

Children's Book List – Anti-Racism in Skateboarding

At Pushing Against Racism (PAR), we believe that in order to practice anti-racist allyship, we have to equip ourselves and the young generations with knowledge that continually challenges our own beliefs and biases so that we can actively contribute to creating a world where everyone is seen and given equal opportunities in life. This is a list of books that have inspired us, for children, adolescents, and adults alike. These skateboarding and non-skateboarding themed books sensitively explore the complexities of anti-racism and we are stoked to share them with you here!

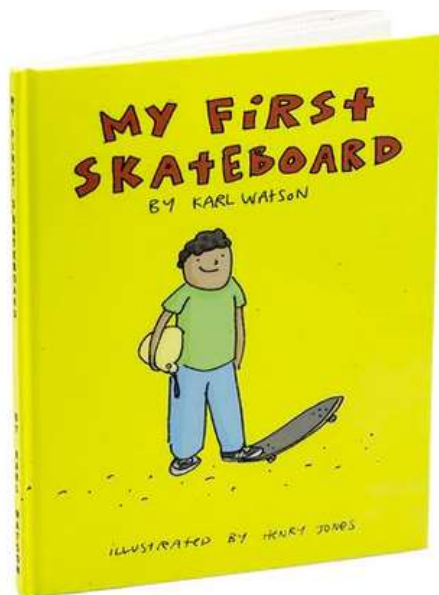
If you want to suggest resources to add to this list, please contact: antiracism@goodpush.org



Let's Go! haw êkwa!

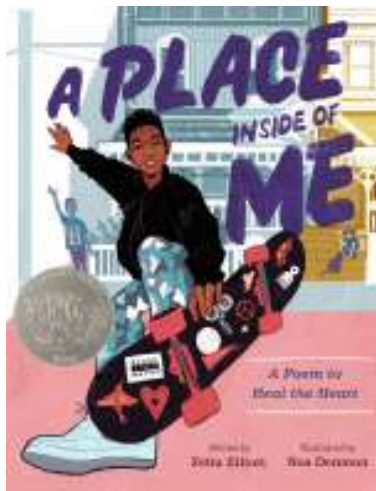
An extraordinary book that celebrates skateboarding, family, and community, from beloved artist and author Julie Flett, a winner of the New York Times / New York Public Library Best Illustrated Children's Book Award.

Every day, a little boy watches kids pass by on skateboards, and dreams of joining them. One day, his mother brings a surprise: her old skateboard, just for him! haw êkwa! Let's go! Together, they practice on the sidewalk, at the park, in Auntie's yard--everywhere. But when it comes time to try the skatepark, the skateboarders crash down like a waterfall. Can he find the confidence to join them?



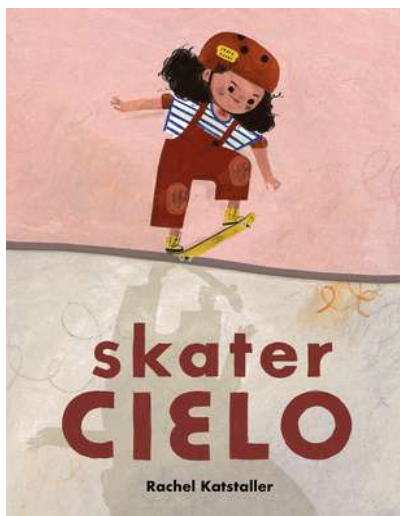
My First Skateboard is a children's tale of how skateboarding can save the world.

Karl Watson has devoted his life to this world by becoming a professional skateboarder and spreading his unique positive nature and genuine love of all. Not to mention his legendary style on the board. Karl devotes himself to inspire youth to be positive, to see all people as one, and to work hard toward goals to achieve success.



A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart

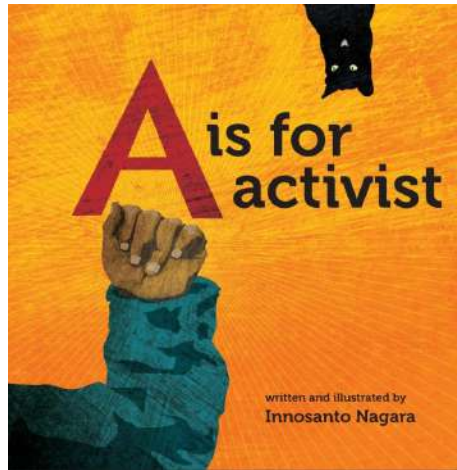
Summertime is filled with joy—skateboarding and playing basketball—until a Black child’s community is deeply wounded by a police shooting. As fall turns to winter and then spring, fear grows into anger, then pride and peace. In her stunning debut, illustrator Noa Denmon articulates the depth and nuances of a child’s experiences following a police shooting—through grief and protests, healing and community—with vibrant washes of color. Here is a groundbreaking narrative that can help all readers—children and adults alike—talk about the feelings hiding deep inside each of us.



