



FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Race and Social Justice in Juvenile Fiction

Betty Before X

Ilyasah Shabazz (J Shabazz) 2018

Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and step-family in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the Civil Rights Movement.

Genesis Begins Again

Alicia D. Williams (J Williams) 2019

Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

Ghost Boys

Jewell Parker Rhodes (J Rhodes) 2018

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

A Good Kind of Trouble

Lisa Moore Ramee (J Ramee) 2019

After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.

It All Comes Down to This

Karen English (J English) 2017

In the summer of 1965, Sophie's family become the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life and her own place in it are a lot more complicated than they seemed.

The Lions of Little Rock

Kristin Levine (J Levine) 2012

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

The Long Ride

Marina Budhos (J Budhos) 2019

In New York in 1971, Jamila and Josie are bused across Queens where they try to fit in at a new, integrated junior high school while their best friend, Francesca, tests the limits at a private school.



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Ruby Lee & Me

Shannon Hitchcock (J Hitchcock) 2016

When a formerly segregated North Carolina town hires its first African-American teacher in 1969, two girls—one black, one white—confront the prejudice that challenges their friendship.

Stella by Starlight

Sharon Draper (J Draper) 2015

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA

Brenda Woods, (J Woods) 2019

Gabriel, twelve, gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.