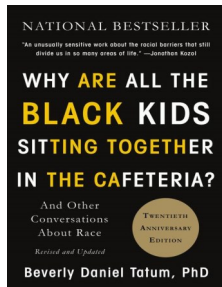


## Seeking Racial Understanding: A Reading List

The nation-wide outbreak of marches and rallies protesting the treatment of African Americans by some police units, along with the other contagion of illness exposing the unequal access to healthcare in communities of color, have underscored for me the different realities of daily life experienced by most white Americans versus most Americans of color. While there is a large body of literature on the subject of race in America, here are a few books I have read recently which have been helpful to me in furthering my understanding. - Nancy A.

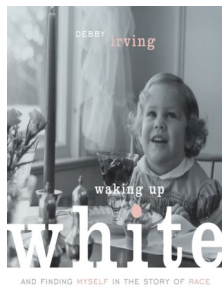


### **Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria and Other Conversations about Race**, revised edition 2017

By Beverly Daniel Tatum

Tatum, psychologist and educator, delves into how children develop a sense of racial identity, and how racism impacts all of us. The revised edition puts this in the context of recent American society. “In a race-conscious society, we all have a racial identity that develops in predictable ways, shaped largely by the interactions we have with others. I believe that an understanding of that identity-development process can help all of us begin to build bridges across lines of difference.” Beverly Daniel Tatum

[book](#), [Overdrive e-book](#)

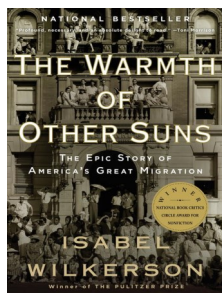


### **Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race**

By Debby Irving

I underlined this book all over the place—she was so like me! Irving was a typical progressive white professional who felt that she just wasn’t connecting with her colleagues of color, and set out to understand the disconnect. “All Americans live within the context of one dominant culture, the one brought to this country by white Anglo settlers .Exploring one’s relationship to that culture is where the waking up process begins.” Debby Irving

[book](#), [Overdrive audiobook](#)



### **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration**

By Isabel Wilkerson.

“In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson, chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of [approximately six million] black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.” Amazon. Wilkerson interweaves fascinating general history of the period with the emotional stories of three individuals who made that journey. A big book, but very readable.

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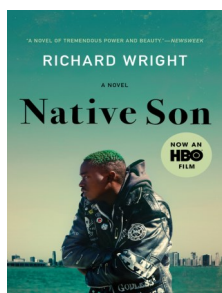


### **The Hate U Give**

By Angie Thomas

Listen to the audio version of this gripping novel (warning: contains vulgar language). “Ripped from the headlines,” as they say. Starr, a black teenager, witnesses a police officer shoot her unarmed friend in what became a national news story. Told in the first person, Starr’s world is split between her urban neighborhood and elite white school, her protective family and inner need to speak out to seek justice for her friend.

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### **Native Son**

By Richard Wright

This is a hard, brutal book and not for the tender-hearted. It will challenge you with one of the least sympathetic main characters in modern fiction. It explores how the society of Chicago in the 1930s created a man full of fear and hate. When thrust into a white world he didn’t understand, confusion, frustration and helplessness/hopelessness turns to rage. This book helped me understand that progression for the first time.

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