

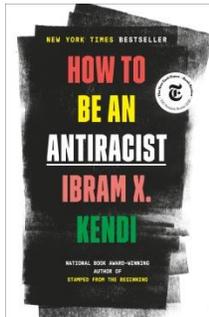
Anti-Racism and Black Lives Matter

Books for Adults



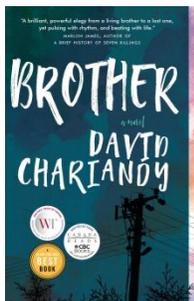
 **The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power**
by Cole, Desmond
2020

A bracing, provocative, and perspective-shifting book from one of Canada's most celebrated and uncompromising writers, Desmond Cole. *The Skin We're In* will spark a national conversation, influence policy, and inspire activists.



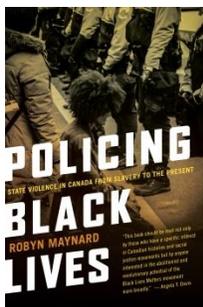
How To Be An Antiracist
by Kendi, Ibram X.
2019

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society.



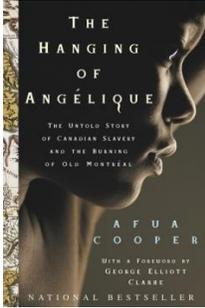
 **Brother, A Novel**
by Chariandy, David
2017

With devastating emotional force David Chariandy, a unique and exciting voice in Canadian literature, crafts a heartbreaking and timely story about the profound love that exists between brothers and the senseless loss of lives cut short with the shot of a gun.



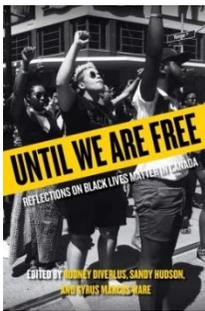
 **Policing Black Lives : state violence in Canada from slavery to the present**
by Maynard, Robyn
2017

This book is a timely and much-needed exposure of historical and contemporary practices of state-sanctioned violence against Black lives in Canada. This ground-breaking work dispels many prevailing myths that cast Canada as a land of benevolence and racial equality, and uncovers long-standing state practices that have restricted Black freedom.



 **The Hanging of Angélique : the untold story of Canadian slavery and the burning of old Montréal**
by Cooper, Afua
2006

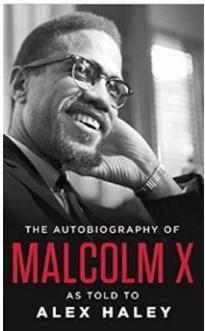
Writer, historian and poet Afua Cooper tells the astonishing story of Marie-Joseph Angélique, a slave woman convicted of starting a fire that destroyed a large part of Montréal in April 1734 and condemned to die a brutal death. Cooper completely demolishes the myth of a benign, slave-free Canada, revealing a damning 200-year-old record of legally and culturally endorsed slavery.



 **Until We Are Free: reflections of Black Lives Matter in Canada**

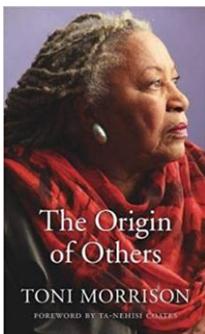
edited by Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson, and Syrus Marcus Ware
2020

Until We Are Free is an anthology of writing that contains some of the very best African-Canadian writing on the hottest and most urgent issues facing the black community in Canada.



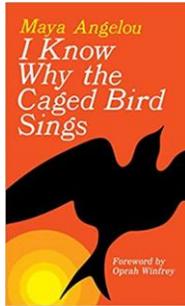
The Autobiography of Malcom X
by Malcolm X (as told by Alex Haley)
1992

Through a life of passion and struggle, Malcolm X became one of the most influential figures of the 20th Century. In this riveting account, he tells of his journey from a prison cell to Mecca, describing his transition from hoodlum to Muslim minister.



The Origin of Others
by Morrison, Toni
2017

One of America's foremost novelists reflects on the themes that preoccupy her work and increasingly dominate national and world politics: race, fear, borders, the mass movement of peoples, and the desire for belonging.

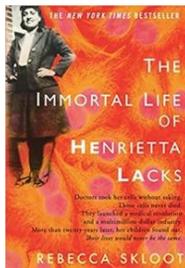


I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

by Angelou, Maya

2009

In this first of five volumes of autobiography, poet Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence. Sent at a young age to live with her grandmother in Arkansas, Angelou learned a great deal from this exceptional woman and the tightly knit black community there. These very lessons carried her throughout the hardships she endured later in life.



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

by Skloot, Rebecca

2010

A riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew. It's a story inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we're made of.

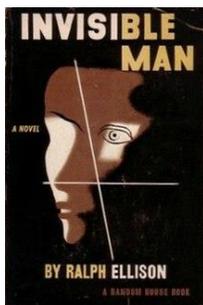


Boy, Snow, Bird

by Oyeyemi, Helen

2014

This complex novel, a loose re-telling of the Snow White tale, is set in Flaxill, Massachusetts. The main character is a white girl named Boy Novak. The novel explores race, racism, gender, and family relations through the lives of Boy and her family members.

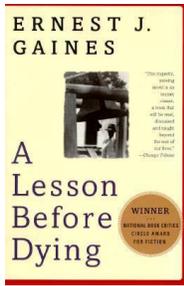


Invisible Man

by Ellison, Ralph

1994

Originally written in 1952, Ellison's book addresses many of the social and intellectual issues faced by the African Americans in the early twentieth century, including black nationalism, the relationship between black identity and Marxism, and the reformist racial policies of Booker T. Washington, as well as issues of individuality and personal identity.

