

# EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE

## Combating Hate and Extremism

AGES 8–12  
GRADES 3–7

AGES 12+  
GRADES 7+



The  
Power  
of Story

Building Equitable  
Bookshelves

 SCHOLASTIC

## Introduction

Sometimes the issues we most need to talk about with the children and teens in our lives can be the most difficult. *We Own the Sky* by Rodman Philbrick and *Some Kind of Hate* by Sarah Darer Littman each offer unflinching looks at the ways in which racism, antisemitism, extremism, and white nationalism can take root in communities and spread, causing pain, damage, and fear to all marginalized communities. These books also ask white readers to examine their own complicity and consider how close to home this kind of hatred and violence might be.

Both of these books contain hurtful and violent language and imagery, as well as characters who espouse harmful, false rhetoric about marginalized groups of people: rhetoric that has historically been used to perpetuate terrorism and genocide. This will be upsetting and maybe even be confusing for many young readers. However, ignoring or glossing over the existence of this language and how it has been used in the past and, in fact, continues to permeate digital and physical spaces in the here and now, is not an option. These books can open the door to conversations that all adults need to be having with young people.

With that in mind, this guide includes a variety of resources including websites, toolkits, articles, books, and more that are intended to help adults understand these complex issues and provide the language and tools they need to begin the work of resisting and uprooting white supremacist rhetoric and ideology. This guide also includes a list of read-alike titles for youth and adults that examine how communities respond to violence and hatred, the history of extremist movements, and other topics explored in *We Own the Sky* and *Some Kind of Hate*.

Finally, while these books depict some truly atrocious aspects of American history, they also depict wonderful examples of the joy, resilience, and resistance found in immigrant communities and Jewish communities. It is important not just to study and understand the negative experiences and hate that have been directed at these communities but also the blessings, triumphs, and strengths these communities have experienced. To that end, this guide includes resources and readings that will provide opportunities for celebration and affirmation.

### About the Writers of This Guide

**Angie Manfredi** is a librarian and educator. Currently in the classroom, she has worked in public, school, and special libraries. She firmly believes all youth have the right to free access to books that accurately portray the world around them. She is committed to dismantling systems of oppression in libraries. She can be found online at [www.fatgirlreading.com](http://www.fatgirlreading.com) and on Twitter @misskubelik.

**Talya Sokoll** is a school librarian right outside of Boston. They have served on a number of award committees including the Stonewall Award, the Sydney Taylor Book Award, the Morris Award, and the Rainbow Book List and are passionate about queer and trans literature, pickles, and the daily reminder that “it is not incumbent upon you to complete the task, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it.” (Pirkei Avot 2:16)

## Learning About White Nationalism

### Explainer: White Nationalism (Facing History and Ourselves)

This resource gives an overview of white nationalism, terms and groups related to it, and information about their dangerous ideology. [facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/explainer/white-nationalism](https://facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/explainer/white-nationalism)

### Podcast Series: Rabbit Hole (*The New York Times*)

An exploration of how technology and algorithms, and YouTube in particular, can lead to radicalization. [nytimes.com/column/rabbit-hole](https://nytimes.com/column/rabbit-hole)

### Article: “At American Virtue Summit . . . the Right’s Future” (Political Research Associates)

An article illuminating the growing collaboration between young white nationalists and the GOP. [politicalresearch.org/2022/07/28/american-virtue-plot-rights-future](https://politicalresearch.org/2022/07/28/american-virtue-plot-rights-future)

### Organization: Political Research Associates

An organization dedicated to researching, analyzing, and creating resources illuminating white and Christian nationalism for organizations to use to aid in their work. [politicalresearch.org](https://politicalresearch.org)

### Podcast Series: Sounds Like Hate (The Southern Poverty Law Center)

An audio documentary series about the dangers and peril of everyday people who engage in extremism, and ways to disengage them from a life of hatred. [soundslikehate.org](https://soundslikehate.org)

*They Called Themselves the KKK* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

*Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper (Ages 9–13; Grades 4–8)

*Unpunished Murder: Massacre at Colfax and the Quest for Justice*  
by Lawrence Goldstone (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

*Devils Within* by S.F. Henson (Ages 14 and up; Grades 9 and up)

*Culture Warlords: My Journey Into the Dark Web of White Supremacy* by Tal Lavin (Adult)

*Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right* by Cynthia Miller-Idriss (Adult)

*The Freedom Summer Murders* by Don Mitchell (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

*Alligator Bayou* by Donna Jo Napoli (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

*Superman Smashes the Klan* by Gene Luen Yang and Gurihiru (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

