



BOOK RESUME: WE RISE, WE RESIST, WE RAISE OUR VOICES

BOOK SYNOPSIS

What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and prejudice and racism run rampant? With 96 designed pages of original art and prose, fifty diverse creators lend voice to young activists.

Featuring poems, letters, personal essays, art, and other works from such industry leaders as Jacqueline Woodson (*Brown Girl Dreaming*), Jason Reynolds (*All American Boys*), Kwame Alexander (*The Crossover*), Andrea Pippins (*I Love My Hair*), Sharon Draper (*Out of My Mind*), Rita Williams-Garcia (*One Crazy Summer*), Ellen Oh (cofounder of We Need Diverse Books), and artists Ekua Holmes, Rafael Lopez, James Ransome, Javaka Steptoe, and more, this anthology empowers the nation's youth to listen, learn, and build a better tomorrow.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "A love song from children's literature's brightest stars to America's Indigenous children and children of color, encouraging them to be brave and kind."
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ "Addressing complex topics with sensitivity and candor, this a necessary purchase for all libraries serving children."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Wade and Cheryl Willis Hudson, founders of Just Us Books, offer this empowering anthology to counter today's often-unsettling political climate for children of varying ethnicities, faiths, identities, and abilities"—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "The attractive and accessible presentation will pull kids in; the wisdom they find inside will keep them engaged—and, it is to be hoped, motivated."
—*Horn Book*, starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- SELECTION A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2018
- SELECTION A Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2018
- SELECTION NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Books
- WINNER 2019 ILBA International Latino Book Award - Most Inspirational Youth Chapter Book

Updated 1/19/2024

Penguin Random House

Contact BannedBooks@penguinrandomhouse.com

*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.

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Educators' Guide](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

Hill Country Middle School had a committee meet to reconsider the book *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voice*. The committee has determined to retain the book as part of the library collection because of its representation of many varied perspectives of people living in our society, and its inspirational nature.

The Committee agreed that the book presents multiple genres and perspectives based on current and historical events, while meeting high standards for readability, authenticity, and physical format. The multi-genre writing combined with beautiful and varied artwork is designed to appeal to juvenile readers. The book also promotes important Social and Emotion themes of perseverance, there is a poem titled “You Can Do It”, mindfulness found in a poem titled “The Art of Mindfulness”, and the importance of helping others, found in a poem entitled “Where are The Good People”.

It was also found that the collection has an uplifting message for students. The varied writing and artwork encourage empathy toward struggles others have faced in society, and motivates students to persevere in the face of challenges. A quote from “Where Are the Good People?” is a good example:

“Maybe it would be helpful to know
these aren’t the first
troubling times
our world has seen.
that none has ever lasted
forever.” (p 56)

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