

10 GREAT BOOKS FOR WHITE TEACHERS IN MULTICULTURAL CLASSROOMS

Recommended by



- Nearly 4 out of every 10 students is a minority (40.5 %,) yet the teaching profession is overwhelmingly white (90%.)
- Some 40% of all public schools have no minority teachers on staff.
- Fewer than half of teachers participate in professional development related to multiculturalism.

(National Education Association, 2006)

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- ★ *Beyond Heroes and Holiday: A Practical Guide to K-12 Anti-Racist, Multicultural Education and Staff Development*, edited by Enid Lee, Deborah Menkart and Margo Okazawa-Rey
 - ★ *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children*, by Gloria Ladson Billings
 - ★ *Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom*, by Lisa Delpit
 - ★ *Race and Culture in the Classroom: Teaching and Learning Through Multicultural Education*, by Mary Dilg
 - ★ *Understanding White Privilege*, by Frances Kendall
 - ★ *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial School*, by Gary R. Howard
 - ★ *White Teachers/Diverse Classrooms: A Guide to Building Inclusive Schools, Promoting High Expectations, and Eliminating Racism*, edited by Julie Landsman and Chance W. Lewis
 - ★ *White Teacher*, by Vivian Gussin Paley
 - ★ "Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In the Cafeteria?," by Beverly Daniel Tatum
 - ★ *The Real Ebonics Debate: Power, Language, and the Education of African-American Children*, edited by Theresa Perry and Lisa Delpit

More resources ...

White Privilege Conference: www.whiteprivilegeconference.com

For even more great resources: www.teachingforchange.org

15 GREAT POETRY BOOKS

Recommended by



"When history sleeps, it speaks while dreaming: on the brow of the sleeping people the poem is a constellation of blood. When history wakes up, the image becomes an act, the poem makes its appearance; poetry enters into action."

(Octavio Paz, *Towards the Poem*)

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- ★ *Beyond the Frontier: African American Poetry for the 21st Century*, edited by E. Ethelbert Miller
 - ★ *How We Sleep on Nights We Don't Make Love*, by E. Ethelbert Miller
 - ★ *Outlaw Bible of American Poetry*, edited by Alan Kaufman
 - ★ *Someone Blew Up America*, by Amiri Baraka
 - ★ *Growing Up Girl: An Anthology Of Voices From Marginalized Spaces*, edited by Michelle Sewell
 - ★ *Poetry and Protest*, by Dennis Brutus
 - ★ *Quilting the Black Eyed Pea*, by Nikki Giovanni
 - ★ *Poetry Like Bread: Poets of the Political Imagination*, edited by Martin Espada
 - ★ *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, by Langston Hughes
 - ★ *June Jordan's Poetry for the People*, by June Jordan
 - ★ *One Hundred Love Sonnets*, by Pablo Neruda
 - ★ *Habibi*, by Naomi Shihab Nye
 - ★ *Shake Loose My Skin*, by Sonia Sanchez
 - ★ *Dead Emcee Scrolls: The Lost Teachings of Hip-Hop*, by Saul Williams
 - ★ *Bum Rush The Page: A Def Poetry Jam*, edited by Tony Medina and Louis Reyes Rivera
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More resources ...

www.teachingforchange.org

14 GREAT CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR ACTIVISM AND ORGANIZING

Recommended by



"This system's greatest fear has been that folks like you, young people, people who have begun to critically examine the world around them, some perhaps for the first time, people who have yet to have the spark of life snuffed out, will do just that: learn from [the lives of past radicals], be inspired, and then live lives of opposition to the deadening status quo."

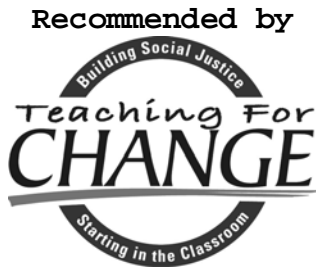
(Mumia Abu Jamal, journalist and US political prisoner)

