

Escape. Connect. Relate.

Equalities & Diversity – Race & Racism

Our world, and our local communities, are made up of a diverse range of people with different ethnicities, cultural origins and backgrounds, national identities, and skin colours. All racial identities deserve to be celebrated and represented in British and Scottish society, as they all contribute to the culture we share.

Racism is discriminatory behaviours, policies, rules etc. that result in an unfair advantage to some people and unfair or harmful treatment of others based on their race.

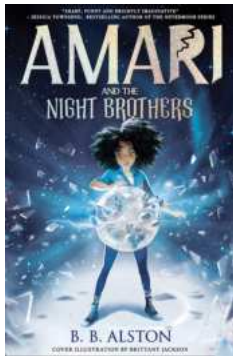
Cambridge Dictionary





ECR Suggested Reads

Many of our suggested reads are available from your school library and from [Edinburgh Libraries](#). Some books may contain triggering or upsetting content. Please use the age ratings as guidance and ask your school librarian for help. Books are listed in alphabetical order by author's surname.



Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Amari knows three things - her big brother Quinton has gone missing, no one will talk about it, and his mysterious job holds the secret. So when Amari gets an invitation to the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain this is her chance to find Quinton. But with an evil magician threatening the whole world, and her own classmates thinking she is the enemy, Amari has never felt more alone. And if she doesn't pass her tryouts, she may never find out what happened to Quinton...

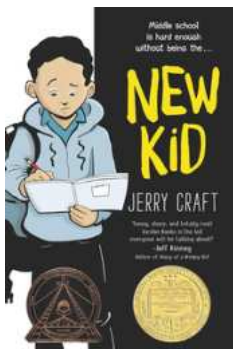
S1+, Transitions



A Change is Gonna Come by Mary Bello et al

This is an anthology of stories and poetry from BAME writers on the theme of change. Contributors include top Young Adult authors Patrice Lawrence and Nikesh Shukla alongside a host of fresh new voices.

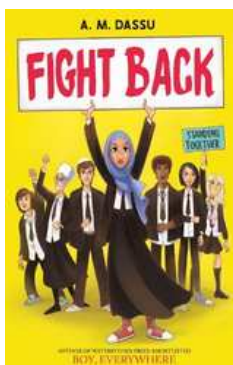
S3+, Anthology



New Kid by Jerry Craft

Jordan loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to art school, his parents enrol him in a private school, where Jordan is one of the few kids of colour. As he makes the trip from his apartment to the school, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping true to himself?

S1+, Graphic Novel



Fight Back by A.M. Dassu

Aaliyah, a Muslim, likes books, shoes, and K-pop. She has always felt at home where she lives until a terrorist attack changes everything. As racial tensions increase, Aaliyah decides to wear a hijab to challenge how people see her. But when her school bans the hijab and she is attacked for her choices, she feels isolated. Soon she realises that others also struggle with their identity and feel alone and judged. Together, can they all halt the tide of hatred in their community?

S1+



Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

There are no more monsters anymore, or so the children in the city of Lucille are taught. Alongside her best friend, Redemption, Jam has grown up with this lesson all her life. But when she meets Pet, a creature made of horns and colours and claws, who emerges from a painting and a drop of blood, she must reconsider. Pet is hunting a monster, and something grim lurks in Redemption's house. Jam must fight not only to protect her best friend, but also to uncover the truth.

S1+, Series



You Think You Know Me by Ayaan Mohamud

Hanan has always been good and quiet. She accepts her role as her school's perfect Muslim poster girl. She ignores the racist bullies. Then her friend is murdered and every Muslim is to blame. How can she stay silent while her family is ripped apart? It's time for Hanan to stop being the quiet, good girl. It's time for her to stand up and shout.

S3+



The Black Kids by Christina Hammonds Reed

Ashley's life changes when four police officers are acquitted after beating a black man named Rodney King half to death. Suddenly, Ashley's not just one of the girls - she's one of the black kids. As violent protests engulf LA and the city burns, Ashley tries to continue on as if life were normal, even as her world splinters around her. In the chaos, Ashley, along with the rest of LA, is left to question: who is the us? And who is the them?

