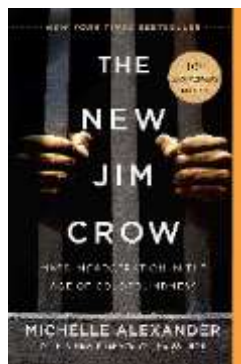


## Anti-Racism and Social Justice Reading List

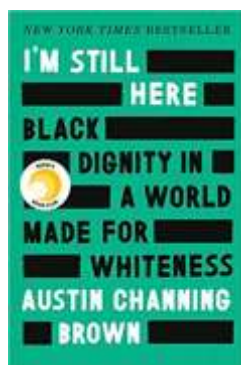


*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander

Available at the Prendergast Library, other CCLS libraries, and Overdrive.

“*The New Jim Crow* is a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.”

(From: [newjimcrow.com/about](http://newjimcrow.com/about))



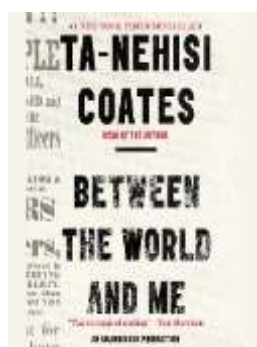
*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown

Available at the Prendergast Library and other CCLS libraries.

“In a time when nearly all institutions (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claim to value “diversity” in their mission statements, ***I’M STILL HERE*** is a powerful account of how and why our actions so often fall short of our words. Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice, in stories that bear witness to the complexity of America’s social fabric--from Black Cleveland

neighborhoods to private schools in the middle-class suburbs, from prison walls to the boardrooms at majority-white organizations.”

(From: [austinchanning.com/the-book](http://austinchanning.com/the-book))

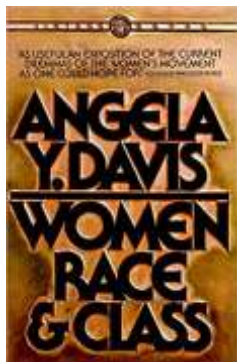


*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Available at the Prendergast Library, other CCLS libraries, and Overdrive.

“In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation’s history and current crisis. Americans have built an empire on the idea of ‘race,’ a falsehood that damages us all but falls most heavily on the bodies of black women and men—bodies exploited through slavery and segregation, and, today, threatened, locked up, and murdered out of all proportion. What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?”

(From: [penguinrandomhouse.com/books/220290/between-the-world-and-me-by-ta-nehisi-coates/](http://penguinrandomhouse.com/books/220290/between-the-world-and-me-by-ta-nehisi-coates/))

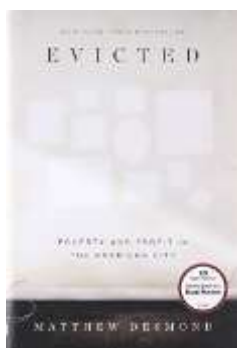


*Women, Race, & Class* by Angela Y. Davis

Available at other CCLS libraries.

“A powerful study of the women’s liberation movement in the U.S., from abolitionist days to the present, that demonstrates how it has always been hampered by the racist and classist biases of its leaders. From the widely revered and legendary political activist and scholar Angela Davis.”

(From: [penguinrandomhouse.com/books/37354/women-race-and-class-by-angela-y-davis/](https://penguinrandomhouse.com/books/37354/women-race-and-class-by-angela-y-davis/))



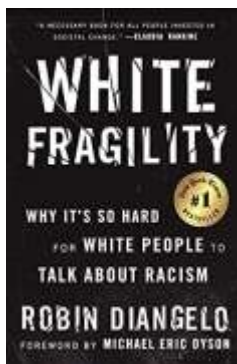
*Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond

Available at the Prendergast Library, other CCLS libraries, and Overdrive.

“In *Evicted*, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur ‘Genius’ Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as ‘wrenching and revelatory’ (*The Nation*), ‘vivid and unsettling’ (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and

loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.”

(From: [evictedbook.com/books/evicted-tr](https://evictedbook.com/books/evicted-tr))



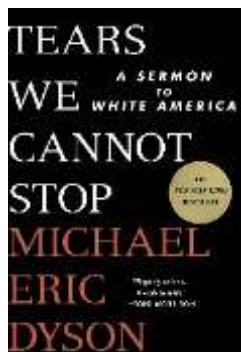
*White Fragility: Why it's so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo

Available at the Prendergast Library, other CCLS libraries and Overdrive.

