

## If You Like /To Kill a Mockingbird/...Try These Authors/Titles

### Kenneth Abel - The Burying Field

After four white teenagers desecrate an old slave burial ground, racial tensions erupt in a vicious war over land, power, and memory in a small Louisiana town.

### William Armstrong – Sounder

Focuses on the experiences of a black family in the days of "Jim Crow"

### David Baldacci - Wish You Well

Young Lou and Oz Cardinal must move to the Appalachians and be raised by their great-grandmother when an accident claims their father; when land developers come after their property, it all climaxes in a court battle

### Jim Black - River Season

In a small Texas town in the summer of 1966, 13-year-old Jim befriends an older African American man who relates his experiences as a Negro League baseball player and a black man in a racially strained community.

### John Gregory Brown - Decorations in a Ruined Cemetery

In New Orleans, where race defines destiny, a daughter begins to solve a mystery that led to tragedy long ago.

### Olive Ann Burns - Cold Sassy Tree

Told from a child's point-of-view of an adult situation. Set in the South.

### Bebe Moore Campbell - Your Blues Ain't Like Mine

A racist beating in a small Mississippi town ripples through generations, changing forever the lives of everyone involved with the incident.

### Mark Childress - Crazy in Alabama

Told from a boy's point-of-view of growing up in the 1960s-1970s.

### John Connolly - The White Road

A private investigator runs into complications while investigating the rape and murder of a young Southern woman as time runs out to save an African American from the death penalty.

### Pat Cunningham Devoto - My Last Days As Roy Rogers

Growing up in Alabama in the 1950s, two inseparable 10-year-old girls, one black and one white, discover the theft of money meant for polio victims and expose a racial injustice.

### Leif Enger - Peace Like a River

Heroic, mystical father figure in an atmospheric tale told by a young narrator

### Ernest J. Gaines - A Lesson Before Dying

A young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit; Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting

### Whitefield Grant - Railroaded!

A professional football player must deal with his past and clear his name despite racial tensions and a rigged courtroom.

### John Grisham - A Time to Kill

A white lawyer defends an African-American man on trial for murder in the state of Mississippi.

David Guterson - [Snow Falling on Cedars](#)

A novel set on a small island in the Puget Sound, that is at various moments a courtroom drama, an interracial love story, and a war chronicle.

Gene Hackman and Daniel Lenihan - Justice for None

On the run from the law after being falsely accused of murder, a troubled World War I veteran joins forces with an African American who has also been wrongly accused.

Pete Hamill - [Snow in August](#)

An 11-year-old Irish-American boy meets Rabbi Hirsch, recently arrived from Europe, and in return for teaching the rabbi about baseball and English, the boy learns Yiddish—until an Irish gang becomes violent in its anti-Semitism.

Gary Hardwick - [Color of Justice](#)

When prominent members of Detroit's African American community are murdered, truths about a certain white detective are revealed and a motive is uncovered as stark as black and white.

Sue Monk Kidd - [The Secret Life of Bees](#)

After her "stand-in mother" insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens and bold, black Rosaleen escape to Tiburon, South Carolina where they are taken in by bee-keeping sisters.

Joe R. Lansdale - [The Bottoms](#)

Young Harry Crane discovers a grisly crime in East Texas, unleashing a storm of fear and racial animosity while his father, the town constable, struggles to see that justice is done.

John T. Lescroart - [A Certain Justice](#)

A mystery that has heavy black-white legal tension. The author's earlier "Dismas Hardy" books (starting with Dead Irish) all include black-white tensions, but are set in San Francisco.

Bev Marshall - [Walking through Shadows](#)

The quiet farming community of Zebulon, Mississippi is disrupted by the murder of 17-year-old Sheila Barnes in 1941

Joe Martin - [Fire in the Rock](#)

Set in the South in the 1950s, four friends, three white and one black, find their lives changed forever when a carefree summer takes a violent turn.

Robert McCammon - [A Boy's Life](#)

A child's view of life in the south. Same sense of age/innocence as TKAM. There are some racial themes to complete the analogy. If the fantasy elements bother you, they really are not a major part of this story.

