

SLRC READING LIST

2026

For National Stephen Lawrence Day



“A day for everyone with a cause which deserves justice and a day of celebration of what we have achieved across that year and what we are going to achieve in the future.” - *Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon OBE*

Stephen Lawrence Day 2026

SLRC Reading List

~ Every Future Needs a Foundation ~

This reading list features publications that can inform and inspire critical discussions on race, belonging and social inclusion, using this year's Stephen Lawrence Day theme **Every Future Needs a Foundation** as inspiration.

The books are divided into four categories and graded with recommended age ranges:

1. Fiction (F) and Non-Fiction (Non-F)

2. Poetry

3. Drama

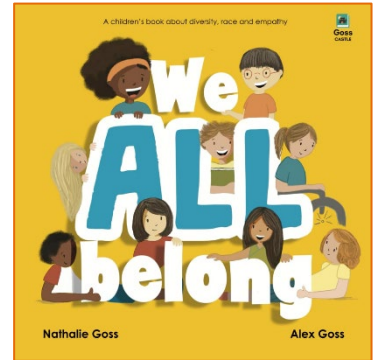
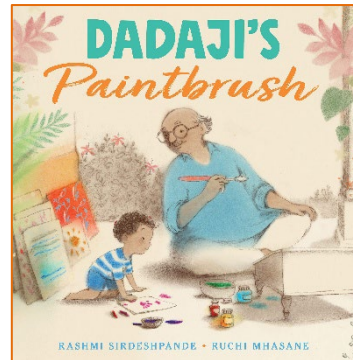
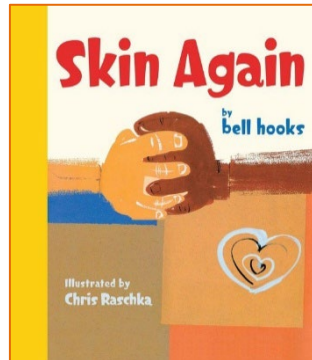
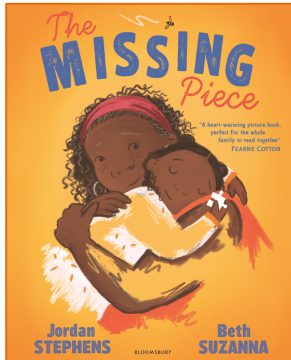
4. Celebrating Stephen Lawrence

A selection of literature to honour the legacy of Stephen Lawrence and the courageous work led by the Lawrence family in their quest for justice that are fiction, non-fiction and poetry, separated in to age ranges.

Key	
Fiction	(F)
Non-fiction	(Non-F)
Poetry	(P)
Drama	(D)

Fiction and Non-fiction

Early years (0 – 5 years)



The Missing Piece by Jordan Stephens, illustrated by Beth Suzanna (F)

A heart-warming story about family, friendship and community, as Sunny goes on a mission to find the missing piece to finish her jigsaw!

Skin Again by bell hooks, illustrated by Chris Raschka (F)

Themes of love, compassionate and identity by encouraging children and adults alike to look beyond the surface and discover the values hidden in every person.

Dadaji's Paintbrush by Rashmi Sirdeshpande, illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane (F)

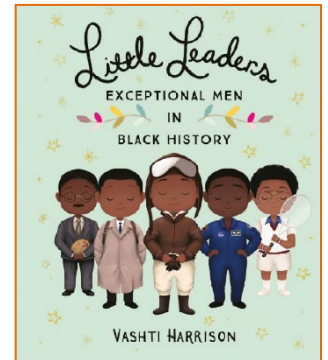
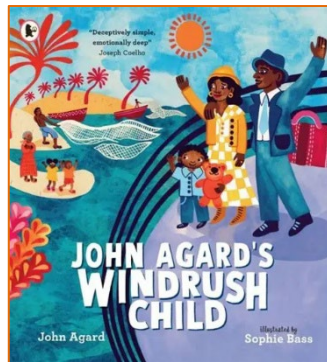
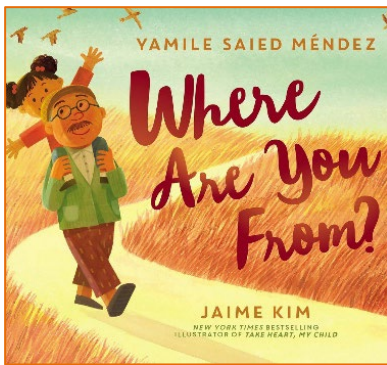
Themes of community, family, loss and resilience.

