

"Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign; but stories can also be used to empower and to humanise."

- Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie

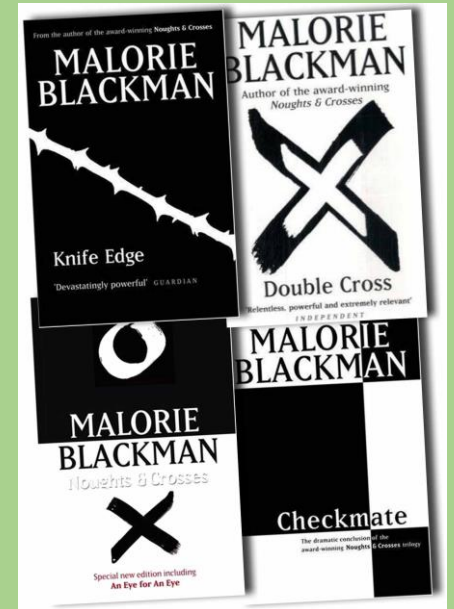
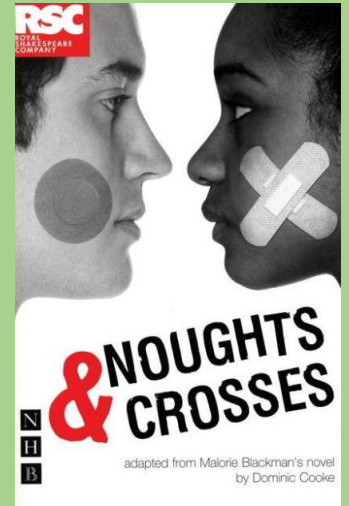
KS3 Reading List

In light of the recent events in the USA, we have put together a reading list of some wonderful books and links to help you learn more about racial injustice.

Books can act as powerful windows to understand other lives and perspectives, as well as acting as mirrors to look at ourselves more closely. We hope you enjoy reading one of these books.

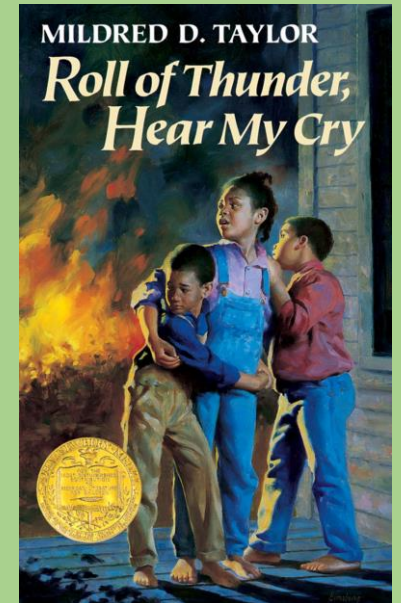
Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman

- This is 'speculative fiction' set in an alternative 21st century Britain. It imagines an alternative history whereby black Africans colonised and enslaved white Europeans and now hold the power as the Crosses - while whites (Noughts) are seen as the inferior race.
- *Noughts and Crosses* is the first in a series of 5 books and traces the relationship between Sephy (Cross) and Callum (Nought) and the attempts by various groups and individuals for equality.
- This has now been turned in to a drama for the BBC and can be accessed on iPlayer.
- The other four books in the series are:
Noughts and Crosses, *Knife Edge*, *Checkmate*, *Double Cross* and *Crossfire*.



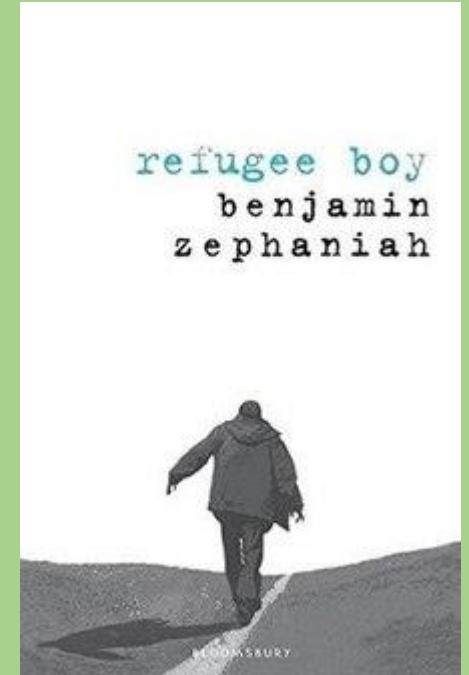
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry - Mildred Taylor

