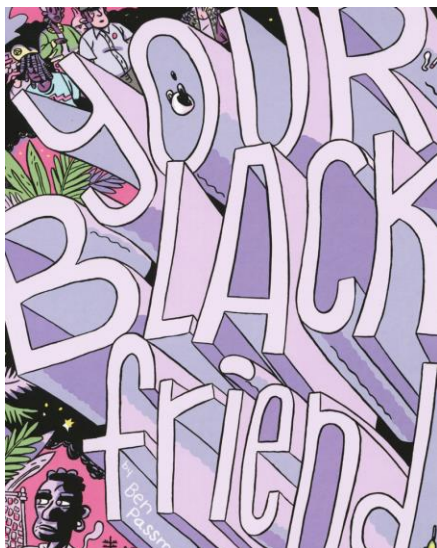




*The Faith Formation Team of Mosaic Mennonite Conference has created a list of resources and curriculums in a variety of mediums for teens and young adults for leaders to utilize in engaging with youth in conversation around race and racism in the USA.*

## Youth Resources to Discuss and Address Racism

### TOP RECOMMENDATION



### Your Black Friend

*A 1 session discussion study Based on "Your Black Friend" the free online comic book by Ben Passmore and 3-minute video by Ben Passmore, Alex Krokus & Krystal Downs*

Your Black Friend: Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHvxXlmnWKw>

Your Black Friend: Free Comic Book:

<https://www.silversprocket.net/your-black-friend/>

**Printed Copy of Comic: If you would use printed copies of the comic, let Brooke know. We will order and ship to you as many copies as your group would use.**

For this discussion invite the youth to read the online comic book ahead of time or provide time at the beginning of your time together to text youth the link and have youth read. Another option is to text youth the link ahead of time and watch the video together as a group before entering discussion.

### Discussion Questions:

If your group is not big talkers, have them turn to a neighbor to talk about the video they just watched/the comic book they just read. This will allow time for them to process a bit in their own directions before discussing as a group.

1. What initial response do you have to the comic/video "Your Black Friend"?
2. What is one thing you just don't understand about racism?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 and 1 John 2:11. The church is called to be a different group of people, yet we know racism has infected the church. How have you been "walking in darkness"? What fear and judgements against people of color do you need to let go?
4. In "Your Black Friend", the main character has to think through many situations as a Black man. Which observation stood out to you most? What do you think it's like to be black/brown living in this country?
5. Read Luke 4:18-19. As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to live out justice and mercy, care for the poor and oppressed, and to bring healing. How are you joining that mission as it relates to racial justice?
6. Share a time when said or did something insensitive to a black or brown person/friend. What did you learn from that experience? How can you do better?
7. I would like to add one more: Read Rev 6:9. God's vision is equality, harmony, and unity. As a God's co-workers. In what ways do you think we can make this vision a reality?
8. In an effort to be more like Jesus, name one way you will commit to act for racial justice. Who is going to hold you accountable?

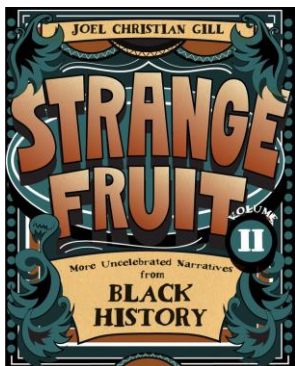
## Video Based Bible Studies



RIGHT NOW MEDIA has a collection of video based studies on racism and racial reconciliation. <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Channel/1933>

## Graphic Novels

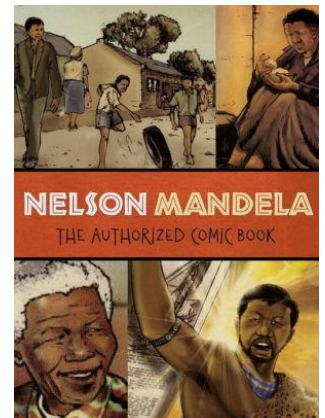
*A read that is easy to pick up and packs a lot of truth and thought-provoking stories. While discussion studies could be formed around any of these, they also are simply great stories that can speak for themselves and if you have youth interested in learning more are engaging texts and visuals.*