Skater Cielo

Meet Cielo, a fierce skater who finds that facing your fear of failing gives you the courage to persevere! Cielo loves to skateboard! But when she messes up on a new ramp she's embarrassed and afraid to fall again in front of so many people. With the help of some new friends, Cielo summons the courage to try again (and again, and again), and learns that falling is not failing—true fierceness isn't about landing the perfect trick, it's about picking yourself back up when you don't.

Non-skate anti-racist social/environmental justice resources for children and adolescents:



A is for Activist is an ABC board book written and illustrated for the next generation of progressives: families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and everything else that activists believe in and fight for.

The alliteration, rhyming, and vibrant illustrations make the book exciting for children, while the issues it brings up resonate with their parents' values of community, equality, and justice. This engaging little book carries huge messages as it inspires hope for the future, and calls children to action while teaching them a love for books.

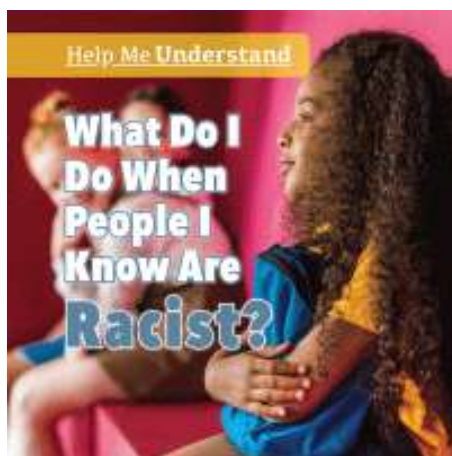


Oh, the Things We're For! by Innosanto Nagara

This is a celebration of the better world that is not only possible, but is here today if we choose it. Today's kids are well aware of the many challenges that they face in the world they are inheriting, from climate change to police violence, crowded classrooms to healthcare.

Poetically written and beautifully illustrated in Innosanto Nagara's (*A is for Activist*) signature style, this book offers a vision of where we could go—and a future worth fighting for. *Oh, the Things We're For!* is a book for kids, and for the young at heart of all ages.

"When you go to a march
And raise your sign high
You'll make people smile
who thought you were shy
And you'll make people wonder, does that kid really know why?
You DO know of course
That's why you are there
You're there to say STOP!
What's happening's not fair"



What Do I Do When I Know People Are Racist? In a time of increasing political and social tensions, students are sure to find themselves in complicated ethical situations. What happens if someone they know and love is racist? This book introduces readers to the concepts of prejudice and racism, and gives them guidance on how to deal with these concepts in daily life. Readers will learn how to show their support for equality by celebrating diversity and standing up for what they believe in. This book tackles a complex subject in an accessible and sensitive way, so young readers can discover new ways to approach this tough topic.



Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli, and Isabel Roxas

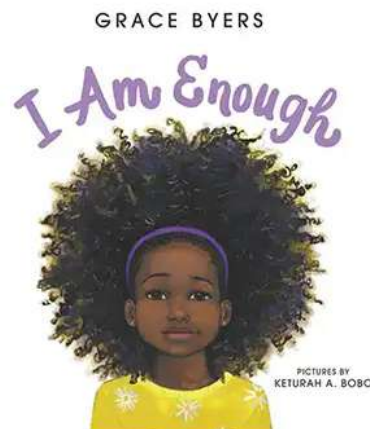
This book is a must-have for families and classrooms with preschool and kindergarten-age children. It covers so many topics, starting with identifying and loving your own skin tone. Children also learn why we have different skin tones, and some of the racial labels that people use to correlate all those shades of skin.

What really sets this book for young children apart is how it explains that the made up idea of race was used to fuel racism. The authors talk about racism not as just individual people being mean, but as a way that white people get power. The book gives children relatable examples of racism that are likely to happen in young children's worlds. Finally, children are encouraged to challenge racism by speaking up, changing unfair rules, and learning.



We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade

One of the most visible, memorable resistance movements of recent times is that led by Native people to protect water sources from corporate pollution. In this beautifully illustrated picture book, a young Ojibwe girl tells the story of a community coming together to protect this sacred resource. Weaving in traditional storytelling and imagery, this book offers courage and inspiration for people seeking to make change. "It will not be easy," Lindstrom writes, but "We fight for those/ Who cannot fight for themselves," from small and large creatures, to the land and trees, because "We are all related." The book ends with a pledge for readers to sign to commit to being an Earth steward and water protector. If the very source of life cannot connect us all, then what else can?



I Am Enough by Grace Byers, illustrations by Keturah A. Bobo
 "When I am looking to draw students into conversation about who they are to the world, I begin by reading *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers," says Keisha Rembert, assistant professor of teacher preparation at National Louis University in Chicago. *I Am Enough* is a lyrical story about a Black girl making her presence known in the world, announcing, "Like the bird, I'm here to fly and soar high over everything." The story celebrates the things that make people different and wonderful. "From the cover to the end, the book is humanizing and showcases strength and empathy," Rembert told me. "This book is perfect to remind children of their potential without limitations."