

Grades K-5 Activism Reading List 2023  
Akron-Summit County Public Library



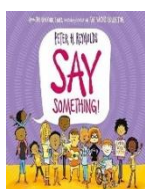
Chapman, Ty. **Sarah Rising**, 2022. JE

Inspired by the Minneapolis uprising after the killing of George Floyd, this story follows a little Black girl attending a protest with her father and realizing that she has the power to protect what and whom she loves.



Miller, Pat Zietlow. **Not So Small**, 2022. JE

Celebrates the many ways people can join together to become something bigger--an unstoppable force. Each and every one of us can use our voices to make a difference.



Reynolds, Peter. **Say Something!**, 2019. JE

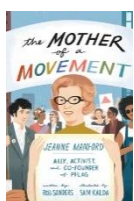
An empowering story about finding your voice, and using it to make the world a better place. The world needs your voice. If you have a brilliant idea... say something! If you see an injustice... say something!



Camerini, Valentina. **Greta's Story: The Schoolgirl Who Went on Strike to Save the Planet**, 2019.

JBIO THUNBERG C182g

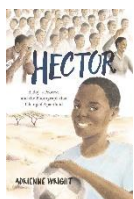
In legislatures all over the world, tens of thousands of serious-looking and stern-sounding politicians sat and discussed an endless range of issues. But they never addressed the problem of the health of the planet. It was time for someone to remind them to step in to protect the environment--and the future of children all over the world. So Greta made a sign, put on her jacket, and went on strike.



Sanders, Rob. **The Mother of a Movement: Jeane Manford—Ally, Activist, and Co-Founder of PFLAG**,

2022. JBIO MANFORD.J Sa215m

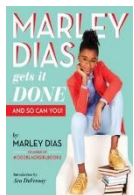
When Jeanne Manford's son Morty was beaten by New York City officials for handing out pro-gay leaflets, Manford wrote a powerful letter to the New York Post to complain about how Morty was treated. Morty invited his mother to march with him in the June 1972 Christopher Street Parade. While marching, she had the idea to form a group to help parents and families of LGBTQ+ people.



Wright, Adrienne. **Hector: A Boy, A Protest, and the Photograph That Changed Apartheid**, 2019.

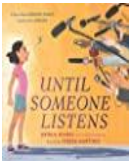
JBIO PIETERS,H W947h

Hector Pieterse lost his life after getting caught up in what was supposed to be a peaceful protest. Black South African students were marching against a new law requiring that they be taught half of their subjects in Afrikaans, the language of the White government. The story's events unfold from the perspectives of Hector, his sister, and the photographer who captured their photo in the chaos.



Dias, Marley. **Marley Dias Gets it Done: And So Can You!**, 2018. JNF 305.2308 D541m

In this accessible "keep-it-real" guide, Marley explores activism, social justice, volunteerism, equity and inclusion, and using social media for good. Drawing from her experience, Marley shows kids how they can galvanize their strengths to make positive changes in their communities, while getting support from parents, teachers, and friends to turn dreams into reality.



Juarez, Estela. **Until Someone Listens: A Story about Borders, Family, and One Girl's Mission**, 2022.

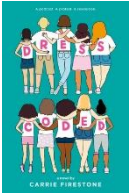
JNF 320.072 J91u

The true story of Estela Juarez, a young American girl who writes letters to her local newspaper, to Congress, and even to the president, pleading for someone to listen and reunite her family after her mother's deportation.



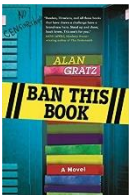
Wilson, Janet. **Our Future: How Kids Are Taking Action**, 2019. JNF 361.2 W749o

This book features 10 children who are social, political, and environmental activists from around the world who are making a difference in their communities, and countries.



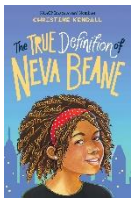
Firestone, Carrie. **Dress Coded**, 2020. JFIC

Molly Frost is FED UP because Olivia was yelled at for wearing a tank top. Because Liza got dress coded and Molly didn't, even though they were wearing the exact same outfit. Because when Jessica was pulled over by the principal and missed a math quiz, her teacher gave her a F. Because middle school is hard enough. So Molly starts a podcast where girls can tell their stories, and before long, her small rebellion swells into a revolution. Because now the girls are standing up for what's right, and they're not backing down.



Gratz, Alan. **Ban This Book**, 2017. JFIC

A fourth grader fights back when a book is challenged by a parent and taken off the shelves of her school library. Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship.



Kendall, Christine. **The True Definition of Neva Beane**, 2020. JFIC

Twelve-year-old Neva and her older brother Clayton have been left with their grandparents for the summer, and she is having a difficult time dealing with change: the changes to her body, changes with her relationships with her brother who is becoming involved with social activism and their multicultural community, and with her best friend, Jamila, whose father is from Ghana. Neva is growing up and she is not sure that the dictionary has the right words to describe everything she is experiencing.



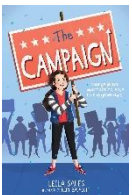
Krishnaswami, Uma. **Book Uncle and Me**, 2016 JFIC

Every day, nine-year-old Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, a retired teacher who has set up a free lending library next to her apartment building. But when the mayor tries to shut down the rickety bookstand, Yasmin has to take her nose out of her book and do something.



Ramée, Lisa Moore. **A Good Kind of Trouble**, 2019. JFIC

After attending a powerful protest, Shayla starts wearing an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement, but when the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose between her education and her identity.



Sales, Leila. **The Campaign**, 2020. JFIC

Twelve-year-old Maddie runs her babysitter Janet's campaign to become mayor of their city and protect arts funding.