“In this ‘vital, necessary, and beautiful book’ (Michael Eric Dyson), antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and “allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people’ (Claudia Rankine). Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These

behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. In this in-depth exploration, DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.”

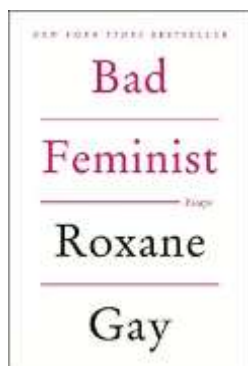
(From: <https://www.amazon.com/White-Fragility-People-About-Racism/dp/0807047414>)



*Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson  
Available at the Prendergast Library and CCLS other libraries.

“As the country grapples with racist division at a level not seen since the 1960s, one man's voice soars above the rest with conviction and compassion. In his 2016 *New York Times* op-ed piece ‘Death in Black and White,’ Michael Eric Dyson moved a nation. Now he continues to speak out in *Tears We Cannot Stop*—a provocative and deeply personal call for change. Dyson argues that if we are to make real racial progress we must face difficult truths, including being honest about how black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted.”

(From: [us.macmillan.com/books/9781250135995](https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250135995))

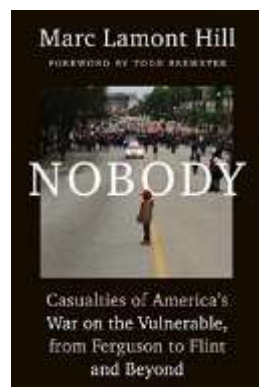


*Bad Feminist: Essays* by Roxane Gay

Available at the Prendergast Library, other CCLS libraries, and Overdrive.

“In these funny and insightful essays, Roxane Gay takes us through the journey of her evolution as a woman (*Sweet Valley High*) of color (*The Help*) while also taking readers on a ride through culture of the last few years (*Girls*, *Django in Chains*) and commenting on the state of feminism today (abortion, Chris Brown). The portrait that emerges is not only one of an incredibly insightful woman continually growing to understand herself and our society, but also one of our culture.”

(From: <https://www.amazon.com/Bad-Feminist-Essays-Roxane-Gay/dp/0062282719>)



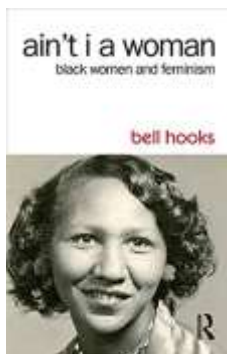
*Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond* by Marc Lamont Hill

Available at other CCLS libraries.

“In this ‘thought-provoking and important’ (*Library Journal*) analysis of state-sanctioned violence, Marc Lamont Hill carefully considers a string of high-profile deaths in America—Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, and others—and incidents of gross negligence by government, such as the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. He digs underneath these events to uncover patterns and policies of authority that allow some

citizens become disempowered, disenfranchised, poor, uneducated, exploited, vulnerable, and disposable. To help us understand the plight of vulnerable communities, he examines the effects of unfettered capitalism, mass incarceration, and political power while urging us to consider a new world in which everyone has a chance to become somebody. Heralded as an essential text for our times, Marc Lamont Hill’s galvanizing work embodies the best traditions of scholarship, journalism, and storytelling to lift unheard voices and to address the necessary question, ‘how did we get here?’”

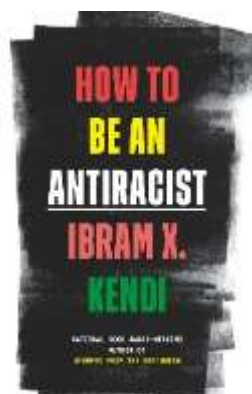
(From: [amazon.com/Nobody-Casualties-Americas-Vulnerable-Ferguson/dp/150112496X](https://amazon.com/Nobody-Casualties-Americas-Vulnerable-Ferguson/dp/150112496X))



*Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* by Bell Hooks  
Available at other CCLS libraries.

“A classic work of feminist scholarship, *Ain't I a Woman* has become a must-read for all those interested in the nature of black womanhood. Examining the impact of sexism on black women during slavery, the devaluation of black womanhood, black male sexism, racism among feminists, and the black woman's involvement with feminism, hooks attempts to move us beyond racist and sexist assumptions. The result is nothing short of groundbreaking, giving this book a critical place on every feminist scholar's bookshelf.”

