

Delve Deeper into *All the Difference*

A film by **Tod Lending**

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Susan Conlon of Princeton Public Library and Hanna Lee of Batesville Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *All the Difference*.

Accompany two African-American teens from the South Side of Chicago on their journey to achieve their dream of graduating from college. A co-production of American Documentary | POV; Part of American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen, made possible by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

ADULT NONFICTION

Cantarella, Marcia. *I CAN Finish College: The Overcome Any Obstacle and Get Your Degree Guide*. Naperville: Sourcebooks, 2012. A comprehensive guidebook that prepares students from all backgrounds to understand and overcome obstacles in their path towards college graduation.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015. In a profound work that pivots from the biggest questions about American history and ideals to the most intimate concerns of a father for his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis.

Darling-Hammond, Linda. *The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2010. Argues that the education system in America needs to make drastic changes in order to build a system of high-achieving and equitable schools that protects every child's right to learn.

Gilbert, Laura H. *Our Plan: A Family-Centered Approach to Paying for College*.

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015.

Our Plan is a family-centered approach to paying for college that starts and ends with the most important people in the college journey – the student and his or her parents. Written in a simple, coach-by-your-side style, *Our Plan* provides practical guidance on how to get the education you want for a price that is uniquely affordable to you.

Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2011.

Rhodes scholar and combat veteran considers his path to success and the path of the other Wes Moore, another young man with the same name, from the same city, who is now serving a life sentence for the murder of a police officer

Moore, Wes. *The Work*. New York: Random House, 2015.

A personal narrative that offers the stories of twenty-first century visionaries who inspire and clarify one young man's understanding of success in the modern world.

Pailla, Dan-el Padilla. *Undocumented: A Dominican Boy's Odyssey From a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League*. New York: Penguin Press, 2015.

A Princeton University salutatorian describes his experiences as an undocumented immigrant youth in New York City, relating his efforts as a scholarship student in a private school that sharply contrasted with his street life in East Harlem.

Russakoff, Dale. *The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.

When Mark Zuckerberg announced his \$100 million pledge to transform the downtrodden schools of Newark, New Jersey, then mayor Cory Booker and Governor Chris Christie were

beside him, vowing to help make Newark "a symbol of educational excellence for the whole nation." But their plans soon ran into the city's seasoned education players, fierce protectors of their billion-dollar-a-year system. It's a prize that, for generations, has enriched seemingly everyone, except Newark's children.

Smiley, Tavis. *Too Important to Fail: Saving America's Boys*. New York:

SmileyBooks, 2011. The companion volume to TAVIS SMILEY REPORTS PBS special which is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as part of its American Graduate: Let's Make It Happen initiative, Smiley examines the staggering dropout rates for young black males in America. It highlights some of the major factors and offers resources and ideas for action.

Steele, Claude. *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do (Issues of Our Time)*.

New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2011. He sheds new light on American social phenomena from racial and gender gaps in test scores to the belief in the superior athletic prowess of black men, and lays out a plan for mitigating these "stereotype threats" and reshaping American identities.

William, Terrie. *Black Pain: It Just Looks Like We're Not Hurting*. New York: Scribner, 2009. Explores the often underdiagnosed prevalence of depression in the black community. Explains and guides readers to confront the truth and find relief through community support.

Zasloff, Beth, and Steckel, Joshua. *Hold Fast to Dreams: A College Guidance Counselor, His Students, and the Vision of a Life Beyond Poverty*. New York: The New Press, 2014. Stories of ten teenagers from low-income backgrounds in their college application process through



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graduation. Illuminates the reform needed in the American education system by tracing the path of trailblazing Brooklyn students.

ADULT FICTION

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. New York: Vintage International, 1995. A nameless narrator describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem branch of "the Brotherhood", and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.

Petry, Ann. *The Street*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1946. *The Street* tells the poignant, often heartbreaking story of Lutie Johnson, a young black woman, and her spirited struggle to raise her son amid the violence, poverty, and racial dissonance of Harlem in the late 1940s.

Southgate, Martha. *The Fall of Rome*. New York: Scribner, 2002. Southgate offers an absorbing and enlightening novel about the tensions inherent in being "the only chip in the cookie" among the white elite. The story is told through three characters: a classics instructor and a new student, both African American, and a newly-arrived white teacher.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jabari, Asim and Bryan Collier. *Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington*. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2012. Born into slavery, young Booker T. Washington could only dream of learning to read and write. After emancipation, Booker began a five-hundred-mile journey, mostly on foot, to Hampton Institute, taking his

first of many steps towards a college degree. When he arrived, he had just fifty cents in his pocket and a dream about to come true. The young slave who once waited outside of the schoolhouse would one day become a legendary educator of freedmen.

Suskind, Ron. *Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League*. New York: Broadway Books, 2005.

Journalist Ron Suskind documents Cedric Jennings' tenacity through his remarkable journey from an underperforming, troubled Washington, DC high school to Brown University, and beyond.

Tate, Don. *Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton*. New York: Peachtree Publishers, 2015.

Poet tells the story of George Moses Horton, an enslaved writer who overcomes state-mandated illiteracy and becomes the first African American to be published in the South.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bucking the Sarge*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2004. Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

Grimes, Nikki. *Bronx Masquerade*. New York: Dial Books, 2002. While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

Marley, Cedella, Vanessa Newton, Bob Marley. *One Love*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014. This heartwarming picture book, adapted from one of Bob Marley's most beloved songs, brings his joyful spirit and unforgettable lyrics to life for a new generation. Readers will feel the beat and the positive rhythm of change when one girl enlists her friends, family, and community to help transform her neighborhood for the better.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Darius & Twig*. New York: Amistad, 2013. Two best friends, a writer and a runner, deal with bullies, family issues, social pressures, and their quest for success coming out of Harlem.

Reynolds, Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. *All American Boys*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015. When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. The story is told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.

Sitomer, Alan Lawrence. *Hip-Hop High School*. New York: Hyperion Paperbacks, 2006. Andre Anderson's sister Theresa tells in her own hip-hop flava'd voice how she comes from behind to go up against one of the baddest monsters of high school—the SAT—and wins!

