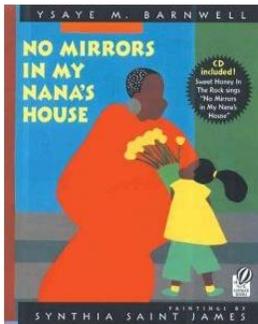


Tikkun Olam at PAS

Racial Equality Reading List for Kids

Early Elementary

- Barnwell, Ysaye M. *No Mirrors in My Nana's House*. NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1998.

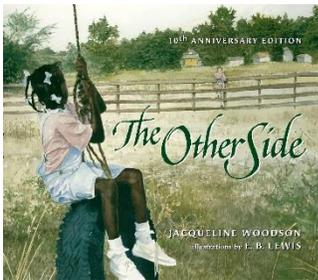


Barnwell's resplendent, inspiring sentiments are a perfect read-aloud or sing-along, and readers will instantly warm to the joyous protagonist, taught by her Nana to celebrate life. “There were no mirrors in my Nana's house/no mirrors in my Nana's house/So the beauty that I saw in everything/the beauty in everything/was in her eyes/like the rising of the sun.” And so Nana's house is magical. Because it has no mirrors, there are no judgments about skin color, beauty, or poverty, and “I only knew love and I never knew hate.” The artwork is made of bright, bold colors and expressive figures. The grandmother soars above the child wearing crooked pants, a mountain of strength and love. Every scene embraces the exultations of the text. Every page is an affectionate study in color, and an enhancement of Barnwell's words. (Picture book. 4–7)

-Source: Publisher

[Link](#) to read-aloud and songs from the book.

- Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side*. N.Y.: G.P. Putnam's Sons. c. 2001.

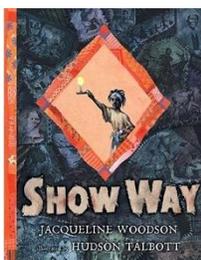


Jacqueline Woodson is the 2018–2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African-American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together. With the addition of a brand-new author's note, this special edition celebrates the 10th anniversary of the classic book. As always, Woodson moves readers with her lyrical narrative, and E. B. Lewis's amazing talent shines in his gorgeous watercolor illustrations.

-Source: Publisher

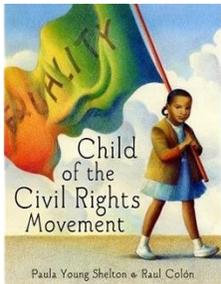
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Show Way*. New York: G.P. Putnam, c. 2005.



Show Way is a 2005 children's picture book by American author Jacqueline Woodson with illustrations by Hudson Talbott. It recounts the stories of seven generations of African Americans and is based on the author's own family history. *Show Way* was a John Newbery Medal Honor Book in 2006.

[Watch Woodson reading Show Way.](#)

- Shelton, Paula. *Child of the Civil Rights Movement*. N.Y.: Schwartz and Wade, 2010.



In this Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year, Paula Young Shelton, daughter of Civil Rights activist Andrew Young, brings a child's unique perspective to an important chapter in America's history.

Shelton grew up in the Deep South, in a world where whites had and blacks did not. With an activist father and a community of leaders surrounding her, including Uncle Martin (Martin Luther King), Shelton watched and listened to the struggles, eventually joining with her family—and thousands of others—in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. Poignant, moving, and hopeful, this is an intimate look at the birth of the Civil Rights Movement.

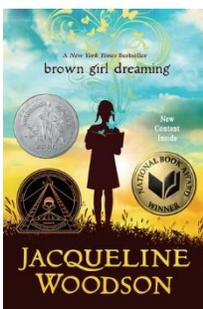
Upper Elementary

- Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*. NY: Harper Collins, 2019. (Graphic Novel)



Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school's culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Puffin Books, 2016.



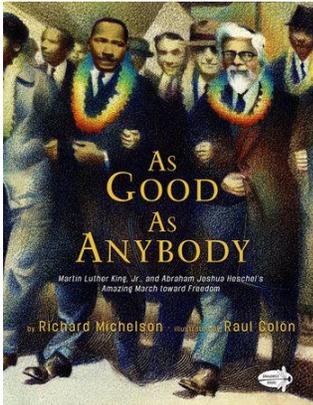
“*Brown Girl Dreaming* tells the story of my childhood, in verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, I always felt halfway home in each place. In these poems, I share what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and my growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

It also reflects the joy of finding my voice through writing stories, despite the fact that I struggled with reading as a child. My love of stories inspired and stayed with me, creating the first sparks of the writer I was to become.”

Source: jaquelinewoodson.com

Upper Elementary/Middle School

- Michelson, Richard. *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*. United States, Random House Children's Books, 2013.



Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel. Their names stand for the quest for justice and equality. King grew up in a loving family in the South at a time when this country was plagued by racial discrimination. He aimed to put a stop to it. He became a minister like his father, and he preached and marched for his cause.

Heschel also grew up in a loving family, but many years earlier and in a Europe that did not welcome Jews. He found a new home in America, where he became a respected rabbi like his father, carrying a message of peace and acceptance.

Here is the story of two icons for social justice and how they formed a remarkable friendship and turned their personal experiences of discrimination into a message of love and equality for all.

Source: Publisher