



BOOK RESUME: GOODNIGHT RACISM

BOOK SYNOPSIS

National Book Award–winning and *New York Times* bestselling author Ibram X. Kendi (*How to Be an Antiracist*, *Antiracist Baby*) returns with a new picture book that serves as a modern bedtime classic.

Title: Goodnight Racism
Author: Ibram X. Kendi;
illustrated by Cbabi Bayoc
Imprint: Kokila
Publisher: Penguin Young
Readers
On sale date: June 14,
2022
ISBN: 9780593110515
Format: Hardcover
Age Range*: 3-7
Grade Range: PreS- Gr 2
(Recommended by *School
Library Journal*)

As children all over the world get ready for bed, the moon watches over them. The moon knows that when we sleep, we dream. And when we dream, we imagine what is possible and what the world can be.

With dynamic, imaginative art and poetic prose, *Goodnight Racism* delivers important messages about antiracism, justice, and equality in an easy-to-read format that empowers readers both big and small. *Goodnight Racism* gives children the language to dream of a better world and is the perfect book to add to their social justice toolkit.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"An anti-racist bedtime book for young dreamers. While Kendi may be best known for his books for adults, this foray into writing for young readers is not his first. Like *Antiracist Baby* before it, this picture book seeks to engage young readers with the language and ideals of anti-racism through words and pictures that can spark meaningful conversations between adults and children. In perhaps a nod to Margaret Wise Brown's classic *Goodnight Moon*, the text begins with a moon shining light over all the children of the world. The moon knows that "when we sleep we dream." In this context, the dream is one of "a world where all people are safe, / no matter how they look, // how they worship, // or how they love." Accompanying digital illustrations, which have a soft yet solid cartoon style similar to that of some of Joe Cepeda's picture-book art, depict children and adults with varied skin tones and include some groups that can be read as queer families. Concluding pages take on a tone of finality that bids goodnight once and for all to unfair rules, cruelty, injustice, inequality, hate, hurt, and racism, making way for a new tomorrow. (This book was reviewed digitally.) An inspiring read to help realize dreams for a better future for all."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Kendi's inclusive narrative expands beyond bedtime, depicting the moon as an equitable orb observing children the world over. Some of these children "do not have food, do not have beds because of unfair rules and unjust treatment." But the moon sees all kids, whoever they are, wherever they are, and longs for "her light to kiss every child goodnight," engendering sleep that results in dreams of possibilities: "A world where all people are safe, no matter how they look, how they worship, or how they love." Bayoc's jewel-toned digital art mimics oil pastel saturations, showing images of people of myriad abilities, ages, body types, and skin tones in varied living situations. In simple, affirming prose, Kendi's call is a socially responsible send-off to sweeter dreams of a world "where all kids have

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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.

the same chance to have peace, to have joy, to have a childhood.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Kendi's (*Antiracist Baby*) new picture book for children young and old is a goodnight book from the moon's point of view. She wants to shine her light on everyone, and she does. We see families from around the world eating, spending time together, and getting ready for bed. Although there are injustices in the world, which the narrative points out (some kids do not have food, do not have beds), the hope is that children go to sleep feeling loved (there is a hug at the end of the book) and wake up in a world where unfair rules, injustice, and racism don't exist. Children are shown voicing their concerns and behaving in ways that will help end to inequality. VERDICT This book is a beautifully illustrated introduction to social justice. Its message of hope and positivity will resonate with children who want to make the world a better place, and encourage them to think of others who live in this world.”—*School Library Journal*

“[A] lovely goodnight prayer for children.” —*San Francisco Book Review*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- **An Amazon Best Book of the Month**
- **A NYT Bestseller**

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