We All Belong by Alex Goss, illustrated by Nathalie Goss (F)

A gentle introduction to themes of difference, similarities and empathy.

Fiction and Non-fiction

Key stage 1 (5 -7 years)



Where Are You From? by Jaime Kim and Yamile Saied Méndez (F)
With themes of self-acceptance, identity, and home.

Windrush Child by John Agard, illustrated by Sophie Bass (P)
Poems that explore new challenges, new friends and a new life.

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (F)
A magical book that addresses issues of self-esteem, confidence and acceptance.

Little Leaders: Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison (Non-F)
An uplifting and educational introduction to positive and influential male achievers who have impacted recent history.

My Name is not Refugee by Kate Milner (F)

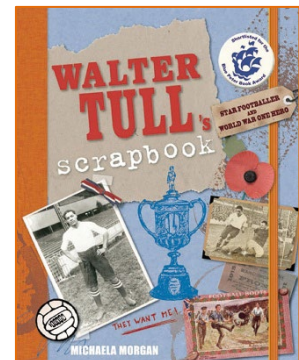
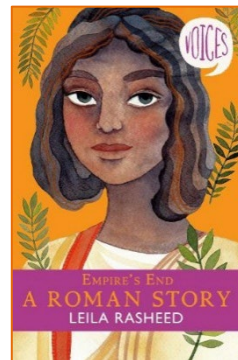
My Skin, Your Skin: Let's talk about race, racism and empowerment by Laura Henry-Allain (Non-F)

All Aboard the Empire Windrush by Jillian Powell (Non-F)

Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison (Non-F)

Fiction and Non-fiction

Key stage 2 (7 – 11 years)



Running My Own Race by Abena Eyeson and Eric Kofi Abrefa (F)

Kofi is a high achiever who must navigate interpersonal challenges to find a way to follow his own path. The book explores resilience, identity and the importance of both determination and support in overcoming obstacles.

Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah (F)

Following the story of Leonard, growing up as a child in 1960s Britain to the modern day Windrush scandal, the book looks at themes about history, fairness and politics.

Empire's End: A Roman Story by Lelia Rasheed (F)

A gripping Roman adventure story told by a young North African girl based on real historical events

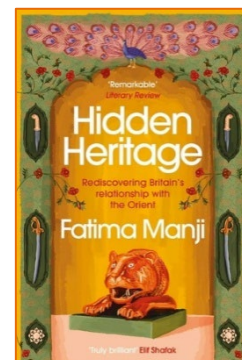
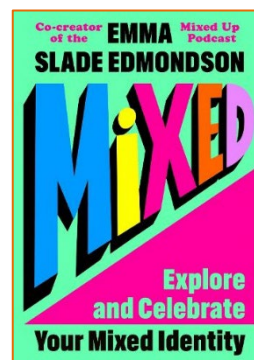
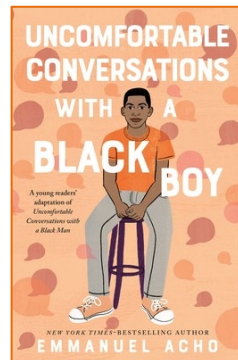
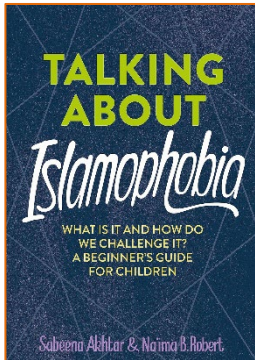
Walter Tull's Scrapbook by Michaela Morgan (Non-F)

The true story of Walter Tull's life presented as a scrapbook, drawing on photographs, documents and records of his life. Born in Kent, in 1888, Walter Tull became first black British professional outfield football player and the first black officer in the British Army.

