

"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

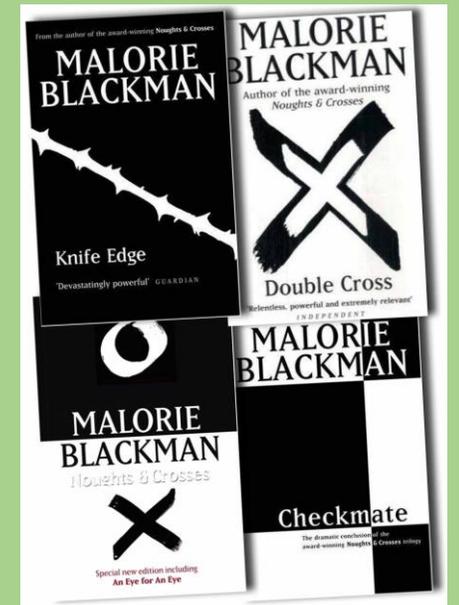
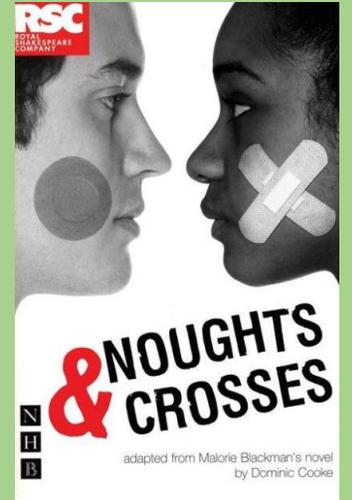
KS4 Reading List

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.

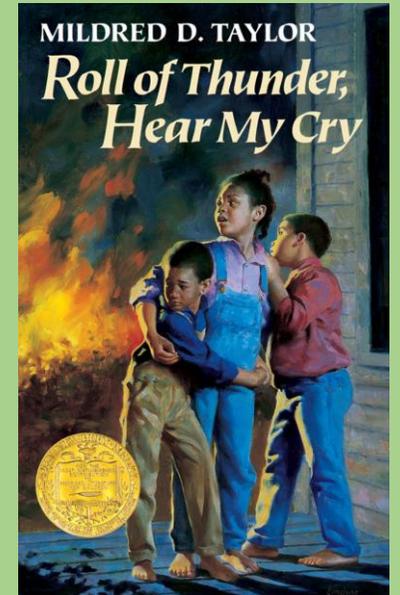
Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman

- 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*.



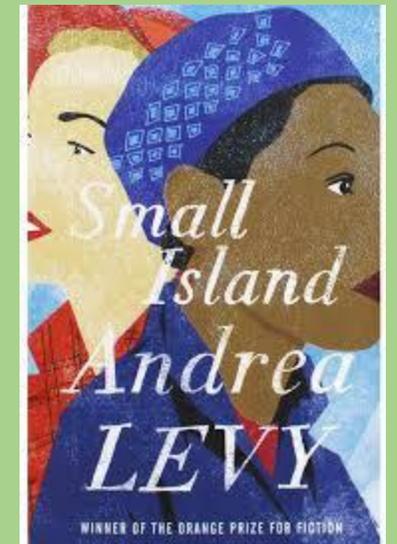
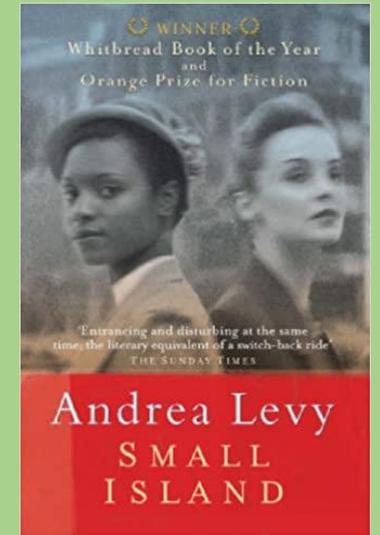
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry - Mildred Taylor

- 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).



