

# Black History Month



FEBRUARY 2021 | NEWSLETTER

SPUNO DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

## Black History Month

Black History Month began in 1915, half a century after slavery was abolished. The association for the study of African American life and history has said this month's theme is "Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity", exploring the families throughout the United States. They want to hear proposals from all kinds of perspectives about the lives of African Americans in the United States.

### Random Black History Month facts

1. There were several individuals who were refusing to give up their seats before Rosa Parks. Another individual was Claudette Colvin. She was a 15 year old school girl who was studying Black leaders in her segregated school. She was one of four women who were arrested and were challenging the segregation law in court. However, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other Black organizations found Rosa Parks was a better representative. Rosa Parks was the secretary of NAACP. Therefore, she was well-known and respected.
2. Inoculation was introduced to America by a slave (Onesimus). Onesimus told a Puritan church minister how they stopped diseases from spreading. He told the minister how in Africa they extracted material from an infected person and then scratched the substance onto the skin of a healthy person. This would then help with their immunity to that specific disease.
3. The Quakers were the earliest recorded protest against slavery. In 1688 they wrote about how unjust slavery was. They stated things such as "we should do unto others as we would have done unto ourselves." They presented the letter they wrote at a Philadelphia meeting. The leaders of the meeting thought it was too serious of a topic to talk about during their monthly meetings. So the document was then presented in their quarterly meeting, which somehow also was not ready to talk about it. They then showed it at their yearly meeting. However, slavery was not demolished until 88 years after this first initial letter was written.

# Best Practices for Educators

Many schools still have institutional policies and practices that reinforce existing systems of racist power. To support educators in changing these systems to be more inclusive and equitable of diverse students, the Education Development Center ([EDC; 2020](#)) identified three ways to start unwinding racist systems.

## 1. Re-examine the curricula

Lesson plans and reading lists often under-represent the diverse cultures and histories of students. Educators need to critically examine the curriculum and include materials, lessons, and readings that share the mirror the voices and perspectives of all students.

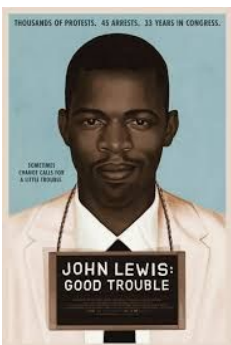
## 2. Elevate students' voices

Give students opportunities to make their own voices heard by assigning projects that encourage them to think about their own personal perspectives and determine how they can change the views and policies of those in power.

## 3. Reform discipline practices

Promote approaches to discipline that fight the disproportionality of referrals of students of color. One model is [restorative justice](#), which provides an alternative to suspensions. Create programs that promote positive peer relations and student leadership to help prevent the need for discipline.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### John Lewis - "Good Trouble" Film Screening

February 25-27

About the Film: an intimate account of legendary U.S. Representative John Lewis' life, legacy and more than 60 years of extraordinary activism—from the bold teenager on the front lines of the Civil Rights movement to the legislative powerhouse he was throughout his career. He never lost this spirit and called on his fellow Americans to get into "good trouble" until his passing. \*UNO Students can access the film for free. [Register here.](#)\*



### Black History Month Food Tour

- Tuesday, February 9th from 11-4: [Okra African Grill](#)
- Tuesday, February 16th from 11-4: [Soul Brothers, INC](#)
- Tuesday, February 23rd from 1-5 pm: [Mixins Rolled Ice Cream](#)

### Black History Month - Virtual Event

February 23 - 11:00 am-12:30 pm

From inspirational stories of individual achievements, to highlights on company strategies, this engaging Black History Month webinar will celebrate and explore different dimensions of diversity within the Black community. This is an opportunity for attendees to gain valuable insights into unique ways to support and uplift Black colleagues and communities, and understand the barriers, trends and actions we can take to continue to foster advancement. Click [here](#) for more information.



# Resources for Educators

Click [here](#) for a TON of great resources for educators on the following topics:

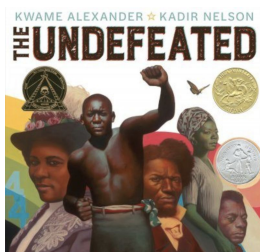
- How Do We Celebrate Black History Month? Teaching Black History Month in Schools
- What Can We Do In Our Classrooms? Lesson Plans and Curriculum Resources for Educators
- Do We Need Black History Month? The Underrepresentation and Miseducation of Black Stories, Experiences, and Histories in Schools
- What Are Ways to Bring Black Lives Matter Into the Classroom? (Curriculum Resources)
- Why Teach Black Lives Matter in Schools? (Think Pieces)
- Where are Afro-Latinos Represented in School Curricula?
- How Do We Center Black Women and Black Girls In Our Schools?
- How Do We Center Black LGBTQ Experiences?
- As a Parent, What Are Ways I Can Engage My Family in Black History Month?



## I Know My People are Strong: Black Lives Matter at School

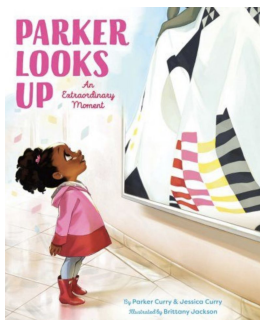
## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion guides for each book + more book recommendations can be found [here](#).



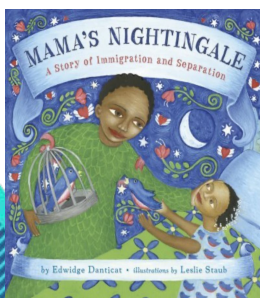
### The Undeclared (Ages 6-9)

This book and poem is a love letter to Black life in the U.S. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. Its insights into the accomplishments of the past, while bringing stark attention to the endurance and spirit of those surviving and thriving in the present.



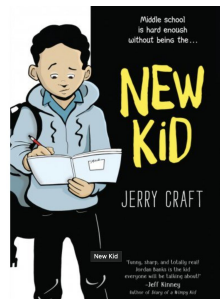
### Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment (Ages 4-8)

When Parker Curry came face-to-face with the portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama at the National Portrait Gallery, she didn't just see the First Lady of the U.S. She saw a queen—one with dynamic self-assurance, regality, beauty, and truth who captured this young girl's imagination. Parker sees the possibility and promise, the hopes and dreams of herself in this powerful painting of Michelle Obama.



### Mama's Nightingale (Ages 6-10)

After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in detention, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore. Moved by her mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good.



### New Kid (Ages 8-12)

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school, where Jordan is one of the few Black students. As he makes the daily trip from home to school, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and struggling to fit in. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?



### March: Book One (Ages 12 and up)

The late Congressman John Lewis is an American icon, a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement. His commitment to justice and nonviolence took him from an Alabama sharecropper's farm to the halls of Congress. *Book One* of this graphic novel trilogy spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins. Two other books in this trilogy continue Lewis' journey.



### The Hate You Give (Ages 14-17)

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the neighborhood where she lives and the suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of the police. His death becomes a national headline and protesters are taking to the streets. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. Everyone wants to know what happened that night, and the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

# Additional Resources

## Cultural Competence Self-Assessment Checklists

- [NASP](#)
- [RAP Workers](#)

## Instagram pages to follow:



@tededucation  
@black\_education\_matters  
@theconsciouskid  
@hereweeread  
@educatorsforjustice  
@teachersforblacklives  
@britthawthorne  
@danareadsbooks  
@desmondfambrini  
@moemotivate

## Why Hugging Out Racism in Education Just Won't Cut It - Laura Mae Lindo TEDxKichenerED