- The book told through the eyes of 9 year old Cassie Logan as she and her siblings learn hard lessons about segregation in 1930's Mississippi.
- This is a powerful book that deals with difficult subject matter through the innocent eyes of a child.
- It was written in 1976 and won the Newberry medal. Taylor has since written two sequels, *Let the Circle be Unbroken* (1981) and *The Road to Memphis* (1990) followed by a prequel to the Logan family saga, *The Land* (2001).



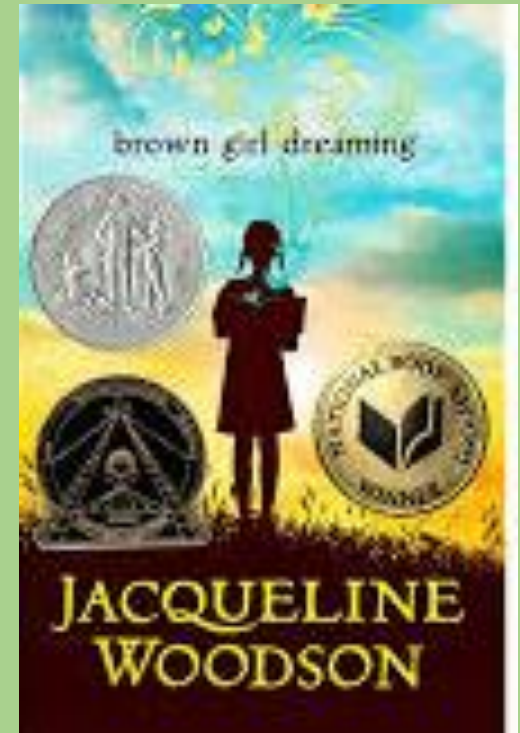
'Refugee Boy' - Benjamin Zephaniah

- *Refugee Boy* was written in 2001 and won the 2002 Portsmouth Book Award.
- It is a book about Alem Kelo, a 14-year-old refugee from Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him.
- It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London - even though it is breaking their hearts to do this.
- Alem is now on his own, his fate resting in the hands of the Refugee Council and the British justice system. This story charts Alem's fate as he is moved from children's home to foster family, and in and out of court hearings. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing.



'Brown Girl Dreaming' - Jacqueline Woodson

- Written in 2014, Jacqueline Woodson's memoir is the winner of a US National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Award.
- Told in vivid and emotional poetry, this is the story of a childhood spent between New York and South Carolina, and of never truly feeling at home in either place. Of growing up as an African-American girl in the 1960s and 1970s, in the wake of the Civil Rights movement. Of discovering the first sparks of an incredible gift for writing, which would last a lifetime. And of one girl's search for her voice, her identity, and her place in the world.