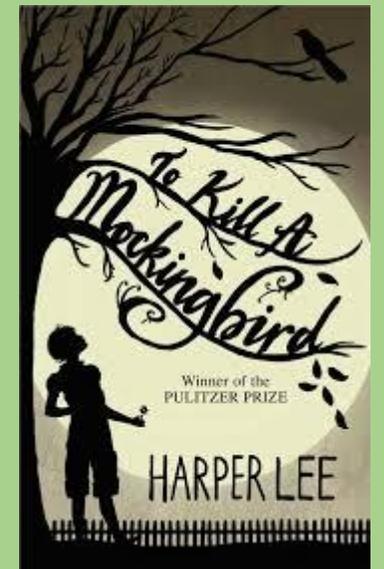
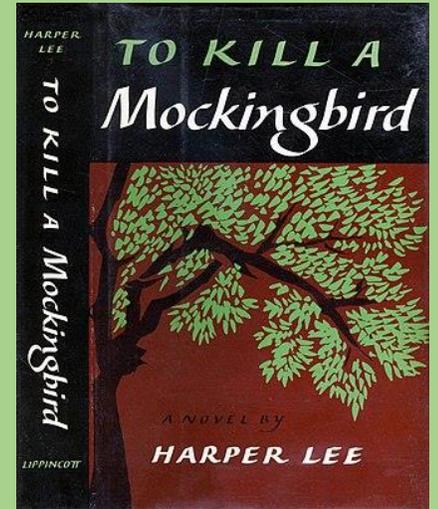
Small Island - Andrea Levy

- 'Small Island' was written in 2004 by British author Andrea Levy, winning several awards including the Orange Prize, Whitbread Book of the Year and Commonwealth writer's prize. It was also adapted to television in 2009 and the National Theatre brought it to the stage in April 2019.
- It tells the story of post-war Caribbean migration through four narrators - Hortense and Gilbert, who migrate from Jamaica to London in 1948, and an English couple, Queenie and Bernard, in whose house in London they find lodgings.
- The four characters' lives come together exploring racial prejudice in England during and after the war, in colonial Jamaica and Jim Crow-era America. Although Gilbert and Hortense overcome some of the racist barriers of living in England, it is clear that prejudice in England will influence their lives forever and that racism remains a "huge and unsolvable demon at the end of the novel."



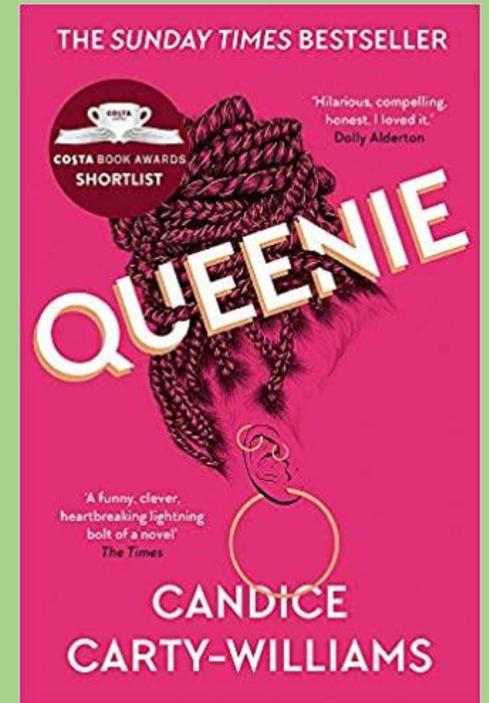
To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

- '*To Kill a Mockingbird*' was published in 1960 and has become a modern classic, winning the Pulitzer Prize and being studied in schools across the USA and UK.
- The plot and characters are loosely based on Lee's observations of her family, her neighbours and an event that occurred near her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, in 1936, when she was ten.
- The novel is told from the perspective of six-year old Scout who lives with her brother Jem and widowed father Atticus Finch, a lawyer. It takes place over three years during the Great Depression in the fictional town of Maycomb, Alabama and centres on Atticus Finch's attempts to prove the innocence of Tom Robinson, a black man who has been wrongly accused of raping a white woman in 1930s Alabama.
- A film was made from the book in 1962. Here is a clip where Scout, Jem and their friend Dill inadvertently stop a mob lynching Tom Robinson. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaVuVu5KXuE>



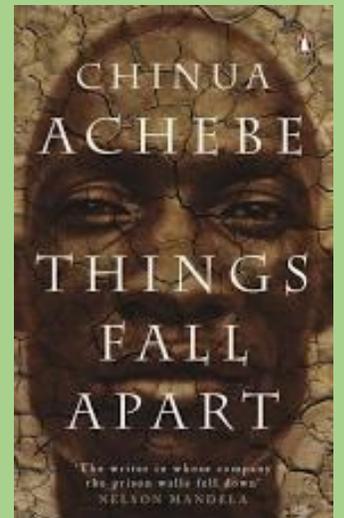
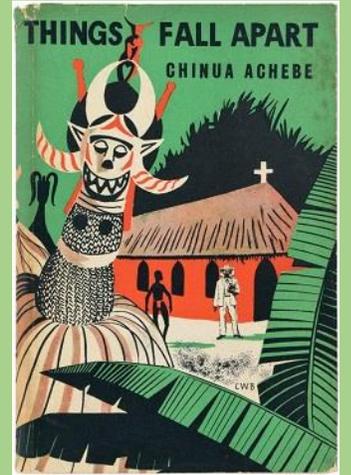
'Queenie' - Candice Carty-Williams

