



# BLACK LIVES MATTER

## A READING LIST

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](http://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. Capeci 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 Shocked 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 Jaspín

***Medical Apartheid: 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

***Americahah*** 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