



PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

Congregational School Anti-Racism Resources Part 1 – June 2020

HOW TO BE A RACIAL TRANSFORMER

Here's a sample illustration to remind you of the many possible ways to use your power—your superpowers—as a Racial Transformer.

OPEN MIND: learn about others' histories, plights and aspirations, and make conscious choices that prioritize racial equity and inclusion.

ALERT EYES: keep your eyes on the prize by envisioning real solutions to the realities of racism, using an equity-conscious lens, rather than colorblindness.

BIG EARS: listen to, and learn from, people of color.

VOCAL MOUTH: speak up and speak out about injustices—and help others find their voice by knowing when *not* to speak.

STRONG BACKBONE: muster the courage to take risks, go against the grain and even make mistakes.

LOVING HEART: respect and uplift the dignity and humanity of every person.

ROLLED-UP SLEEVES: dig in and do the work—not just talk—of racial justice.

OUTSTRETCHED ARMS: join hands with others unlike you in organizing and building power for change.

DECODER RING: watch out for coded racism and expose it.

SMART PHONE (if you have one): inform and activate your networks—blog, share, tweet, comment, and post prolifically about race issues and actions.

POCKETBOOK: donate to social change causes (especially those lead by people of color); and support good businesses and boycott the bad ones.

MOVING LEGS: visibly "vote with your body" by showing up in support and solidarity at public actions, marches and rallies.

GROUNDLED FEET: dig in for the long haul—holding onto your values, allies, aspirations and spirit—eager to dance in the delight of being on a worthwhile and winning road to justice.



COLORLINES®.com

*Please note that though the below suggestions are listed according to age appropriateness, we still advise parents to review the materials and/or join their child in exploring these resources.

For Younger Families

[*A Kids' Book About Racism*](#)

[Talking Race with Young Children](#) (podcast)

[Starting to Talk About Race](#) (tips and book suggestions for young children)

Grades 4 & Up (Ideal for Family Discussion)

["A White Woman, Racism, and a Poodle"](#)

[Introduction to Microaggressions](#) (podcast)

[Books for Grades 4–12 with Black Main Characters](#)

Resources for Older Kids (Middle School/High School)

[Systemic Racism Explained](#) (good introductory short video)

[Not My Idea](#) (handmade picture book for middle schoolers)

["No. You Cannot Touch My Hair!"](#) (TEDx Talk)

["Reflections from a Token Black Friend"](#)

Movies/Documentaries for Older Families to Watch Together

[13th](#)

[Just Mercy](#) (free in month of June, among other films)

[Selma](#)

Poems for Middle School/Teens & Family Discussion

["The Tradition" by Jericho Brown](#)

["I, Too" by Langston Hughes](#)

["Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou](#)

Books for Older Teens/Parents

The Color of Water by James McBride (excellent read for teens and adults, intersecting Judaism and racism)

So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

White Rage by Carol Anderson

Stamped by Ibram X. Kendi (Good book for teens)

Please note there are two versions of this book – one for teens, one more appropriate for adults.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes (Great for high school)

Resources for Parents/Family Discussions

[Rabbi Cosgrove's recent sermon and article](#) are wonderful material for family discussion.

["What We in the Black Community Need from Jews Right Now"](#)

[Children's books about racism by age](#) (preschool through teens)

[*Beyond the Golden Rule*](#) (book guide to talking about tolerance and prejudice with kids and teens)

["Helping Children Cope With Frightening News"](#) (The Child Mind Institute has many resources, but this article specifically guides how to discuss fear and grief with kids.)

["Racism and Violence: How to Help Kids Handle the News"](#) (another Child Mind Institute article outlining how to support your kids in these scary times)

["Is My Skin Brown Because I Drank Chocolate Milk?"](#) (TEDx Talk)

["Believe Us': Black Jews Respond in Their Own Words"](#) (a great conversation piece for families)

[*Jewish Perspectives on Racial Justice*](#) (a family dinner discussion guide)

["George Floyd, Racism, and Law Enforcement"](#) (ADL's guide to family discussion about racism with teens)