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- ★ *The Carpet Boy's Gift*, by Pegi Deitz Shea
 - ★ *Click Clack Moo*, by Doreen Cronin
 - ★ *The Drinking Gourd*, by F.N. Monjo
 - ★ *No Fair to Tigers*, by Eric Hoffman
 - ★ *Play Lady: La senora juguetera*, by Eric Hoffman
 - ★ *Rosa*, by Nikki Giovanni
 - ★ *Lakas and Makibaka Hotel*, by Anthony D. Robles
 - ★ *Say Something*, by Peggy Moss
 - ★ *Si, Se Puede!*, by Diana Cohn
 - ★ *Nobody Particular: One Woman's Fight to Save the Bays*, by Molly Bang
 - ★ *The Streets are Free*, by Kurusa
 - ★ *Swimmy*, by Leo Lionni
 - ★ *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-ins*, by Carole Boston Weatherford
 - ★ *Cesar: Si Se Puede!*, by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

More resources ...

www.teachingforchange.org

14 GREAT BOOKS ABOUT IMMIGRATION



“There were no border guards at the Bering Strait when the first men, women, and children crossed over from Asia fifteen to thirty thousand years ago. There were no green cards demanded of the Spanish conquerors, settlers, and missionaries who came into the Southwest and Florida in the sixteenth century.”

(Carlos Fuentes, Mexican writer and playwright. *Americanos*, 1999)

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- ★ *Immigrants, Unions and the New U.S. Labor Markets*, by Immanuel Ness
 - ★ *Immigrant Acts*, by Lisa Lowe
 - ★ *The Other Face of America*, by Jorge Ramos
 - ★ *The New Americans: Seven Families Journey to Another Country*, by Ruben Martinez
 - ★ *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the U.S. City*, by Mike Davis
 - ★ *No One is Illegal: Fighting Racism and State Violence on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, by Justin Akers Chacon and Mike Davis
 - ★ *Enrique’s Journey*, by Sonia Nazario
 - ★ *Moving North*, edited by Catherine A. Sunshine and Keith Q. Warner
 - ★ *The Line Between Us: Teaching About the Border and Mexican Immigration*, by Bill Bigelow
 - ★ *The “Huddled Masses” Myth: Immigration and Civil Rights*, by Kevin Robinson
 - ★ *Out of the Sea & Into the Fire: Latin American-U.S. Immigration in the Global Age*, by Kari Lydersen

LITERATURE FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

- ★ *Across the Wire: Life and Hard Times on the Mexican Border*, by Luis Alberto Urrea
- ★ *Crossing the Wire*, by Will Hobbs
- ★ *La Linea*, by Ann Jaramillo

More resources ...
www.teachingforchange.org

18 GREAT BOOKS FOR ACTIVISM AND ORGANIZING

Recommended by



"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."
(Albert Einstein, physicist and socialist)

TOOLS FOR ACTIVISTS:

- ★ *Privilege, Power, and Difference*, by Allan G Johnson
- ★ *Subterranean Fire: A History of Working-Class Radicalism in the United States*, by Sharon Smith
- ★ *Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate--The Essential Guide for Progressives*, by George Lakoff, Howard Dean, and Don Hazen
- ★ *Days of War, Nights of Love: Crimethink For Beginners*, by CrimethInc.
- ★ *The World Cafe: Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations That Matter*, by Juanita Brown, David Isaacs, World Cafe Community, and Margaret J. Wheatley
- ★ *The Quotable Rebel: Political Quotations for Dangerous Times*, by Teishan Latner
- ★ *Letters from Young Activists: Today's Rebels Speak Out*, by Chesa Boudin, Kenyon Farrow, Bernardine Dohrn, and Dan Berger
- ★ *Talking the Walk: A Communications Guide for Racial Justice*, by John A. Powell, Hunter Cutting, and Makani Themba-Nixon
- ★ *Censored 2006: The Top 25 Censored Stories*, by Project Censored
- ★ *Think For Yourself! An Essay On Cutting Through The Babble, The Bias, And The Hype*, by Steve Hinde
- ★ *From The Pain Come The Dream: The Recipients of the Reebok Human Rights Award*, by Paul Fireman, Samuel Kofi Woods, and Angel Martinez

18 GREAT BOOKS FOR ACTIVISM AND ORGANIZING, continued

TOOLS FOR ORGANIZING:

