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**Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You**  
by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

## **For More Information**

* Read this interview by Nikole Hannah-Jones with Jayson Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi about their collaboration and what Stamped means to them. (<https://tinyurl.com/5584y2>)
* Watch Reynolds' and Kendi's interview with Trevor Noah on The Daily Show. (<https://youtu.be/6D6Ge1VXySo>)

## **Discussion Questions**

**The following questions and conversation starters are excerpts from NOVL.com's reading guide for Stamped and questions from Reading Group Choices.**

1. The first chapter defines segregationists, assimilationists, and antiracists. Were you familiar with these terms before you read Stamped? Did your understanding of these words change by the end?
2. What are examples of racism that you’ve encountered or experienced? Referencing the list of racist ideas in Chapter 6, explain why and how your personal experiences with racism are tied to racist ideas that are hundreds of years old.
3. As seen with movies like Tarzan, Planet of the Apes, and Rocky, pop culture and media have played a large role in reinforcing racist ideas, whether their stories are overtly racist or are a bit sneakier in their propagation of racist ideas. What current movies, TV shows, and stories promote racist ideas, and how?
4. How do race, gender, and sexual orientation intersect and create different barriers for queer women of color?
5. Why is Angela Davis a champion of antiracist thought and practice? Discuss the ways in which Davis fought for antiracism at different points in her life.
6. The authors note how Richard Nixon would demean Black people in his speeches without ever saying “Black” and “White” by using words like “urban” and “ghetto” (pages 191-192). What are other ways we invoke race without overtly mentioning race?
7. Abraham Lincoln, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Booker T. Washington are remembered as defenders of Black liberation. How did these figures propel antiracist thought and enforce racist ideas? Can a person have racist, segregationist, and antiracist ideas all at once? How?
8. Jason Reynolds introduces the concept of double consciousness: “A two-ness. A self that is Black and a self that is American” (page 124). Why might people of color feel this way?
9. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington had distinct strategies and approaches to Black liberation. What does liberation mean to you? In what ways are some approaches to liberation in fact not always liberatory?
10. Marcus Garvey spotlighted the issue of colorism, its origins, and the dangers of it. Is colorism equally as destructive as racism?
11. Reynolds demonstrates how racist ideas in the fields of science and mathematics—from eugenics to the creation and purposes of IQ and standardized tests—have been created and used to oppress Black and Brown people. How do we decide what to believe about a scientific claim?
12. What surprised you in this book? What angered you or made you sad? What other emotions did you experience while reading?
13. After finishing Stamped, how do you feel about the history of racism? What habits and actions can you implement to promote antiracism?

## **Things to Ponder as you Read:**

Section 1: 1415-1728

1. What from this section did you find most surprising or what is a piece of history that you hadn’t previously known?
2. How did the actions and attitude of Gomes Eanes de Zurara lead to racism and slavery?
3. Why do you think the word “Race” has become such a hot button word in today’s society?

Section 2: 1743-1826

1. What from this section did you find most surprising or what is a piece of history that you hadn’t previously known?
2. How is Thomas Jefferson shown as such a contradictory person and leader?
3. How do you see Uplift Suasion being shown in today’s culture?

Section 3: 1826-1879

1. What from this section did you find most surprising or what is a piece of history that you hadn’t previously known?
2. What actions lead to the civil war?
3. How did literature play a big role with how slaves and black people were viewed by society?

Section 4: 1868-1963

1. What from this section did you find most surprising or what is a piece of history that you hadn’t previously known?
2. How did World War II effect the views on how black people would think they would be viewed in society? How did it actually happen?
3. Is there any other form of media (movie, tv show, literature, etc) that you have had to rethink about through the context of race due to reading this section?

Section 5: 1963- Today

1. What from this section did you find most surprising or what is a piece of history that you hadn’t previously known?
2. What terms have you heard throughout your life that has been re-contextualized after reading this section?
3. After reading the book, what action items can you think of in order to support others in your community?

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