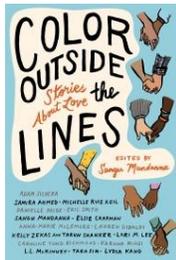


A Lesson Before Dying

by Gaines, Ernest J.

1993

A Lesson Before Dying is Ernest J. Gaines' eighth novel, published in 1993. While it is a fictional work, it is loosely based on the true story of Willie Francis, a young black man sentenced to death by the electric chair twice in Louisiana, in 1945 and 1947.

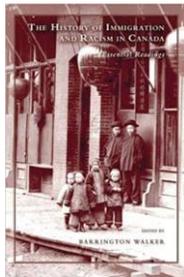


Color Outside the Lines

edited by Mandanna, Sangu

2020

This modern, ground-breaking anthology explores the complexity and beauty of interracial and LGBTQ+ relationships where differences are front and center. It is a collection of stories about young, fierce, brilliantly hopeful people in love.

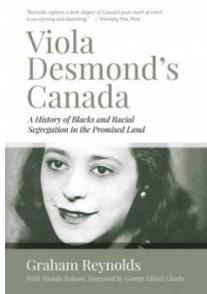


The History of Immigration and Racism in Canada: essential reading

edited by Walker, Barrington

2008

This outstanding essay collection examines the complex and disturbing history of immigration and racism in Canada. Major themes include Native/non-Native contact, migration and settlement in the nineteenth century, immigrant workers and radicalism, human rights, internment during WWII, and racism of the present day.

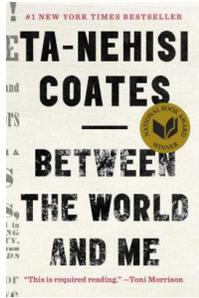


Viola Desmond's Canada: a history of blacks and racial segregation in the promised land

by Reynolds, Graham

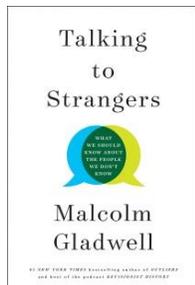
2016

Viola Irene Desmond was a Canadian civil rights activist and businesswoman of Black Nova Scotian descent. In 1946 she challenged racial segregation at a cinema in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia by refusing to leave a whites-only area of the Roseland Theatre. *Viola Desmond's Canada* is a ground-breaking book that provides a concise overview of the narrative of the Black experience in Canada from slavery under French and British rule in the eighteenth century to the practice of racial segregation and the fight for racial equality in the twentieth century.



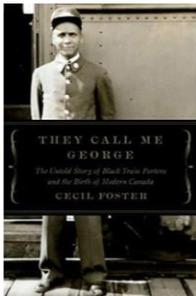
Between the World and Me by Coates, Ta-Nehisi 2015

What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden? *Between the World and Me* is Coates' attempt to answer these questions in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken as American plunder.



Talking To Strangers: what we should know about people we don't know by Gladwell, Malcolm 2019

Something is very wrong, Gladwell says, with the tools and strategies we use to make sense of people we don't know. And because we don't know how to talk to strangers, we are inviting conflict and misunderstanding in ways that have a profound effect on our lives and our world.



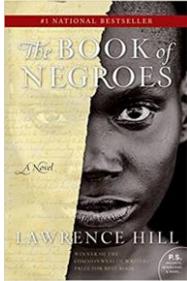
They Call Me George: the untold story of black train porters and the birth of modern Canada by Foster, Cecil 2019

A historical work of non-fiction that chronicles the little-known stories of black railway porters - the so-called "Pullmen" of the Canadian rail lines. The actions and spirit of these men helped define Canada as a nation in surprising ways, effecting race relations, human rights, North American multiculturalism, community building, the shape and structure of unions, and the nature of travel and business across the US and Canada.



Shame on Me: an anatomy of race and belonging by McWatt, Tessa 2020

Shame on Me is a personal and powerful exploration of history and identity, colour and desire from a writer who, having been plagued with confusion about her race all her life, has at last found kinship and solidarity in story.

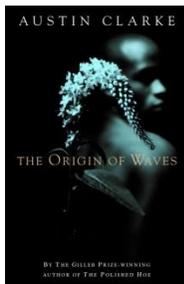


The Book of Negroes

by Hill, Lawrence

2007

Follows the story of Aminata Diallo, as she is kidnapped from her village in Africa and put to work in a slave plantation in South Carolina, to her journey back to Africa through Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone.

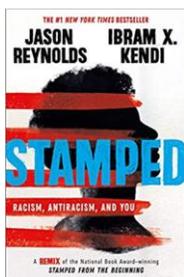


The Origin of Waves

by Clarke, Austin

2011

Austin Clarke's luminous novel, written in vivid, hypnotic prose, reveals the dislocations of place and the nature of memory and the past. Two elderly Barbadian men, childhood friends who haven't seen each other in fifty years, collide in a snowstorm on a Toronto street. In the warmth of a nearby bar, through the afternoon and into the night, they relate stories, exchange opinions, and share memories of a past in Barbados. Infused with pathos and humour, and with an affecting nostalgia for the idea of home.



Stamped: racism, antiracism, and you

by Reynolds, Jason and Kendi, Ibram X.

2020

The construct of race has always been used to gain and keep power, to create dynamics that separate and silence. Racist ideas are woven into the fabric of this country, and the first step to building an antiracist America is acknowledging America's racist past and present. This book takes you on that journey, showing how racist ideas started and were spread, and how they can be discredited.