- ★ *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life: Create Your Life, Your Relationships, and Your World in Harmony with Your Values*, by Marshall B. Rosenberg and Arun Gandhi
 - ★ *Organizing For Social Change*, by Kim Bobo, Jackie Kendall and Steve Max
 - ★ *Learning Power: Organizing for Education And Justice*, by Jeannie Oakes, John Rogers, and Martin Lipton
 - ★ *A School to Build a Movement: Political Education Workshop Manual*, by the School of Unity and Liberation
 - ★ *Doing Democracy: The MAP Model for Organizing Social Movements*, by Bill Moyer, JoAnn McAllister, Mary Lou Finley, and Steve Soifer
 - ★ *The Civil Disobedience Handbook: A Brief History and Practical Advice for the Politically Disenchanted*, by James Tracy
 - ★ *Raise More Money: The Best of the Grassroots Fundraising Journal*, by Kim Klein and Stephanie Roth
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More resources ...
www.teachingforchange.org

14 GREAT BOOKS ABOUT THE POLITICS AND HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS

Recommended by



"The history of an oppressed people is hidden in the lies and the agreed-upon myth of his conquerors."

(Muriel Le Sueur, writer)

"We are not myths of the past, ruins in the jungle, or zoos. We are people and we want to be respected, not to be victims of intolerance and racism."

(Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Guatemalan Mayan human rights activist)

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- ★ *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*, by Rigoberta Menchu, Elisabeth Burgos-Debray, and Ann Wright
 - ★ *Assault on Paradise*, by Tatiana Lobo
 - ★ *Casting Off*, by Claribel Alegria
 - ★ *One Day of Life*, by Manilo Argueta
 - ★ *Open Veins of Latin America*, by Eduardo Galeano
 - ★ *The Dominican Republic*, edited by Anne Gallin, Ruth Glasser, and Jocelyn Santana with Patricia R. Pessar
 - ★ *Bananeras: Women Transforming the Banana Unions of Latin America*, by Dana Frank
 - ★ *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*, by Greg Grandin
 - ★ *Cochabamba! Water War in Bolivia*, by Oscar Olivera in collaboration with Tom Lewis
 - ★ *The Chavez Code: Cracking US Intervention in Venezuela*, by Eva Golinger
 - ★ *The Zapatista Reader*, edited by Tom Hayden
 - ★ *Ya Basta! Ten Years of the Zapatista Uprising, Writings of Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos*, edited by Ziga Vodovnik
 - ★ *The Uses of Haiti*, by Paul Farmer
 - ★ *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*, by Jon Lee Anderson
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More resources ...

www.teachingforchange.org

7 GREAT BOOKS ABOUT PRISONS AND ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

Recommended by



For the first time in history, in 2003, the U.S. prison population has surpassed 2 MILLION PEOPLE. (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005)

1 in every 142 people living in the United States was in jail in 2002. ("US Prison Population Peaks," BBC 2003)

Almost 65% of these 2 million incarcerated are people of color. (Human Rights Watch Background, "Incarcerated America," 2003)

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- ★ *Lockdown America: Police And Prisons In The Age Of Crisis*, by Christian Parenti
 - ★ *Are Prisons Obsolete?*, by Angela Davis
 - ★ *Race to Incarcerate*, by Marc Mauer
 - ★ *Celling of America: An Inside Look at the U.S. Prison Industry*, by Daniel Burton-Rose
 - ★ *Instead of Prisons*, by Prison Research Education Action
 - ★ *No More Prisons*, by William Upski Wimsatt
 - ★ *Prison Nation: The Warehousing of America's Poor*, edited by Tara Herivel and Paul Wright
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More resources ...

Critical Resistance: www.criticalresistance.org

The Sentencing Project: www.sentencingproject.org

Prison Moratorium Project <http://nomoreprisons.org>

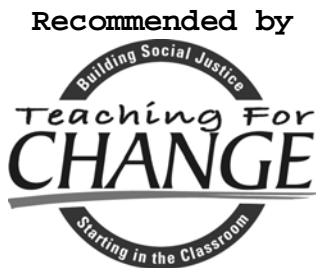
Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC) www.prisonactivist.org

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice: <http://www.cjcj.org>

Prisonsucks.com: <http://www.prisonsucks.com>

For even more great resources: www.teachingforchange.org

8 GREAT BOOKS FOR NEW TEACHERS



“Forgive yourself for making mistakes: Your first year of teaching will undoubtedly be full of them. Don’t be harsher on yourself than you would be on your most trying student.”

