



[The Antiracist Kitchen](#) Edited by Nadia L. Hohn

Orca Book Publishers, 2023

9781459833432: (Hardback)

*Age Range: 9–12

Grade Range: Grade 4+

BOOK SYNOPSIS

An anthology featuring stories and recipes from racialized authors about food, culture and resistance

What if talking about racism was as easy as baking a cake, frying plantains or cooking rice? *The Antiracist Kitchen: 21 Stories (and Recipes)* is a celebration of food, family, activism and resistance in the face of racism. In this anthology featuring stories and recipes from 21 diverse and award-winning North American children's authors, the authors share the role of food in their lives and how it has helped fight discrimination, reclaim culture and celebrate people with different backgrounds. They bring personal and sometimes difficult experiences growing up as racialized people. Chopped, seared, marinated and stewed, *The Antiracist Kitchen* highlights the power of sitting down to share a meal and how that simple act can help bring us all together.

Featuring recipes and stories from S.K. Ali, Bryan Patrick Avery, Ruth Behar, Marty Chan, Ann Yu-Kyung Choi, Hasani Claxton, Natasha Deen, Reyna Grande, Deidre Havrelock, Jennifer de Leon, Andrea J. Loney, Janice Lynn Mather, Linda Sue Park, Danny Ramadan, Sarah Raughley, Waubgeshig Rice, Rahma Rodaah, Andrea Rogers, Simran Jeet Singh, Ayelet Tsabari and Susan Yoon.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★“Twenty-one kid-lit authors of color share a wide array of delicious recipes as well as personal experiences related to culture, race, and racism. Accompanied by vibrant illustrations, these story-recipe pairings demonstrate how intertwined food and identity are...The result is a thoughtful, beautifully designed work that fosters inclusivity and respect...A hearty meal that doles out both culinary delights and moving cultural insights.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#), *starred review*

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★“A celebration of diversity in the form of a cookbook...Aspiring kid chefs will enjoy trying out these original recipes. The author asks, “What if talking about racism was as easy as baking a cake?” With this book, it could be. Recommended for all libraries.” —[School Library Journal](#), *starred review*

“Purchase it for your school library: teachers of nutrition can use it in their classrooms, and it will provide food for thought (and the table, lunch-bag, and home kitchen) for students who are interested in the culture of food. The diversity of ethnic food cultures is valued, and the book reminds readers that we are what we eat, and who we are is affirmed by what we eat...bold graphics underscore the message that we should all be at the table, whoever we are. Highly Recommended.” —[CM: Canadian Review of Materials](#)

“Nadia L. Hohn’s latest creation is a testament to her work as an activist... Illustrator Roza Nozari brings a colourful boost to the collection with her bold and bright artwork.” —*Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) Canadian Children's Book News*

“A must-read for anyone seeking to broaden their culinary horizons, embrace cultural diversity, and engage in meaningful conversations about race and unity. It’s an invitation to transform our kitchens into spaces where differences are celebrated, conversations flourish, and delicious meals are shared with love and understanding.” —[Canadian Cookbooks](#)

“Guaranteed to begin discussions and build understanding...Whether readers plan and share meals, gain insight into diverse cultural experiences, discover new authors, or expand discussions about social justice, their lives will be enriched and feelings of tolerance and inclusion will be spread.” —*Children's Literature Comprehensive Database (CLCD)*

“I give *The Antiracist Kitchen* five foodie stars for providing nutritional healing through inherited recipes that will satisfy more than physical hunger. This unique cookbook should be in every library and pantry!” —Crystal Allen, award-winning author of the *The Magnificent Maya Tibbs* series

“This beautiful collection of stories and recipes will warm both hearts and bellies for generations to come.” —Monique Gray Smith, award-winning author of *My Heart Fills With Happiness*

“Nadia Hohn has done something incredible: she has taken our collective love of food and transformed it into a cultural and educational experience in anti-racism. What’s beautiful about this book are the stories and the simplicity. It’s not about elegant ingredients or elaborate menus. *The Antiracist Kitchen* teaches deeply profound lessons on self-love, discrimination and social struggles through a series of personal, intimate stories. Sometimes food is the lesson, other times food is the messenger. What you get out of this anthology, however, is a clear picture of what it means to belong and how not belonging can severely impact our lives.” —Kern Carter, author of *Boys and Girls Screaming*

“Some of these stories will make you laugh, and some will make you cry. But all of them will bring you together in the kitchen.” —Sadé Smith, author of *Granny's Kitchen*

“A delicious read, chock-full of love, pride, and a whole lotta spice!” —Tami Charles, New York Times Bestselling Author of *All Because You Matter*

“An outstanding anthology that shows us the power of community and our interconnectedness! Through the amazing recipes and stories shared, readers will learn that celebrating, listening and learning from each other is an

intentional way to fight against racism. This anthology is a work of love and it feels like a warm hug.” —Rabia Khokhar (B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed.), elementary teacher and doctoral student in Toronto

“*The Antiracist Kitchen* nourishes both body and mind with its heartwarming stories, beautiful illustrations, and delicious recipes from around the world. This collection needs to be in every kitchen!” —Janae Marks, NYT Bestselling Author