## Learning About Antisemitism

### Article: “Holocaust Memorial Day” (BBC)

An article from the BBC that details How TikTok aims to fight Holocaust denial. [bbc.com/news/technology-60156673](https://bbc.com/news/technology-60156673)

### Explainer: Antisemitism and Its Impacts (Facing History and Ourselves)

An overview of antisemitism and how it impacts the Jewish community. [facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/explainer/antisemitism-and-its-impacts](https://facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/explainer/antisemitism-and-its-impacts)

### Resource: Information About *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum)

This resource gives an overview of the history of this insidious document and how it continues to be used to aid and abet antisemitic acts. [encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion](https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/protocols-of-the-elders-of-zion)

*In the Neighborhood of True* by Susan Kaplan Carlton (Ages 14 and up; Grades 9 and up)

*Witness* by Karen Hesse (Ages 8–12; Grades 4–7)

*Linked* by Gordon Korman (Ages 8 and up; Grades 4 and up)

*The Assignment* by Liza Wiemer (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

# Understanding and Countering Misinformation, Radicalization, and Extremism

## Resource: The CRAAP Test for Online Media (Central Michigan University)

A test with five guiding questions to help teens evaluate information, especially information they find online, for authenticity and reliability as well as decoding who created it and for what purposes. [libguides.cmich.edu/web\\_research/craap](http://libguides.cmich.edu/web_research/craap)

## Resource: Breaking Hate (Embrace Race)

A discussion between Nora Flanagan (a teacher and anti-racist practitioner) and Christian Picciolini (a former extremist) about how to encourage young people to push back against fascist ideologies.

[embracerace.org/resources/breaking-hate-supporting-kids-to-push-back-against-white-nationalism](http://embracerace.org/resources/breaking-hate-supporting-kids-to-push-back-against-white-nationalism)

## Article: “Youth Practitioners Can Counter Fascism” (Journal of Youth Development)

From the Journal of Youth Development, a paper on how those of us who work with young people can “play an important role in mitigating the influence of fascist ideologies on young people’s behavior and reducing the proliferation of youth-perpetrated harassment and violence.” [jyd.pitt.edu/ojs/jyd/article/view/20-15-5-FA-01](http://jyd.pitt.edu/ojs/jyd/article/view/20-15-5-FA-01)

## Organization: Learning for Justice

Learning for Justice works with educators, students, caregivers, and communities to uphold the mission of their parent organization, the Southern Poverty Law Center: to be a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy. [learningforjustice.org](http://learningforjustice.org)

## Organization: Multicultural Classroom

A resource for students, teachers, schools, nonprofits, and other organizations/companies to understand the intersection of race, bias, education, and society. [multiculturalclassroom.com](http://multiculturalclassroom.com)

## Organization: Rethinking Schools

Rethinking Schools is dedicated to sustaining and strengthening public education through professional development, social justice teaching, and education activism. [rethinkingschools.org](http://rethinkingschools.org)

## Article: “The Sneaky Truth about Memes” (Scholastic)

An article for teachers and educators to use to help students evaluate not only the truth behind memes but what their ultimate intentions might be. [upfront.scholastic.com/pages/promotion/medialiteracy/the-sneaky-truth-about-memes.html#1130L](http://upfront.scholastic.com/pages/promotion/medialiteracy/the-sneaky-truth-about-memes.html#1130L)

## Resources for *Some Kind of Hate* (Sarah Darer Littman)

Author website featuring an in-depth guide and robust resources on stereotypes, extremism, antisemitism and more.

[somekindofh8.com](http://somekindofh8.com)

## Organization: Fighting Extremism Online (Southern Poverty Law Center)

A resource for parents to fight against online radicalization of youth on the internet.

[splcenter.org/news/2021/06/30/fighting-extremism-online-new-resources-help-parents-combat-radicalization-youth-web](http://splcenter.org/news/2021/06/30/fighting-extremism-online-new-resources-help-parents-combat-radicalization-youth-web)

## Resource: Hate Map (Southern Poverty Law Center)

An interactive map tracking hate groups all across the United States. [splcenter.org/hate-map](http://splcenter.org/hate-map)

## Resource: Inoculating Our Students against White Nationalism (Teaching While White)

A resource from Teaching While White with a variety of links and ways to support young people against white nationalist recruitment. [teachingwhilewhite.org/blog/2020/4/13/inoculating-our-students-against-white-nationalism](http://teachingwhilewhite.org/blog/2020/4/13/inoculating-our-students-against-white-nationalism)

## Podcast Episode: The Shooters Were 18 (Today Explained Series, Vox Media)

In this episode from May 22, 2022, Joanna Schroder discusses how parents can be on the lookout for extremism.

