

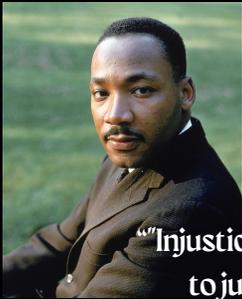
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The theme for Black History Month 2022 Canada is...
February and Forever: Celebrating Black History today and every day

Daily Learning/Thinking Prompts for Secondary Classes

WEEK 1 - INJUSTICE

Tuesday, February 1st

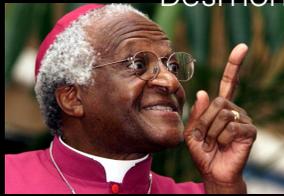


"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

"If you are silent in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

– Desmond Tutu



- Who were MLK and Desmond Tutu, and what injustices did they face?
- What do these quotes mean to you?
- Can you think of injustices that have taken place in 2021/2022?

Wednesday, February 2nd



Know their names.
Say their names.

Rekia Boyd

Breonna Taylor

Regis Korchinski-Pacquet

Sandra Bland

Michelle Cusseaux

- What is the **#sayhername** movement?
- Why do you think we do not know the names of Black women who have suffered police brutality?
- What is 'intersectionality' as originally described by Kimberlé Crenshaw and describe how the absence of it in the dominant narrative creates a need for the #sayhername movement?

Thursday, February 3rd

#BlackLivesMatter #BLM

In 2013, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi created a Black-centered political movement with #BlackLivesMatter after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Since then, local chapters of BLM have been set up in major cities throughout Canada. In 2020, upon the killing of George Floyd, protests erupted globally demanding action and reform.

- Describe the ecosystem of overlapping groups and organizations that contribute to the BLM movement at large.
- Are you able to connect the BLM movement to other resistance movements from history?
- Can you see how dominant narratives about BLM reflect previous narratives pitting Malcom X against MLK?

Friday, February 4th

What is the difference between ACCOUNTABILITY and JUSTICE?

What do these terms mean in the context of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others?



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Daily Learning/Thinking Prompts for Secondary Classes WEEK 2 - EXCELLENCE

Monday, February 7th

- There are numerous examples of prominent Black figures in arts, entertainment, athletics, politics, and writing. Are there areas where Black achievement aren't as well known or publicized?
- Read the quote again. Consider how it may be interpreted as inspiring and affirming by some, yet unsustainable and problematic by others.

"I was raised to believe that excellence is the best deterrent to racism or sexism. And that's how I operate my life."

– Oprah Winfrey



Tuesday, February 8th

Sidney Poitier	William Hall	Viola Desmond
Willie O'Ree	Mae Jamieson	Annamie Paul
Ralph Bunche	Josh Liendo	Grant Fuhr
Carrie Best	Mariya Russell	Michaëlle Jean

- Do you recognize any of these names?
- Why are they grouped together in this list? Do a quick search to discover the reason.

Wednesday, February 9th



She may be the GOAT, but what we love most about Biles is that she's using her platform to start a conversation around prioritizing mental health, knowing our boundaries, and refusing the Strong Black Women (SBW) stereotype. She has demonstrated strength and courage in the highly publicized Larry Nassar sexual assault case and has become a role model to all those who experience mental health challenges.

Is there a Black public figure that inspires you?

Go beyond the surface and out if/how they are using their voices and influence.



A Grand Slam champion and rising legend in tennis, Naomi Osaka's decision to withdraw from media appearances and the 2021 French Open drew out-sized and nasty criticism but also inspired others, like Simone Biles, to prioritize health over athletic achievements.

Thursday, February 10th



Founded by Anthonia Ogundele and operating right here in Vancouver. Ethos Lab is an "out of school, culture-based STEAM learning academy for teens 12 to 18." It focuses on getting Black youth and girls into STEAM by addressing issues of equitable access. Learn more about their work at: <https://www.ethoslab.space/>

Friday, February 11th

"The idea that being exceptional will somehow shield Black people from discrimination and racism is a fallacy. Often times Black people who are deemed "excellent" are hyper scrutinized and penalized for their excellence."

– Janice Gassam Asare



"Our Obsession with Black Excellence Is Harming Black People"
by Janice Gassam Asare, Ph.D.
(link to *Forbes* article – <https://bit.ly/3tENV92>)

- How might highlighting Black excellence or exceptionalism be problematic?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Daily Learning/Thinking Prompts for Secondary Classes WEEK 3 - WISDOM

Monday, February 14th

"If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?"

- John Lewis



- Who was John Lewis, and what sorts of 'good trouble' was he known for?
- Connect the words of John Lewis with the history of activism in Black communities around the world.

Tuesday, February 15th

What is 'CULTURAL APPROPRIATION' and how does it perpetuate the 'COMMODIFICATION of BLACK CULTURE'?

