**Thoughts and Resources**

from the Commission for Racial Understanding

**November & December 2018**

**Children Resources**

**Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop**

Author Alice Faye Duncan presents a story of nine-year-old Lorraine Jackson, who in 1968 witnessed the Memphis sanitation strike--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s final stand for justice before his assassination--when her father, a sanitation worker, participated in the protest.

**Preaching to the Chickens**

Author Jabari Asim and illustrator E. B. Lewis give readers a fascinating glimpse into the boyhood of Civil Rights leader John Lewis. John Lewis wants to be a preacher when he grows-up a leader whose words stir hearts to change, minds to think, and bodies to take action. But why wait? When John is put in charge of the family farm’s flock of chickens, he discovers that they make a wonderful congregation!

**So Tall Within**

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery but possessed a mind and a vision that knew no bounds. So Tall Within traces her life from her painful childhood through her remarkable emancipation to her incredible leadership in the movement for rights for both women and African Americans. Her story is told by Gary D. Schmidt, and brought to life by fine artist Daniel Minter.

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**Young Adult Resource**

**The Hate U Give**

The Hate U Give is a young adult novel by Angie Thomas. It follows events in the life of a black 16-year-old girl, Starr Carter, who is drawn to activism after she witnesses the police shooting of a childhood friend. This book was on the New York Times young adult best-seller list for 50 weeks. The film adaptation of this novel is available for viewing.

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**Adult Resources**

**Still Here: Black Dignity in a world Made for Whiteness**

Author Austin Channing Brown’s first encounter with a racialized America came at age 7, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to deceive future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in majority-white schools, organizations, and churches, Austin writes, “I had to learn what it means to love blackness,” a journey that led to a lifetime spent navigating America’s racial divide as a writer, speaker and expert who helps organizations practice genuine inclusion.

**Sing Unburied Sing**

Author Jesmyn Ward gives us a story, a family’s journey through Mississippi’s past and present that is both an intimate portrait of a family and an epic tale of hope and struggle.