



ST. MARY ACADEMY - BAY VIEW

Resources on helpful ways to talk to your child about national events

Our school year is closing in the midst of national turmoil due to institutionalized racism and bigotry. We are being confronted with the complex realities of race, racial identity, and racism. Some parents reached out to Bay View asking for suggested reading that might help open family conversations about these sensitive topics. We are heartened to know that you are considering using this backdrop to focus on these issues with your daughter and offer the book selections below as potential supports. One of the Mercy Critical Concerns is Racism and we work tirelessly to create hearts and conditions that celebrate diversity, respect and understanding.

Resources

[Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup](#)

[Talking to Children About Racial Bias](#)

[White parents, here's how to start talking to your children about race](#)

[How to talk to kids about race and racism, according to experts](#)

PK through 3

When God Made You by Matthew Paul Turner

From early on, children are looking to discover their place in the world and longing to understand how their personalities, traits, and talents fit in. The assurance that they are deeply loved and a unique creation in our big universe is certain to help them spread their wings and fly. *When God Made You* inspires young readers to learn about their own special gifts and how they fit into God's divine plan as they grow, explore, and begin to create for themselves.

The Sandwich Swap by Rania Al-Abdullah, Kelly DiPucchio

Lily and Salma are best friends. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus -- but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? The smallest things can pull us apart -- until we learn that friendship is far more powerful than differences. In a glorious three-page gatefold at the end of the book, Salma, Lily, and all their classmates come together in the true spirit of tolerance and acceptance.

Peace is an Offering by Annette LeBox

This is a warm, loving book that depicts children finding joy in the everyday things; learning that peace is all around them.

Kindergarten

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

A heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you, but somehow you do it. (Ages 4-8)

My Hair is a Garden by Cozbi A. Cabrera

After a day of being taunted by classmates about her unruly hair, Mackenzie can't take any more and she seeks guidance from her wise and comforting neighbor, Miss Tillie. Using the beautiful garden in the backyard as a metaphor, Miss Tillie shows Mackenzie that maintaining healthy hair is not a chore nor is it something to fear. Most importantly, Mackenzie learns that natural Black hair is beautiful. (Ages 5-8)

Grade 1

Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills by Renee Watson

Born to parents who were both former slaves, Florence Mills knew at an early age that she loved to sing, and that her sweet, bird-like voice, resonated with those who heard her. Performing catapulted her all the way to the stages of 1920s Broadway where she inspired everyone from songwriters to playwrights. Yet with all her success, she knew firsthand how prejudice shaped her world and the world of those around her. As a result, Florence chose to support and promote works by fellow Black performers while heralding a call for their civil rights. (Ages 3-7)

Marisol McDonal Doesn't Match by Monica Brown

Marisol is Peruvian-Scottish-American, and she celebrates every aspect of her identity. She has red hair and brown skin, speaks English and Spanish (the book is available in both languages), and she eats peanut butter and jelly burritos for lunch and plays pirate princess soccer at recess. When she's told she doesn't "match," Marisol tries to be all one-thing, She fits in, but she is diminished and listless. A teacher writes her a note to tell her that she misses the Marisol she knows, and Marisol bounces back.

Grade 2

Sojourner's Truth's Step-Stomp Stride by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Born into slavery, Belle had to endure the cruelty of several master before she escaped to freedom. But she knew she wouldn't really be free unless she was helping to end injustice. That's when she changed her name to Sojourner and began traveling across the country, demanding equal rights for Black people and for women. Many people weren't ready for her message, but Sojourner was brave, and her truth was powerful. (Ages 5-9)

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales

A woman and her child leave Mexico to live in the United States. When they arrive in the U.S. they have a very difficult time navigating life in their new country. They don't speak the language, and they do not understand many things. One day they find a library and it changes everything. They begin reading books and learning the English language and so many other new things! Now that they can speak the language they have a voice. They have dreams about what they will become in the new land, and how to make their home there.

All are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold

Depicts a group of kids in a day at their school. They come from a wide range of cultures, and they share these cultures with each other through food (at lunch), music, art, and their stories. *All are Welcome* shows how these differences are their community's strength. Not only are different cultures and races represented, there are kids with disabilities as well as a variety of family configurations shown.

Grades 3-5

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

An important book for all ages, Little Leaders educates and inspires as it related true stories of forty trailblazing Black women in American history. Among these biographies, readers will find heroes, role models, and everyday women who did extraordinary things- bold women whose actions and beliefs contributed to making the world a better place for generations of girls and women to come. (Ages 8-11)

Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford

Amid the scholars, poets, and artists of the Harlem Renaissance stood an Afro-Puerto Rican named Arturo Schomburg. This law clerk's life passion was to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora and to bring to light the achievements of people of African descent throughout the ages. When his collection becomes so big that it overflows his house he turned to the New York Public Library, where he created and curated a collection was the cornerstone of a new Negro Division. A century later, his groundbreaking collection, known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, has become a beacon to scholars all over the world. (5)

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Joojin. Except now she's in middle school and everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls. Does Amina need to start changing too? Or changing who she is to fit in? *Amina's Voice* brings to life the joys and challenges of a young Pakistani American and highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other.

Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs

This book is inspired by the stone art of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr. It depicts a family who has a happy and loving life in Syria, until war turns their home into somewhere unfamiliar and unsafe. They are forced to flee, packing as much of their lives as they can carry. The unnamed family can serve as an every person story about refugees, and the collage art is surprisingly evocative.