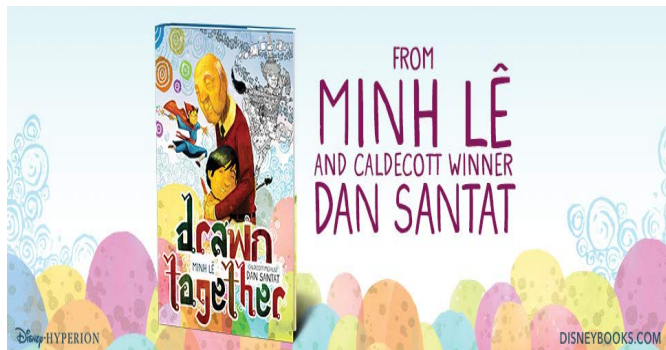


Anti-racism/Social Justice Book Review

Louise Boling

Perhaps you have children or grandchildren and you are trying to decide what to get them as a gift. Here are a few of my favorite books for children and young people that deal with issues of difference, in whatever way you want to look at that term, as well as some websites and other resources. Of course, going into an actual bookstore and talking with the staff there works also! Most are very knowledgeable and eager to help find a book that will turn a kid on to reading and open their eyes/mind to the world around them. You can also look for a seal or other marking on the book indicating the awards the book or author have won.



A grandson and grandfather learn to communicate with each other through a love of drawing. Grandfather speaks Vietnamese, grandson speaks English. Winner of many awards, including 2019 Asian Pacific American Award for Literature – picture book.

Minh Le, illus. Dan Santat; 2019.



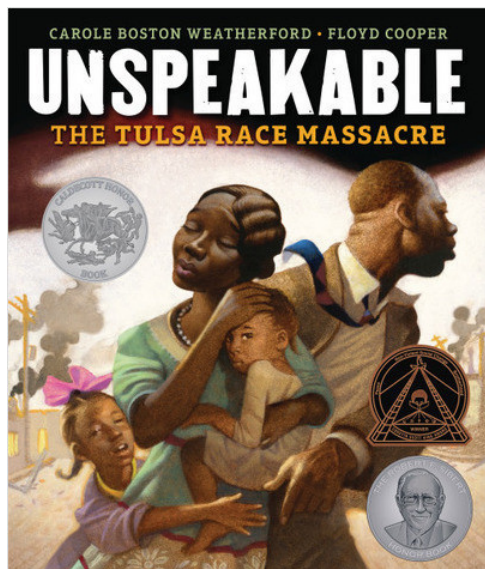
Told through the eyes of Joey, the white batboy of the Dodgers, when Jackie Robinson joins the team in 1947. Joey and many others of the Dodgers were not happy to have Robinson join the team. However, Robinson's calm, dignified personality, and the difference he makes for the team, wins over many people, especially Joey.

Marybeth Lorbiecki, illus. Brian Pinkney; 2006.

In the early 1900s, the Tulsa suburb of Greenwood was a thriving Black community known as the "Negro Wall Street." In 1921, following a racist episode that led to fear that a Black teenager would be lynched, riots broke out and the town was attacked by white people from Tulsa. This book, through powerful images and a strong poetic text, tells the story of that massacre and what happened to the men, women, and children caught up in it.

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards for Author and Illustrator; A Caldecott Honor Book; A Sibert Honor Book

Carole Boston Weatherford; illus. Floyd Cooper; 2021



Middle-grade graphic and verse novel about Josh and JB, twins and basketball stars dealing with school, basketball, and home issues. This one I have not read, but it comes highly recommended by my librarian daughter. It also won the 2014 Coretta Scott King and Newbery Medals.

Kwame Alexander; illus. Dawud Anyabwile; 2014

<https://thebrownbookshelf.com/>

<https://diversebooks.org/>

<https://www.thechildrensbookreview.com/representation-diversity-and-inclusion-in-childrens-books>

