

## Anti-Racism Resources – Adult

*“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced” – James Baldwin.*<sup>1</sup>

Learn more about the issues we face in today’s society with these resources. While we know that books alone cannot fix problems, we believe in the power of books and other resources to inspire understanding, impart knowledge and be a catalyst for self-reflection and discussion. This is an evolving list of resources. For more information, please contact our librarians.

### Adult Books – Nonfiction:



***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates:** attempts to answer the most difficult questions about survival, identity, history, and freedom facing black men and women. Written as a letter to his adolescent son.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine:** Using poetry, art, and essay, Claudia Rankine recounts mounting racial aggressions in ongoing encounters in 21st century daily life and in the media.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***The Color of Law: a Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein:** While the term de facto segregation is often used to assert that this is the result of private decisions or personal acts of discrimination, Rothstein argues that the real history of segregation is primarily that of explicit or de jure government policy, with personal actions secondary.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibrahīm X. Kendi:** Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas; from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities; that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander:** Argues that the War on Drugs and policies that deny convicted felons equal access to employment, housing, education and public benefits create a permanent under-caste based largely on race.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi:** This comprehensive history of anti-black racism focuses on the lives of five major players in American history and highlights the debates that took place between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and anti-racists. *Winner 2016 National Book Award.*

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas A. Blackman:** Reveals the stories of those who fought unsuccessfully against the re-emergence of human labor trafficking, from the late 1870s through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the companies that profited most from neoslavery, and the system's final demise in the 1940s.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [eBook](#)

***Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America* by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva:** documents how, beneath our contemporary conversation about race, there lies a full-blown arsenal of arguments, phrases, and stories that whites use to account for, and ultimately justify, racial inequalities. This fifth edition makes clear that color blind racism is as insidious now as ever.

**Borrow from the library:** [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo:** Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson:** In his 2016 *New York Times* op-ed piece "Death in Black and White," Michael Eric Dyson moved a nation. Now he continues to speak out in *Tears We Cannot Stop*—a provocative and deeply personal call for change. Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele:** A lyrical memoir by the co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement urges readers to understand the movement's position of love, humanity and justice, challenging perspectives that have negatively labeled the movement's activists while calling for essential political changes.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***White Fragility: Why it's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo:** Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

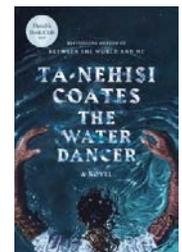
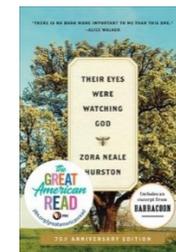
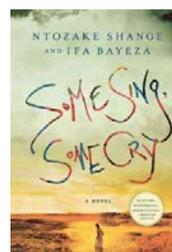
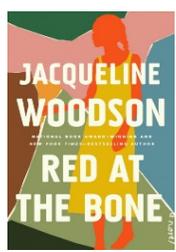
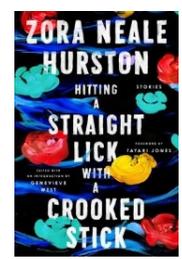
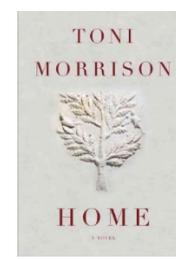
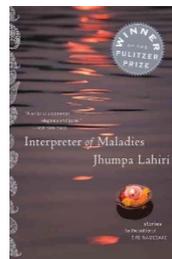
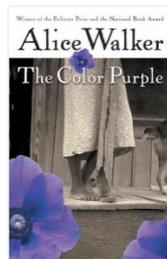
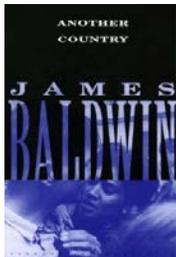
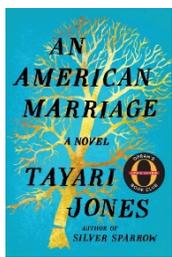
**White Like Me: Reflections on Race From a Privileged Son by Time Wise:** explores the ways in which whites can challenge their unjust privileges, and explains in clear and convincing language why it is in the best interest of whites themselves to do so. Using anecdotes instead of statistics, Wise weaves a narrative that is at once readable and yet scholarly, analytical and yet accessible.

