

COLLINGWOOD DAYS 2022

Anti-Racism Booklist



Selected by VPL Staff in conjunction with the Collingwood Days Festival, these books can help build a strong community with a commitment to diversity and anti-racism.

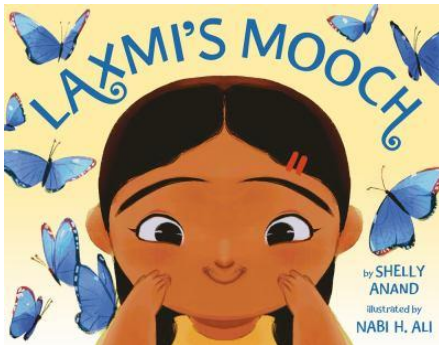
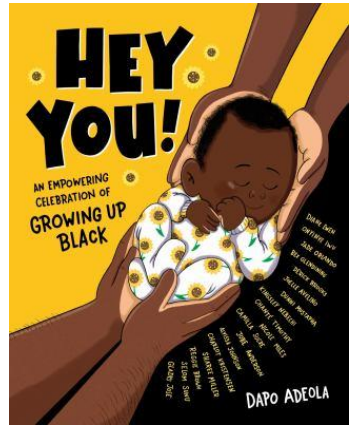
Recommended for ages 0-4.

Hey You! (2022)

Adeola, Dapo

J+ Fic

A book that addresses the experiences of young Black children growing up with systemic racism while providing an empowering message of hope to future generations. Featuring illustrations from 18 talented, diverse Black illustrators to help capture the rich variety of Black experiences.



Laxmi's Mooch (2021)

Anand, Shelly

J+ Fic

Laxmi, a young South Asian girl, becomes self-conscious about her body hair after a friend points it out. Her parents help her to celebrate her appearance and recognize all the incredible

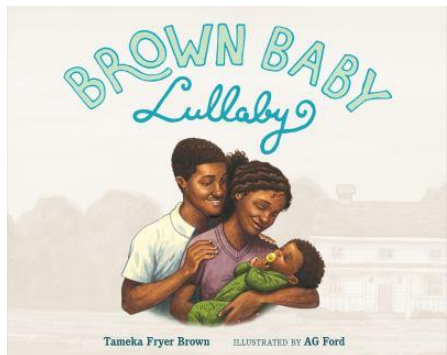
women with mooches of their own.

Brown Baby Lullaby (2020)

Brown, Tameka Fryer

J+ Babes

An illustrated lullaby in English and Spanish, following an Afro-Latino family's nighttime routine with their busy, independent, and beloved brown baby.

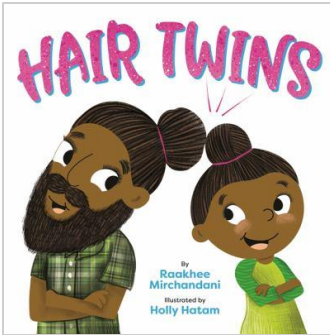
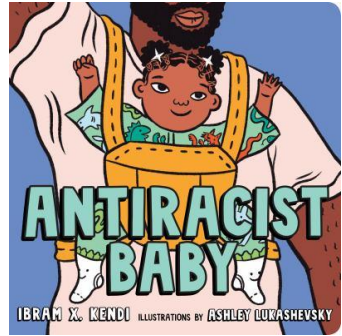


Antiracist Baby (2020)

Kendi, Ibram X.

J+ Babes

Antiracist baby is bred, not born! This rhyming text is a great introduction to practices promoting anti-racism and equity for children and caregivers alike.



Hair Twins (2021)

Mirchandani, Raakhee

J+ Fic

A Sikh father and daughter connect through their daily hair routines – combing through waves, smoothing it with coconut oil, and tying it into a long braid. But the daughter’s favourite is when her dad ties her hair up in a tight bun, just like his joora, so they can be hair twins!

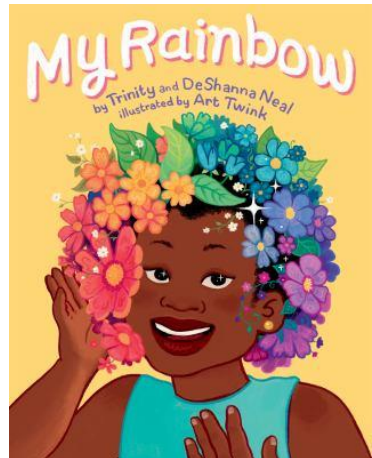
bun, just like his joora, so they can be hair twins!