- Long-listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020, 'Queenie' follows the life of Queenie Jenkins, a twenty-five year old Jamaican British woman living in London, straddling two cultures and slotting neatly into neither. She works at a national newspaper, where she's constantly forced to compare herself to her white middle class peers.
- "Queenie is a masterclass in how to write accessible political fiction about race and gender. Funny, relatable, sad, and hopeful; Candice Carty-Williams is a writer to watch."



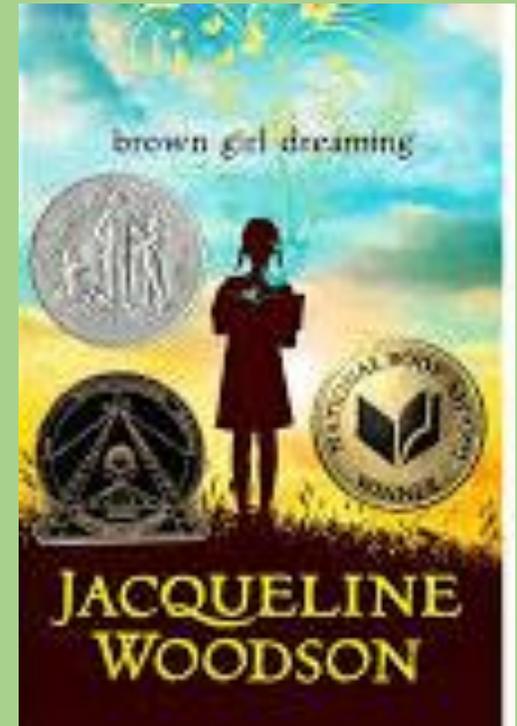
'Things Fall Apart' - Chinua Achebe

- Published in 1958, *Things Fall Apart* was the debut novel of Nigerian author Chinua Achebe
- Its story chronicles pre-colonial life in the south-eastern part of Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first to receive global critical acclaim.
- The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, an Igbo ("Ibo" in the novel) man and local wrestling champion in the fictional Nigerian clan of Umuofia.
- The work is split into three parts, with the first describing his family, personal history, and the customs and society of the Igbo, and the second and third sections introducing the influence of British colonialism and Christian missionaries on Okonkwo, his family, and the wider Igbo community.
- Achebe continues the story of one African community in 'Arrow of God' and 'No Longer at Ease'.



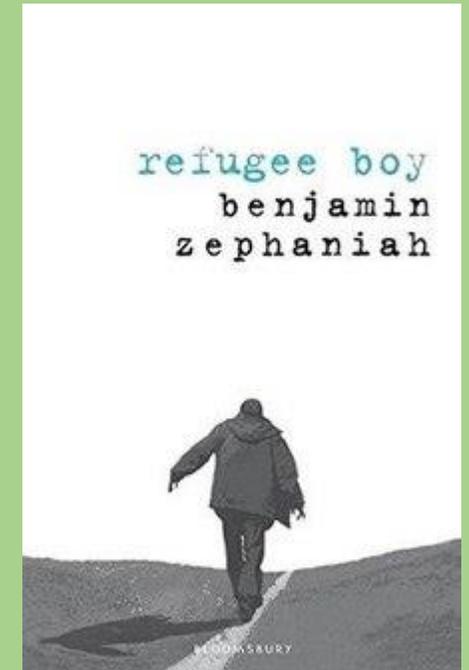
'Brown Girl Dreaming' - Jacqueline Woodson

- 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.

