

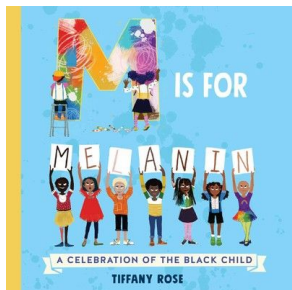


Black History Month 2021

Book recommendations by Teachers and Staff

Mr. Archer, Secondary English Teacher, recommends

For children

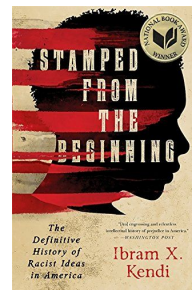


***M is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child* (2019) by Tiffany Rose**

I had the pleasure of teaching with author-illustrator

Tiffany Rose several years ago. Rose's bright and cheerful illustrations bring the alphabet to life for young children with one simple message: affirming that black is beautiful and that black children are worthy and bring intangible joy to our world.

For High School readers



***Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (2016) by Ibram X Kendi**

A millennial historian, Ibram Kendi spent years investigating historical records to address with clarity and painful honesty questions that many historians have subconsciously and even intentionally failed to embrace. He helps us connect the dots to understand how systemic discrimination persists and to understand the role that we -- that anyone -- can play in perpetuating racism but also in engaging solutions. Stamped and his newly released works, such as [How To Be An Antiracist](#), can help us personally and collectively embrace an antiracist ethos.

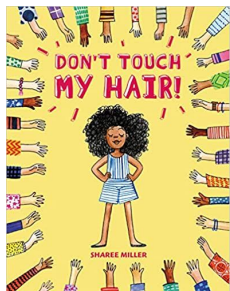
Watch:



"Amos, amas, amat: What's SHE doing in a field like THAT?!" TedxHamiltonCollege (2017) by Shelley P Haley

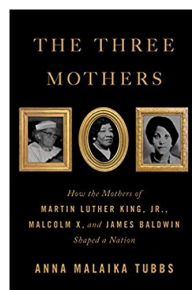
Professor of Classics at Hamilton College, Dr Haley has spent her life doing what she calls "going against the grain:" rejecting stereotypes and assumptions that colleagues, students and neighbors have levied upon her as a black female historian of the ancient Greco-Roman world. Dr. Haley's reading of ancient texts and embrace of critical race theory leads her to question and expose implicit bias in the writing of the classics from antiquity to the present. She inspires us to be 'crossovers' - to embrace every part of ourselves - from our inherited cultural identity to our unique passions. Dr. Haley quotes black feminist author Mae Gwendolyn Henderson: "aim for unity of understanding within the dialects of your identity."

Ms. Armstrong, Maternelle English Teacher, recommends - For children



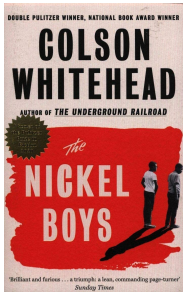
***Don't Touch my Hair* (2018) by Sharee Miller.**

Ms. Cakouros, Secondary English Teacher, recommends - For High School readers and adults



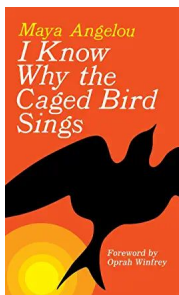
***The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation* (2021) by Anna Malaika Tubbs.** *This book explores the lives of Alberta King, Berdis Baldwin, and Louise Little: the mothers of three of some of the most important historical figures in the U.S. It truly shines light on the often forgotten lives of black women and their tireless dedication to equality.*

Mme Charlet, Secondary Librarian, recommends



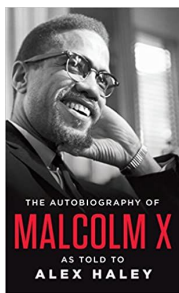
Nickel Boys (2019) by Colson Whitehead. Inspiré d'une histoire vraie, ce roman raconte l'histoire d'Elwood, jeune Noir brillant, rêveur, envoyé dans une maison de correction à la suite d'une erreur judiciaire ; la Nickel Academy for Boys se révèle être un lieu de cauchemar, de tortures, et de déshumanisation totale. Ce que j'ai adoré c'est l'écriture pure, percutante, de Colson Whitehead, sans pathos. Un vrai coup de cœur, et un livre qui a permis à son auteur de recevoir pour la deuxième fois le Prix Pulitzer, comme seulement Faulkner et Updike avant lui.

