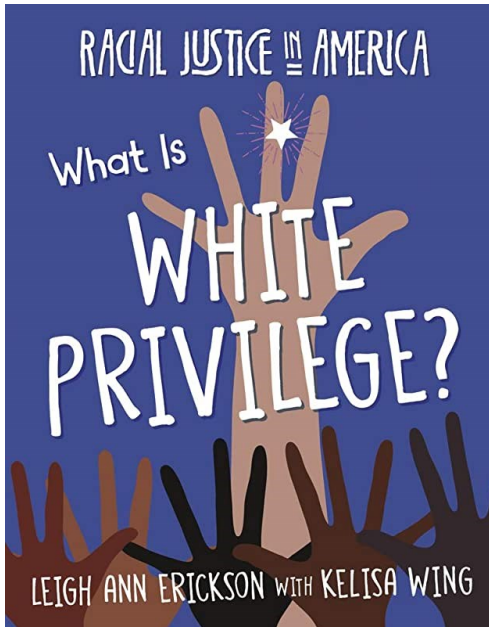


# RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA: WHAT IS WHITE PRIVILEGE?



## Summary of Concerns:

This book contains controversial social, racial, historical, and cultural commentary.

*Juvenile*

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**Child Guidance**  
BookLooks Review Rating

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4	<p>What Does White Privilege Look Like?</p> <p>What you are experiencing at this moment is called privilege.</p> <p>...What are some things that make it easier for White students to attend and finish college?</p> <p>Imagine you're at the starting line of a race.</p> <p>..You look up and down the starting line, sizing up the competition, wondering if you have enough speed to outrun them. Suddenly, an official steps into the middle of the track and tells the runners that obstacles will be placed in each person's lane.</p> <p>"Okay," you think, "that's kind of exciting." A crew of people come out with the obstacles.</p> <p>As you look around, you notice that the obstacles being placed in the other runners' lanes look different than yours. You see high fences, large pools, mud, and barbed wire. In your lane, you see a row of hurdles that you've been taught easily to leap over. The other runners look confused. You are confused. How is it possible that your race will be so easy and their race will be so hard?</p>
7	<p>In the United States, racial bias and racism have led to something called White privilege. White privilege means that because of ongoing biases and racism in people and the places they work, White people have more access to power and resources than a Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color (BIPOC) in the same situation.</p> <p>The phrase "in the same situation" is very important. For example, a White upper-class middle school student living in New York City will usually have more access to power and privileges than a Black upper-class middle school student. What do some of these powers and privileges look like? Books that these students read feature mostly White characters.</p> <p>...Students learn U.S. history from the perspective of White people.</p> <p>...White people are also more likely to be placed in advanced classes and are less likely to be suspended or arrested in school.</p>
8	<p>Did you know that a Black boy who grows up in a wealthy community has a much greater chance of living in poverty as an adult than a White boy does? That Black boy may be just as smart and talented and may work just as hard as his White friend, but the Black boy may have more obstacles in his path that make gaining wealth more difficult. He may face racial discrimination when he tries to purchase a home or apply for a job. His White friend may have to overcome obstacles, but they will not involve racial discrimination, which means his friend has White privilege.</p>
10	<p>White privilege hurts a lot of people. If you are Black, you might have experienced this hurt, and it might make you angry or sad. If you are White, you might feel bad about hurting others or you might feel afraid to lose this privilege. You feel these things because White privilege is bad for everyone, including White people. That's because White privilege is the result of centuries of racism and bias.</p>
16	<p>When the United States became a country, the people in charge had to create laws for its citizens. The people in charge were White, and most of them believed that Black people should be enslaved. They believed that Black people didn't deserve the same rights and freedoms as White people because they didn't see</p>

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	<p>Black people as their equals. This is racial bias. This belief came from many places, including inaccurate descriptions of Africans and African culture from people who had traveled to the continent. And it came from a desire by White people to build wealth by using the free labor that enslaved people provided.</p> <p>...The actions that the people who founded this country took and the laws that they created deeply hurt people who were not White. That hurt continues today. White privilege and the advantages that come with it are the result of racial bias and racism.</p>
17	<p>Today, Black and White people around the nation see that things still aren't fair.</p>
18	<p>White privilege still exists today. It's easy to spot when you know some of the disparities in this country.</p> <p>...These kinds of differences give White people more power and more White privilege.</p> <p>...Even though laws in our nation aren't overtly discriminatory, life is still no fair for BIPOC. Many laws are written with White privilege. This means that it will be easier for White people to follow the law and White people will get privileges because of the law.</p>
21	<p>Yet Black people are more likely to be stopped, arrested, and killed by police officers than White people. This is true even though the same number of White and Black people commit crimes. When stopped and questioned by police, studies have shown that White people are more likely to receive the benefit of the doubt than Black people are. Black people may need others to back up what they say in order to be believed.</p> <p>...Another example is school dress code policies. These rules about a person's appearance often impact a Black person's culture and style.</p>
24	<p>How can we be anti-racist?</p> <p>Becoming anti-racist requires actively working against racism using words and actions.</p> <p>...Read all the books in the Racial Justice in America series.</p> <p>...What parts of my identity have provided me with privilege? How can I use my privilege to help others?</p>
25	<p>Address how your identity can help you to achieve racial justice.</p>
26	<p>If you are a White person reading this, there are several steps you can take to end White privilege. First, understand that White privilege isn't good for anybody, even you!</p> <p>...It does not feel good to see your Black friends or their families be less safe and have less opportunities than you do.</p>
27	<p>Overcoming White privilege is a job that must start with the White community insisting on fairness and equality across all race.</p>
28	<p>1. DON'T BE COLOR-BLIND: Telling yourself or other people that you "don't see color" isn't true and isn't fair.</p> <p>...When you see color, you see more of what makes that person who they are.</p>