



# BOOK RESUME: ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

Powerful, thought-provoking, and heartfelt, this debut YA novel by author Autumn Allen is a gripping look at what it takes (and takes and takes) for two Black students to succeed in prestigious academic institutions in America.

In *All You Have to Do*, two Black young men attend prestigious schools nearly thirty years apart, and yet both navigate similar forms of insidious racism.

In April 1968, in the wake of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Kevin joins a protest that shuts down his Ivy League campus...

In September 1995, amidst controversy over the Million Man March, Gibran challenges the "See No Color" hypocrisy of his prestigious New England prep school...

As the two students, whose lives overlap in powerful ways, risk losing the opportunities their parents worked hard to provide, they move closer to discovering who they want to be instead of accepting as fact who society and family tell them they are.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Allen constructs a vivid narrative that balances both timelines seamlessly and pointedly highlights often overlooked history. The crisp, succinct prose and fully realized characters make this a shining example of how principled research in lock step with exceptional writing creates an unforgettable reading experience. An electric debut: a must-read for all." —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"Allen highlights two Black teens' parallel struggles for racial justice, 27 years apart, in this powerful debut. Through Gibran and Kevin's individual exploits of equality and accountability, fully fleshed-out characters, and skillfully cultivated narrative tension, Allen creates a layered debut that is timely and resonant." —*Publisher's Weekly*, starred review

"This intense debut novel connects two young Black men struggling for acceptance and equality. Allen expertly integrates historical civil rights figures and events into a character-driven narrative that communicates how it feels to be transformed by a powerful speech, to face violence, and to stand tall every day in the face of injustice and racism. She ends with a moment of triumphant unity in a struggle that continues." —*Booklist*, starred review

**Title:** All You Have to Do

**Author:** Autumn Allen

**Imprint:** Kokila Books

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

**On sale date:** August 29, 2023

**ISBN:** 9780593619049 and 9780593619063

**Format:** Hardcover and Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 12 and up

**Grade Range:** Gr 8 Up  
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

“A compelling portrait of the intersectionality of race, class, and intergenerational change that features two Black young adults, Kevin and Gibran, living through two different time periods. An important addition to the canon of YA historical fiction and especially recommended for readers who are invested in the history of racism and the struggle for freedom.” —*School Library Journal*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- A Best Books of Fall 2023 *People Magazine*
- A Black Caucus of the American Library Association Best of the Best 2023
- A Black Caucus of the American Library Association Children & Youth Award Debut Honor-Winner
- A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of the Year
- A Texas Tayshas Reading List selection
- A NCSS-CBC 2024 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
- A 2024 Bank Street Best Children’s Books
- A Massachusetts Book Award Longlist selection

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [Educator Guide](#)
- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)

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