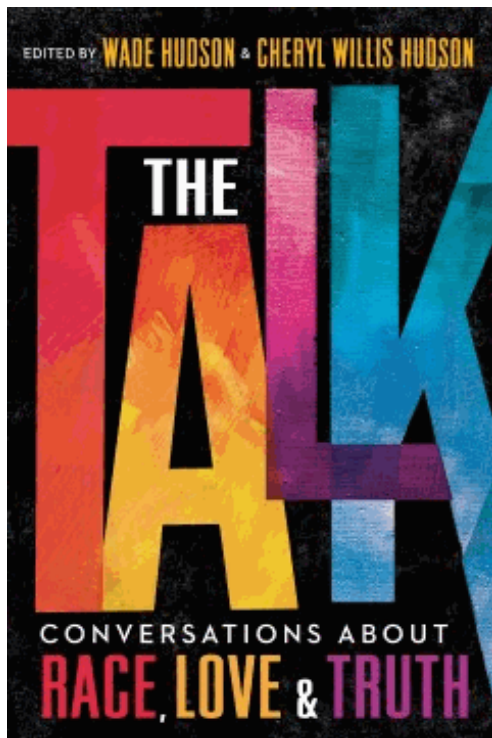


# THE TALK: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE, LOVE AND TRUTH



## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains controversial racial and social commentary; derogatory terms; and hate involving racism.

*Juvenile*

**By Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson**

ISBN: 978-0593121210

**1**  
**/5**

**Child Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

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i	In our home, we had “The Talk” with our daughter, Katura, and our son, Stephan. Many times. As adults responsible for two beautiful Black children, we knew how essential it was to give them the tools to make their way as safely as possible in a society that is too often hostile to them simply because they are African American. Especially as sometimes that hostility leads to the loss of Black life.
ii	We can only imagine the kinds of talks that occur in homes and schools today because so many of us are being picked on, pushed aside, told we don’t belong, or told to go back to where we came from. But we knew a group of people who would have that knowledge firsthand.
3	And when the weight of being a Black girl feels like a burden and not a blessing, remember this.
9	<p>“Daddy...yesterday in class, we read a book about a bunch of monkeys bouncing on a bed.”</p> <p>“Say what? Monkeys?” I replied.</p> <p>“Yes. Monkeys. And you know what else, Daddy? The teacher even said that we’re going to do a play about it.”</p> <p>Out of all the magnificently written and illustrated books that have been recently created to highlight the joy and brilliance of Black boys and girls, the teacher decided that this third-grade classroom needed to learn about monkey’s jumping on a bed?</p> <p>I don’t think so.</p> <p>“And, Daddy, guess what else?” he continued. “A boy in my class, who I thought was friend but may not be my friend after all, said to me, “Aren’t you happy that there’s finally a book with characters that look like you?”</p> <p>‘CHARACTERS THAT LOOK LIKE YOU?’ Yeah, I couldn’t believe it, either.</p>
17	There is an illustration of a person kneeling down speaking to child and an adult, both of which are drawn to appear Asian. The person kneeling is saying to the little girl “Aren’t you just a cute little China doll!”
19	Because if a boy is calling you a China doll or something like that, he is imagining that he can control you. He might not realize it, but he is imagining that you will do what he wants- that you will act and think the way he wants you to. He is imagining that you are a toy.
30	Also, folks will say and do some pretty demeaning things while telling you that they are “honoring” Native people. Don’t buy it for a minute. We’re not mascots, products to be sold, or a spiritual belief system to be appropriated. All of this causes real damage through lower self-worth, abuse, violence, and trafficking of our people.
41	I know racism exists, and that it has existed in the past. It is a major theme of Separate is Never Equal, one of the books I was sharing with students that day.
41	In the book, I try to show how racism affected Latinx families and how courageous people stood up against it.
42	At different times throughout history, selfish men have created unjust, racist laws and have spread racist attitudes as a way to divide the people they take advantage of. Prejudice has been used as a tool for these greedy men to protect their money and interests.

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42	Most of these men became wealthy by exploiting others. The land they owned was taken from Native Americans who were massacred or forced to flee.
43	Research indicates that this inequality will continue to grow. The current system favors the super rich so they can become even wealthier, while millions of working Americans suffer.
46	After the 2016 election, policies against Muslims, immigrants, and other minorities have been passed.
46	We should be upset at the greedy owners and shareholders of large corporations who don't pay fair wages. We should also be upset at politicians who receive large donations from the super rich and in turn create laws that benefit them disproportionately.
51	I also know the dangers of growing up in a country that is fearful of the power of black men, that doesn't appreciate their beauty or value their lives.
53	We made this country into what it is. Its wealth and power were built on the labor, anguish, and tears of our ancestors, those who were enslaved and those who weren't.
58	<p>I wonder if, son,  As a light-skinned brown boy living in  Bougie Brooklyn, you drew to  Self-soothe?  To reflect a growing awareness,  The uneasy truth about growing up mixed-  Race in a racist land.</p> <p>I wonder if, son,  As a light-skinned brown boy living in  Bougie Brooklyn, you drew to  Self-soothe?  To reflect a growing awareness,  The uneasy truth about growing up mixed-  Race in a racist land.</p>
68	In all stages of life, friends, groups, and institutions may be as oppressive as bullies. Sometimes today feels like a global ghetto. Red Hook injustices happen everywhere.
84	How do you break the news to your precious child that some people might not want her around because she and her family are negro?
84	Her son seemed happy to get the part. But his mother told the teachers in charge that as long as a Negro girl was Juliet, her son could not be Romeo.
95	She says, "Do you think there are still racists, Daddy?"
96	<p>"So...is there still racism?"  "Oh, yes. All over the place."</p>
96	I look at my beautiful daughter. I say, " I think the word 'racism' means a lot more than just 'thinking someone is worse because of their skin color.' That's one kind of racism. But it isn't the only kind. It isn't the common kind, either."

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100	<p>“We live on land that belonged to Lenape Indians, land that was taken from them. Land that was worked by indentured servants and slaves. In a nation that wrote slavery of Africans into its Constitution and the genocide of Native Americans into its Declaration of Independence. In a city that grew rich from importing Southern cotton, grown by the enslaved. In a neighborhood built by bankers and shippers and speculators whose best investments were slaves and the produce of slave labor, as well as the stealing and exploitation of Native land.”</p>
100	<p>I say, “Racism is not just hatred. Racism is a system. A system that dehumanizes humans in order to keep them down and, most often, to make money off of them.”</p>
101	<p>“Only this: I want you to be honest with yourself about our inheritance- our inheritance of racism. Learn about it. Think about it. Maybe one day you’ll want to join the people who are working to fight racism in our society. I hope you do. But the first step, the most important step, is being honest. Learning, and being uncomfortable with what you learn, and most of all, being honest...”</p>

Derogatory Term	Count
Nigger	1