

Summer Reading For Your Woke Kid

Kayla Lattimore July 6, 2017 5:15 AM ET



Elizabeth Graeber for NPR

Social activist Innosanto Nagara wanted to find a fun book to read to his 2-year-old son that also talked about the importance of social justice.

He wasn't looking for the typical fiction written for children. Instead, he was looking for unique narratives — by writers of color and/or authors who can speak about social issues through their own experiences.

Nagara couldn't find any. So he wrote one.

"Parents and teachers are realizing that what students read and learn affects how they see the world." said Deborah Menkart, Executive Director for Teaching for Change, an organization that puts together [social justice reading lists](#) to inspire children throughout the summer.

"Give kids credit," says Stan Yogi, one of the authors on our list. "They have an innate sense of what's right and what's wrong. Being able to draw on that innate sense of justice through relatable stories is so important."

Not all parents have the time to do what Innosanto Nagara did.

For those who can't, we've compiled a list — with help from Teaching for Change — of books that frame big issues through a lens children can understand.