

After Charlottesville: Teaching about Racism, Antisemitism and White Supremacy



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In August 2017, ‘Unite the Right’ convened one of the largest and most violent gatherings in decades in the U.S. that brought together white supremacist groups including the alt-right, neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. The gathering’s stated goal was to save the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, because like other places in the South, there are still monuments celebrating leaders of the Confederacy. Hundreds gathered on Friday evening and Saturday to broadcast their viewpoints and ideologies, including chanting, “blood and soil,” “you will not replace us” and “hail Trump.” They carried torches, homemade shields, weapons and Confederate and Nazi flags. Many brandished Nazi salutes. After continued clashes with their opponents, a car plowed into a crowd of peaceful counter-

protesters, killing one person and injuring nineteen. A state of emergency was declared by Virginia's Governor.

This event has precipitated many public conversations about the state of white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, domestic extremism, free speech and other related topics. Because this is an important “teachable moment” for teachers and parents and family members, below are relevant lessons, related curricula and additional anti-bias resources and strategies to help you discuss these topics with young people.

Curriculum Resources

LESSON PLAN

The Alt Right and White Supremacy

HIGH SCHOOL

High school lesson plan to help students learn about the alt right and explore historical and current day examples of white supremacy.



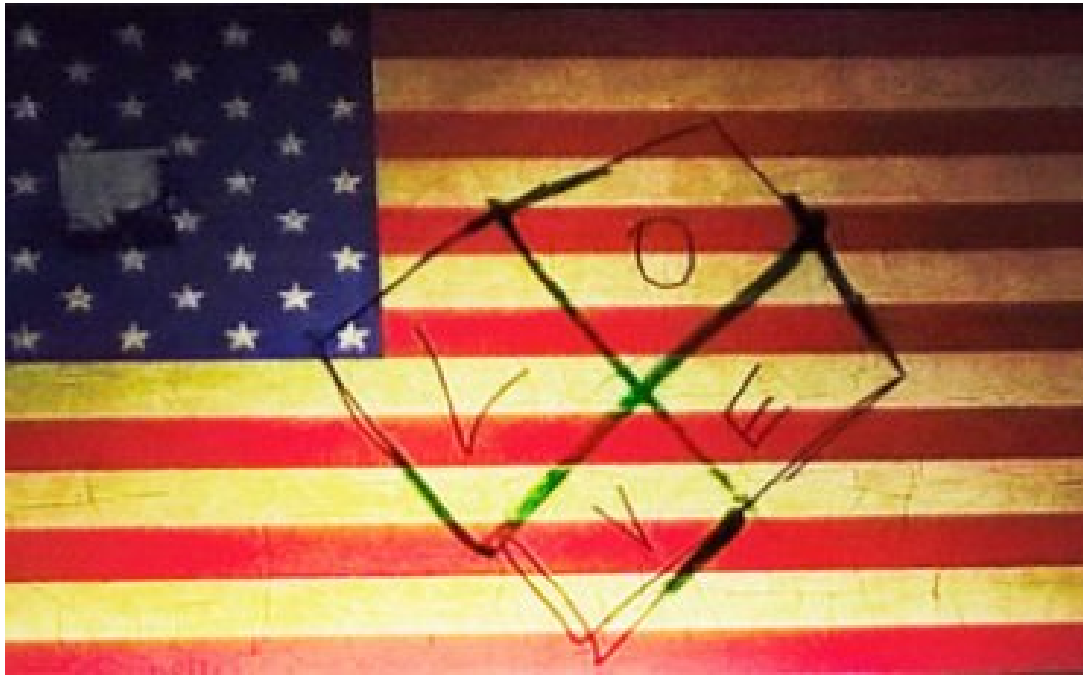
Anthony Crider/CC BY 2.0

LESSON PLAN

Antisemitic Incidents: Being an Ally, Advocate and Activist

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

The surge of antisemitic incidents in the United States is alarming to many. Middle and high school students examine incidents and explore ways to be an ally and how these actions, whether on a large or small scale, can make a difference.

