



YWCA Great Pittsburgh Center for Race and Gender Equity

ACTION CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

July 21st, 2021

Black Family Joy: Reading with Teens and Children

Our July conversation focused on the joy that Black families find in reading diverse books together, and the importance of reading diverse books for all families.

Missed July's Action Conversation?

You can find recordings of all our previous Action Conversations at youtube.com/ywcapgh

Panelists

Tiya Leonard

Health Assistant, Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Program

Shavonne Lowry

Family Advocate, Early Childhood Education

Jordon Williams

Book Babies Program Manager, Reading is FUNdamental Pittsburgh

[Read more about our panelists here!](#)

Resources from Conversation:

- The importance of diverse books for all children: diversebooks.org/
- Tips and resources about advocating for inclusive books/curricula in schools and libraries:
[Why We Need Diverse Books](#) *National Education Association*
[Diversify Our Narrative](#) *Student Advocacy Group*
[1,000 Black Girl Books](#) *GrassROOTS Community Foundation*
- Our panelists' favorite childhood reading and recommended for kids:
[Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?](#)
[The Snowy Day](#)
[The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)
[Charlotte's Web](#)
[Mae Among the Stars](#)

- Learn about and support local organizations that promote literacy and reading:
Reading is Fundamental *Operating in seven priority Pittsburgh neighborhoods*
Reading Ready Pittsburgh *Serving Braddock, Munhall and nearby areas*
Literacy Pittsburgh *For adults, children, families*
- Panelist recommended books for tweens and early teens by/about diverse authors and characters:
Amari and the Night Brothers
The Crossover
Beyonce: Shine Your Light
Children of Blood and Bone
Class Act
- Recommendations for readers ages teen and up from our audience:
Assata
A Raisin in the Sun
The Hate U Give
Black Enough
- Resources for low-cost, no-cost books and audio books:
Carnegie Library's Overdrive *Borrow free audio books*
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library *Supplies free books up to age 5*
Reading is Fundamental *Focused on Kindergarten readiness*

**Please join us at noon on Wednesday, August 18th
for a panel discussion on Empowering Girls in STEM**

Register at ywcapgh.org/conversations/