**Borrow from the library:** [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

**Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum:** Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [eBook](#)

## Adult Books – Fiction:



**An American Marriage by Tayari Jones:** When her new husband is arrested and imprisoned for a crime she knows he did not commit, a rising artist takes comfort in a longtime friendship only to encounter unexpected challenges in resuming her life when her husband's sentence is suddenly overturned.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

**Another Country by James Baldwin:** Set in Greenwich Village, Harlem, and France, among other locales, *Another Country* is a novel of passions--sexual, racial, political, artistic--that is stunning for its emotional intensity and haunting sensuality, depicting men and women, blacks and whites, stripped of their masks of gender and race by love and hatred at the most elemental and sublime.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

**The Color Purple by Alice Walker:** Separated as girls, sisters sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance and silence. Through a series of letters spanning 20 years, the novel draws readers into its rich and memorable portrayals. *The Color Purple* broke the silence around domestic and sexual abuse, narrating the lives of women through their pain and struggle, companionship and growth, resilience and bravery. *Winner 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award.*

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#)

***Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri:** This debut collection unerringly charts the emotional journeys of characters seeking love beyond the barriers of nations and generations. In stories that travel from India to America and back again, Lahiri speaks with universal eloquence to everyone who has ever felt like a foreigner. *Winner 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and Hemmingway/PEN Award*

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison:** The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be. *Winner 1953 National Book Award for Fiction*

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Home* by Toni Morrison:** An angry, broken veteran of the Korean War who, after traumatic experiences on the front lines, finds himself back in racist America with more than just physical scars. He is shocked out of his apathy by the need to rescue his medically abused younger sister and take her back to the small Georgia home town he's hated all his life.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick: Stories from the Harlem Renaissance* by Zora Neale Hurston:** Featuring eight lesser-known stories, a collection of Harlem Renaissance tales by the revered folklorist and author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* explores subjects ranging from class and migration to racism and sexism.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead:** Elwood, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory, and finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. His only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life becomes more perilous, the tension between ideals and skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades. *Winner 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction*

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson:** As Melody celebrates a coming of age ceremony at her grandparents' house in 2001 Brooklyn, her family remembers 1985, when Melody's own mother prepared for a similar party that never took place in this novel about different social classes.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward:** Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents, Mam and Pop, and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. When the white father of Leonie's children is released from prison, she packs her kids and a friend into her car and sets out on a journey rife with danger and promise. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* grapples with the ugly truths at the heart of the American story and the power, and limitations, of the bonds of family. *Winner 2017 National Book Award for Fiction.*

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

***Some Sing, Some Cry* by Ntozake Shange and Ifa Bayeza:** Emancipated grandmother and granddaughter head to Charleston to carve out lives for themselves. Their family grows through the watershed events of America's troubled, vibrant history—from Reconstruction to both World Wars, the Harlem Renaissance to Vietnam and the modern day.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#)

**Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid:** Seeking justice for a young black babysitter who was wrongly accused of kidnapping by a racist security guard, a successful blogger finds her efforts complicated by a video that reveals unexpected connections.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

**Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston:** When independent Janie Crawford returns home, her small African-American community begins to buzz with gossip about the outcome of her affair with a younger man, in a novel set in the 1930s South. One of the most important and enduring books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost 30 years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has, since its 1978 reissue, become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African-American literature.

**Borrow from the library:** [Book](#) | [Audiobook](#) | [eBook](#) | [eAudiobook](#)

**The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates:** A Virginia slave narrowly escapes a drowning death through the intervention of a mysterious force that compels his escape and so begins an unexpected journey that takes him from the corrupt grandeur of Virginia's proud plantations to desperate guerrilla cells in the wilderness, from the coffin of the Deep South to dangerously idealistic movements in the North. Even as he's enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, his resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.

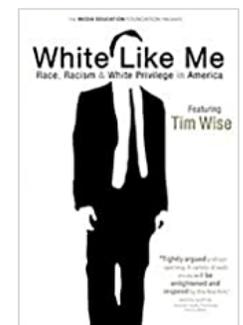
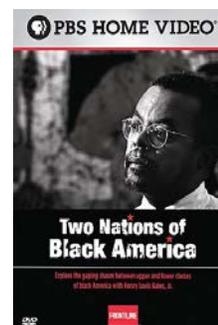
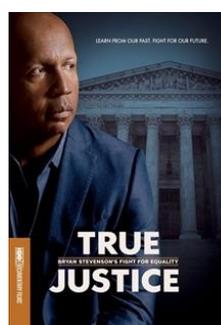
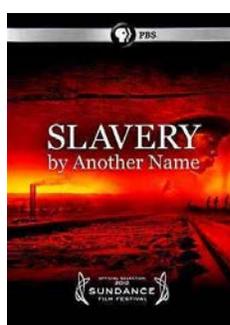
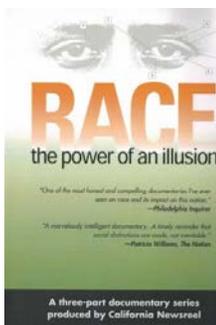
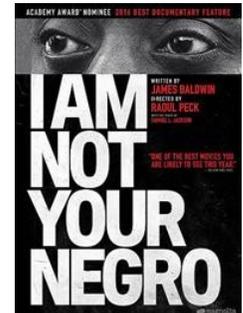
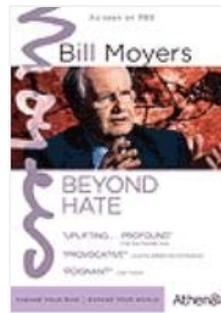
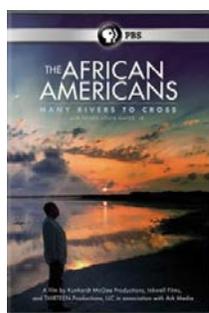
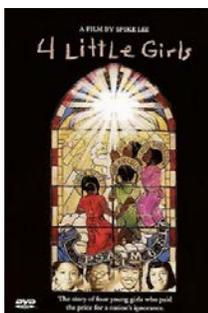
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## More digital books (fiction/nonfiction), available in [Overdrive](#):