[iheart.com/podcast/269-today-explained-87205166/episode/the-shooters-were-18-97568551](http://iheart.com/podcast/269-today-explained-87205166/episode/the-shooters-were-18-97568551)

## Toolkit: Confronting White Nationalism in Schools (Western States Center)

A resource for teachers who want to push back against the rise against White Nationalism in their schools with practice tips, tools and more. [westernstatescenter.org/schools](http://westernstatescenter.org/schools)

## Article: “Deradicalization in the Deep South” (Yes Magazine)

A feature on Shannon Foley Martinez, a former neo-Nazi, who now works to deradicalize white supremacists.

[yesmagazine.org/issue/building-bridges/2019/11/12/deradicalization-in-the-deep-south](http://yesmagazine.org/issue/building-bridges/2019/11/12/deradicalization-in-the-deep-south)

***Fake News and Alternative Facts: Information Literacy in a Post-Truth Era*** by Dr. Nicole A. Cooke (Adult)

***The Anti Racist Teacher: Reading Instruction Workbook*** by Lorena German (Adult)

***This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work*** by Tiffany Jewell (Ages 10–14; Grades 5–9)

***The Other Talk: Reckoning With Our White Privilege*** by Brendan Kiely (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

***True or False: A CIA Analyst’s Guide to Spotting Fake News*** by Cindy L. Otis (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

***Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*** by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

## Learning About Immigration

**Article: “Celebrating the Voices of Immigrant Students” (American Federation of Teachers Blog)**

A teacher shares about the benefits and joys of not only teaching English Language Learners but centering and celebrating their culture and voices as immigrants in the classroom setting. [aft.org/ae/winter2017-2018/zehr](https://aft.org/ae/winter2017-2018/zehr)

**Organization: I Am an Immigrant**

Narrative campaigns that empower immigrants and their allies to share stories and drive action that demonstrate immigration is good for our communities, economy, and country. [iamanimmigrant.com](https://iamanimmigrant.com)

**Resource: Supporting Immigrant Students as the School Year Begins (Learning for Justice)**

A practical and useful guide to support immigrant students. [learningforjustice.org/the-moment/august-30-2022-supporting-immigrant-students-as-the-school-year-begins](https://learningforjustice.org/the-moment/august-30-2022-supporting-immigrant-students-as-the-school-year-begins)

**Organization: Never Again Action**

A Jewish-led organization started in the summer of 2019 in response to the separation of children and families at the US-Mexico border, NAA “[mobilizes] against the persecution, detention, and deportation of immigrants in the United States.” [neveragainaction.com](https://neveragainaction.com)

**Organization: Unafraid Educators**

An organization in Boston dedicated to “welcoming, cherishing, and protecting undocumented and immigrant students and families.” [unafraideducators.org](https://unafraideducators.org)

*The Lines We Cross* by Randa Abdel-Fattah (Ages 14 and up; Grades 9 and up)

*Refugee* by Alan Gratz (Ages 9–12; Grades 4–7)

*Amina’s Voice* by Hena Khan (Ages 9–12; Grades 4–7)

*Zara Hossain Is Here* by Sabina Khan (Ages 14 and up; Grades 9 and up)

*Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees* by Jen Sookfong Lee and Drew Shannon (Ages 9–12; Grades 4–7)

*Flying Over Water* by N. H. Senzai and Shannon Hitchcock (Ages 9–12; Grades 4–7)

*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang (Ages 8–12; Grades 3–7)

## Modern Jewish Representation: A Starting Point

**Resource: My Jewish Learning**

An online resource aimed at “empowering Jewish discovery for anyone interested in learning more,” offering articles, videos, and other resources to help navigate all aspects of Judaism and Jewish life—from food to history to beliefs and practices. [myjewishlearning.com](https://myjewishlearning.com)

**Resource: Jewish Women’s Archive**

An online archive dedicated to “documenting Jewish women’s stories and elevating their voice.” Archive includes a vast encyclopedia of related material, programs, and education. [jwa.org](https://jwa.org)

**Resource: Jewish Multiracial Network**

The Jewish Multiracial Network brings together Jews of Color and Jewish multiracial families and individuals to learn about and celebrate their Judaism. [jewishmultiracialnetwork.org](https://jewishmultiracialnetwork.org)

**Organization: Hey Alma**

A feminist Jewish website publishing daily articles on a variety of topics and dedicated to raising up a diversity of Jewish voices, including “Jews of Color, queer Jews, Jews by choice, and Mizrahi and Sephardic Jews.” [heyalma.com](https://heyalma.com)