Black and British: an illustrated history by David Olusoga (Non-F)

Fiction and Non-fiction

Key stage 3 (11 – 14 years)



Talking About Islamophobia by Sabeena Akhtar and Na'ima B. Robert (Non-F)

The authors talk about their experiences of religious discrimination and anti-Muslim hate crimes, look at how international politics can affect ordinary people, and discuss what can be done to make our society a safe space for all.

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Boy by Emmanuel Acho (Non-F)

The book offers the author's personal perspective on raising questions to do with race that often go unasked.

Mixed by Emma Slade Edmondson, illustrated by Tasia Graham (Non-F)

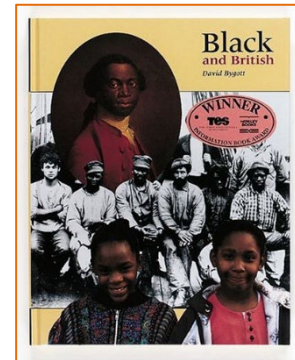
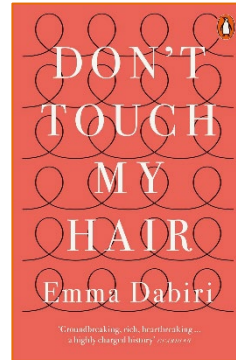
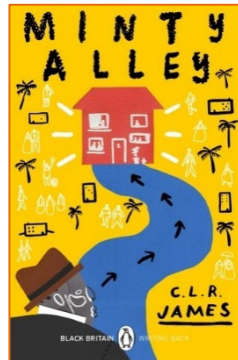
The book includes inspirational letters by mixed-race people from a range of cultural backgrounds and filled with practical advice and engaging activities, for mixed-race children and their families to explore the different parts of their heritage.

Hidden Heritage by Fatima Manji (Non-F)

A fresh perspective on British history within Britain's museums, civic buildings and stately homes and relics can be found that reveal the diversity of pre-twentieth-century Britain.

Fiction and Non-fiction

Key stage 4 (14 – 16 years)



Burnt Sugar by Avni Doshi (F)

A book set in modern-day India that ponders motherhood, memory, and the change of roles from being a daughter to becoming a caregiver for an elderly mother.

Minty Alley by C.L.R. James (F)

Find more information about the Penguin KS4 resource pack, downloadable [here](#).

Don't Touch My Hair by Emma Dabiri (Non-F)

A journey through history, politics, sociology, economics and culture through the lens of Black hair.

Black and British by David Bygott (Non-F)

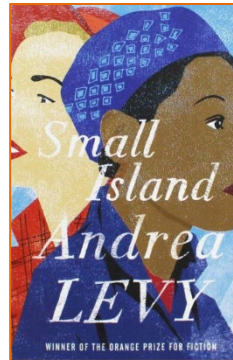
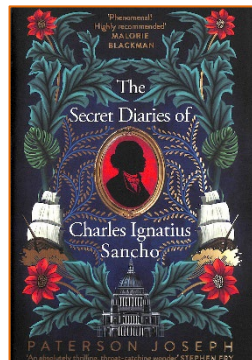
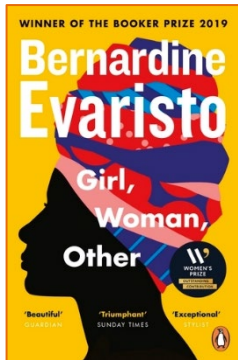
Black Poppies: Britain's Black Community and the Great War by Stephen Bourne (Non-F)

Allies: Real Talk About Showing Up, Screwing Up, And Trying Again by Shakirah Bourne and Dana Alison Levy (Non-F)

War to Windrush: Black Women in Britain 1939 to 1948 by Stephen Bourne (Non-F)

Fiction and Non-fiction

Key stage 5 (16 – 18 years)



Girl, Women, Other by Bernardine Evaristo (F)

You can find further information about and download the Penguin KS5 teacher resources for this book [here](#)

The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho by Joseph Paterson (F)

Small Island by Andrea Levy (F)

The Lonely Londoners by Samuel Selvon (F)

The Enigma of Arrival by V.S. Naipaul (F)

