

# Reading Ladder

Elizabeth Smith



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**Theme of this Ladder**  
Exploring race and racism.  
I chose the theme of diversity for this reading ladder. I feel that as educators it is our duty to teach the importance of equality.

**Young Adult Novels**  
Anthem  
By Lauren Child  
A dystopian novel set in a future world where the government has taken away all individuality and freedom. The story follows a young girl who discovers her true self and fights for her freedom.

**New Fiction Kids**  
The Boy Who Swam to England  
By David Almond  
A story about a young boy who swam across the English Channel to escape his troubled life in his home country.

**Picture Books**  
The Daylight Marriage  
By Jason Reynolds  
A story about a young boy who is the only child of a single mother who is struggling with her own issues.

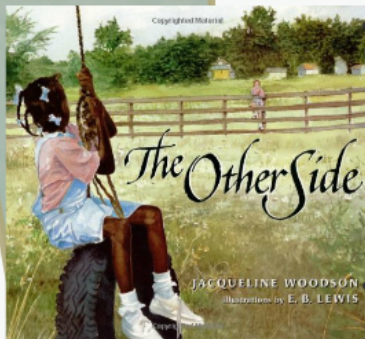
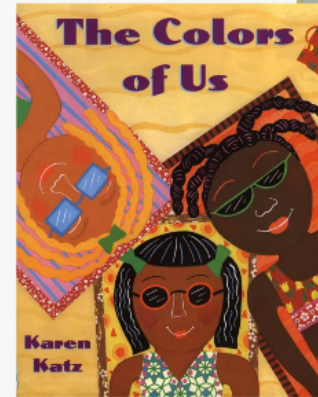


# Picture Books



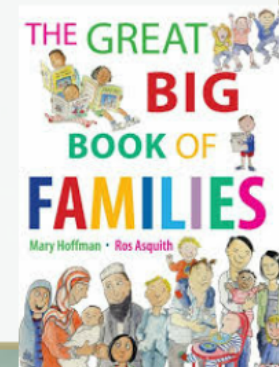
- **Chocolate Me!**  
By: Taye Diggs  
-Students who feel as if they are different see how one boy found happiness and acceptance in his skin color.

- **Colors of Us**  
By: Karen Katz  
-Katz describes skin color in a beautiful way. Each skin tone makes each child see their skin as their own unique, beautiful shade .



- **The Other Side**  
By: Jaqueline Woodson  
- This is a beautiful story about friendship and how it is more than okay to treat everyone equally.

- **The Great Big Book of Families**  
By: Mary Hoffman  
- See a family different from yours? They are not as different as they may seem....



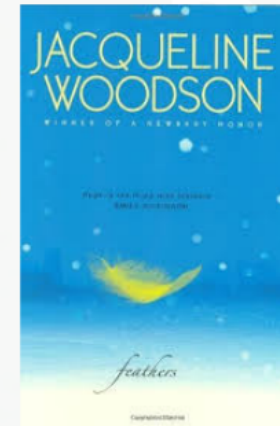
# Young Adult Novels

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- **Feathers**

By: Jacqueline Woodson

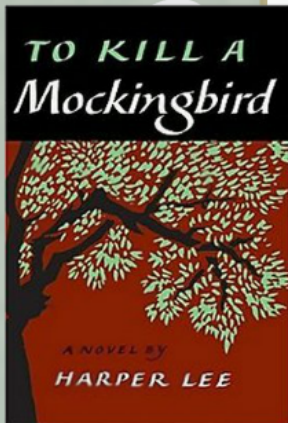
-Segregation is technically over, but the first white kid moves into the neighborhood and experiences more prejudice than he should endure.



- **To Kill a Mockingbird**

By: Harper Lee

- An eight year old white privileged girl growing up in the 1930's experiences first hand the harshness of racial stereotyping and discrimination.



- **Maniac Magee**

By: Jerry Spinelli

-Jeffrey enters a town that is split into two parts, East and West. After being taken in by a family on the black side, Jeffery quickly learns how there is a lot of hate between these two sides..



