The books we read should be chosen with great care, that they may be, as an Egyptian king wrote over his library, "The medicines of the soul." - Paxton Hood

Books are a wonderful way to bond interpersonally with children when shared together and to explore concepts of accepting diversity and empathy that aren’t readily available in everyday life for children. The following books are helpful in illustrating the abstract concepts of differing abilities, diversity & inclusion, peace, social justice, civil rights, and helping explicitly teach children how to construct their own moral behavior and become empathetic. Exemplary, authentic books for children and young people about diversity, understanding others, resolving conflicts, and being a member of a global family are more important now than ever.

**Books that Promote Understanding, Acceptance and Advocacy for Kids with Autism:**

- A Kids Book About Autism: David and Justin P. Flood
- So Your Friend Has Autism: Agnieszka Valentaolds
- My Friend Has Autism: Amanda Tourville
- Since We’re Friends: Celeste Shally & David Harrington
- A Friend Like Simon: Kate Gaynor
- A Friend for Henry: Jenn Bailey & Mika Song
- Looking for Louis: Lesely Ely & Polly Dunbar
- Autism and Me: Sibling Stories: Ouisie Shapiro
- My Brother Charlie: Holly Robinson Peete & Ryan Peete
- Sometimes My Brother: Angie Healy
- All About My Brother: Sarah Peralta
- My Best Friend Will: Jamie Lowell & Tara Tuchel
- Uniquely Worried: A Story about Autism and Its Gifts: Julia Cook
- I can't Believe You SAID That!: Julia Cook
- I Can Fix It!: Gayle Grass
Pedro’s Whale  Paula Kluth & Patrick Schwartz  
Arnie and His School Tools  Jennifer Veenendall  
Ian’s Walk: A Story Bout Autism  Laurie Lears  
I Am Here  Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds  
I am Human, A Book of Empathy  Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds  
We’re Amazing, 1,2,3  Leslie Kimmelman  
Family Forever  Sesame St.  
The Girl Who Thought in Pictures,  Julie Finley Mosca  
Story of Dr. Temple Grandin  Lori Demoni  
Leah’s Voice  Shaina Rudolph & Danielle Rayen  
All My Stripes: A Story for Children  Marina Kranjac  
with Autism  Kari DUnn Buron  
Autism & Me: A child’s perspective  Lynette Robbins  
When My Worries Get Too Big  The Truth About Autism: A Child’s Guide  
to Understanding Autism  Kelly Streng  
Rescued by a Cow and A Squeeze  Temple Grandin  
I See Things Differently:  Pat Thomas  
A First Look at Autism  Brandie Wiley  
Why Won’t He Look At Me?  Elaine Marie Larson  
I Am Utterly Unique  Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen  
We’ll Paint the Octopus Red  We’re All Wonders  
Chapter Books (includes character with autism):  R. J. Palacio  
Rain Reign  Elana Arnold  
A Boy Called Bat  Kate Decamillo  
Raymie Nightingale  Kenneth Hall  
Asbergers Syndrome, the Universe and Everything  Mandy Davis  
Chester and Gus  Sophie Chen Keller  
SuperStar  Karole Cazzo  
The Luster of Lost Things  Kathryn Erksine  
How to Say I Love You Out Loud  Mockingbird  
Books that Celebrate All Abilities:  
Meet Mimi  Francie Dolan & Wendy Leach  
I Am Me  Tristan Towns  
Diffenent~A Great Thing to Be  Heather Avis  
It’s Ok to be Different:  
Children’s Picture Book about Diversity and Kindness  Sharon Purcell & Sujata Saha  
Just Ask!: Be Different,  Sonia Sotomayor & Rafeal Lopez  
Be Brave, Be You  R. J. Palacio  
We’re All Wonders  Nancy Carlson  
Arnie and the New Kid  Berniece Rabe  
The Balancing Girl  Leslye Orr  
The People on the Corner  Lauren Beader  
Meet Maya Cat: A Story of Acceptance  Bryan Smith  
What Were You Thinking:  Jeanne Gehret  
Eagle Eyes  Lorraine Aseltine  
I’m Deaf and it’s Okay  Virginia Fleming  
Be Kind to Eddie Lee  Nan Gregory  
How Smudge Came
Don't Laugh At Me
I'm Like You, You're Like Me
What It's Like to Be Me
My Name is Blessing

Steve Seskin & Allen Shamblin
Cindy Gainer
Helen Exley
Eric Walters

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**Authentic Multicultural and Miscellaneous Books for Promoting & Affirming**

