ANCHORAGE READS 2021 READING GUIDE
Stampeded: Racism, Antiracism, & You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X Kendi *

INTRO & SECTION 1

Introduction & Section 1 Key Concepts & Themes

- Racism is about ideas. These are ideas that need to be developed and worked on and incrementally built upon. Anti-racist thought must also be developed and built upon.
- Racism is maintained. People in power do their best to make it that way.
- Racist ideas go back centuries. This is not a new concept.
- Anti-black Racism didn’t come before slavery. Anti-black racist theory was used to justify slavery.
- Slavery still exists. Businesses, schools, etc create structures with racist ideologies that are reminiscent of how slavery was justified.
- In Indigenous communities, land was not something that was owned. When colonists arrived and stole Native lands, they created a system of ownership and exploitation.
- Religion is used as a form of control
- Racism is internalized, and BIPOC people experience internalized racism as well.
- Whiteness is normalized.
- Lived experience is valid.

Reading Guide Questions

- We all have ideas, conceptions, and theories about race and those theories all originated from specific historical contexts for specific reasons
  - What is the value of examining the personal theories of race we hold?
  - What is the value in knowing that race is a social construct that was created for specific reasons, and is not natural or inherent to the human experience?
- How do these ideologies benefit people in power?
  - See page xiii–xvi: “When I was in school and first really learning about racism...”
- In what ways did Zurara and others misconstrue the Bible to fit their narrative? Why do you think people use religion to justify their way of thinking?
- Read the following quote:

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“And guess what they did during the development of Harvard...Aristotle, a man who believed in human hierarchy and used climate to justify which humans were better could not be disputed, and instead had to be taken as truth.”

How did Harvard’s claim that Aristotle’s theories had to be taken as truth impact American education? How has Harvard’s actions as an incredibly powerful institution continued to impact education today?

Page 5: Reynolds writes, “capturing people wasn’t unusual. Just a fact of life...” What are things that people do currently that aren’t considered racist, but probably are and are used to justify wrongful actions?

Reflect on the impact of colonists’ genocide of Native Americans. How would you feel if you woke up one morning and everything that you loved and cherished was taken away from you?

Self-Reflection Questions

- What does collective liberation look like and what steps do we take to get there?
- Many people define their identity by their class and their position or status. If you take class and position away, how do you define who you are? Does your race or gender play a major role in how you define your identity?
- In what moments in your life did you realize you had privilege? (Privilege is defined as power over others as a result of an attribute beyond your control).

General Resources for Readers

- Case for Reparations, Ta Nehisi Coates
- Ibram X. Kendi And Jason Reynolds Focus On Racism In New Book

Alaska Resources for Readers

- Native Movement, Just Transition Resources
  https://www.nativemovement.org/alaska-just-transition
- @notoriouscree on TikTok shares content about resilience and surviving generations of trauma. They also dispel myths. Dancing to honor ancestors

* This guide can also be used while reading Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi, but please note the page numbers will not correspond.

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