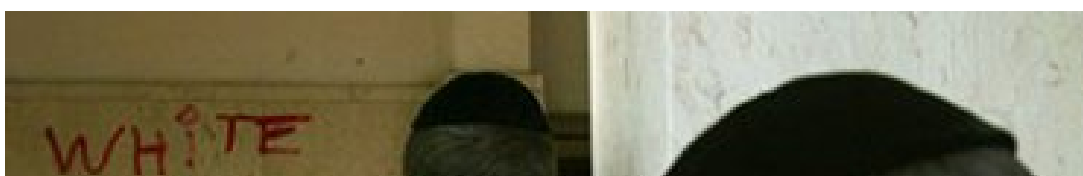


LESSON PLAN

Challenging Antisemitism: Debunking the Myths and Responding with Facts

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

This multi-grade curriculum unit provides students with a basic understanding of Judaism and the cultural, historical and religious aspects of the U.S. Jewish community and ways to effectively respond to antisemitic incidents.





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LESSON PLAN

Outsmarting Propaganda: Combatting the Lure of Extremist Recruitment Strategies

HIGH SCHOOL

Terrorist and extremist groups actively try to recruit new members. Teach high school students what propaganda is and how it has been used to recruit young people into extremist groups and how to counter those strategies.



LESSON PLAN

Confederate Monuments and Their Removal

HIGH SCHOOL

This high school lesson provides an opportunity for students reflect on theirs and others points of view of Confederate monuments as they learn more about them and the push to remove them.



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Holocaust Education

Holocaust education programs provide education and resources to help educators and students study the history of the Holocaust.

LESSON PLAN

Experiences with Race and Racism

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL

Race and racism are topics that regularly come up in the news and populate our social media feeds. 5th-7th grade students explore race and racism using a range of young people's first encounter stories.





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LESSON PLAN

The First Amendment and Our Freedoms

HIGH SCHOOL

In this lesson, high school students will reflect on what freedom means to them, gain understanding of the First Amendment freedoms and their complexities, explore relevant court cases and reflect on how the First Amendment impacts their daily lives.



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LESSON PLAN

Noose Incidents and Their Historical Context

A high school lesson that provides students an opportunity to reflect on the historical context of lynching in the U.S., the current day use of the hangman's noose, the increase use of hate symbols and explore what can be done about it.



Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

LESSON PLAN

Privilege, Discrimination and Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

HIGH SCHOOL

In this lesson, high school students analyze race, privilege and power. They learn about racial disparities in the criminal justice system and reflect upon how whites and people of color have different experiences with law enforcement.





Thomas Altfather Good / CC BY-SA 2.5

LESSON PLAN

Swastikas and Other Hate Symbols

HIGH SCHOOL

High school students consider the significance of symbols in our society and explore what can be done about the prevalence of hate symbols.



LESSON PLAN

The First Amendment in Public Schools

HIGH SCHOOL

This 4-lesson unit helps high school students learn about democracy, examine the First Amendment and explore how their freedoms originated and how they function today in schools, in their communities and globally.



LESSON PLAN

When Perception and Reality Collide: Implicit Bias and Race

HIGH SCHOOL

High school lesson plan to help students explore the role of implicit bias in perceptions of African-American boys and men.





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Educator and Parent Resources for Discussing Issues of Racism, Anti-Semitism and White Supremacy with Young People

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Empowering Young People in the Aftermath of Hate (In English and en Español)

Tools, tips and strategies for what educators and family members can do to help young people discuss and deal with the aftermath of hate-inspired events.



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Hate Symbols

We see symbols every day in all aspects of our lives. Lately, a proliferation of hate symbols is increasing concern. Use this discussion guide to engage youth in conversations about swastikas and other hate symbols. (*Ages 13 and up*)



TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories about Bias and Injustice

When there are national news stories that involve incidents of bias and injustice, young people want to be part of the conversation.





Loavesofbread

BACKGROUNDERS

Civil Rights Movement

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's came about out of the need and desire for equality and freedom for African Americans and other people of color. Nearly one...



