



GRBDIA RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Fiction and non-fiction books by black authors or with black protagonists for incorporation into classroom studies.

Note: Some books listed for the older grades may also work in social studies/history classrooms.

Pre-K - 2

Sulwe
Lupita Nyong'o

Hair Love
Matthew A. Cherry

Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super Soaking Stream of Inventions
Chris Barton

The Water Princess
Susan Verde

My Brother Charlie
Holly Robinson-Peete and
Ryan Elizabeth Peete

*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters:
An African Tale*
John Steptoe

*Henry's Freedom Box A True Story
from the Underground Railroad*
Ellen Levine

Dancing in the Wings
Debbie Allen

*Fly High!: The Story of
Bessie Coleman*
Louise Borden and Mary Kae Kroeger

CeCe Loves Science
Kimberly Derting & Shelly R. Johannes

Through My Eyes
Ruby Bridges

*Little Leaders: Bold Women in
Black History*
Vashi Harrison

*Little Leaders: Exceptional Men in
Black History*
Vashti Harrison

The Day You Begin
Jacqueline Woodson

Shortcut
Donald Crews

Tar Beach
Faith Ringgold

I Am Enough
Grace Byers

*The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes:
The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath*
Julia Finley Mosca

The Word Collector
Peter H. Reynolds

What Do You Do with a Chance
Kobi Yamada

*Flying High: The Story of Gymnastics
Champion Simone Biles*
Michelle Meadows

Jabari Jumps
Gaia Cornwall

Change Sings
Amanda Gorman

3rd - 5th

Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice
Nikki Grimes (picture book)

Brown Girl Dreaming
Jacqueline Woodson (historical
fiction)

*Keena Ford and the Second Grade
Mix-Up*
Melissa Thomson

Kickoff!
Tiki and Ronde Barber

The Crossover
Kwame Alexander

*The Friendship
Code*
Stacia Deutsch

*Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical
Pioneer Vivien Thomas*
Gwendolyn Hooks

Life in Motion
Misty Copeland (memoir)

Superheroes Are Everywhere
Kamala Harris (picture book)

*Stamped (for Kids): Racism
Anti-Racism and You*
Sonja Cherry-Paul Jason Reynolds
and Ibram X. Kendi

Ghost
Jason Reynolds

Stella by Starlight
Sharon M. Draper

Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry
Mildred D. Taylor

6th - 8th

One Crazy Summer
Rita Williams-Garcia
(historical fiction)

Ninth Ward (The Louisiana Girls series)
Jewel Parker Rhodes

Hold Fast
Blue Balliett

The Red Pencil
Andrea Davis Pinkney (historical fiction)

By the Might of Angels
Andrea Davis Pinkney

The Stars Beneath Our Feet
David Barclay Moore

Ghost Boys
Jewell Parker Rhodes

Stamped: Racism Anti-Racism and You (Remix)
Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky
Kwame Mbalia

The Only Black Girls in Town
Brandy Colbert

Just South of Home
Karen Strong

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer
Lamar Giles

9th - 12th

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration
Isabel Wilkerson

Caste: The Origin of Our Discontent
Isabel Wilkerson

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America
Ibram X. Kendi

How to be an Anti-Racist
Ibram X. Kendi

In Love & Trouble
Alice Walker

The Vanishing Half: A Novel
Brit Bennett

Things Fall Apart
Chinua Achebe

Their Eyes Were Watching God
Zora Neale Hurston

The Nickel Boys
Coleson Whitehead

Americanah
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Kindred
Octavia Butler