[Antiracism Resources](#)

[#ownvoices / Diverse Books](#)

## Adult Films - Documentaries:



**4 Little Girls** (Director: Spike Lee; 2010): On Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 1963, dynamite planted by the Ku Klux Klan, exploded in the building. Under the fallen debris, the bodies of four girls were found. Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley died because of the color of their skin. Features archival film footage, home photographs, comments by surviving family members, and interviews with local and national figures of the time.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#)

**The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross** (Director: Sabin Streeeter; PBS; 2014): Explore with Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the evolution of the African-American people, as well as the multiplicity of cultural institutions, political strategies, and religious and social perspectives they developed-forging their own history, culture and society against unimaginable odds.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | stream with [Hoopla](#) | stream with [Kanopy](#)

**Beyond Hate** (Directors: Catherine Tatge and Dominique Lasseur; Athena; 2013): Hate has many faces. But do we really understand its roots? Are there practical ways to cope with it? What is hate doing to us? More importantly, what does hate do for us? Bill Moyers seeks to answer these questions. His search takes him around the world where he talks to philosophers and historians, authors and activists to those whose lives have been shaped by hate and those who have dedicated their lives to going beyond it.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#)

**The House I Live In** (Director: Eugene Jarecki; Virgil Films & Entertainment; 2013): For over 40 years, the War on Drugs has accounted for over 45 million arrests, made America the world's largest jailer, and damaged poor communities. Yet for all that, drugs are cheaper, purer, and more available today than ever before. Filmed in more than 20 states, this documentary captures heart-wrenching stories from individuals at all levels, the dealer to the grieving mother, the narcotics officer to the senator, the inmate to the federal judge, and reveals the profound human rights implications of the war on drugs. (Originally released as a motion picture in 2012.)

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#)

**I am Not Your Negro** (Director: Raul Peck; Magnolia Home Entertainment; 2017): Documentary filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words and a flood of rich archival material. A journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#) | stream with [Hoopla](#) | stream with [Kanopy](#)

**Race: The Power of an Illusion** (Executive Producer: Larry Adelman; California Newsreel; 2003)

Episode one explores how recent scientific discoveries have toppled the concept of biological race. Episode two questions the belief that race has always been with us. It traces the race concept to the European conquest of the Americas. Episode three focuses on how our institutions shape and create race.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | stream with [Kanopy](#)

**Slavery by Another Name** (Director: Sam Pollard; PBS; 2012)

Challenges one of America's most cherished assumptions, the belief that slavery in the U.S. ended with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, by telling the harrowing story of how, in the South, a new system of involuntary servitude took its place with shocking force. (Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Douglas A. Blackmon.)

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | stream with [Hoopla](#) | stream with [Kanopy](#)

**True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality** (Director: Peter Kunhardt, George Kunhardt, Teddy Kunhardt; HBO; 2020)

For more than three decades, Alabama public interest attorney, founder, and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, has advocated on behalf of the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned, seeking to eradicate racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. An intimate portrait of this remarkable man, this film follows his struggle to create greater fairness in the system and shows how racial injustice emerged, evolved, and continues to threaten the country.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#)

### ***Two Nations of Black America* (Producer: June Cross for Frontline; PBS; 2008)**

There is a growing economic divide in black America. Today, America's black middle class is the largest in its history, yet roughly one-third of black America continues to live in poverty. This film measures the economic and social success of the civil rights movement and the gap between middle class and poor African-Americans through interviews with noted Afro-Americans and historical film footage. (Originally presented as an episode of the television series *Frontline* in 1998.)

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#)

### ***White Like Me* (Filmmakers: Jeremy Young, Scott Morris, Sut Jhally, Tim Wise; Media Education Foundation; 2013)**

For years, Tim Wise's bestselling books and spellbinding lectures have challenged some of our most basic assumptions about race in America. *White Like Me* is the first film to bring the full range of his work to the screen -- to show how white privilege continues to shape individual attitudes, electoral politics, and government policy in ways too many white people never stop to think about.