**Diversity:**

- *A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals* by Christopher Corr
- *A Kids Book About Racism* by Jelani Memory
- *A Kids Book About Failurere* by Dr. Laymon Hicks
- *A Kids Book About Creativity* by Sara & Stewart Scott-Curran
- *A Kids Book about Empathy* by Daron K. Roberts
- *A Kids Book About Bullying* by Elizabeth Tom
- *A Kids Book About Belonging* by Kevin Carroll
- *A kids Book About Disabilities* by Kristine Napper
- *A Kids Book About Gratitude* by Ken Banyon
- *A Kids Book About Failure* by Dr. Laymon Hicks
- *A Kids Book About Creativity* by Sara & Stewart Scott-Curran
- *A Kids Book about Empathy* by Daron K. Roberts
- *A Kids Book About Bullying* by Elizabeth Tom
- *A Kids Book About Belonging* by Kevin Carroll
- *A kids Book About Disabilities* by Kristine Napper
- *A Kids Book About Gratitude* by Ken Banyon
- *A Kids Book About Failure* by Dr. Laymon Hicks
- *A Kids Book About Creativity* by Sara & Stewart Scott-Curran

**Most People**

- *The Ocean Calls* by Tina Cho

**A Place at the Table**

- *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o
- *Ambitious Girl* by Meena Harris

**I am Human, A Book of Empathy**

- *I am Peace, A Book of Mindfulness* by Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds
- *I am Love, A Book of Compassion* by Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds
- *I am One, A Book of Action* by Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds
- *I Promise* by Lebron James

**I am Enough**

- *All Our Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold & Suzanne Kaufman

**The Proudest Blue:**

- *The Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- *I Can Do Hard Things* by Gabi Garcia
- *I am Enough* by Grace Buyers
- *I Believe I Can* by Grace Buyers
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *On the Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson & Rafael Lopez

**Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness**

- *Hello World* by Manya Stojic

**Families Around the World, One Kid at a Time**

- *Uwe Ommer

**Courage (in Japanese & English)**

- *Bernard Waber

**On the Day You Were Born**

- *Debra Frasier

**Amazing Grace**

- *Mary Hoffman

**Lenore's Big Break**

- *Susan Pearson

**These Hands**

- *Hope Lynne Price

**Let's Talk About Race**

- *Julius Lester

**Whoever You Are**

- *Mem Fox

**Something Beautiful**

- *Sharon Dennis Wyeth

**For Every Child**

- *Caroline Castle (UNICEF)