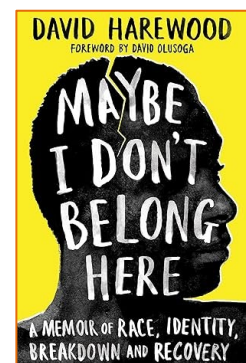
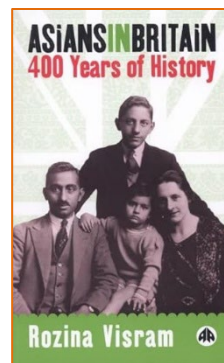
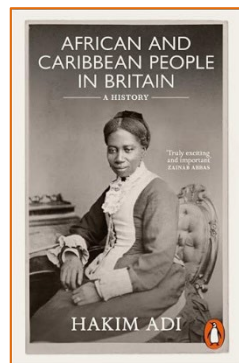
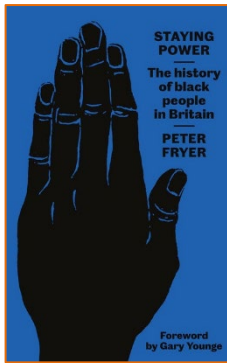
When They Call You a Terrorist: A Story of Black Lives Matter and the Power to Change the World by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele (Non-F)

Empire Windrush: Fifty Years of Writing about Black Britain by Onyekachi Wambu (Non-F)

None of the Above: Reflections on Life Beyond the Binary by Travis Alabanza (Non-F)

Non-fiction

Adults (18 years+)



Staying Power: The History of Black People in Britain by Peter Fryer (Non-F)

African and Caribbean People in Britain: A History by Hakim Adi (Non-F)

Asians In Britain by Rozina Visram (Non-F)

Maybe I Don't Belong Here: A Memoir of Race, Identity, Breakdown and Recovery by David Harewood (Non-F)

Blackness in Britain by Lisa Amanda Palmer and Kehinde Andrews (Non-F)

Dispatches from the Diaspora: From Nelson Mandela to Black Lives Matter by Gary Younge (Non-F)

We're Here Because You Were There: Immigration and the End of Empire by Ian Sanjay Patel (Non-F)

Green Unpleasant Land by Corinne Fowler (Non-F)

Black Tudors: The Untold Story by Miranda Kaufmann (Non-F)

Fiction

Adults (18 years+)

Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand (F)

The Long Song by Andrea Levy (F)

White Teeth by Zadie Smith (F)

Open Water by Caleb Azumah Nelson (F)

Closure. Contemporary Black Short Stories. Edited collection by Peepul Tree Press (F)

The Bone Readers by Jacob Ross (F)

Drama

Contemporary Plays by Black British Writers edited by Natalie Ibu

Telling Our Stories of Home: International Performance Pieces By and About Women edited by Kathy A. Perkins

Poetry

(7 – 11 years)

Follow that Word by John Agard, illustrated by Momoko Abe (P)

Funky Chickens by Benjamin Zephaniah (P)

(11 – 14 years)

Run Rebel by Manjeet Mann (P)

(14 – 16 years)

Black Girl, Call Home by Jasmine Mans (P)

Self-Portrait as Othello by Jason Allen-Paisant (P)

(16 – 18 years)

Heritage Aesthetics by Anthony Anaxagorou (P)

From Here To There: 101 Poems on African and African Diasporic Migration edited by Nandi Jola and Omobola Osamor (P)

(18 years+)

Hoods by Ty'rone Haughton (P)

Selected Poems by Rabindranath Tagore (P)

Langston Hughes, Selected Poems by Langston Hughes (P)

