

Resource Committee Book Questions

Generic

1. Why do you think the author chose to write this book?
2. What do you think is the message of this book?
3. Can you think of any situations you've experienced or heard of that are similar to what happened in this book?
4. After reading this book, what do you feel good about? Does anything make you uncomfortable?
5. What do you agree with/disagree with in this book?
6. What did you learn from this story?
7. What actions are you planning to take based on the message in this story?
8. How can we work together to help better the issues raised in this book?
9. How can we use our words to talk more about race?
10. Do you think there are people who think and act in racist ways in our world today?
11. What do outward appearances have to do with how people are treated?
12. How do you think the character who is discriminated against felt? How do you think the character who is discriminating against others felt?
13. What policies have and/or currently give advantages to white people?
14. How are we all alike?
15. How can we really get to know other people?

Specific Elementary Books from the Book Kits

When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson

1. What do you think it would be like to dress like everyone else, wear your hair the same way as your classmates, be forced to speak a new language and be separated from your brothers and sisters? How does Nokom respond to her feelings?
2. Why do you think the school wanted Nokom and her people to be like everyone else?

Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester

1. What do you think is the main reason people say their race is better than another?
2. How do you think the world would change if we all "took off our skin" and people couldn't tell what color and/or gender other people were?

I am Perfectly Designed by Karamo Brown and Jason “Rachel” Brown

1. How do you think the son feels to have his Dad respond to him the way he does?
2. Is there someone in your life who loves you like this? Who is it? What do they say or do to make you feel so loved just the way you are?

What Color is My Hijab by Huddah Ibrahim

1. During what activities can someone wear a hijab?
2. How can the colors be symbolic?
3. In what ways are hijabs beautiful?

Separate is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh

1. Why do you think some people did not want to sign the petition written by Mr. Mendez?
2. Why do you think Mr. Mendez and his family found other families who were experiencing segregation?

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander

1. Which historical figure do you connect with the most? Why?
2. Explain the illustration (or lack thereof) opposite the page that states: “And the ones who didn’t.” How does that make you feel?

Specific Books that are not from the Book Kits but you may like for your classroom:

Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi

1. Which step is hardest for you to do? Which one is easiest?
2. Why is it important not to stay silent about racism?
3. Why do you think it is important to confess when being racist?

Can I Touch Your Hair? by Irene Latham and Charles Waters

1. Which poem do you connect with most? Why?
2. Why do you think the character’s poems keep switching sides?
3. How does the relationship between the two main characters change throughout the book? Why do you think that happens?

Every Human Has Rights

1. Which right(s) do you value the most?
2. What violation(s) of human rights have you noticed? Explain. How does that make you feel?

Not My Idea by Anastasia Higginbotham

1. Do you think it is good or bad not to see color?
2. Why do you think opening and connecting can sometimes feel like breaking?

3. Why is it important to learn the “real history”?

Race Cars by Jenny Devenny

1. Describe the differences between the reactions Chase and Ace have after the races.
2. Why does Ace think he is winning the race, and not Chase? Why is he really winning the race?
3. Why do you think it took so long for Ace to notice the signs and realize what Chase has to go through to finish the race?

Skin Again by Bell Hooks

1. What story(ies) would your skin tell about who you are?
2. Why does the author say you must “let go of who you might think I am” before you can “come inside” to get to know others?

Something Happened in Our Town by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins and Ann Hazzard

1. Sometimes a policeman might have to shoot someone. When would that be a good choice? When would that be a bad choice?
2. How can you stick up for someone who is being treated unfairly?