**Borrow from the library:** stream with [Kanopy](#)

## **More Documentaries to Stream:**

[Ethnicity & Identity Films on Kanopy](#)

[Human Rights Films on Kanopy](#)

[Social and Systemic Injustice Films on Kanopy](#)

## **Adult Films - Movies:**



***12 Years a Slave* (Director: Steve McQueen, 2014):** Based on the true story of Solomon Northup. In 1841, Northup, an accomplished, free citizen of New York, is kidnapped and sold into slavery. Stripped of his identity and deprived of all dignity, he is ultimately purchased by a ruthless plantation owner and must find the strength within to survive.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***The Butler* (Director: Lee Daniels; Anchor Bay Entertainment; 2014):** Inspired by a true story about Cecil Gaines, a devoted husband, father, and White House butler who served eight Presidential administrations during the turbulent politics and civil rights battles of 20<sup>th</sup> century America.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***Fruitvale Station* (Director: Ryan Coogler; Anchor Bay Entertainment; 2014):** The story of Oscar Grant III, a 22-year-old Bay Area resident, who crosses paths with friends, enemies, family, and strangers on the last day of 2008.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***The Hate U Give*** (Director: George Tillman, Jr.; Twentieth Century Fox; 2019): Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressures from all sides of the community, Starr tries to find her voice in order to stand up for what's right.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***If Beale Street Could Talk*** (Director: Barry Jenkins; Twentieth Century Fox; 2018): A love story set in early 1970s Harlem. Newly engaged couple Tish and Fonny's plans are derailed when Fonny is arrested for a crime he did not commit. Now the pair and their families must fight for justice in the name of love and the promise of the American dream.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***Just Mercy*** (Director: Destin Daniel Cretton; Warner Bros.; 2019): A powerful and thought-provoking true story follows young lawyer Bryan Stevenson and his history-making battle for justice. After graduating from Harvard, Bryan had his pick of lucrative jobs. Instead, he heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or who were not afforded proper representation, with the support of local advocate Eva Ansley. One of his first and most incendiary cases is that of Walter McMillian.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***Pariah*** (Director: Dee Rees; Universal; 2012): Seventeen-year-old Alike lives with her family Brooklyn's Fort Greene neighborhood. She has a flair for poetry, and is quietly embracing her identity as a lesbian. But whenever Alike's development becomes a topic of discussion at home, her parents' already strained marriage is pushed to the breaking point. Wondering how much she can confide in her family, Alike strives to get through adolescence with grace, humor, and tenacity -- sometimes succeeding, sometimes not, but always moving forward.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

***Precious*** (Director: Lee Daniels; Lionsgate; 2010): In New York City's Harlem circa 1987, an overweight, abused, illiterate teen who is pregnant with her second child is invited to enroll in an alternative school in hopes that her life can head in a new direction.

**Borrow from the library:** [DVD](#) | [Blu-Ray](#)

## Online Resources

### Websites

#### [Talking About Race](#)

Developed by the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. Offers tools and guidance to learn about race for educators, parents & caregivers or any individual ready to explore the subject. To learn more visit: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>

#### [TED: Talks to Help You Understand Racism](#)

A playlist of TED talk videos "from passionate pleas for reform to poetic turns of phrase, these talks take an honest look at everyday realities of Black Americans and illuminate the way forward." To learn more visit: <https://www.ted.com/>

#### [Racial Equity Tools](#)

Offers support people and groups who are working for inclusion, racial equity and social justice. Find resource list for all areas and levels of education and awareness. Learn more at: <https://www.racialequitytools.org/home>

## [Racism in America on PBS](#)

Explore films and new specials focused on race at PBS. Visit: <https://www.pbs.org/articles/2020/06/racism-in-america/>

## Podcasts

### [Code Switch: NPR](#)

NPR podcast series hosted by journalists of color tackling the subject of race head-on. Visit:

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch>

[Who? Me? Biased?](#) The New York Times 6-episode video collection by Saleem Rashamwala explores implicit bias and the unfair effects of our subconscious. (*December 16, 2016*) Available at The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/who-me-biased> and PBS Learning Media at

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/pov-biased-lpclips/who-me-biased/>

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<sup>1</sup>By, JAMES B. "AS MUCH TRUTH AS ONE CAN BEAR: TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE WORLD AS IT IS, SAYS JAMES BALDWIN, IS THE WRITER'S JOB AS MUCH OF THE TRUTH AS ONE CAN BEAR." *New York Times (1923-Current file)*, Jan 14, 1962, pp. 2. *ProQuest*, <https://0-search-proquest-com.search.livebrary.com/docview/115945390?accountid=35174>.