Jill McCorkle - [Ferris Beach](#)

Two girls from different backgrounds grow up together, sharing secrets until a fateful Fourth of July when they discover that life's little surprises can't always be ignored and that the hard parts don't get better, just easier to live with...

Dennis McFarland - [Prince Edward](#)

A young boy's life in 1959 Virginia is changed forever by the Supreme Court order to desegregate the public schools.

Walter Mosley - [The Man in My Basement](#)

To save the home that has belonged to his family for generations, a young black man rents his basement to a mysterious stranger for the summer.

Melany Neilson - [The Persia Café](#)

The disappearance of a black boy in a small Mississippi town in 1962 plunges young Fannie into her town's own heart of darkness.

Alan Paton - Cry the Beloved Country

Set in South Africa, involving a murder and the trial and defense of a non-white man by a white lawyer. Apartheid and the resulting relationships that resulted among South Africans of all colors is a main focus of this story.

Michael R. Phillips - A Day to Pick Your Own Cotton

Thrown together in the chaotic aftermath of the Civil War, two teenagers work together to stay alive and preserve their plantation home.

Marjorie Kinnon Rawlings - The Yearling

A coming-of-age tale with the additional theme of father-as-hero.

Dori Sanders – Clover

Interracial marriage in the rural south of today is seen through the eyes of 10-year-old Clover who is raised by a white step-mom despite protests from relatives.

Jeff Stetson - Blood on the Leaves

An African American prosecutor in Jackson, Mississippi finds himself prosecuting a civil rights leader accused of killing whites that were acquitted of hate crimes.

Grif Stockley - Probable Cause

A white lawyer defends an African-American psychologist who is on trial for manslaughter, in a setting of enflamed racial tensions.

Ann Tatlock - All the Way Home.

An Irish-German girl and a Japanese girl are friends during the 1930s; after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese family is sent to an internment camp and the girls do not cross paths until 20 years later in Mississippi.

Mildred D. Taylor - Let the Circle Be Unbroken

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive

Rangeley Wallace - No Defense

A Southern lawyer's crusade to solve an old civil rights case has tragic results when her father, a political pillar of the town, is implicated in a racial killing

The titles below explore themes of southern life, shared memories of a culture or time, acceptance of others, prejudice and discrimination, and the dawning of the Civil Rights Movement, as seen through the eyes of the teens and children in the stories.

**Young Adult (Grades 7-10)**

John Armistead - The \$66 Summer

Three teenage friends confront racism during the summer of 1955 in a small Southern town.

Caroline B. Cooney - Burning Up

When a girl from an inner-city church is murdered, 15-year-old Macey Clare discovers prejudice in her grandparents and their wealthy Connecticut community.

Chris Crowe - Mississippi Trial, 1955

A 16-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a 14-year-old African American from Chicago.

Lorri Hewett - Lives of Our Own

After her wealthy parents divorce, Shawna returns with her father to the small Georgia town where he grew up and discovers a surprising connection to one of the “popular” white girls at school.

Paul Volponi - Black and White

A gripping story of two friends, one black, one white, who make a bad mistake, and the realities of the urban criminal justice system.

### **For Younger Children (Grades 4-7)**

Sandra Belton - From Miss Ida’s Porch

The residents of Church Street gather on Miss Ida’s porch to hear stories of past events.

Christopher Paul Curtis - The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963

The day-to-day routine of an African American family, living in Flint, Michigan, changes drastically when they travel to Alabama to visit Grandma.

Kate DiCamillo - Because Of Winn-Dixie

Ten-year-old India Opal Bulonie describes all that happens in her first summer in Naomi, Florida caused by the big ugly dog she names Winn-Dixie.

Kimberly Willis Holt - My Louisiana Sky

Growing up in rural Louisiana in the 1950s, 12-year-old Tiger Ann must decide whether to stay with her mentally slow parents and her stern but loving grandmother, or accept an invitation from a glamorous and flighty aunt to join her in the city.

Mildred D Taylor - Roll Of Thunder Hear My Cry

A black family, living in the South during the 1930s, faces prejudice and discrimination, which their children don’t understand.