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Loan Stars Canadian Juvenile top 10 pick | 2023 | Commended
- BookPal Outstanding Works of Literature (OWL) Awards - Education: Middle School | 2023 | Long-listed
- Ontario Library Association (OLA) Best Bets | 2023 | Commended
- Children's Book Council Teacher Favorites Award 6th - 8th Grade | 2024 | Commended
- Children's Book Council Librarian Favorites Award 6th - 8th Grade | 2024 | Commended
- Bank Street College of Education Children's Book Committee Best Children's Books of the Year | 2024 | Commended
- CCBC Best Books for Kids & Teens, starred selection | 2024 | Commended
- Top Grade: CanLit for the Classroom | 2023 | Commended
- Young Readers' Choice Book Awards of British Columbia (YRCABC) Red Cedar Book Awards - Nonfiction | 2025 | Nominated
- TD Summer Reading Club Recommended Reads | 2025 | Commended
- BC Books for Schools | 2023 | Commended
- Telling Tales Reading List | 2023 | Commended

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

Chapter Sampler:

<https://www.orcabook.com/Assets/PDFs/TeacherResource/AntiracistKitchen-ChapterSampler.pdf>

Teacher Guide:

https://www.orcabook.com/Assets/PDFs/TeacherResource/AntiracistKitchen_TeacherGuide.pdf

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

The Antiracist Kitchen was one of 596 books that was removed from Department of Defense schools. The banned books included themes including puberty, racism and diversity. A [Pen America article](#) notes that “the books were removed pending review following President Donald Trump’s executive orders restricting discussion of transgender people and diversity, equity, and inclusion. An additional executive order bars the Department of Defense and its schools from promoting ‘un-American’ ideas, which it says includes diversity, equity, and inclusion, ‘gender ideology,’ and anything that would suggest ‘that America’s founding documents are racist or sexist.’” “This list paints an alarming picture of what the United States government doesn’t want American kids to access,” said Kasey Meehan, Freedom to Read program director at PEN America. “Students in our military schools deserve access to books that examine our country’s history and cover the diversity of views, opinions, identities, and bodies in the country our military protects and serves.”

In a [Military News article](#): “The amount of titles banned by the Trump administration is astonishing, and the list provided by DoDEA perfectly illustrates how the administration is putting politics above pedagogy,” Emerson Sykes, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, said in an emailed statement to

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Military.com. ‘Kids on military bases have the same First Amendment rights that we all enjoy, and that their parents swore an oath to defend. Yet the administration has forced schools to remove titles like 'A Is for Activist' and 'Julian Is a Mermaid' that reflect the vibrant and diverse world we live in. All 596 of these books must be returned to shelves immediately.’”

A [CBC news article](#) notes that libraries and schools are being more wary about buying books that could end up on banned-book lists, which negatively impacts the access kids have to books. Additionally, it impacts authors and “they begin to work under a soft censorship, thinking of how to adapt their work to fit into this atmosphere.”

According to [The Guardian](#), “The purge of library books will affect up to 67,000 children being taught in Pentagon schools worldwide. The Guardian understands that all 160 schools, located in seven US states and 11 countries, are subject to the censorship.”

[John Chrastka, Executive Director of EveryLibrary](#), says this about the bans: “The publication of this list lays bare the political motivations behind this censorship. This isn’t about protecting children. It’s about silencing identities and sanitizing history. Our military families deserve a complete, inclusive, and honest education. And now they need our support more than ever.”

The ACLU has filed a lawsuit on behalf of DoDEA students and their families against the Department of Defense and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) for violating the first amendment with the book bans.

AUTHOR STATEMENT (OPTIONAL)

Nadia L. Hohn’s response on Instagram:

When I showed an Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) of *THE ANTIRACIST KITCHEN: 21 Stories (and Recipes)* to my #AfricanAmerican author peers, they said, “It’s beautiful, but it’ll probably get banned”. It was a shocking, but sober statement in summer 2023, 2 months before my book’s release. When the banning didn’t happen, I thought that I was “in the clear”. I saw this book get celebrated and take me to many places in the US, Canada, and even in Ireland. It was on many celebrated lists. So imagine my shock, seeing my beloved book on a list of BANNED TITLES last week— 2 years after its release. But, then again, the title alone would be an issue in this climate. I haven’t fully absorbed what all of this means. I received the news via Facebook post, thanks to the #CanadianChildrensBookCentre, during the debut run of *WHEEL AND TURN*, my play. I feel like this banning was bound to happen sooner or later. Perhaps its preparation and affirmation that I’m doing something right. My stories, my writing, is resonating and ruffling feathers, causing readers to think AND feel, even while cooking Somali shaah or Indian kheer or Jamaican porridge. Who knew that stories from childhood and a glossary with recipes would be banned? I am very concerned. *THE ANTIRACIST KITCHEN* is joined by 1 other book by a #BlackCanadian #kidlit creator, 20 other books by #Canadian #kidlitcreators, and 595 other titles.

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that 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 age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.