehisi Coates

In Ta-Nehisi Coates's fiction debut, readers meet Hiram Walker, a young slave who possesses a remarkable gift. As the novel begins, Hiram and his owner's son Maynard (who is also Hiram's half-brother) are en route to the Lockless plantation. Their journey takes a fatal turn when a crumbling bridge costs Maynard his life and floods Hiram's mind with otherworldly visions. After the accident, Hiram's only desire is to escape Lockless, a yearning that leads to him become a conductor in the Underground Railroad, forcing Hiram to reckon with the cost of freedom. A speculative imagining of America's past, *The Water Dancer* is a applause-worthy debut from a tried and true visionary.

How to Be an Antiracist: By Ibram X. Kendi

Part memoir, part commentary, *How to Be an Antiracist* urges readers that an antiracist world "can become real if we focus on power instead of people." In the pages that follow, Ibram X. Kendi holds himself and his country equally accountable for the ways in which racism has warped our collective psyche and stunted our ability to imagine what an antiracist world could look like. From a remembrance of wearing colored contacts to lighten the hue of his eyes as a teenager to the way power is wielded (and often abused) within American society, *How to be an Antiracist* is a much-needed call to arms for all. It reminds us that if we "we know how to be

racist” and “we know how to pretend to be not racist,” then we have the capacity to learn “how to be antiracist.”

***Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race:* By Beverly Daniel Tatum**

The classic, bestselling book on the psychology of racism -- now fully revised and updated. 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. These topics have only become more urgent as the national conversation about race is increasingly acrimonious. This fully revised edition is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the dynamics of race in America.

***How Jews Became White Folks and What That Says About Race in America:* By Karen Brodtkin**

The fashion identities in the context of a wider conversation about American nationhood, to whom it belongs and what belonging means. Race and ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality are all staple ingredients in this conversation. They are salient aspects of social being from which economic practices, political policies, and popular discourses create "Americans." Because all of these facets of social being have such significant meaning on a national scale, they also have major consequences for both individuals and groups in terms of their success and well-being, as well as how they perceive themselves socially and politically.

The history of Jews in the United States is one of racial change that provides useful insights on race in America. Prevailing classifications have sometimes assigned Jews to the white race and at other times have created an off-white racial designation for them. Those changes in racial assignment have shaped the ways American Jews of different eras have constructed their ethnoracial identities. Brodtkin illustrates these changes through an analysis of her own family's multi-generational experience. She shows how Jews experience a kind of double vision that comes from racial middleness: on the one hand, marginality with regard to whiteness; on the other, whiteness and belonging with regard to blackness.

Class and gender are key elements of race-making in American history. Brodtkin suggests that this country's racial assignment of individuals and groups constitutes an institutionalized system of occupational and residential segregation, is a key element in misguided public policy, and serves as a pernicious foundational principle in the construction of nationhood. Alternatives available to non-white and alien "others" have been either to whiten or to be consigned to an inferior underclass unworthy of full citizenship. The American ethnoracial map—who is assigned to each of these poles—is continually changing, although the binary of black and white is not. As a result, the structure within which Americans form their ethnoracial, gender, and class identities is distressingly stable. Brodtkin questions the means by which Americans construct their political identities and what is required to weaken the hold of this governing myth.

Evicted: Poverty and Profit In The American City: By Matthew Desmond

In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

Reaching and Teaching Students in Poverty: Strategies for Erasing the Opportunity Gap (Multicultural Education Series): By Paul C. Gorski

This influential book describes the knowledge and skills teachers and school administrators need to recognize and combat bias and inequity that undermine educational engagement for students experiencing poverty.

The Second Edition features two new chapters—“Embracing a Structural View of Poverty and Education: Ditching Deficit Ideology and Quitting Grit” and “Cultivating School Change through Equity Literacy: Commitments and Strategies for School and District Leaders”—plus extensive revisions throughout based on newly available research and lessons from the author’s professional development work. Gorski outlines the dangers of “grit” and deficit perspectives as responses to educational disparities; offers research-informed, on-the-ground strategies for teaching and leading with equity literacy; and provides expanded lists of resources and readings to support transformative equity work in high-poverty and mixed-class schools.

Why Culture Counts: Teaching Children of Poverty Perfect: By Donna Walker Tileston and Sandra K Darling

Current models do not address the complexity of achievement gaps among racial and socioeconomic groups. As the National Task Force on Minority High Achievement and current assessment data show, children of color, even those who are not poor, often score lower on achievement tests than whites who are poor. Culture trumps poverty in its impact on achievement. Culture defines what children will focus their attention on, how they interpret the world to give it meaning, what background knowledge they bring to learning, and how they will value that learning. The focus of our interventions to close the achievement gap must therefore be to attend to the culture of the learner. This book shows how to build the necessary supports to move classrooms from the traditional, Eurocentric model to one that respects and incorporates the cultures of the learners.