Rowland Scherman for USIA, Photographer. Courtesy of U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Race Talk: Engaging Young People in Conversations about Race and Racism

As a society, public conversations about race and racism have increased in volume and intensity. Here are some suggestions and strategies for having classroom conversations with young people about these issues.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Propaganda, Extremism and Online Recruitment Tactics

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about propaganda, extremism and recruitment tactics of extremist groups. *(Ages 14 and up)*



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Talking to Young Children about Bias and Prejudice

The process of countering negative attitudes with positives begins at an early age. Louise Derman-Sparks, an educator and specialist on child development, points to three major issues that are important to keep in mind when talking to children about prejudice and discrimination.

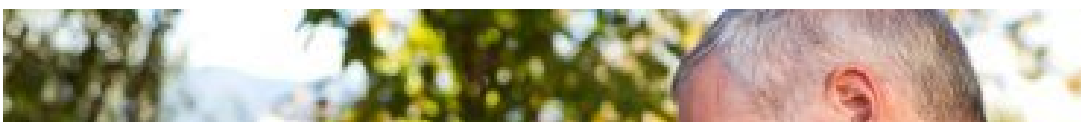


Claudia Rodriguez

BLOG

How Should We Talk With Young People About Charlottesville?

Suggestions and resources for engaging young people in meaningful conversations after the tragic events that occurred in Charlottesville.





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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Charlottesville and Beyond

Here are some tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about the lessons of Charlottesville, racism, anti-Semitism, white supremacy, the alt right and the First Amendment. *(Ages 12 and up)*



Anthony Crider/CC BY 2.0

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Confederate Monuments

More than 150 years after the Civil War, there is a new drive to remove Confederate monuments. Discuss with youth why they think this issue is controversial and why monuments hold so much power and meaning. *(Ages 13 and up)*



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Where Do We Get Our Courage?

You don't start a fight but if someone starts one with you, you finish it. Rosalind Wiseman talks about finding the courage to continue fighting for the fair treatment of all in school and communities, even after Charlottesville.





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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

When Do Teachers Stay Neutral?

Is a 6th grader chanting “Build a Wall” in his classroom a political statement or a deliberate act to intimidate other students in the class? Rosalind Wiseman talks about effective neutrality in facilitating student discussions.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Early Childhood FAQs

The Question Corner provides a collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members.



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Teaching Tools and Strategies

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

How Should I Talk about Race in My Mostly White Classroom?

Strategies for discussing race and racism in classrooms of predominately white students.



Creating an Anti-Bias Learning Environment

Tips for the classroom educator to create an anti-bias learning environment.



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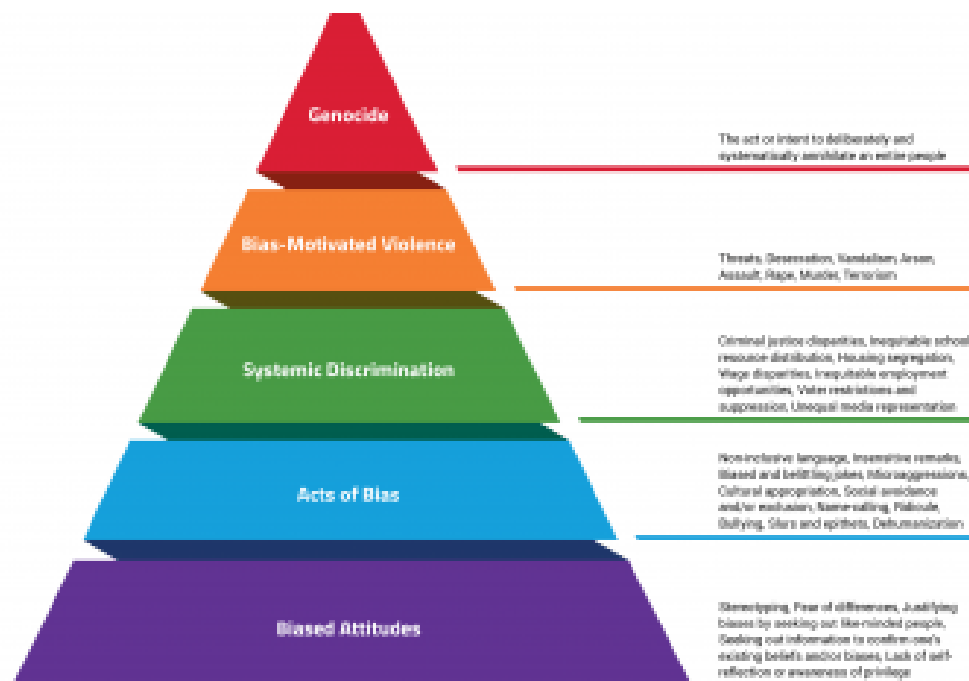
Lessons to Teach and Learn from 'Unite the Right'