Ms. Kidd, Secondary English Teacher, recommends - For high school and adult readers

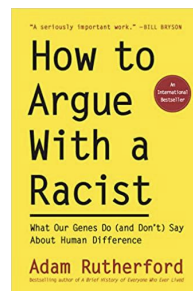


I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1969) by Maya Angelou.

Mr. King, Secondary English Teacher, recommends

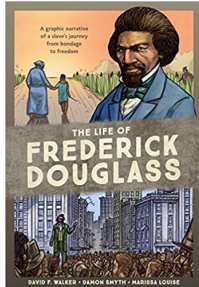


The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley (1964) by Alex Haley and Malcolm X. Charting his journey from Malcolm Little, to Detroit Red, and finally Malcolm X, this is one of the most influential nonfiction books of the 20th century and a truly great work of literature. On a personal note, it was the major inspiration behind my master's thesis.



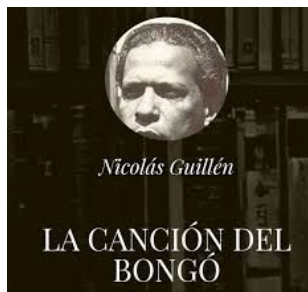
How to Argue with a Racist: What Our Genes Do (and Don't) Say About Human Difference (2020) by Adam Rutherford. This concise deconstruction of racial myths and stereotypes is, as the author states, a "weapon" to confront racism, which skilfully weaves together genetics, sociology, and personal narrative "to tackle questions on race, genes and ancestry".

Mme Lassus, Economics & social sciences Secondary Teacher, recommends



The Life of Frederick Douglass: A Graphic Narrative of a Slave's Journey from Bondage to Freedom (2019) by David F. Walker. Illustrated by Damon Smyth and Marissa Louise.

Ana Martinez, Secondary Spanish Teacher, recommends



Poems by **Nicolás Guillén**. Born in Cuba at the turn of the 20th century, Nicolás Guillén was one of the first writers to affirm and celebrate the Afro-Cuban presence and experience.

A few of Mrs. Martinez' favorite poems are: *Balada de los abuelos*, *La canción del Bongó*, *Mulata*, *Canto Negro*, *Ébano Real*, *La Muralla*.

Mme Maugey-Cadilhac, Literature Secondary Teacher, recommends

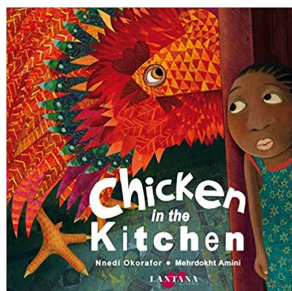


Pluie et vent sur Télumée Miracle (1972)
by **Simone Schwarz-Bart** (Eng. *The Bridge of Beyond*).

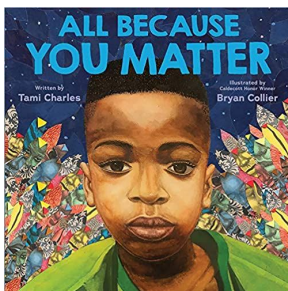


En attendant le vote des bêtes sauvages (1999) by **Ahmadou Kourouma** (Eng. *Waiting for the Wild Beasts to Vote and Waiting for the Vote of the Wild Animals*).

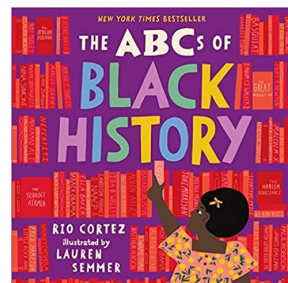
Mr. and Mrs. Percy, English and History-geography Secondary Teachers,
recommend - For children



Chicken in the Kitchen (2015) by Nnedi Okorafor. Illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini. A colorful and vibrant tale of a little girl, a masquerade, and traditions that matter. An introduction to the fascinating, intriguing, and liberating world of Nigerian-American author [Nnedi Okorafor](#).