**Thank You, Mr. Falker**

- *Patricia Palacco

**Mr. Lincoln's Way**

- *Patricia Palacco

**The Junkyard Wonders**

- *Patricia Palacco

**In Our Mothers' House**

- *Patricia Palacco

**The Colors of Us**

- *Karen Katz

**Love Can Build a Bridge**

- *Naomi Judd

**If the World Were a Village**

- *David Smith
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Crayon Box that Talked</td>
<td>Shane DeRolf</td>
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<td>A Bad Case of Stripes</td>
<td>David Shannon</td>
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<td>Encounter</td>
<td>Jane Yolen</td>
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<td>Is There Really A Human Race?</td>
<td>Jamie Lee Curtis</td>
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<td>Old Turtle</td>
<td>Douglas Wood</td>
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<td>Old Turtle and the Broken Truth</td>
<td>Douglas Wood</td>
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<td>Martin's Big Words</td>
<td>Doreen Rappaport</td>
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<td>Rosa</td>
<td>Nikki Giovanni</td>
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<td>The Story of Ruby Bridges</td>
<td>Robert Coles</td>
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<td>Sister Anne's Hands</td>
<td>Marybeth Lorbiecki</td>
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<td>Goin' Someplace Special</td>
<td>McKissack &amp; Pinkney</td>
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<td>Harlem</td>
<td>Walter Dean Myers</td>
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<td>We Are All Wonders</td>
<td>R. J. Palacio</td>
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<td>I Dream of a World...</td>
<td>Pershing Accelerated School</td>
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<td>I Hate English</td>
<td>Ellen Levine</td>
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<td>A To Zen</td>
<td>Ruth Wells</td>
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<td>Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You</td>
<td>Sonia Sotomayor &amp; Rafeal Lopez</td>
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<td>The Whispering Cloth</td>
<td>Pegi Deitz Shea</td>
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<td>Usborne Book of Peoples of the World</td>
<td>Doherty &amp; Claybourne</td>
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<td>Many Nations</td>
<td>Joseph Bruchac</td>
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<td>Families Around the World</td>
<td>Uwe Ommer</td>
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<td>The Skin You Live In</td>
<td>Michael Tyler</td>
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<td>Ruby's Wish</td>
<td>Shirin Yim Bridges</td>
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<td>Listen to the Wind</td>
<td>Greg Mortenson &amp; Susan Roth</td>
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<td>Giving Thanks: A Native American Good</td>
<td>Chief Jake Swamp</td>
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<td>Morning Message</td>
<td>S.D. Nelson</td>
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<td>Gift Horse: A Lakota Story</td>
<td>Joseph Bruchac</td>
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<td>Crazy Horse's Vision</td>
<td>Margaret Bateson-Hill</td>
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<td>Shota and the Star Quilt</td>
<td>Tin Tiller</td>
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<td>Saltypie: A Choctaw Journey From</td>
<td>Bryd Baylor</td>
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<td>Darkness into Light</td>
<td>Bryd Baylor</td>
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<td>I'm in Charge of Celebrations</td>
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<td>Everybody Needs a Rock</td>
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<td>The Table Where Rich People Sit</td>
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<td>14 Cows for America</td>
<td>Carmen Agra Deedy</td>
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<td>Imagine A Day</td>
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<td>Imagine A Place</td>
<td>Sarah L. Thomson</td>
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<td>Pitching In For Eubie</td>
<td>Jerdine Nolen</td>
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<td>Family</td>
<td>Isabell Monk</td>
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<td>Throw Your Tooth on the Roof:</td>
<td>Selby B. Beeler</td>
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<td>Tooth Traditions From Around The World</td>
<td>Eve Bunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>So Far From the Sea</td>
<td>Martha Hamilton &amp; Mitch Weiss</td>
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<td>How &amp; Why Stories: World Tales Kids</td>
<td>Yoshiko Uchida &amp; Joanna Yardly</td>
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<td>Can Read &amp; Tell</td>
<td>Lee Bennett Hopkins &amp; Chris Soentpied</td>
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<td>The Bracelet</td>
<td>Peter Spier</td>
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<td>Our World of Water: Children and Water Around the World</td>
<td>Beatrice Hollyer</td>
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<td>Mirror</td>
<td>Anne Faundez</td>
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<td>The Day the Rains Fell</td>
<td>Lee Bennett Hopkins &amp; Chris Soentpied</td>
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<td>Amazing Faces</td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
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<td>People</td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Day You Begin</td>
<td>Dawn Casey &amp; Anne Wilson</td>
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Bringing The Rain To Kapiti Plain  Verna Aardema
Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration Of Rosa, Barak, and the Pioneers of Change  Michelle Cook
Of Thee I Sing: A Letter To My Daughters  Barack Obama
Four Feet, Two Sandals  Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed
W Is For World: Round-The-World ABC  Kathryn Cave
Elephant Dance: A Journey To India  Theresa Heine
The Village That Vanished  Ann Grifalconi
Wish: Wishing Traditions Around the World  Roseanne Thong
Seeking Serenity  Pilar Stella
The Story Tree: Tales to Read Aloud  Hugh Lupton & Sophie Fatus
A Cool Drink of Water  Barbara Kerley
Sensing Peace  Suzana E. Yoder
Our Favorite Stories from Around the World  Jamila Gavin
An Awesome Book  Dallas Clayton
Giraffes Can’t Dance  Giles Andreae & Guy Parker-Rees
Julian is a Mermaid  Jessica Love
Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut  Derrick Barnes
I am Every Good Thing  Derrick Barnes
I am Enough  Grace Byers & Keturah A. Bob
I Believe I Can  Grace Byers & Keturah A. Bob
Skin Like Mine  LaTasha M. Perry
Hair Love  Matthew E. Cherry
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist  Javaka Steptoe
Jean-Michel Basquiat