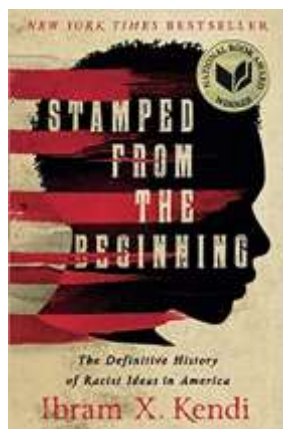
(From: [amazon.com/Aint-Woman-Black-Women-Feminism/dp/1138821519](https://www.amazon.com/Aint-Woman-Black-Women-Feminism/dp/1138821519))



*How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi  
Available at the Prendergast Library, other CCLS libraries and Overdrive.

“In his memoir, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science—including the story of his own awakening to antiracism--bringing it all together in a cogent, accessible form. He begins by helping us rethink our most deeply held, if implicit, beliefs and our most intimate personal relationships (including beliefs about race and IQ and interracial social relations) and reexamines the policies and larger social arrangements we support. *How to Be an Antiracist* promises to become an essential book for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step of contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society.”

(From: [ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1](https://ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1))

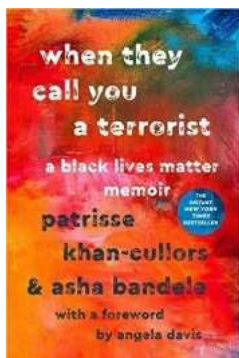


*Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi  
Available at other CCLS libraries and Overdrive.

“In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. *Stamped from the Beginning* uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to offer a window into the contentious debates between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists. From Puritan Minister Cotton Mather to Thomas Jefferson, from fiery abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to brilliant scholar W.E.B. Du Bois to legendary anti-prison activist Angela Davis, Kendi shows how and why some of our leading proslavery and pro-civil rights thinkers have challenged or helped cement racist ideas in America.”

(From: [ibramxkendi.com/stamped-from-the-beginning](https://ibramxkendi.com/stamped-from-the-beginning))





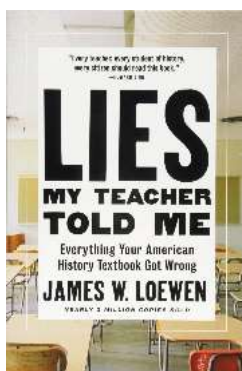
*When they Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors

Available at other CCLS libraries.

“Raised by a single mother in an impoverished neighborhood in Los Angeles, Patrisse Khan-Cullors experienced firsthand the prejudice and persecution Black Americans endure at the hands of law enforcement. For Patrisse, the most vulnerable people in the country are Black people. Deliberately and ruthlessly targeted by a criminal justice system serving a white privilege agenda, Black people are subjected to unjustifiable racial profiling and police brutality. In 2013,

when Trayvon Martin’s killer went free, Patrisse’s outrage led her to co-found Black Lives Matter with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi. Condemned as terrorists and as a threat to America, these loving women founded a hashtag that birthed the movement to demand accountability from the authorities who continually turn a blind eye to the injustices inflicted upon people of Black and Brown skin.”

(From: [us.macmillan.com/books/9781250171085](http://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250171085))



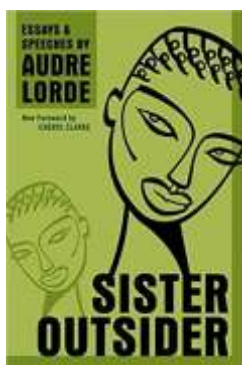
*Lies my Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* by James W. Loewen

Available at other CCLS libraries.

“Americans have lost touch with their history, and in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Professor James Loewen shows why. After surveying eighteen leading high school American history texts, he has concluded that not one does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, these books omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and

drama from our past.”

(From: [amazon.com/Lies-My-Teacher-Told-Everything/dp/0743296281](http://amazon.com/Lies-My-Teacher-Told-Everything/dp/0743296281))

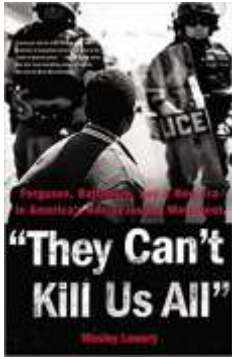


*Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches* by Audre Lorde

Available at the Prendergast Library.