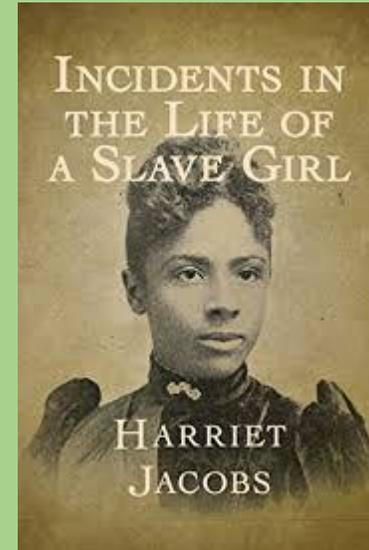
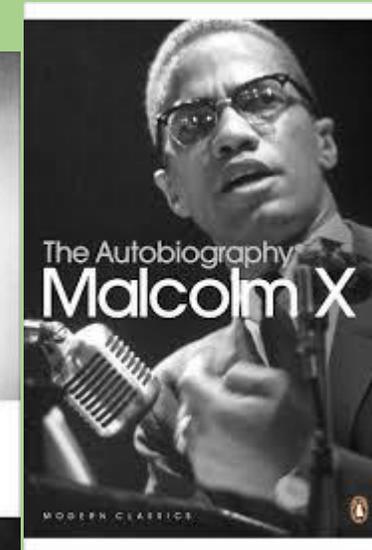
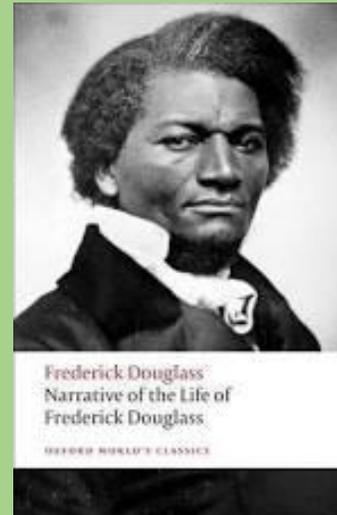
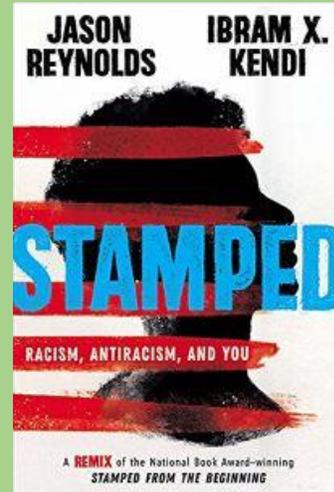
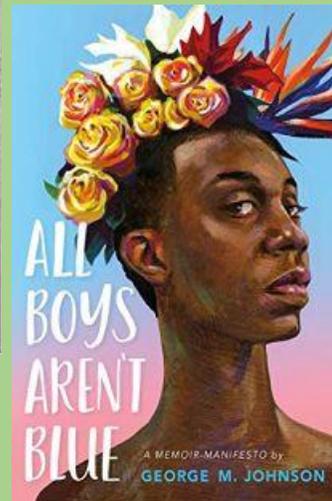
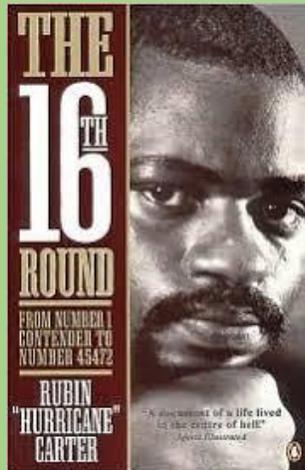
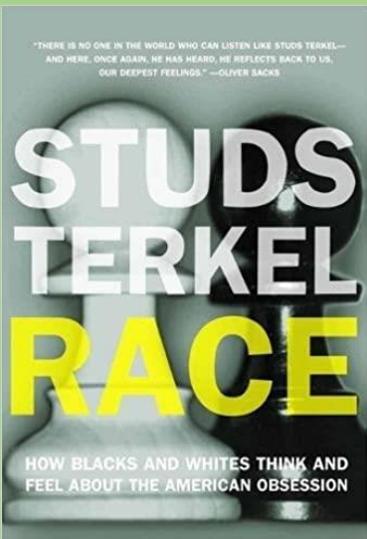
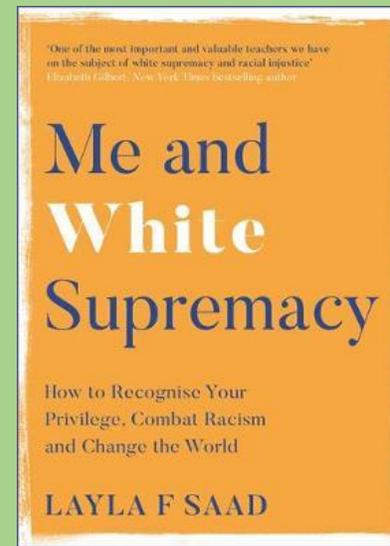
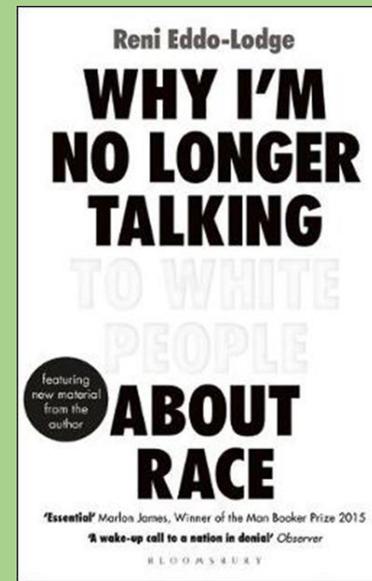
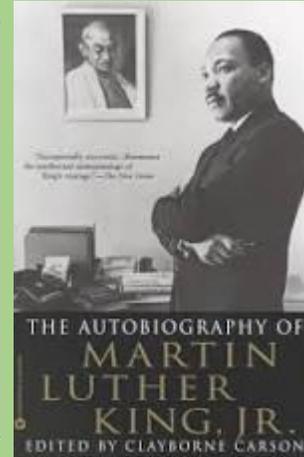
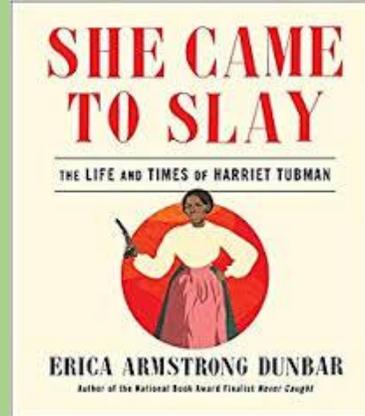
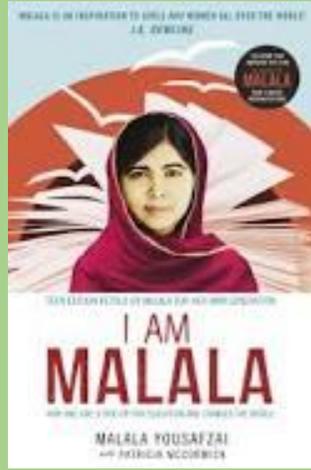
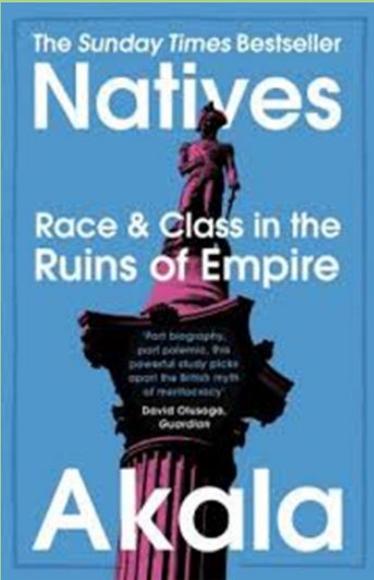


