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A promotional banner for AmazonSmile Giving Tuesday. The banner has a dark blue background with a red curved bottom. At the top center is a small red heart icon with a white outline. Below it, the text 'Get ready for Giving Tuesday' is written in a large, white, serif font. In the center, there is an illustration of five diverse children sitting on a bench, each reading a book. Below the illustration, the text reads: 'You can support IDRA when you shop on Amazon for things like banned books! See our top 20 book recommendations from the censorship list of 800+ titles.' At the bottom, there are two logos: 'amazonSmile' with the tagline 'You shop. Amazon gives.' and 'GIVING TUESDAY' with a heart icon. Below the logos, the text says 'Consider making your Giving Tuesday donation below.'

Shopping ideas!

Books are for learning, not banning

IDRA helped lead the charge this year against classroom censorship across the country. We worked with policymakers to derail proposed policies that harm students. We brought parents and students to the capitol to speak on their own behalf and that of their communities. And we are **helping educators** make sure that – even under new censorship laws – they can still do their job to ensure equity in education for all students.

Texas' **classroom censorship law** (SB 3) goes into effect on December 2. Along with it, state policymakers are ruffling feathers about certain books that may or may not be accessible to students in school. One policymaker released a **list of over 800 books** for some school districts to **document**. And while no

one is officially trying to ban these books so far, the freedom to read is still harmed by the chilling effect that follows.

There are some really good books on that list – award-winning books that make good gifts. Just in time for the holidays!

Since the list is 16 pages long, IDRA is here to help! We are highlighting some of our favorite books on the list of 800+. Check them out below!

If you decide to buy some of these books on Amazon, we invite you to **use Amazon Smile** to send Amazon's donations our way.

You're welcome to make **your Giving Tuesday donation** to IDRA a week early to help us keep up the fight!

[Donate to IDRA Now](#)

[Download our reading list](#)



Books are for learning

20 “Uncomfortable” Books to Consider Reading



A is for Activist
By Innosanto Nagara
ABC board book encourages children to grow up with confidence in themselves and to be proactive citizens. Named a Best Children’s Book of the Year and The de Grummond Children’s Literature Collection. Grade level: Preschool-2.



And Tango Makes Three
by Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell
Tells the story of two male penguins, Roy and Silo, who create a family together. ALA Notable Children’s Book Nominee, ASPCA Henry Bergh Book Award, and named one of the Bank Street Best Books of the Year. Grade level: Preschool-Kindergarten.




My Two Uncles
by Judith Vigna
Children’s book to introduce the topic of LGBTQ rights. Lambda Literary Award Nominee and CCBC Choices list. Grade level: 1-2.



Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation
by Duncan Tonatiuh
Children’s book on a family’s push for a California court ruling against school segregation. Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal recipient. Grade level: 1-4.

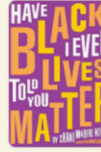


Antonio’s Card / La tarjeta de Antonio
by Rigoberto Gonzalez
Teen book about concerns children in nontraditional families may experience. Lambda Literary Award. Grade level: 2-3.

 Award winner / Special recognition



The Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears
by Susan E Hamen
Explores the Indian Removal Act and its effects. Authoritative text, colorful illustrations, illuminating sidebars, and a Voices from the Past feature make this book an exciting, informative read. Grade level: 4-6.



Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter
by Shani King
A tender and powerful affirmation that Black lives have always mattered. Grade level: 4-7.



It’s Perfectly Normal
by Robie Harris
An illustrated guide for young people to understand their changing bodies, healthy habits, and topics of puberty, sex, sexuality and reproduction. It displays people with diverse bodies and different types of relationships, and presents clear, fact-based information. Named American Literature Association Notable Children’s Book, Booklist Editor’s Choice, The New York Times Best Book of the Year and others. Grade level: 5-6.



This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do The Work
by Tiffany Jewell
With this book, be empowered to actively defy racism to create a community (large and small) that truly honors everyone. Jane Addams Children’s Book Award finalist, We Are Kid Lit Collective Summer Reading List, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, #1 New York Times Best Seller. Grade level: 6-10.



The God Box
by Alex Sánchez
Teen novel about two boys balancing their homosexuality and their religious beliefs. Named NYPL Best Books for Teens and ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults - Top Ten. Grade level: 7-9.

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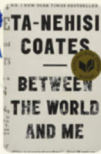
Nevertheless, We Persisted: 48 Voices of Defiance, Strength, and Courage

Edited by In This Together Media
A collection of essays from actors, activists, athletes, politicians, musicians, writers, and teens, each writing about a time in their youth when they were held back because of their race, gender or sexual identity – but persisted. An International Latino Book Award Winner and A National Council for Social Studies Selection. Reading age: 12 years and up.



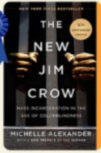
Quinceañera

Ilan Stavans (ed)
Examines the importance of ritual, celebration and the quinceañera celebration's growing social importance to in the Latino community, particularly in the United States. The essays explore the quinceañera and the coming-of-age ritual from various angles. Age level: 15-17.



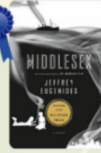
Between the World and Me

by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Framed as a letter to his son, this book powerfully conveys the author's reflections as a Black man in America. It indicts the racist foundations of U.S. democracy from a position of love, hope and redemption. Pulitzer Prize finalist, National Book Award Winner, Named One of Time's Ten Best Nonfiction Books of The Decade, National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work. Grade level: 11-12.



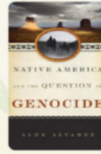
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

by Michelle Alexander
Acclaimed book that draws on data, social science, history and narrative to explain how the carceral system acts as state-sponsored racial punishment, disfranchisement, and segregation. Named one of the most important nonfiction books of the 21st century by Entertainment Weekly, Slate, Chronicle of Higher Education, Literary Hub, Book Riot, and Zora.



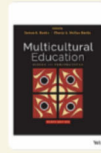
Middlesex

by Jeffrey Eugenides
A touching book on a child understanding their intersex identity. This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is beautifully written and a captivating read.



Native America and the Question of Genocide: Religion, History and Human Rights

by Alex Alvarez
Destructive beliefs of the European settlers, topics include disease, war, and education through the lens of genocide.



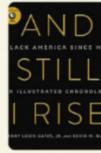
Multicultural Education: Issues and Perspectives

by James A. Banks & Cherry A. McGee Banks
Good foundation book on multicultural education now in its 10th edition. Helps educators respond to the ways race, social class, and gender interact to influence student behavior and learning.



An African American & Latinx History of the United States

by Paul Ortiz
Discusses ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United States today. 2018 PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence.



And Still I Rise: Black America Since MLK: An Illustrated Chronology

By Kevin M. Burke & Henry Gates
A companion to a PBS series chronicling 50 years of black history in the United States. Gates takes readers through the major historical events and untold stories of the 60 years that have irrevocably shaped both the African American experience and the nation as a whole.



Bonus! Just released in book form:

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

The New York Times Magazine's Pulitzer Prize award-winning "1619 Project" issue reframed understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together 18 essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with 36 poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle and resistance.

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3. Start shopping!

4. Make sure "smile" is in your Amazon shopping cart URL.



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The Intercultural Development Research Association is an independent, non-profit organization. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. IDRA strengthens and transforms public education by providing dynamic training; useful research, evaluation, and frameworks for action; timely policy analyses; and innovative materials and programs.

IDRA works hand-in-hand with hundreds of thousands of educators and families each year in communities and classrooms around the country. All our work rests on an unwavering commitment to creating self-renewing schools that value and promote the success of students of all backgrounds.

November 24, 2021