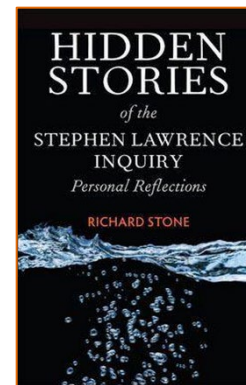
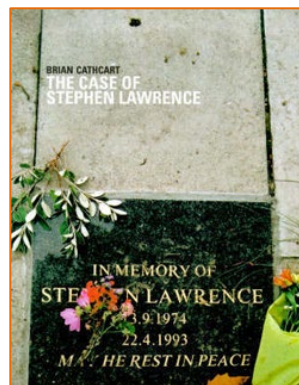
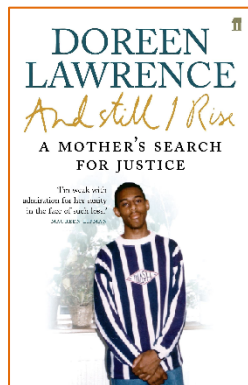
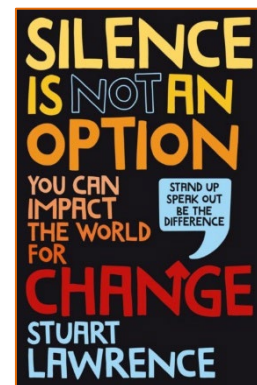
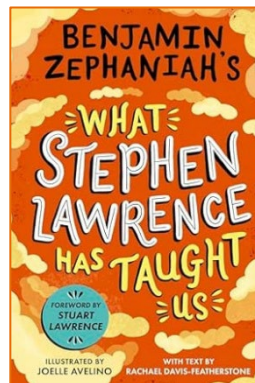
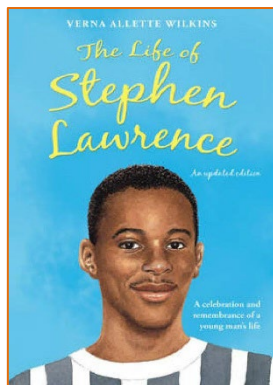
Selected poems by Linton Kwesi Johnson (P)

More Fiya: A New Collection of Black British Poetry edited by Kayo Chingonyi (P)

Map of a Plantation by Jenny Mitchell (P)

Aimé Césaire, The Collected Poetry (P) by Aimé Césaire, Clayton Eshleman and Annette J. Smith

Remembering Stephen Lawrence



(7 – 11 years)

The Life of Stephen Lawrence by Verna Allette Wilkins (Non-F)

Benjamin Zephaniah's What Stephen Lawrence Taught Us by Benjamin Zephaniah, preface by Stuart Lawrence (P)

(14 – 16 years)

Silence is not an Option: You Can Impact the World for Change by Stuart Lawrence (Non-F)

(16 – 18 years)

And Still, I Rise by Baroness Doreen Lawrence (Non-F)

Adults (18 years+)

The Case of Stephen Lawrence by Brian Cathcart (Non-F)

Hidden Stories of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry by Richard Stone (Non-F)

About the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre

The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC) opened in De Montfort University (DMU), Leicester in 2019. The centre is proud to be part of a collaborative research community, facilitating opportunities that engage academics, students, alumni, local communities and the general public in exploring race and racism in relation to other power dynamics such as gender, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship status, employment status, sexual orientation, health, age, geography and more.

The SLRC has become a hub of innovative and world-leading research creating impact on a local, national and global scale.

Stephen Lawrence Exhibition

Inspired by the loan of archival materials by Baroness Doreen Lawrence MBE, the centre's dedicated exhibition space guides visitors through the story of Stephen's life as well as documenting the Lawrence family's long fight for justice in the wake of their son's tragic murder and the far-reaching impact of Stephen's legacy in Britain today. The SLRC provides bespoke guided tours for schools and organisations, Mon-Fri between 9am-5pm. For more information contact us on slrc@dmu.ac.uk.

The Stephen Lawrence Archive

The collection of items, formally referred to as *The Papers of Doreen Lawrence relating to the Stephen Lawrence Case, 1972-2014* has inspired student research at all levels and across all faculties at DMU, from law to art, from journalism to psychology. The archive is open to researchers and the public as an educational resource and sits in the Kimberlin Library's Special Collections in a climate-controlled storage facility ensuring this important part of British social history is preserved for generations to come.

To view the catalogue of the archive please visit [Special Collections: The Papers of Doreen Lawrence](#).

For more information or to engage with the work of the SLRC please contact:

T: 0116 366 4370 | E: slrc@dmu.ac.uk | W: dmu.ac.uk/SLRC | LinkedIn: [The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre](#) | Instagram/X: @SLRC_DMU