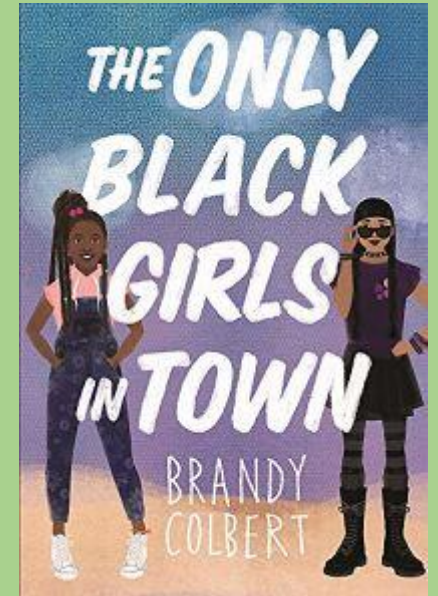
'New Kid' by Jerry Craft

- 'New Kind' is a 2019 graphic novel by Jerry Craft and tells the story of Jordan Banks who experiences culture shock when he enrolls at a private school. The book was well received and won the 2020 Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award. It was the first graphic novel to be awarded the Newbery Medal.
- Riverdale Academy Day School is every parent's dream for their child: it has a beautiful sprawling campus, a rigorous academic curriculum, and ample extracurricular activities. It's also distinctly lacking in diversity. African-American new kid Jordan Banks would rather go to art school, but his parents have enrolled him, so he dutifully commutes to the Bronx from his home in Washington Heights, Manhattan. When he's not being confused with the few other students of colour, he is being spoken to in slang, is receiving looks when financial aid is mentioned, or is forced to navigate many more micro-aggressions.
- Artwork by Craft interweaves the story with Jordan's sketchbook drawings, which convey the tension of existing in two markedly different places. The sketches show him being called "angry" for his observations, feeling minuscule in a cafeteria, and traveling by public transport across different socioeconomic and racially segregated neighbourhoods, changing his outfit and demeanour to fit in. This engaging story offers an authentic secondary cast and captures the high jinks of middle schoolers and the tensions that come with being a person of colour in a traditionally white space.



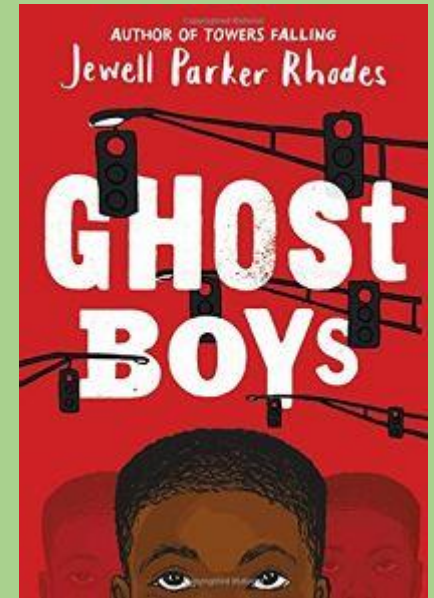
'The only black girls in town' – Brandy Colbert

- Only just published in 2020, 'The only black girls in town' is the new novel by award-winning Brandy Colbert.
- Twelve-year-old surfing fanatic Alberta has lived in Ewing Beach, California, with her fathers for much of her life. Her family is one of the only black families in town, until the Whitmans buy the old bed and breakfast across the street. Goth Edie, the same age as Alberta, is nothing like her. She's a proud Brooklyn native; she wears all black, down to the black lipstick she's never without; and she doesn't understand why everyone in Ewing loves the beach. And while Edie's parents are divorcing, Alberta's dads remain deeply in love. Despite their differences, the two become fast friends just as Alberta's lifelong best friend, who is white, begins drifting toward the popular girl who has bullied Alberta with racist taunts for years. When Alberta and Edie find a set of mysterious journals in Edie's new house, they also uncover an enduring secret.
- Imperfect, vulnerable characters take centre stage in Colbert's middle grade debut about growing up on the margins in the past and present. Colbert employs a compulsively readable style to convey the sometimes difficult experience of young friendship, and the power and peril of claiming one's identity out loud.