Promoting Peace/Social Justice Books:
Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez  Duncan Tonatiuh
Her Family's Fight for Desegregation  Henry Belafonte
We are the Change  Monica Clark-Robinson & Frank Morrison
Let the Children March  Carole Boston Weatherford & R. Gregory Christie
Freedom in Congo Square  Nikki Grimes
Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice  Amanda Gorman
Change Sings  Peter Reynolds
Say Something  Peter Reynolds
Be You!  Carol Lindstrom
We are Water Protectors  We Rise, We Resist,
All Because You Matter  Wade Hudson (editor of 50 diverse authors & illustrators)
We Raise Our Voices  Peggy Moss
One of Us  Vladimir Radunsky
What Does Peace Feel Like?  Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, Ann Hazzard & Jennifer Zivion
Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story About Racial Injustice
Peace One Day the Making of World  Jeremy Gilley & Karen B少
Peace Day  Amnesty International UK Section 2008
We Are All Born Free  Jeanette Winter
The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq  Jane Baskwill
If Peace Is...  Heather Dean Brewer
Love is Powerful
The Undefeated
Kwame Alexander
A Million Visions of Peace
Jennifer Garrison
The Big Book of Peace
Collection by many authors
Peace Begins with You
Katherine Scholes
Peace in 100 Languages
Multiple authors
A Piece of Peace
Young authors
Peace Crane
Sheila Hamanaka
Sadako and the Thousand Cranes
Eleanor Coerr
Faithful Elephants
Tomoko Tsuchiya Dykes
Seven Brave Women
Betsy Hearne
Peace Week in Miss Fox's Class
Eileen Spinelli
The Peace Book
Todd Parr
The Butterfly
Patricia Polacco
Pink and Say
Patricia Polacco
January's Sparrow
Patricia Polacco
The Hating Book
Charlotte Zolotow
The Allegory
Eve Bunting
We Share One World
Jane E. Hoffelt
The Peace Seekers
Nathan Aaseng
Peace Flower
Ada Aharoni
You and I Can Change the World
Ada Aharoni
Seeds of Change
Jen Cullerton Johnson
Planting the Seeds of Kenya
Claire A. Nivola
Mama Titi (story of Wangari Maathia)
Donna Jo Napoli
Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa
Jeanette Winter
Planting The Trees of Kenya: The story of Wangari Maathai
Claire A. Nivola
When I Grow Up I will Win the Noble Peace Prize
Isabel Pin
Can You Say Peace?
Karen Katz
A Little Peace
Barbara Kerley
Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts About Peace
Anna Grossnickle Hines
Somewhere Today: A Book of Peace
Shelley Moore Thomas

Chapter Books that address Diversity for Read Aloud & to recommend to your Intermediate Elementary-High School Students

Wonder
F. J. Palacio
Rayme Nightingale
Kate DiCamillo
Louisiana's Way Home
Kate DiCamillo
Beverly Right Here
Kate DiCamillo
Rain Reign
Ann Martin
Wish Tree
Katherine Applegate
The War the Saved My Life
Kimberly Brurbaker Bradley
Ban This Book
Alan Gratz
The Insignificant Events in the Life of A Cactus
Dusti Bowling
Sequel: Momentous Events in the Life of A Cactus
Dusti Bowling
Brown Giel Dreaming
Jaqueline Woodson
Harbor Me
Jaqueline Woodson
Blended
Sharon Draper
Out of My Mind
Sharon Draper
One Crazy Summer
Rita Williams-Garcia
Crossover
Kwame Alexander
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise</td>
<td>Dan Gemeinhart</td>
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<td>Refugee</td>
<td>Alan Gratz</td>
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<td>Counting by Sevens</td>
<td>Holly Goldberg Sloan</td>
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<td>Shouting at the Rain</td>
<td>Lynda Mullaly Hunt</td>
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<td>Piercing Me Together</td>
<td>Renee Watson</td>
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<td>Free Lunch</td>
<td>Rex Ogle</td>
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<td>The Stars Beneath Our Feet</td>
<td>David Barclay Moore</td>
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<td>The Benefits of Being an Octopus</td>
<td>Ann Braden</td>
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<td>Ghost Boys</td>
<td>Jewell Rhodes</td>
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<td>The Thing About Jelly Fish</td>
<td>Ali Benjamin</td>
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<td>Dear Martin</td>
<td>Nic Stone</td>
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<td>The Hate U Give</td>
<td>Angie Thomas</td>
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<td>The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love &amp; Truth</td>
<td>Wade Hudson</td>
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<td>A Wish in the Dark</td>
<td>Christina Soontornvat</td>
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<td>Walk Two Moons</td>
<td>Sharon Creech</td>
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<td>Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks</td>
<td>Jason Reynolds and Alexander Nabaum</td>
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<td>Long Way Down</td>
<td>Jason Reynolds</td>
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<td>White Fragility</td>
<td>Robin Diangelo</td>
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<td>Stamped from the Beginning</td>
<td>Ibram X. Kendri</td>
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