TA-NEHISI COATES’ BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME
Resources for High School Teachers

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CURRICULUM AND DISCUSSION GUIDES TO BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME

UO Common Reading Teaching Guide:  http://ow.ly/HWtS308d4kQ
Organized in three units, this resource offers over 20 specific teaching ideas, questions, and companion texts for exploring Coates’ work through a variety of disciplines.

Discussion questions grouped around 20 themes from the book.

Provides prompts for critical analysis of Between the World and Me using the Common Core Standards for Informational Text for grades 11 and 12. Prompts are organized according to the standards they primarily support. Also includes classroom activities to further enhance analysis of the text.

SELECTED BOOKS FOR STUDENT READING

A powerfully-told and beautifully-documented biography of the teenager who first (even before Rosa Parks) stood up to segregation on Montgomery buses in the Jim Crow South, and the movement and legal actions that resulted. This book is an insightful look into the complexities of this chapter in the fight for civil rights and why, despite her importance in the movement, Claudette Colvin was determined not fit to be the face of the movement. A testament to the power of youth to bring about change.
UO Knight Library: Juvenile Collection F334.M753 C6554 2009

A graphic novel in three volumes chronicling the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of the movement’s icons, Congressman John Lewis.
Eugene Public Library: YA-GN LEWIS JOH MARCH

In this novel set in the author’s hometown of Portland, twins Maya and Nikki enter their senior year of high school and find themselves navigating changes in their relationships, set in motion by their differing responses to their gentrifying neighborhood. Maya takes on the role as an activist, making sense of her personal identity and embracing her black heritage while fighting for racial justice. With a truthful and honest voice, Watson paints a compelling picture of the complications of
contemporary African-American experience. Touching on many of the themes that appear in *Between the World and Me*, this is the perfect book for an Oregonian audience.

*Eugene Public Library: YA WATSON REN THIS SID*

This lyrical account of the author’s childhood, spent between South Carolina and Brooklyn in the 1960s and 1970s, is told in free verse poetry. It includes strong memories of family, how Woodson experienced the remnants of Jim Crow, her growing awareness of the Civil Rights Movement, and finding her voice and her place in the world. Winner of the National Book Award.

*Eugene Public Library: J 921 WOODSON JACQUELINE 2014*

**ADDITIONAL SOURCES**

**Art is for Action:** [http://reneewatsonauthor.tumblr.com/](http://reneewatsonauthor.tumblr.com/)
A blog for educators and artists who teach for social justice by author, poet, and educator Renée Watson. For additional curriculum resources on teaching social justice (including #Black Lives Matter) see the educators’ page of Watson’s website: [http://www.reneewatson.net/for-educators/](http://www.reneewatson.net/for-educators/)

**How to Talk to Kids about Race: Books and Resources That Can Help:** [http://ow.ly/kPAX308d6ac](http://ow.ly/kPAX308d6ac)
Includes tips and resources to empower adults to not shy away from talking about race with children. Includes reading suggestions for elementary grades to adult.

Historian Ibram Kendi’s comprehensive and readable intellectual history of anti-Black racist ideas begins with their origins in 15th century Europe and goes through the Obama era, where racism continues to thrive. Kendi shines light on the fact that racist ideas come not out of ignorance or hatred, but rather are the produced by each era’s brilliant minds to justify discriminatory policies—and that most of us, himself included (prior to embarking on this research), hold racist ideas. Winner of the National Book Award.

*Eugene Public Library: 305.800973 KENDI 2016*

For additional teaching & reading resources, and information on upcoming events:
[commonreading.uoregon.edu](http://commonreading.uoregon.edu)

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