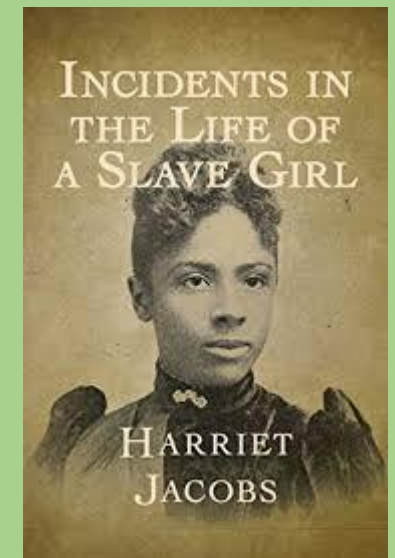
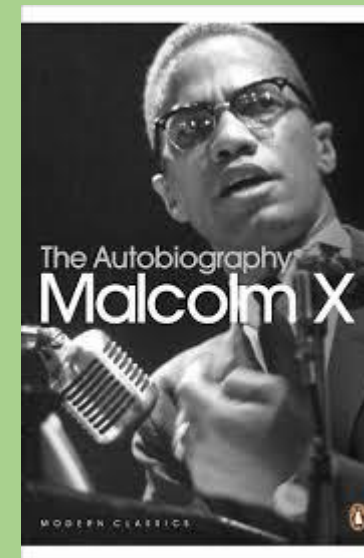
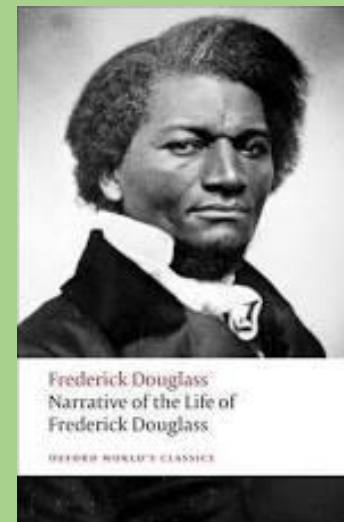
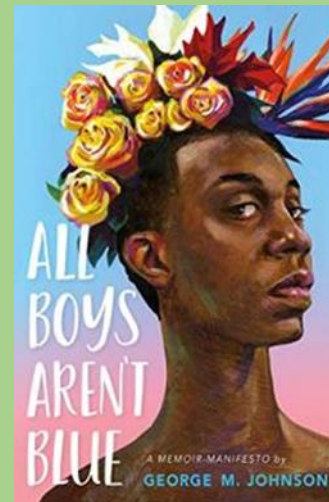
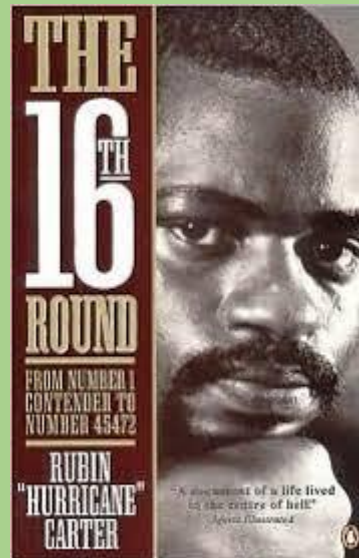
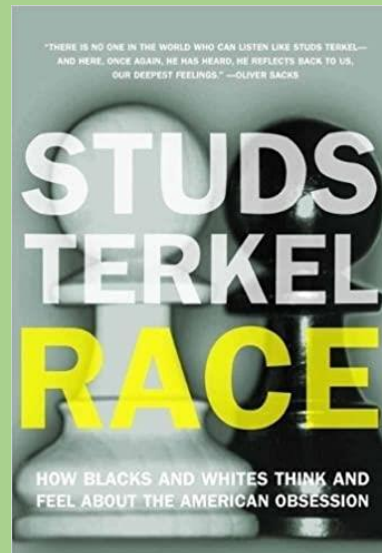