(Dale Weiss, veteran teacher, from *The New Teacher Book*)

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- ★ *Because We Can Change the World: A Practical Guide to Building Cooperative, Inclusive Classroom Communities*, by Mara Sapon-Shevin
 - ★ *Education is Politics: Critical Teaching Across Differences, K-12*, edited by Ira Shor and Caroline Pari
 - ★ *Fires in the Bathroom: Advice for Teachers from High School Students*, by Kathleen Cushman
 - ★ *The New Teacher Book: Finding Purpose, Balance, and Hope During Your First Years in the Classroom*, edited by Kelley Dawson, Rita Tenorio, Dale Weiss, and Stephanie Walters
 - ★ *Rethinking Our Classrooms: Teaching for Equity and Justice*, edited by Bill Bigelow, Bob Peterson, et al.
 - ★ *Un-Standardizing Curriculum: Multicultural Teaching in the Standards-Based Classroom*, by Christine Sleeter
 - ★ *What Keeps Teachers Going?*, by Sonia Nieto
 - ★ *The Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teachers Can Learn from Each Other*, by Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot
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More resources ...

Rethinking Schools magazine: Available in this bookstore and www.rethinkingschools.org
Searchable lesson plans, discussions, and more: <http://teachers.net>
For even more great resources: www.teachingforchange.org

5 GREAT BOOKS FOR MATH TEACHERS



"I thought math was just a subject they implanted on us just because they felt like it, but now I realize that you could use math to defend your rights and realize the injustices around you.... [N]ow I think math is truly necessary and, I have to admit it, kinda cool. It's sort of like a pass you could use to try to make the world a better place."

(Freida, ninth grade, Chicago Public Schools)

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- ★ *Math and Science Across Cultures: Activities and Investigations from the Exploratorium*, by Maurice Bazin, Modesto Tamez, and the Exploratorium Teacher Institute
 - ★ *The Multicultural Math Classroom: Bringing in the World*, by Claudia Zaslavsky
 - ★ *Radical Equations: Math Literacy and Civil Rights*, by Robert P. Moses and Charles E. Cobb, Jr.
 - ★ *Rethinking Mathematics: Teaching Social Justice by the Numbers*, edited by Eric Gutstein and Bob Peterson
 - ★ *Teaching Economics As If People Mattered: A High School Curriculum Guide to the New Economy*, by Tamara Giecek
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More resources ...
www.teachingforchange.org

12 GREAT BOOKS FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

Recommended by



"The liberation of language is rooted in the liberation of ourselves."

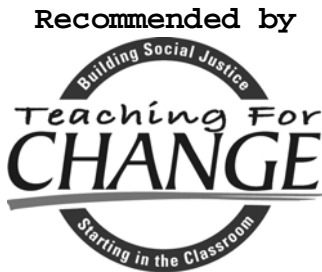
(Mary Daly, theologian and educator)

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- ★ *Entrance to the Place of Wonders: Poems of the Harlem Renaissance*, by Daphne Muse and Charlotte Riley Webb
 - ★ *Give Them Poetry!: A Guide for Sharing Poetry With Children K-8*, by Glenna Davis Sloan and Douglas Florian
 - ★ *Great Books for High School Kids: A Teachers' Guide to Books that Can Change Teen's Lives*, edited by Rick Ayers and Amy Crawford
 - ★ *Grassroots Journalism*, by Eesha Williams
 - ★ *Growing Up Girl: An Anthology Of Voices From Marginalized Spaces*, edited by Michelle Sewell
 - ★ *Literature & Lives: A Response-Based, Cultural Studies Approach to Teaching English*, by Allen Carey-Web
 - ★ *Making Justice Our Project: Teachers Working Toward Critical Whole Language Practice*, edited by Carole Edelsky
 - ★ *Poetry Like Bread: Poets of the Political Imagination*, edited by Martin Espada
 - ★ *R Is for Rhyme: A Poetry Alphabet*, by Judy Young and Victor Juhasz
 - ★ *Reading, Writing, and Rising Up: Teaching About Social Justice and the Power of the Written Word*, by Linda Christensen
 - ★ *The Skin That We Speak: Thoughts on Language and Culture in the Classroom*, edited by Lisa Delpit and Joanne Kilgour Dowdy
 - ★ *Starting with I: Personal Essays by Teenagers*, by Youth Communication
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More resources ...

www.teachingforchange.org

7 GREAT BOOKS FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS



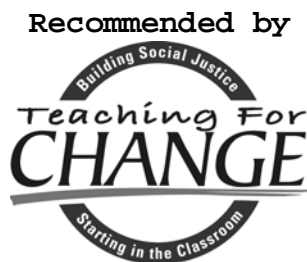
“Behind Euclid’s definition of a straight line as ‘one that lies evenly between the points on it’ one divines the mason with his level.”

