Formerly known as the Ferguson Reads List, this reading list is intended to provide some history and context to the recent protests. This is a community curated list of books that explore race, not only in St. Louis, but America as a whole. By no means a full comprehensive list, here are a few to get you started on the trail of understanding what's happening. For more information, please visit www.left-bank.com/black-lives-matter

**Children’s Books**  
*Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins* by Carole Boston Weatherford

*Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom* by Virginia Hamilton

*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

**Civil Rights History**  
*Freedom Summer: The Savage Season of 1964 That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy* by Bruce Watson

*Lynching of Cleo Wright* by Dominic J. Capoci JR

*The Freedom Summer Murders* by Don Mitchell

*The Eve of Destruction: How 1965 Transformed America* by James T. Patterson

*March, Book 1* by John Lewis

*Contempt of Court: The Turn-of-the-Century Lynching That Launched a Hundred Years of Federalism* by Mark Curriden

*Freedom’s Ballot: African American Political Struggles in Chicago from Abolition to the Great Migration* by Margaret Garb

*The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

*American Slavery, American Freedom* by Edmund S. Morgan

*A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School* by Carlotta Walls Lanier

*Olivia’s Story: The Conspiracy of Heroes behind Shelley v. Kraemer* by Jeffery Copeland

*Waking from the Dream: The Struggle for Civil Rights in the Shadow of Martin Luther King Jr.* by David Chappell

*Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis that Shook the Nation* by Elizabeth Jacoway

*Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose

*Buried in the Bitter Waters: The Hidden History of Racial Cleansing in America* by Elliot Jaspin

*Medical Appartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* by Harriet Washington

*Race Riot: Chicago in the Red Summer of 1919* by William Tuttle
Contemporary Civil Rights Issues

*Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America* by Eugene Robinson

*The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn’t and Why* by Jabari Asim

*Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice* by Paul Kivel

*The Meaning of Freedom: And Other Difficult Dialogues* by Angela Y. Davis

*Creative Community Organizing: A Guide for Rabble-Rousers, Activists, and Quiet Lovers of Justice* by Si Kahn

*The House That Race Built* edited by Wahneema Lubiano

*Black Stats: African Americans by the Numbers in the Twenty-First Century* by Monique W. Morris

*Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect* by Robert J. Sampson

*The News: A User’s Manual* by Alain De Botton

*Combined Destinies: Whites Sharing Grief about Racism* by Jealous T. Ann

*The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap* by Mat Taibbi

*The Fragile Mind: How It Has Produced and Unwittingly Perpetuates America’s Tragic Disparities* by Jarik Conrad

*Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire

*White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* by Tim Wise

*Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk about Race and How to Do It* by Shelly Tochluk

*Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class* by Ian Haney-Lopez

Memoir

*The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons and an Unlikely Road to Manhood* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore

*The Grace of Silence: A Family Memoir* by Michele Norris

*High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America* by Jessica B. Harris

*March, Book 1* by John Lewis

*Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward

*At the Elbows of My Elders* by Gail Milissa Grant

*A Mighty Long Way* by Carlotta Walls Lanier

*Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin

Novels and Stories Exploring Race

*Boy, Snow, Bird* by Helen Oyeyemi

*AmeriCanaah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

*A Taste of Honey* by Jabari Asim
Betsey Brown by Ntozake Shange

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines

Native Son by Richard Wright

King Hedley II by August Wilson

Shedding from the Inside by Kalonna Carpenter

Stuck Rubber Baby by Howard Cruse

Playing in the Dark by Toni Morrison

Policing and Incarceration

Rise of the Warrior Cop by Radley Balko

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Losing Legitimacy by Gary Lafree

Mass Incarceration on Trial by Jonathan Simon

Suspicion Nation by Lisa Bloom

The Central Park Five by Sarah Burns

Arbitrary Justice by Angela J. Davis

Life in Prison by Stanley “Tookie” Williams

No Choirboy: Murder, Violence and Teenagers on Death Row by Susan Kuklin

Why Are So Many Black Men in Prison? By Demico Boothe

Race in St. Louis History

Never Been a Time by Harper Barnes

Mapping Decline by Colin Gordon

Grassroots at the Gateway by Clarence Lang

That’s the Way it Was by Vida “Sister” Goldman Prince

Olivia’s Story by Jeffrey Copeland