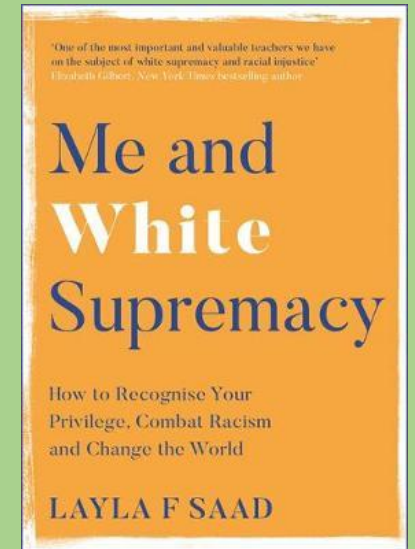
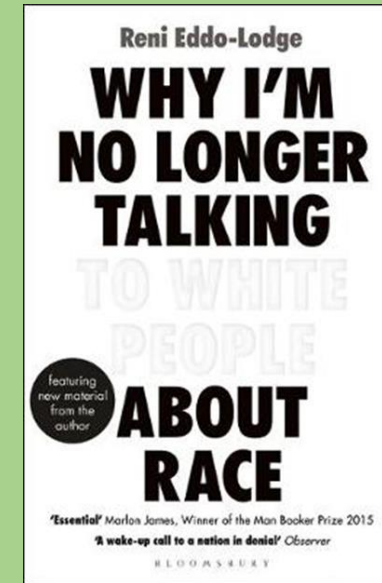
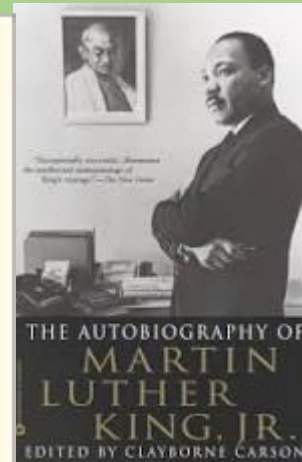
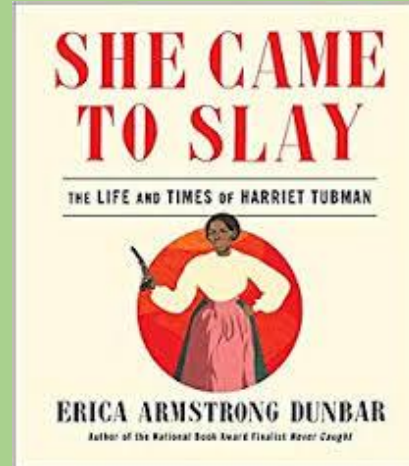
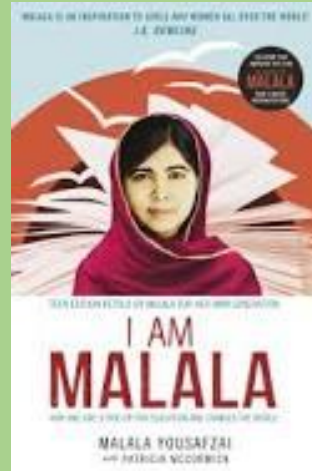
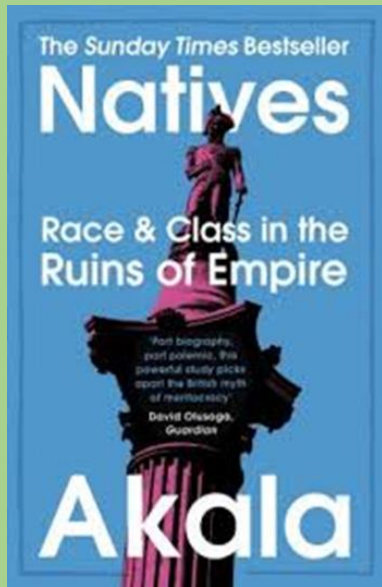


