

Picture Books

All the Way to the Top by Annette Bay Pimental

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, Jennifer Keelan grew up battling-and overcoming-the limitations others set for her. From a lack of cutaway curbs and bus lifts to being denied enrollment at her neighborhood school, Jennifer was continually blocked from living the life she wanted. But after discovering the world of disability rights activism, she knew she had to use her voice to change things. When Jennifer was just eight years old, she participated in the Capitol Crawl. The deeply affecting image of Jennifer crawling up the steps of Capitol Hill went viral and helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson

When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

I Can Help by Reem Faruqi

Zahra loves spending time with Kyle at school, but when her other classmates start teasing her for helping him she starts making choices she regrets.

I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoet

An elementary school girl witnesses the bullying of another girl, but she is not sure how to help.

Just Help: How to Build a Better World by Sonia Sotomayor

In a story inspired by her own family's desire to help others, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor takes young readers on a journey through a neighborhood where kids and adults, activists and bus drivers, friends and strangers all help one another to build a better world for themselves and their community.

Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai

The author presents her story and life philosophy, describing how she wished for a magic pencil that she would use to fix the world's problems, and how she realized that even if she never found the pencil, she could still have a positive impact.

Our House is on Fire by Jeanette Winter

Tells the story of Greta Thunberg, a Swedish teenage climate activist who has sparked a worldwide student movement, and is demanding action from world leaders who refuse to address climate change.

Something Happened in Our Town by Marianne Celano

After discussing the police shooting of a local Black man with their families, Emma and Josh know how to treat a new student who looks and speaks differently than his classmates. Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers that provides general guidance about addressing racism with children, child-friendly vocabulary definitions, conversation guides, and a link to additional online resources for parents and teachers.

Something, Someday by Amanda Gorman

You're told that this won't work, but how will you know if you never try?... Sometimes the world feels broken. And problems seem too big to fix. But somehow, we all have the power to make a difference. With a little faith, and maybe the help of a friend, together we can find beauty and create change.

Speak Up by Miranda Paul

Illustrations and easy-to-read, rhyming text encourage the reader to speak up about everything from their own name being mispronounced to someone bringing a weapon to school. Includes author's note about real people who have found their voices, when to speak up, and how to express oneself without speaking.

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles

For months six-year-old Ruby Bridges must confront the hostility of white parents when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960.

The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson

Presents the life of nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks who became the youngest known child to be arrested for picketing against Birmingham segregation practices in 1963.

Chapter Books

American as Paneer Pie by Supriya Kelkar

When a racist incident rocks her small Michigan town, eleven-year-old Lekha must decide whether to speak up or stay silent, even as she struggles to navigate her life at home, where she can be herself, and at school, where she is teased about her culture.

The Antiracist Kid by Tiffany Jewell

In three sections, this must-have guide explains: Identity: What it is and how it applies to you Justice: What it is, what racism has to do with it, and how to address injustice Activism: A how-to with resources to be the best antiracist kid you can be. This book teaches young children the words, language, and methods to recognize racism and injustice—and what to do when they encounter it at home, at school, and in the media they watch, play, and read.

Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz

Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.

Jennifer Chan is Not Alone by Tae Keller

Mallory Moss knows the most important rule of middle school: You have to fit in to survive. But then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street, and she doesn't care about the laws of middle school. Then Jennifer goes missing. Using clues from Jennifer's journals, Mallory goes searching. But the closer she gets, the more Mallory has to confront why Jennifer might have run away, and face the truth within herself.

Kids Speak Out About Bullying by Chris Schwab

Bullying hurts people around the world every single day. How can we help stop it? By speaking out! Learn about some incredible kids who had the courage to speak out about bullying and what you can do to join them.

Make Your Mark, Make a Difference by Joan Marie Galat

Discover the path to becoming a champion of change! From climate challenges to the Black Lives Matter movement to protecting the smallest of endangered species, this book leads you through an overview of issues, essential human rights background, and stories of how other young activists tackle local, national, and international problems.

The Many Masks of Andy Zhou by Jack Cheng

Sixth grader Andy Zhou grapples with fitting in, befriends a bully, drifts apart from his childhood best friend, and gets to know grandparents who have just moved from Shanghai to live with his family.

Say It Out Loud by Allison Varnes

Self-conscious of her stutter, Charlotte says nothing as her best friend is bullied, but as the school year goes on she realizes some things are worth speaking up for.

She Persisted: Ruby Bridges by Kekla Magoon

A chapter book biography of Ruby Bridges

She Persisted: Malala Yousafzai by Aisha Saeed

Growing up in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai loved going to school. But when dangerous forces took over her community, she had to fight every step of the way to get an education. After she was attacked for her belief that all children, including girls, deserve to get an education, Malala took her fight to the world stage, pushing for the right to an education for every girl, everywhere.

Stamped (for kids): racism, anti-racism, and you by Sonja Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, and Ibram X. Kendi

This book takes readers on a journey from present to past and back again. Kids will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives.

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges

Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.