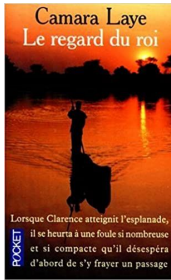


All Because You Matter (2020) by Tami Charles. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. An uplifting love letter from a mother to her child written as a celebration of all black children. Or, in the writer's words, "a tribute to the greatness that lives within beautiful, brown-hued children."

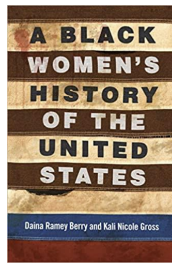


The ABCs of Black History (2020) by Pushcart-nominated poet Rio Cortez. Illustrated by Lauren Semmer. *P* is for Power, *S* is for Science and Soul. With beautiful illustrations and rhymes, this abecedarian tells a powerful narrative which does not shy away from struggle and pain and celebrates black men and women's resistance and triumphs.

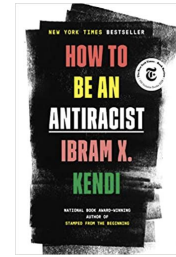
Mr. and Mrs. Percy, English and History-geography Secondary Teachers, recommend - For high school readers and adults



Le regard du roi (1954) by **Camara Laye** (Eng. *The Radiance of the King*). Both a novel and a tale, an adventure and an allegory, an anthropological experiment and a philosophical essay, *The Radiance of the King* invites you on a journey to discover oneself through one's transformation into the Other.

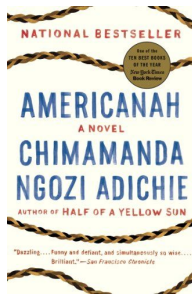


A Black Women's History of the United States. ReVisioning American History (2020) by **Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross**. 2021 NAACP Image Award Nominee: Outstanding Literary Work – Non-Fiction. With this book, Daina Berry, professor of History at the University of Texas, and Kali Gross, professor of History at Rutgers University, have written the first comprehensive and truly diverse account of the fundamental contributions of black women to American society, economy, and culture.

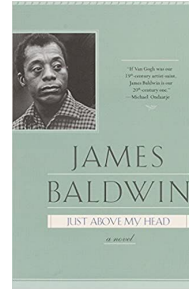


How to Be an Antiracist (2019) by **Ibram X. Kendi**. In this book, Ibram X. Kendi formulates a simple, yet profound and transformative, paradigm that enlightens and inspires, explains and spurs to action. Drawing from both scholarly knowledge and experience, Dr Kendi shows how the way forward in the fight for racial justice can only be achieved with intentional antiracist ideas, attitudes, and policies. Because "there is no neutrality in the racism struggle. The opposite of "racist" isn't "not racist." ... One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is not in between safe space of 'not racist.' The claim of 'not racist' neutrality is a mask for racism.

Ms. Perotti, Literature SEcondary Teacher, recommends

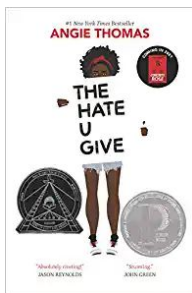


Americanah (2013) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.



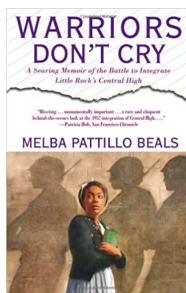
Just Above My Head (1979) by James Baldwin (Fr. Harlem Quartet).

Ms. Thompson, Primary School Counselor, recommends - For high school readers

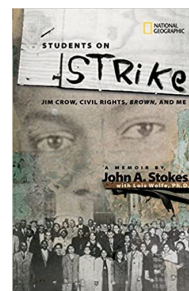


The Hate U Give (2017) by Angie Thomas.

Ms. Zappe, English Secondary Teacher, recommends - For middle school readers



Warriors Don't Cry (1995) by Melba Pattillo Beals. *In this narrative, Melba Beals talks about her own experiences as one of the Little Rock Nine.*



Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown, and Me (2007) by John A. Stokes. *This memoir recounts the activist experiences of a student who later became a plaintiff in Brown v. Board of Education*