'Ghost Boys' – by Jewell Parker Rhodes

- Published in 2018, this feels like a timely novel as it tackles the story of a 12 year old boy who is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat.
- Set in an impoverished Chicago neighbourhood, this sombre story blends history with current events. Jerome Rogers, a black 12-year-old, is playing outside with a toy gun when he is shot and killed by a white policeman who views him as a threat. Now Jerome wanders the earth with other "ghost boys" whose deaths are all connected to bigotry. Ironically, the only human who can see Jerome is Sarah, the young daughter of the officer who took his life. Jerome meets the ghost of Emmett Till and learns the horrific details of his murder. Emmett, like the other ghost boys, cannot rest until the world is swept clean of discriminatory violence; maybe Jerome can help if he can make Sarah understand that her father's act was a result of deeply ingrained racism.
- Rhodes writes in short, poetic chapters that offer graphic depictions of avoidable tragedies; her hope for a better world packs a powerful punch, delivering a call to action to speak out against prejudice and erase harmful misconceptions.



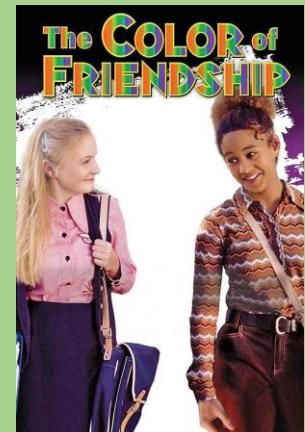
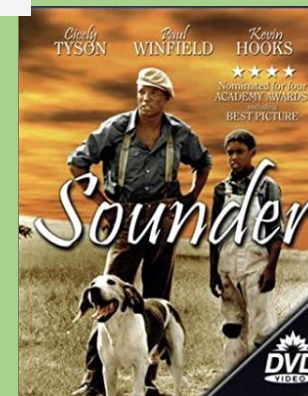
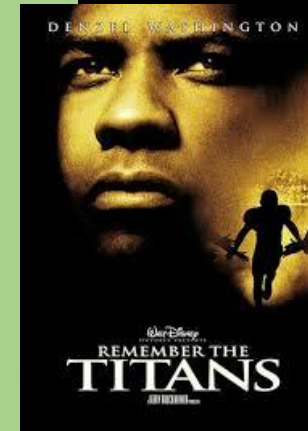
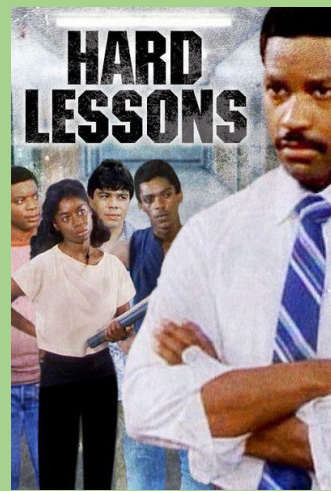
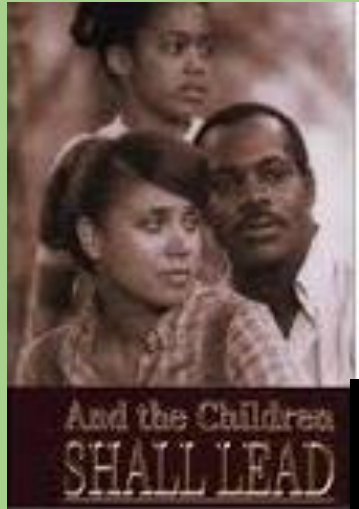
Non-Fiction



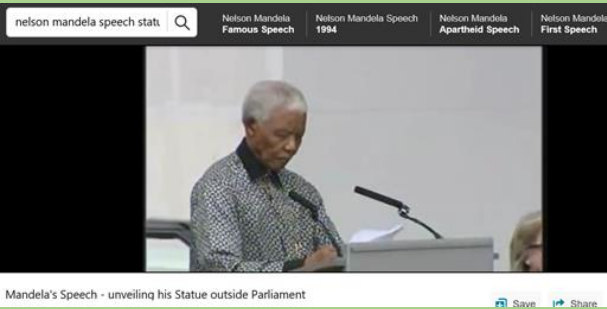
Articles

- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/19/lambs-to-the-slaughter-50-lives-ruined-by-the-windrush-scandal>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/07/london-born-twins-face-deportation-to-different-countries>
- <https://jezebel.com/i-dont-know-what-to-do-with-good-white-people-1671201391>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/mar/30/black-power-salute-1968-olympics>
- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/new-goals-what-happens-when-poor-young-black-men-from-london-s-mean-streets-are-sent-to-rugby-one-of-britain-s-top-public-schools-skp33q9v2>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/mar/29/slavery-abolition-compensation-when-will-britain-face-up-to-its-crimes-against-humanity>
- https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/feb/28/if-we-did-nothing-we-would-be-killed-on-the-streets-benjamin-zephaniah-on-fighting-the-far-right?CMP=share_btn_fb
- <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/london-2012-olympics-blog/2011/dec/21/jesse-owens-four-gold-medals>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/mar/13/studs-terkel-race-us-20-years>
- https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/loving-v-virginia-movie_n_581aee7ee4b0c43e6c1e2dfe?ri18n=true

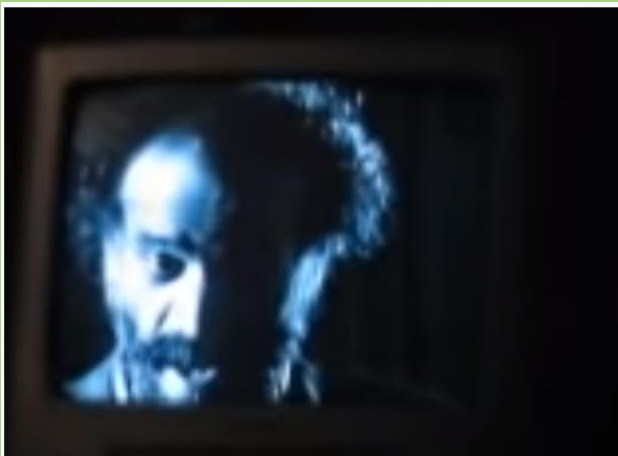
Films



Talks and interviews



Music and poetry



- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/146367/poetry-and-the-civil-rights-movement>

TV and documentaries