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Pyramid of Hate (en Español)

A visual of a pyramid which shows biased behaviors, growing in complexity from the bottom to the top.



Children's Literature with Educator and Parent Discussion Guides and Other Books

When We Were Alone

This book tells the story about a difficult time in history and one of empowerment and strength.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The Hate U Give

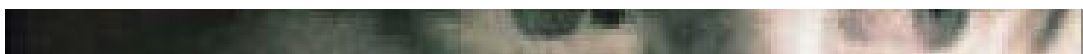
The uneasy balance between two worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer.

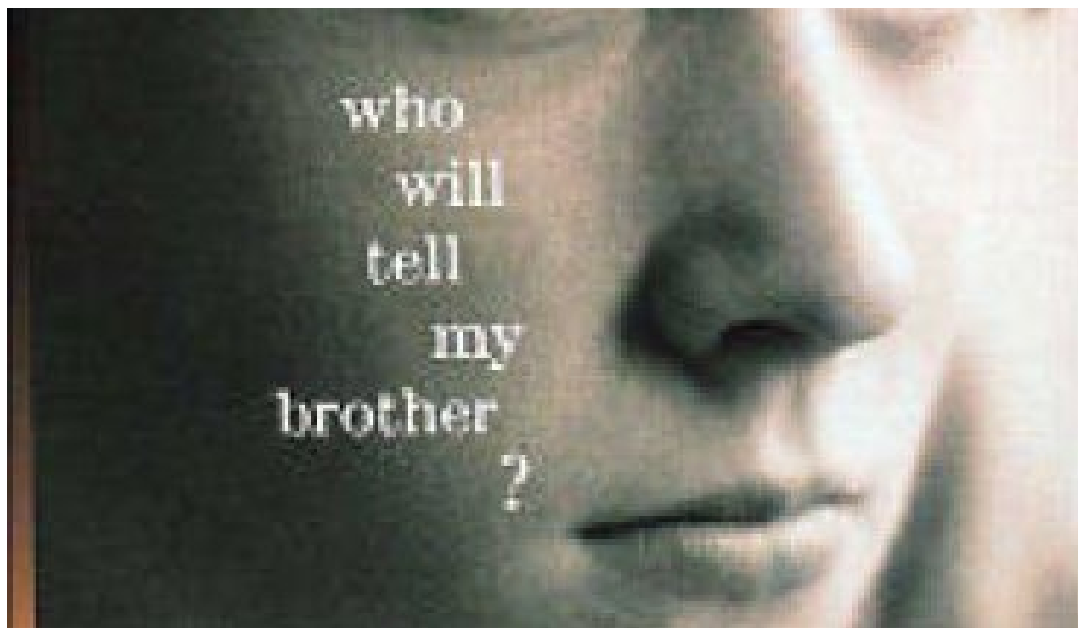


CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Who Will Tell My Brother?

Determined to sway high school officials to remove disparaging Native American mascots, Evan assumes a struggle that spirals him onto a soul-searching journey and exposes him to a barrage of bullying, taunts and escalating violence.