'Refugee Boy' - Benjamin Zephaniah

- *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.



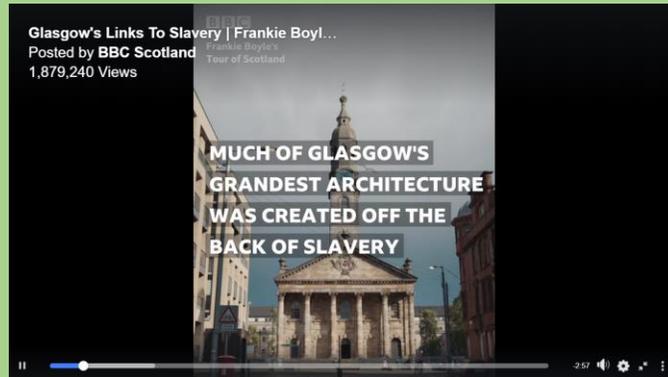
Non-Fiction



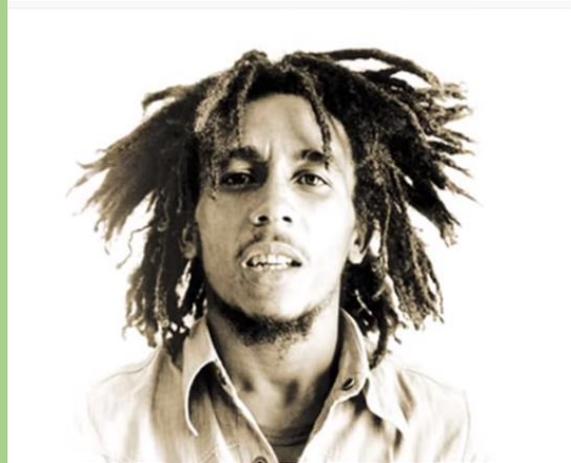
Articles

- <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

Talks and interviews



Music and poetry



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

TV and documentaries