“In this charged collection of fifteen essays and speeches, Lorde takes on sexism, racism, ageism, homophobia, and class, and propounds social difference as a vehicle for action and change. Her prose is incisive, unflinching, and lyrical, reflecting struggle but ultimately offering messages of hope. This commemorative edition includes a new foreword by Lorde-scholar and poet Cheryl Clarke, who celebrates the ways in which Lorde’s philosophies resonate more than twenty years after they were first published.”

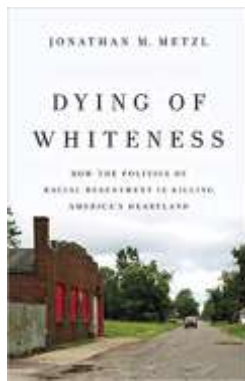
(From: [penguinrandomhouse.com/books/198292/sister-outsider-by-audre-lorde/](http://penguinrandomhouse.com/books/198292/sister-outsider-by-audre-lorde/))



*They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement* by Wesley Lowery  
Available at the Prendergast Library and other CCLS libraries.

“In an effort to grasp the magnitude of the repose to Michael Brown's death and understand the scale of the problem police violence represents, Lowery speaks to Brown's family and the families of other victims other victims' families as well as local activists. By posing the question, "What does the loss of any one life mean to the rest of the nation?" Lowery examines the cumulative effect of decades of racially biased policing in segregated neighborhoods with failing schools, crumbling infrastructure and too few jobs.”

(From: [amazon.com/They-Cant-Kill-All-Baltimore/dp/0316312479](https://www.amazon.com/They-Cant-Kill-All-Baltimore/dp/0316312479))



*Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland* by Jonathan Metz  
Available at other CCLS libraries and Overdrive.

“Physician and sociologist Jonathan M. Metz travels across America's heartland seeking to better understand the politics of racial resentment and its impact on public health. Interviewing a range of Americans, he uncovers how racial anxieties led to the repeal of gun control laws in Missouri, stymied the Affordable Care Act in Tennessee, and fueled massive cuts to schools and social services in Kansas. Although such measures promised to restore greatness to white America, Metz's systematic analysis of health data dramatically reveals they did just the opposite: these policies made life sicker, harder, and shorter in the very populations they purported to aid. Thus, white gun suicides soared, life expectancies fell, and school dropout rates rose.”

(From: [dyingofwhiteness.com/](http://dyingofwhiteness.com/))



*So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo  
Available at other CCLS libraries and Overdrive.

“In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.”

(From: [amazon.com/You-Want-Talk-About-Race/dp/1580056776](https://www.amazon.com/You-Want-Talk-About-Race/dp/1580056776))

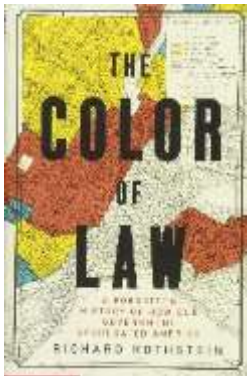


*Blackballed: the Black Vote and US Democracy* by Darryl Pinckney  
Available at other libraries.

“*Blackballed* is Darryl Pinckney’s meditation on a century and a half of participation by blacks in US electoral politics. In this combination of memoir, historical narrative, and contemporary political and social analysis, he investigates the struggle for black voting rights from Reconstruction through the civil rights movement to Barack Obama’s two presidential campaigns. Drawing on the work of scholars, the memoirs of civil rights workers, and the speeches and writings of black leaders like Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael,

Andrew Young and John Lewis, Pinckney traces the disagreements among blacks about the best strategies for achieving equality in American society as well as the ways in which they gradually came to create the Democratic voting bloc that contributed to the election of the first black president.”

(From: [amazon.com/Blackballed-Black-Vote-US-Democracy/dp/159017769X](https://www.amazon.com/Blackballed-Black-Vote-US-Democracy/dp/159017769X))



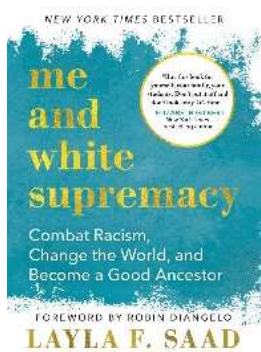
*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein

Available at the Prendergast Library and other libraries

“In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America’s cities came to be racially divided through *de facto* segregation—that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies. Rather, *The Color of Law* incontrovertibly makes clear that it was *de jure* segregation—the laws and

policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments—that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.”