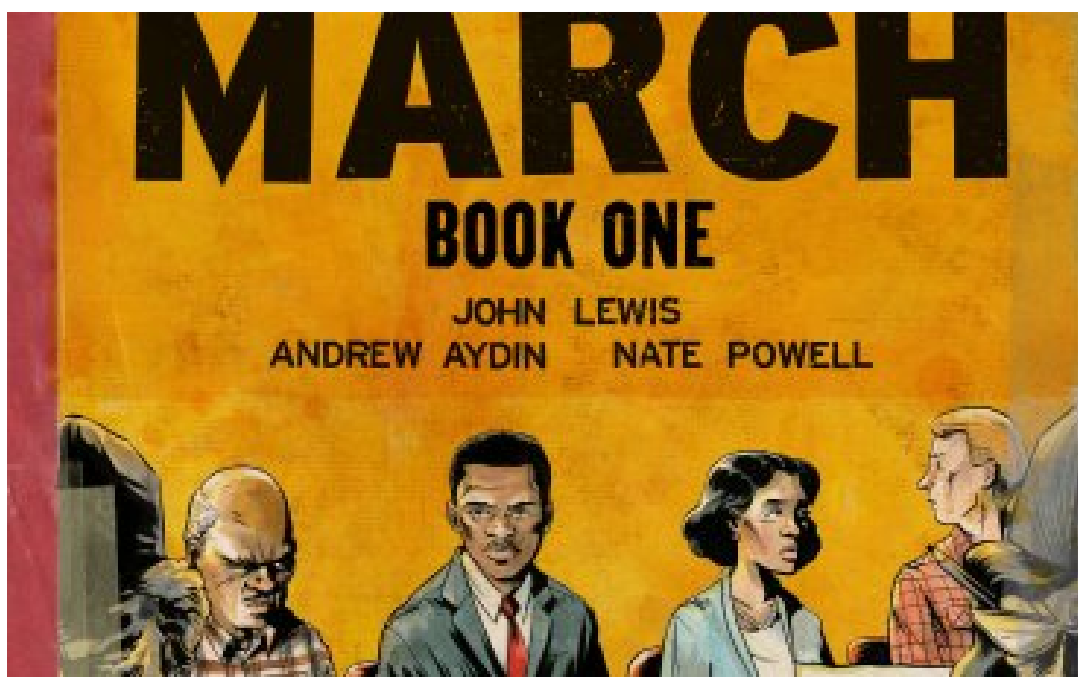




CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

March: Book One

Book One of this graphic novel trilogy spans Congressman John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass: Igniting the Nazi War Against Jews

For one horrific night in November 1938, the streets of Germany and Austria were overrun with people bent on destruction.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Milkweed

This book takes place in the Nazi-occupied Warsaw of World War II—and tells a tale of heartbreak, hope and survival through the eyes of a young orphan.



Children's Literature

The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice.

ADL's Center on Extremism Resources

BACKGROUNDERS

Alt Right: A Primer on the New White Supremacy

BACKGROUNDERS

From Alt Right to Alt Lite: Naming the Hate

A year ago, the "alt right" and "alt lite" were obscure fringe groups. Today, they're America's most visible far-right extremists.



Reuters

Hate on Display™ Hate Symbols Database

ADL presents an overview of symbols used by white supremacist groups, movements and other types of hate groups. [Learn more.](#)

BLOG

Violence and Hate Unite the Right

On the morning of Saturday, August 12, hundreds of white supremacists descended on Charlottesville, Virginia, for the Unite the Right rally. The rally never happened, but it almost didn't matter: The event was the largest and most violent gathering of white supremacists in decades.





Other Resources

When Hate is in the Headlines: Resources for K-12 Educators

Sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), this webinar provides resources and concrete examples of how to discuss issues of hate in the headlines with students in elementary, middle and high school.

Mass Violence and Extremism Backgrounder: Information for Educators and School Administrators

This backgrounder strives to provide comprehensive information that is relevant and appropriate for all school districts. It delves into some of the causes and observable signs of student violence and extremism and provides a set of steps for schools to take that may aid in discouraging attacks. This resource is a joint project of ADL and The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.