

American Social Issues in Graphic Novels: American Voices - Grade 11 Outside Reading

Bell, Darrin. ***The Talk*** - This graphic memoir . . . offers a deeply personal meditation on the 'the talk' parents must have with Black children about racism and the brutality that often accompanies it, a ritual attempt to keep kids safe and prepare them for a world that--to paraphrase Toni Morrison--does not love them . . . Bell examines how "the talk" has shaped nearly every moment of his life into adulthood and fatherhood. . . Drawing attention to the brutal murders of African Americans like Trayvon Martin and Eric Garner, and showcasing his award-winning cartoons along the way, Bell takes us up to the very moment of reckoning when people took to the streets protesting the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and when he must have 'the talk' with a six-year-old son of his own. (Pulitzer Prize winner) (352 p.)

Bernardin, Marc. ***Messenger: the Legend of Muhammad Ali*** - Presents an illustrated biography of the legendary boxer Muhammad Ali covering his rise from Cassius Clay to heavyweight champion of the world, and including his first meeting with civil rights leader Malcolm X, his interview with sports broadcaster Howard Cosell discussing why he opposed the Vietnam War, and his bout against George Foreman, and more. (240p.)

Brooks, Max. ***The Harlem Hellfighters*** - Follows the journey of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the first African American regiment mustered to fight in World War I, from the enlistment lines in Harlem to the training camp at Spartanburg, South Carolina, to the trenches in France, all while facing struggles and discrimination for a chance to fight for America. (272 p.)

Kendi, Ibram X. ***Stamped from the Beginning: a Graphic History of Racist Ideas in America*** - A comprehensive history of anti-black racism in graphic format focuses on the lives of five major players in American history and highlights the debates that took place between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and anti-racists. (288 p.)

Long, Mark. ***The Silence of Our Friends*** - This semi-autobiographical tale is set in 1967 Texas, against the backdrop of the fight for civil rights. A white family from a notoriously racist neighborhood in the suburbs and a black family from its poorest ward cross Houston's color line, overcoming humiliation, degradation, and violence to win the freedom of five black college students unjustly charged with the murder of a policeman. (208 p.)

Medina, Tony. ***I am Alfonso Jones*** - *The Hate U Give* meets *The Lovely Bones* in this unflinching graphic novel about the afterlife of a young man killed by an off-duty police officer, co-illustrated by *New York Times* bestselling artist John Jennings. (176 p.)

Neufeld, Josh. ***A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*** - Presents the stories of seven survivors of Hurricane Katrina who tried to evacuate, protect their possessions, and save loved ones before, during, and after the flood.(193 p.)

Smith, Tommie. ***Victory Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice*** - A groundbreaking and timely graphic memoir from one of the most iconic figures in American sports-and a tribute to his fight for civil rights. On October 16, 1968, during the medal ceremony at the Mexico City Olympics, Tommie Smith, the gold medal winner in the 200-meter sprint, and John Carlos, the bronze medal winner, stood on the podium in black socks and raised their black-gloved fists to protest racial injustice inflicted upon African Americans. Both men were forced to leave the Olympics, received death threats, and faced ostracism and continuing economic hardships. In his first-ever memoir for young readers, Tommie Smith looks back on his childhood growing up in rural Texas through to his stellar athletic career, culminating in his historic victory and Olympic podium protest. (208 p.)

