Having Conversations about Race with Youth:

1. **Process your own emotions:** Label your own emotions and use self-care strategies - youth will look to you as role models for how to cope with these incidents.

2. **Initiate dialogue:** Show youth that you understand what is going on and are here to support them by bringing up difficult topics.

3. **Address the incident directly:** To get the dialogue started, ask youth what they have heard and what they know about the incident
   
   a. “Tell me what you’ve heard about [the incident]?”
   
   b. “What do you know about [the incident] that took place this week?”
   
   c. “What have you seen or heard about [the incident] on the news or on social media?”

4. **Show willingness to answer questions:** Youth will feel more comfortable discussing the incident if they know you are willing to answer questions and listen to their concerns
   
   a. “I am here to talk and answer any questions you may have about [the incident].”
   
   b. “I know that this may be an upsetting time for you, please know I am here to answer any questions or concerns you have about [the incident].”
   
   c. “Do you have any questions about what happened during [the incident]?”

5. **Validate & listen to feelings:** Ask youth to share their feelings about the incident, and respond with empathy as validation that you are listening
   
   a. “It sounds like you are feeling [sad/upset/scared] about this [incident].”
   
   b. “Do you feel safe at school, the Club, and our community? What is it that you’re worried about?”

6. **Continue to check in:** Check back in regularly during the coming weeks to see how youth are coping with and processing the incident.

7. **Look for solutions:** Youth are action-oriented - ask, "What can we do to create positive change in our community?" and support them in starting a meaningful project or campaign.

https://clubexperience.blog/2020/05/29/addressing-current-events/
Children’s Books to Support Conversations on Race:

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz, illustrated by AG Ford

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn

Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army by Art Coulson, illustrated by Nick Hardcastle

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh

Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock by Aslan and Kelly Tudor

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López

Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Eric Velasquez

Viola Desmond Won’t Be Budged! by Jody Nyasha Warner and Richard Rudnicki

My Hair is a Garden by Cozbi A. Cabrera

The Legendary Miss Lena Horne by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

I Am Not A Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer, illustrated by Gillian Newland

Something Happened in Our Town by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin

Harlem’s Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills by Renée Watson, illustrated by Christian Robinson

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, illustrated by Floyd Cooper

We Are Grateful, Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac

Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis by Jabari Asim, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett

Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jamey Christoph

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Lin Wang

Coretta Scott by Ntozake Shange, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

The Whispering Town by Jennifer Elvgren, illustrated by Fabio Santomau

Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

When I Was Eight by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

That’s Not Fair! Emma Tenayuca’s Struggle for Justice by Carmen Tafolla and Sharyll Tenayuca, illustrated by Terry Ybáñez

The Boy and the Wall by Palestinian refugee children in the Aida Refugee Camp

Not My Idea: A Book about Whiteness by Anastasia Higginbotham

A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara

The Skin I’m in: A First Look at Racism by Pat Thomas, illustrated by Lesley Harker
The Colors of Us by Karen Katz, illustrated by Karen Katz

Brick by Brick by Giuliano Ferri

All the Colors We Are/Todos Los Colores de Nuestra Piel: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color/ La Historia de Por Que Tenemos Diferentes Colores de Piel by Katie Kissinger

The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler, illustrated by David Lee Csicsko

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Caroline Binch

The Case of Loving: The First for Interracial Marriage by Selina Alko, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko

Remember: The Journey to School Integration by Toni Morrison

Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story about Racial Injustice by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard

Layla’s Head Scarf by Miriam Cohen

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Hands Up! by Breanna J. McDaniel, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

The Wedding Portrait by Innosanto Nagara

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong’o

What is Given from the Heart by Patricia C. McKissack

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky: Tristan Strong, Book 1 by Kwame Mbalia

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks by Jason Reynolds

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams

The Stars and the Blackness Between Them by Junauda Petrus

The Stuff of Stars by Marion Dane Bauer

Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly, Winifred Conkling

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon

Monday’s Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

March: Book Three by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe

Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford

Trombone Shorty by Troy Andrews

The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, and Harlem’s Greatest Bookstore by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia


The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds

Firebird by Misty Copeland

Sources: https://www.charisbooksandmore.com/books-teach-white-children-and-teens-how-undo-racism-and-white-supremacy