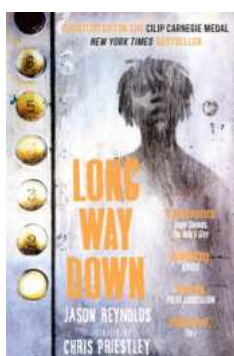
S3+



Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all that Ghost has ever known. Just never for a track team. But when he impulsively challenges an elite sprinter to a race - and wins - the track coach sees he has something: crazy natural talent. Thing is, Ghost has something else: a lot of anger, and a past that he is trying to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the team, or will his past finally catch up to him?

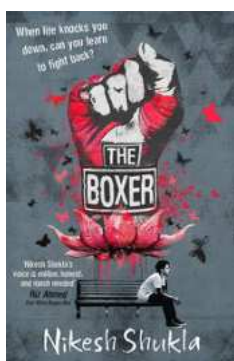
S1+, Series



Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

Fifteen-year-old Will has his brother's gun shoved in the back of his jeans. See, his brother was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where he's now heading. He gets on the elevator, 7th floor, stoked. He has 60 potent seconds to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. He knows who he's after. Or does he?

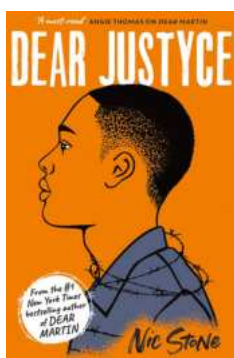
S1+, Verse novel



The Boxer by Nikesh Shukla

Seventeen-year-old Sunny is feeling isolated and disconnected in the city he's just moved to and joins a boxing club to learn to protect himself after a racist attack. He finds the community he's been desperately seeking at the club, and a mentor in trainer Shobu, who helps him find his place in the world. But racial tensions are rising in the city, and when a Far Right march through Bristol turns violent, Sunny is faced with losing his new best friend Keir to radicalisation.

S3+



Dear Justyce by Nic Stone

Vernell LaQuan Banks and Justyce McAllister grew up a block apart. But Justyce walks the halls of Yale University while Quan sits behind bars. Troubles at home and misunderstandings at school give rise to police encounters and tough decisions. But then there's a dead cop and a weapon with Quan's prints on it. What leads a bright kid down a road to a murder charge? Not even Quan is sure...

S1+, Series



Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas

With his King Lord dad in prison and his mom working two jobs, seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter helps the only way he knows how: slinging drugs. Life's not perfect, but he's got everything under control. Until he finds out he's a father... Suddenly it's not so easy to deal drugs and finish school with a baby dependent on him for everything. So when he's offered the chance to go straight, he takes it. But when King Lord blood runs through your veins, you don't get to just walk away.

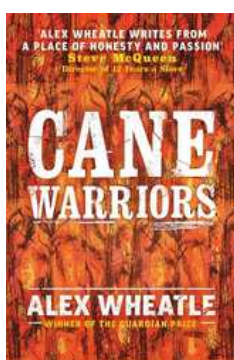
S3+



On the Come Up by Angie Thomas

Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least make it out of her neighborhood one day. But now that her mom has lost her job, foodbanks and shutoff notices are as much a part of Bri's life as beats and rhymes. With bills piling up and homelessness staring her family down, Bri no longer just wants to make it – she has to make it.

S3+

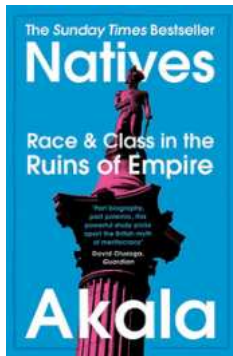


Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle

The only life Moa has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation for endless hot days, fearing the vicious whips of the overseers. Then one night he learns of an uprising, led by the charismatic Tacky. Moa is to be a cane warrior, and fight for the freedom of all the enslaved people in the nearby plantations. But before they can escape, Moa must face his first great task: to kill the overseer. Time is ticking, and the day of the uprising approaches...