My Rainbow (2020)

Neal, Trinity and Neal, Deshanna

J+ Fic

Trinity, a Black transgender girl with autism, tells her mother she needs long hair to be seen as a girl. When her mother can’t find a wig that suits her, the family works together to make Trinity a rainbow wig that is as much of a masterpiece as she is.



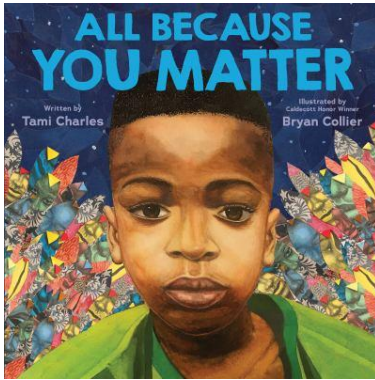
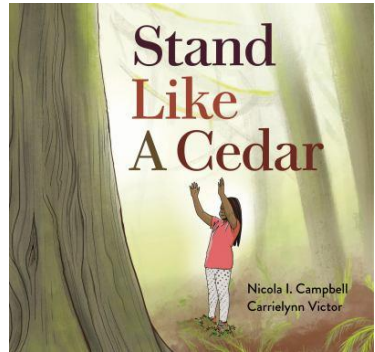
Recommended for ages 5-9.

Stand Like a Cedar (2021)

Campbell, Nicola I.

J Indigenous Non-Fiction

Go for a walk through the British Columbia wilderness with an Indigenous family and learn the Nłeʔkepmxcin and Halq'eméylem names of plants and animals, and the wisdom they can share with us.



All Because You Matter (2020)

Charles, Tami

J Fic Easy

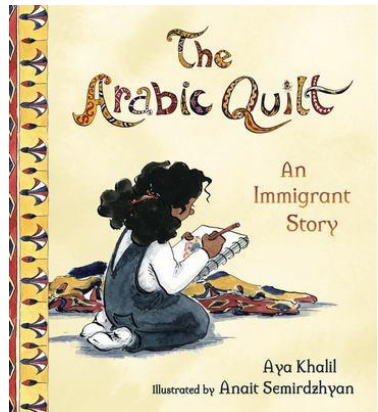
Beautiful watercolor illustrations and lyrical text come together in this affirming and empowering ode to Black children, helping them understand that despite the challenges they may face, they always have, and always will, matter.

The Arabic Quilt (2020)

Khalil, Aya

J Fic Easy

Kanzi is nervous about looking different at her new school. When she is teased for speaking Arabic, she works with her teacher on a class project that explores the beauty of bilingualism and multiculturalism.

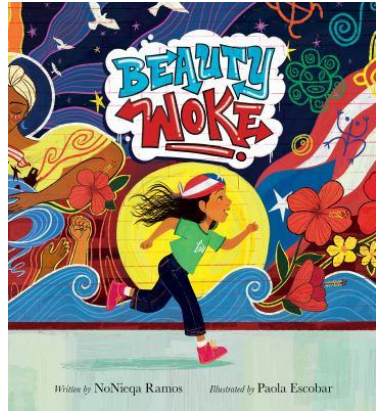


Beauty Woke (2022)

Ramos, NoNieqa

J Fic Easy

A modern take on Sleeping Beauty that sees Beauty, a young Boricua of African and Taíno descent, put to sleep by the way the world treats people who look like her. Her family and community work together to wake Beauty up to everything that makes her heritage special and powerful.

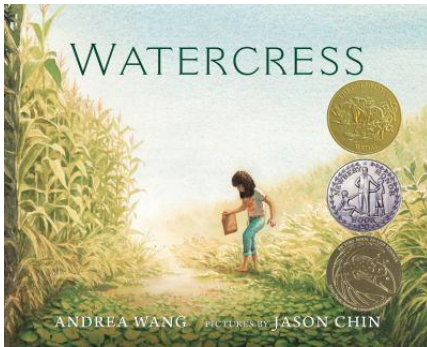


Watercress (2021)

Wang, Andrea

J Fic Easy

A young girl is embarrassed by her family collecting watercress by the road, just wanting to be seen as a “normal” family – until the meal they make helps her to connect with her family’s history and



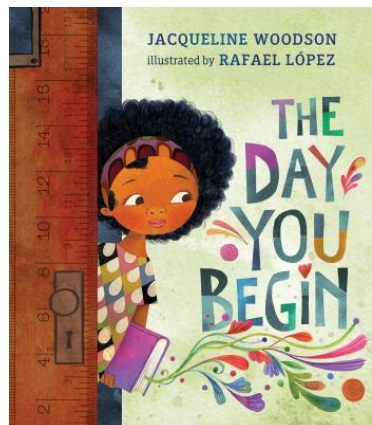
better understand their time in China.