These are big terms, but you are likely already familiar with the concept. In fact, look no further than TikTok to see the very real ways that commodifying blackness perpetuates systems of white supremacy, capitalism, and oppression.

Further reading:

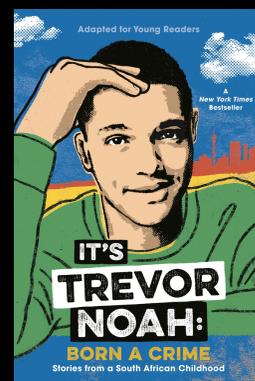
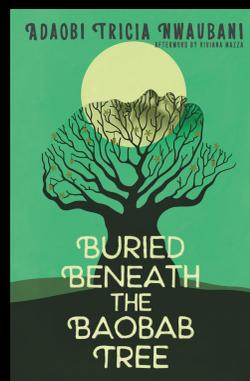
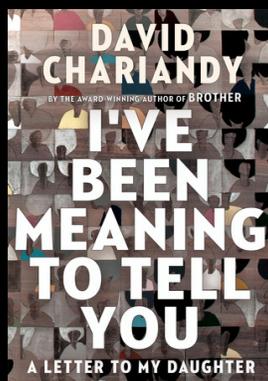
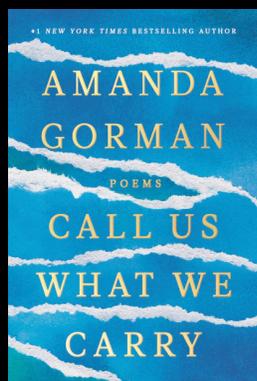
"Are Black Creators Really on 'Strike' from TikTok?" - <https://nyti.ms/3qKUTas>

"There are No Black TikTok Creators on 'Forbes' Highest Earners List" - <https://bit.ly/33W1PSA>

Wednesday, February 16th

YA Book Recommendations

We are living in a real renaissance of young adult (YA) literature, and it is due in large part to the inclusion of Black authors and stories.



Thursday, February 17th



If you are needing support, email info@blackyouth.ca or call 1-833-294-8650

A nation-wide resource that helps 'bridge cultures, reach youth, and impact change', the Black Youth Helpline serves as an important point of contact for youth, families, and communities. They provide a Stay-in-School initiative, parent and family support, and help to address institutional barriers that may exist in accessing mainstream services.

Friday, February 18th

"The spirit of the African worldview includes wholeness, community, and harmony which are deeply embedded in cultural values.

A person becomes human only in the midst of others and seeks both individual and collective harmony as the primary task in the process of becoming a true person."

Prince Sarpong, Ph.D.

- Why have these ways of knowing and being been silenced for so long? And by whom?
- Why must we all work to hear Black voices?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Daily Learning/Thinking Prompts for Secondary Classes WEEK 4 - FUTURES

Monday, February 21st



“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

Barack Obama

- What does this quote mean to you?
- What changes do you see us needing to make in our world today?
- In what ways is change needed when it comes to Black representation, access, safety, and opportunity?

Tuesday, February 22nd



Bryan Stevenson



Ben Crump



Janaya Khan



Kimberlé Crenshaw



Desmond Cole

Do you recognize any of these names?

Take a deep dive into what these incredible advocates are doing to ensure that Black futures are limitless.

Wednesday, February 23rd

Supporting Black Creators in our Local Community

Help support the growth of Black businesses in our area by shopping local. This list is just a beginning and we hope you add to your own list by exploring all that our city has to offer.

Food

BeetBox (plant-based)
Fassil Restaurant (Ethiopian)
The Lion's Den Cafe (Jamaican)
Calabash Bistro (Caribbean)
Kula Kitchen (plant-based)
I & I (Jamaican)

Health & Wellness

Ammerose (hair salon)
Jam (IG: @templeathletics_) (personal trainer)
Kelsey Ellis (body positive trainer)
Ice Kol Kut (barber shop)

Art

Kriss Munsya (graphic designer, photographer, filmmaker)
Khimia Designs (jewellery + fashion designer)
Black Designers of Canada (fashion)
Seven Eye Designs (visual artist)
Anthony Joseph (IG: @adoworks) (artist)

Thursday, February 24th

How is knowing about the past important for the future of the local Black and African diaspora community around Vancouver?

Watch:

'Secret Vancouver: a Return to Hogan's Alley'

<https://youtu.be/B-8lgpvj0Hg>

Visit the Hogan's Alley Society website (<https://www.hogansalleysociety.org>) to learn about their projects like:

- The Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Black Experience Project
- Plans for a Black Cultural Center in Northeast False Creek



HOGAN'S ALLEY SOCIETY

Friday, February 25th

Call to Action!

What steps will YOU take...

- ...to show up as an ally when you witness or hear of anti-Black racism?
- ...to promote and celebrate Black experiences?
- ...to ensure Black voices are amplified beyond Black History Month?

Create your personal action plan now and share it with three friends, colleagues, or relatives.