S3+

Information Books



Natives by Akala

From the first time he was stopped and searched as a child, to the day he realised his mum was white, to his first encounters with racist teachers - race and class have shaped Akala's life and outlook. Akala takes his own experiences and widens them out to look at the social, historical and political factors that have left us where we are today.

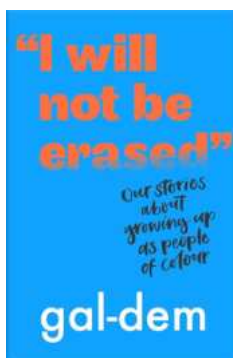
S3+



Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge

Exploring issues from eradicated black history to the political purpose of white dominance. From whitewashed feminism to the inextricable link between class and race. Reni Eddo-Lodge offers a timely and essential new framework for how to see, acknowledge and counter racism. It is a searing, illuminating, absolutely necessary exploration of what it is to be a person of colour in Britain today.

S3+



I Will Not Be Erased published by gal-dem

gal-dem, the award-winning online and print magazine, is created by women and non-binary people of colour. In this life-affirming, moving and joyous collection of fourteen essays, *gal-dem*'s talented writers use raw material from their teenage years - diaries, poems and chat histories - to give advice to their younger selves and those growing up today.

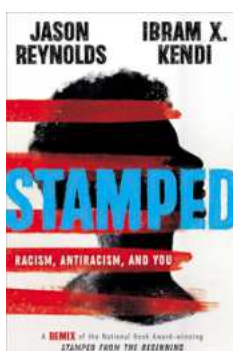
S3+



What is Race? Who Are Racists? Why Does Skin Colour Matter? And Other Big Questions by Claire Heuchan and Nikesh Shukla

Talk about race is often discouraged, but this book aims to bring everyone into the conversation. It explores the history of race and society and looks at belonging and identity, the damaging effects of stereotyping and the benefits of positive representation.

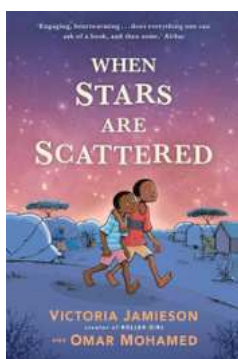
S1+



Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

This young readers adaptation of Ibram X. Kendi's adult book chronicles the history of racist ideas in America - ideas developed by some of the most brilliant minds in history to justify and rationalise discrimination. But while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited. This book offers readers tools to combat these ideas and gives society a reason to hope.

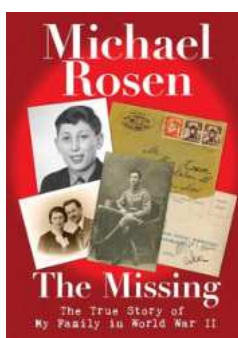
S1+



When Stars Are Scattered by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson

Omar lives with his little brother Hassan in a refugee camp in Kenya. They've been there for seven years, waiting for the civil war in Somalia to end so that they can try to find their parents. Life in the camp is hard but Omar looks for hope. He plays football, entertains Hassan, and goes to school - he wants to be a social worker and help other kids too.

S1+, Graphic Memoir



The Missing: The True Story of My Family in World War II by Michael Rosen

When Michael Rosen was a child, there were stories about relatives in Europe who disappeared in the war. As an adult, Michael spent many years tracing his family and wrote this book describing the impact of the Holocaust - the missing people, the displacement of the survivors, and their grief for the missing.

S1+



Me and White Supremacy: Young Readers' Edition by Layla F. Saad

In this Young Adult edition of her adult book, Layla addresses readers of all races to help them better understand racism. Like the original book, it explores different concepts that contribute to white supremacy and how we can help dismantle it to create a fairer world. It can be worked through together or in groups.

S1+



Resources

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Discrimination

Discrimination definition, advice and support for young people from Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/your-rights/discrimination-hate-crime-equality/>

Racism

Racism definition, advice and support for young people from Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/crime-law/racism-racial-bullying/>

Information, advice and support for young people from Young Minds

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/racism-and-mental-health/>

Stereotypes

Stereotypes definition, advice and support for young people from Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/your-rights/understand-me/>