(Benjamin Farrington, *Science in Antiquity*)

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- ★ *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food*, by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson
 - ★ *Healthy Foods from Healthy Soils: A Hands-on Resource for Educators*, by Elizabeth Patten and Kathy Lyons
 - ★ *Math and Science Across Cultures: Activities and Investigations from the Exploratorium*, by Maurice Bazin, Modesto Tamez, and the Exploratorium Teacher Institute
 - ★ *A People's History of Science: Miners, Midwives, and “Low Mechanics,”* by Clifford Conner
 - ★ *Teaching About Climate Change: Cool Schools Tackle Global Warming*, edited by Tim Grant and Gail Littlejohn
 - ★ *Trash Conflicts: An Integrated Science and Social Studies Curriculum on the Ethics of Disposal*, by Amy Ballin with Jeffrey Benson and Lucile Burt
 - ★ *Troubled Water: Saints, Sinners, Truths and Lies about the Global Water Crisis*, by Anita Roddick and Brooke Shelby Biggs

More resources ...
www.teachingforchange.org

13 GREAT BOOKS FOR THOUGHTFUL TEACHING ON WAR AND PEACE



“Right now it’s like we are unable to imagine world peace. Why? Because our imaginations have been stolen from us. We can imagine World War III because we’ve seen it in every movie, every TV show, etc. We cannot imagine world peace because we’ve never seen it before.”

(Saul Williams, hip hop MC, activist)

FOR CHILDREN:

- ★ *Gandhi*, by Demi
- ★ *Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam*, by Walter Dean Myers
- ★ *The Peace Book*, by Todd Parr
- ★ *Pink and Say*, by Patricia Polacco
- ★ *Playing War*, by Kathy Beckwith and Lea Lyon
- ★ *Sami and the Time of Troubles*, by Florence Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland
- ★ *The Story of Ferdinand*, by Munro Leaf and Robert Lawson

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

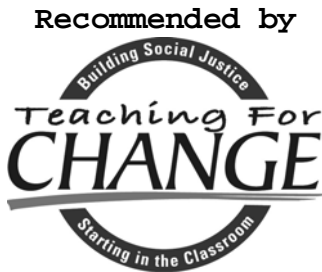
- ★ *Addicted to War: Why the U.S. Can't Kick Militarism, an Illustrated Exposé*, by Joel Andreas
- ★ *D.C. Poets Against the War: An Anthology*, edited by Sarah Browning, Michele Elliott, and Danny Rose
- ★ *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, by Eleanor Coerr and Ronald Himler
- ★ *Ten Excellent Reasons Not to Join the Military*, by Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg

FOR EDUCATORS:

- ★ *I'd Rather Teach Peace*, by Colman McCarthy
- ★ *Whose Wars? Teaching About the Iraq War and the War on Terrorism*, by Rethinking Schools

More resources ...
www.teachingforchange.org

6 GREAT BOOKS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS



"When I am grappling with ideas which are radical enough to upset grownups, then I am likely to put these ideas into a story which will be marketed for children, because children understand what their parents have rejected and forgotten."

(Madeleine L'Engle, writer)

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- ★ *Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children*, edited by Louise Derman-Sparks
 - ★ *Black Ants and Buddhists: Thinking Critically and Teaching Differently in the Primary Grades*, by Mary Cowhey
 - ★ *Everyone's Kids Books: A Guide to Multicultural, Socially Conscious Books for Children*, by Nancy Braus and Molly Geidel
 - ★ *The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism*, by Debra Van Ausdale and Joe R. Feagin
 - ★ *Teaching Young Children in Violent Times: Building a Peaceful Classroom*, by Diane E. Levin
 - ★ *That's Not Fair! A Teacher's Guide to Activism with Young Children*, by Ann Pelo and Fran Davidson
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More resources ...

www.teachingforchange.org