

Reading List 2024 — Youth

Curated by the Y's Black Experience Staff Advisory Committee

1. **The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad**

& S.K. Ali *With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It is the start of a new year and, best of all, it is her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab — a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.*

2. **Our Diversity Makes Us Stronger by**

Elizabeth Cole *This book teaches children to celebrate diversity, be kind to others, love themselves, and helps to boost self-confidence!*

3. **Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson**

Ryan Hart has a lot on her mind: school, self-image, and especially family. Her dad finally has a new job, but money is tight. That means some changes, like selling their second car and moving into a new (old) house. But Ryan is a girl who knows how to make sunshine out of setbacks. As her brother says when he raps about her, she's got the talent that matters most: It's a talent that can't be seen, she's nice, not mean!

4. **All are Welcome by Alexandra**

Penfold *Written for her daughter; this book provides a story to help make us all feel welcome. We might be different, but we all belong!*

5. **Olivia and the Giant Cabbage by Wayne**

Carnegie *This book follows a father and daughter from rural Jamaica as they go on their farming adventures. Olivia and the Giant Cabbage is a modern farming tale filled with passion for cultivating and nurturing various crops. Lovely written and illustrated with luscious colours by Wayne Carnegie.*

6. **We all Belong by Nathalie and Alex Goss**

A memoir of two mothers' journey to immigrate their families to Canada for better opportunities, as seen through the eyes of their daughters Ingrid and Patricia.