**Video: “The Top Reasons I Love My Jewish Heritage” — Mayim Bialik (YouTube/APB Speakers)**

The star of Blossom and The Big Bang Theory talks about reasons she loves being Jewish. [youtu.be/IKIUtrNyADE](https://youtu.be/IKIUtrNyADE)

**Article: “Trans and Jewish Joy” (Jewish Boston)**

An article on the joys of being transgender and Jewish. [jewishboston.com/read/trans-and-jewish-joy](https://jewishboston.com/read/trans-and-jewish-joy)

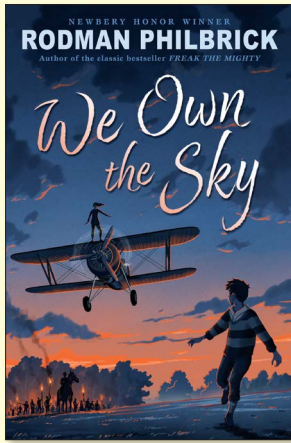
*Honey and Me* by Meira Drazin (Ages 8–12; Grades 4–7)

*It’s a Whole Spiel* edited by Katherine Locke and Laura Silverman (Ages 12 and up; Grades 7 and up)

*It’s My Party and I Don’t Want to Go* by Amanda Panitch (Ages 9–13; Grades 5–8)

*Not Your All-American Girl* by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang (Ages 8–12; Grades 4–7)

*This Is Just a Test* by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang (Ages 8–12; Grades 4–7)



HC: 9781338736298 • \$18.99  
Ages 8–12 • Grades 3–7  
Also available in ebook and audio

## About *We Own the Sky*

A thrilling historical adventure about the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Maine by the master of adventure himself, Rodman Philbrick. It's Maine, 1924, and Davy and Jo Michaud have been recently orphaned. Taken in by a distant relative—a famous aviator—they are now working with a group of stunt pilots who spend their time wing walking, leaping from plane to plane, and flying through fireworks! But though the stunts are dangerous, the real threat is building behind the scenes. The KKK is gaining support in Maine that summer, inspired by the racial fears promoted in the film *The Birth of a Nation*. They spew hatred of immigrants, Blacks, Jews, and French Catholics—that last, a rage that will be directed at Davy and Jo. When Davy and Jo cross paths with the Klan, they get tangled up in a terrible revenge plan and held as hostages. Can they escape with their lives?

Newbery Honor author **Rodman Philbrick** has written more than a dozen novels for young readers. In 1993, he published his first children's book, *Freak the Mighty*, which became an instant classic, and was made into a feature film. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* was a 2010 Newbery Honor Book. Philbrick's other acclaimed novels include *Max the Mighty*, *The Young Man and the Sea*, *The Last Book in the Universe*, *Zane and the Hurricane*, and *Wildfire*. Philbrick divides his time between Maine and the Florida Keys. You can learn more about him on his website: [rodmanphilbrick.com](http://rodmanphilbrick.com).

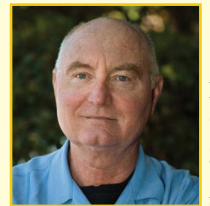


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HC: 9781338746815 • \$18.99  
Ages 12+ • Grades 7+  
Also available as an ebook

## About *Some Kind of Hate*

Declan Taylor is furious at the world. After winning State as a freshman starting pitcher, he accidentally messes up his throwing arm. Despite painful surgery and brutal physical therapy, he might never pitch again. And instead of spending the summer with his friends, Declan is forced to get a job to help his family out. On top of that, it seems like his best friend, Jake Lehrer, is flirting with Declan's crush and always ditching him to hang out with the team or his friends from synagogue. So Declan ends up playing a lot of Imperialist Empires online and making new friends, including Finn, who might be just as angry as Declan. Finn introduces Declan to others who understand what it's like when the world is working against you no matter how much you try. How white kids like them are denied opportunities because others are manipulating the system. And when his new friends decide it's time to fight back, Declan is right there with them. Even if it means going after Jake and his family. But when things turn deadly, Declan is going to have to decide just how far he'll go and what he's willing to sacrifice.

**Sarah Darer Littman** is the critically acclaimed author of *Some Kind of Hate*, *Deepfake*, *Backlash*, *Want to Go Private?*, *Anything But Okay*, *In Case You Missed It*, *Life*, *After*, and *Purge*. She is also an award-winning news columnist and teaches writing at Western Connecticut State University and with the Yale Writers' Workshop. Sarah lives in Connecticut with her family in a house that never seems to have enough bookshelves. You can visit her online at [sarahdarerlittman.com](http://sarahdarerlittman.com).



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