(From: [amazon.com/Color-Law-Forgotten-Government-Segregated/dp/1631492853](https://www.amazon.com/Color-Law-Forgotten-Government-Segregated/dp/1631492853))



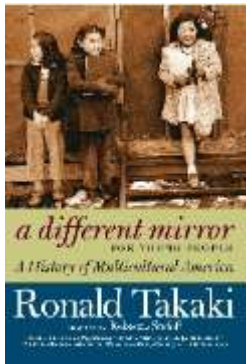
*Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad.

Available at other libraries and Overdrive.

“Based on the viral Instagram challenge that captivated participants worldwide, *Me and White Supremacy* takes readers on a 28-day journey, complete with journal prompts, to do the necessary and vital work that can ultimately lead to improving race relations. Updated and expanded from the original workbook (downloaded by nearly 100,000 people), this critical text helps you take the work deeper by adding more historical and cultural contexts, sharing moving stories and anecdotes, and including expanded

definitions, examples, and further resources, giving you the language to understand racism, and to dismantle your own biases, whether you are using the book on your own, with a book club, or looking to start family activism in your own home.”

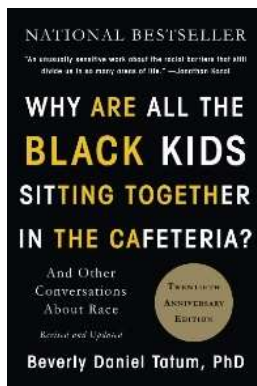
(From: [amazon.com/Me-White-Supremacy-Combat-Ancestor/dp/1728209803](https://www.amazon.com/Me-White-Supremacy-Combat-Ancestor/dp/1728209803))



*A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald T. Takaki  
Available at the Prendergast Library and other CCLS libraries.

“Upon its first publication, *A Different Mirror* was hailed by critics and academics everywhere as a dramatic new retelling of our nation's past. Beginning with the colonization of the New World, it recounted the history of America in the voice of the non-Anglo peoples of the United States--Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, Irish Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and others--groups who helped create this country's rich mosaic culture.”

(From: [amazon.com/Different-Mirror-History-Multicultural-America/dp/0316022365](https://www.amazon.com/Different-Mirror-History-Multicultural-America/dp/0316022365))

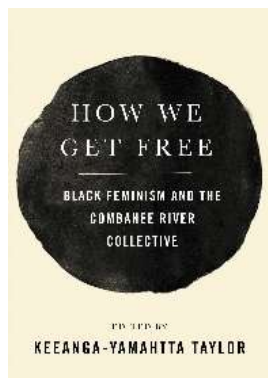


*“Why are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” and Other Conversations about Race* by Beverly Daniel Tatum  
Available at the Prendergast Library and Overdrive.

“Walk into any racially mixed high school and you will see Black, White, and Latino youth clustered in their own groups. Is this self-segregation a problem to address or a coping strategy? Beverly Daniel Tatum, a renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides. These topics have only become more urgent as the national conversation about race is increasingly acrimonious. This fully revised edition

is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the dynamics of race in America.”

(From: [amazon.com/Black-Kids-Sitting-Together-Cafeteria/dp/0465060684](https://www.amazon.com/Black-Kids-Sitting-Together-Cafeteria/dp/0465060684))



*How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*  
 edited and introduced by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor  
Available at other CCLS libraries.

“The Combahee River Collective, a path-breaking group of radical black feminists, was one of the most important organizations to develop out of the antiracist and women’s liberation movements of the 1960s and 70s. In this collection of essays and interviews edited by activist-scholar Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, founding members of the organization and contemporary activists reflect on the legacy of its contributions to Black feminism and its

impact on today’s struggles.”

(From: [haymarketbooks.org/books/1108-how-we-get-free](https://haymarketbooks.org/books/1108-how-we-get-free))





*In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose* by Alice Walker  
Available at other CCLS libraries.

“In this, her first collection of nonfiction, Alice Walker speaks out as a black woman, writer, mother, and feminist in thirty-six pieces ranging from the personal to the political. Among the contents are essays about other writers, accounts of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the antinuclear movement of the 1980s, and a vivid memoir of a scarring childhood injury and her daughter’s healing words.”

(From: [hnhbooks.com/shop/books/In-Search-of-Our-Mothers-Gardens/9780156028646](http://hnhbooks.com/shop/books/In-Search-of-Our-Mothers-Gardens/9780156028646))