The Day You Begin (2018)

Woodson, Jacqueline

J Fic Easy

Angelina and new student Rigoberto both understand what it feels like to be an outsider in their classroom. By sharing their stories and experiences, they begin to find connections and learn to celebrate their differences.



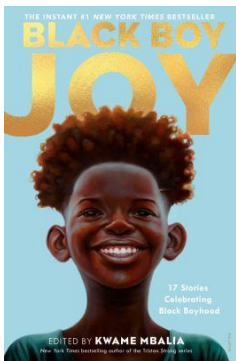
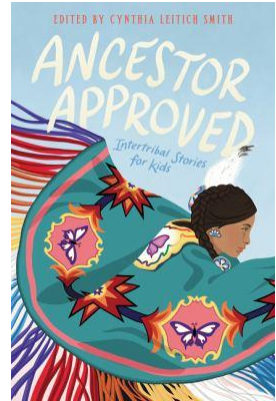
Recommended for ages 10-13.

Ancestor Approved (2021)

Various authors

J Fic

This interconnected collection of poetry and short stories from Indigenous authors aims to recreate the feeling of an intertribal powwow. While the individual stories are varied, they all work to emphasize themes of tribal community and support.



Black Boy Joy (2021)

Various authors

J Fic

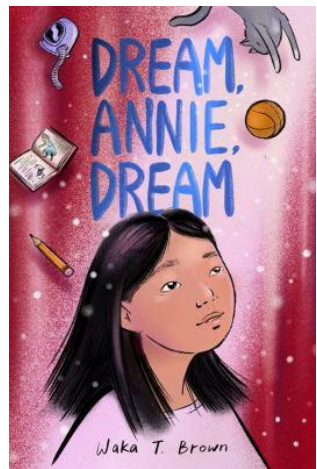
This short story collection features stories from 17 Black male and non-binary authors. A joyful celebration of Black boyhood in all the diverse and wonderful forms it may take.

Dream, Annie, Dream (2022)

Brown, Waka T.

J Fic

Annie Inoue, a child of immigrants who moved to America for a better life, dreams of being an actor. She's thrilled to get the lead role in the school play – until a racist rumor about the casting is spread through the school, forcing Annie to rethink how she fits into her Kansas hometown.

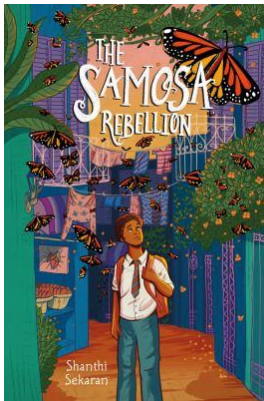
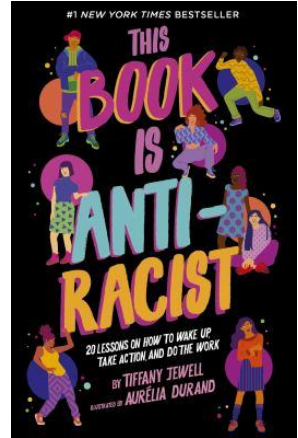


This Book is Anti-Racist (2020)

Jewell, Tiffany

YA Non-Fiction

This non-fiction book explores the roles that racism plays in everyone's lives. An intersectional approach helps readers to contextualize and understand their own relation to racist systems, and discover ways to identify, challenge, and disrupt them.



The Samosa Rebellion (2021)

Sekaran, Shanthi

J Fic

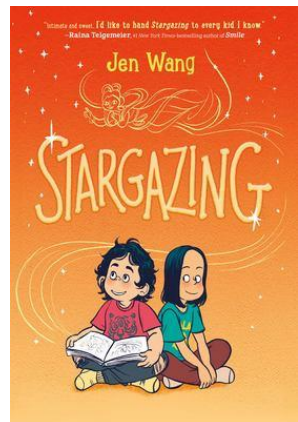
Muki's grandmother comes from India to live with the family in the fictional island nation of Mariposa, at a time when the country is becoming increasingly hostile to immigrants. This novel combines current events with elements of dystopian fiction to create a unique adventure story with a timely message.

Stargazing (2019)

Wang, Jen

J Fic Graphic

This graphic novel follows the friendship between two Chinese-American girls. Christine is drawn to Moon, whose carefree personality and home life are a far cry from Christine's strict, traditional upbringing. As unexpected challenges threaten their new friendship, Christine has to find the strength to support Moon.



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