**Strange Fruit & Strange Fruit Volume II** written and illustrated by Joel Christian Gill

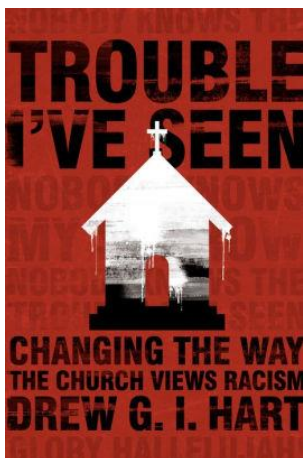
“Collection of stories from early African American history that represent the oddity of success in the face of great adversity. Each of the nine illustrated chapters chronicles an uncelebrated African American hero or event. From the adventures of lawman Bass Reeves, to Henry “Box” Brown’s daring escape from slavery.”

**Nelson Mandela: The Authorized Comic Book** written by The Nelson Mandela Foundation and illustrated by Umlando Wezithombe. *Nelson Mandela: The Authorized Comic Book* tells the story of Nelson Mandela’s birth and childhood, his struggle against apartheid and oppression, his 27-year incarceration, and his eventual rise as the first democratically elected leader of South Africa. (similar graphic novels exist for Martin Luther King Jr and others)



While not a USA story, as Nelson Mandela lived in South Africa, I greatly appreciated and enjoyed this reading of Nelson Mandela’s stories. (*Recommended by Brooke Martin*)

## Books

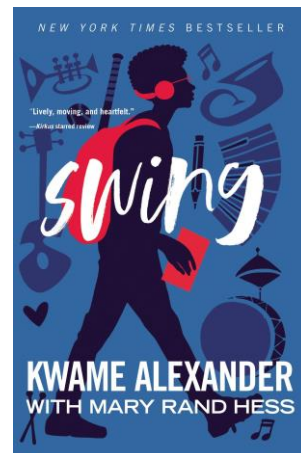


**Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism** by Drew G.I. Hart

Drew Hart, Professor at Messiah and anabaptist theologian, grew up in Norristown and attended Messiah University. He references his experiences growing up in these spaces and that places this book smack dab in Mosaic Mennonite settings helping this book connected to contexts. While the reading level of this book rates higher, we truly recommend this as a great book for Mennonite youth leaders and high school students who are interested in growing more in their understanding of race and racism especially in the suburban white context.

## **Swing by Kwame Alexander**

Which I would highly recommend. The story is a coming of age story about two Black boys looking to make the school's baseball team and elevate their cool status. Behind the scenes, though, American flags are appearing all over the town, which has the town nervous and divided. Are these flags a sign of patriotism or signs of dangerous intentions? The book is written in a form of narrative poetry, which makes the book fun and easy to read. There are plenty of lighthearted sections, but the story also tackles serious topics such as police brutality and other forms of racialized violence. I would highly recommend *Swing*. Kwame Alexander is a prolific writer, so I'm sure he has other books that are worth adding to the list, too. (*Recommended by Pastor Jordan Luther, Zion Mennonite Church*)



## **Additional Resources**

**Indian Valley Public Library Resources about Race & Racism:** <https://www.ivpl.org/copy-of-community-resources>

**Children's books:** contact Brooke for additional children's literature recommendations.

*List provided by the Faith Formation Team for Mosaic Mennonite Conference*



**Brooke Martin**

Youth Formation Team Lead  
Community Formation Coordinator

[bmartin@mosaicmennonites.org](mailto:bmartin@mosaicmennonites.org)



**Danilo Sanchez**

Youth Formation Pastor

[dsanchez@mosaicmennonites.org](mailto:dsanchez@mosaicmennonites.org)



**Hendy Matahelemual**

Communications and Intercultural  
Pastor

[hmatahelemual@mosaicmennonites.org](mailto:hmatahelemual@mosaicmennonites.org)