Getting Aw  
By: Chris C  
One of the  
stories I hav  
to teach how  
Americans w

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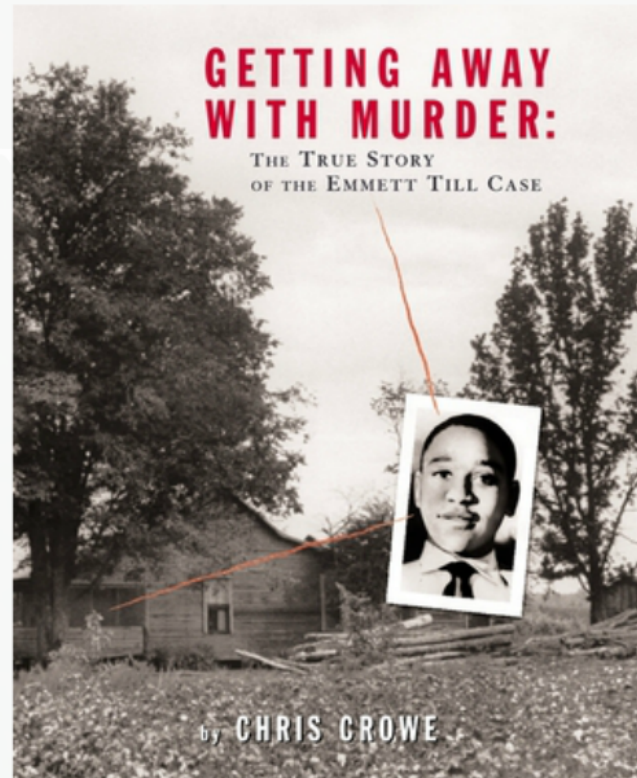
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# *Non-fiction Text*

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Getting Away with Murder

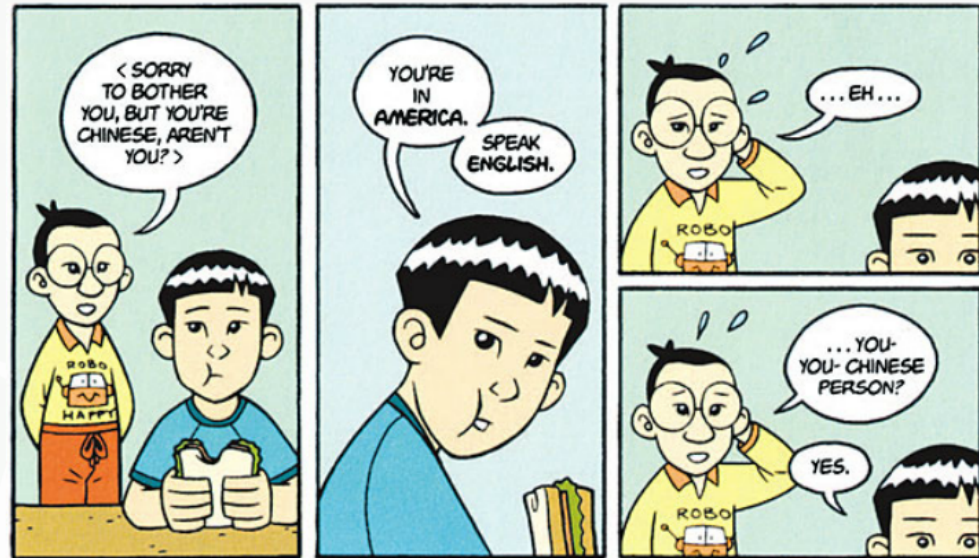
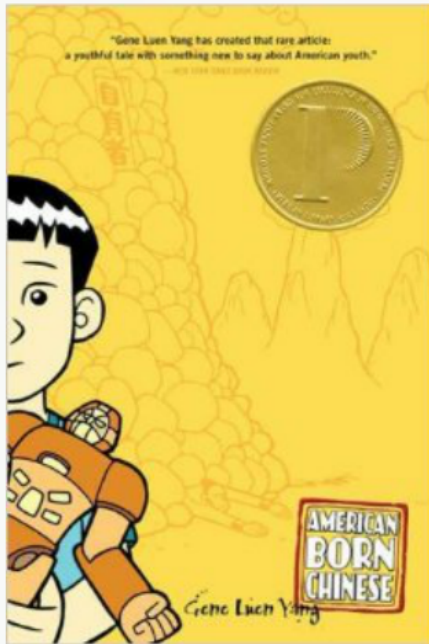
By: Chris Crowe

One of the most disturbing, eye opening stories I have ever read. A wonderful way to teach how inhumanely African Americans were treated.



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# Graphic Novel



## *American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang*

Jin Wang is the only Chinese-American at his new school. He envies the other boys because they are all-American, just like the girl he is in love with. Jin will endure a lot of bullying throughout this graphic novel.

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Anthem  
By Lauren Child  
A dystopian novel set in a future where people are genetically engineered to be obedient and hardworking. The story follows a young girl who discovers her true identity and the truth about her world.

**New Fiction Kids**  
The Boy Who Swam to England  
By David Almond  
A story about a young boy who swam across the English Channel from France to England. The book is a collection of poems and prose that tell the story of his journey.

**Picture Books**  
The Daylight Marriage  
By Jason Reynolds  
A picture book about a young boy who is the only Black child in his class. The book explores themes of race and identity.