

# all. american boys

## Innovative Teaching Ideas



# Teachers Notes

## Learning Outcomes:

### PSHE KS2

Core Themes 3: LIVING IN THE WIDER WORLD

#### Shared responsibilities

- L1. to recognise reasons for rules and laws; consequences of not adhering to rules and laws
- L2. to recognise there are human rights, that are there to protect everyone
- L3. about the relationship between rights and responsibilities
- L4. the importance of having compassion towards others; shared responsibilities we all have for caring for other people and living things; how to show care and concern for others

#### Communities

- L6. about the different groups that make up their community; what living in a community means
- L7. to value the different contributions that people and groups make to the community
- L8. about diversity: what it means; the benefits of living in a diverse community; about valuing diversity within communities
- L9. about stereotypes; how they can negatively influence behaviours and attitudes towards others; strategies for challenging stereotypes
- L10. about prejudice; how to recognise behaviours/actions which discriminate against others; ways of responding to it if witnessed or experienced



# Teachers Notes

## Learning Outcomes:

### **PSHE KS3**

Core Theme 2: Relationship

Bullying, abuse and discrimination

R39. the impact of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination on individuals and relationships

R40. about the unacceptability of prejudice-based language and behaviour, offline and online, including sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, racism, ableism and faith-based prejudice

R41. the need to promote inclusion and challenge discrimination, and how to do so safely, including online

### **PSHE KS4**

Core Theme 2: Relationship

Bullying, abuse and discrimination

R34. strategies to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination



# Activity 1: Dualism



# Dualism: Research Opportunity

Who are Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely?

Why was the dual authorship so important within  
*All American Boys*?

Why is it significant that Rashad survived the  
violent assault of Police Officer Paul?



*"I wish it didn't have to exist, but I do think about Toni Morrison and I think about James Baldwin and I think about all the writers who understood that you have an obligation to some extent to document the time and to make art that's going to challenge the society and challenge the quo." Reynolds*

<https://lithub.com/five-years-later-on-the-enduring-legacy-of-all-american-boys/>



# Dualism:

## Stretch and challenge discussion

Why is it important to have diversity in children's literature?

**Diversity:** The inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different abilities, gender, races or cultures).



Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Presence in UK Children's Literature in the last 3 Years:





# Activity 2: Stereotyping



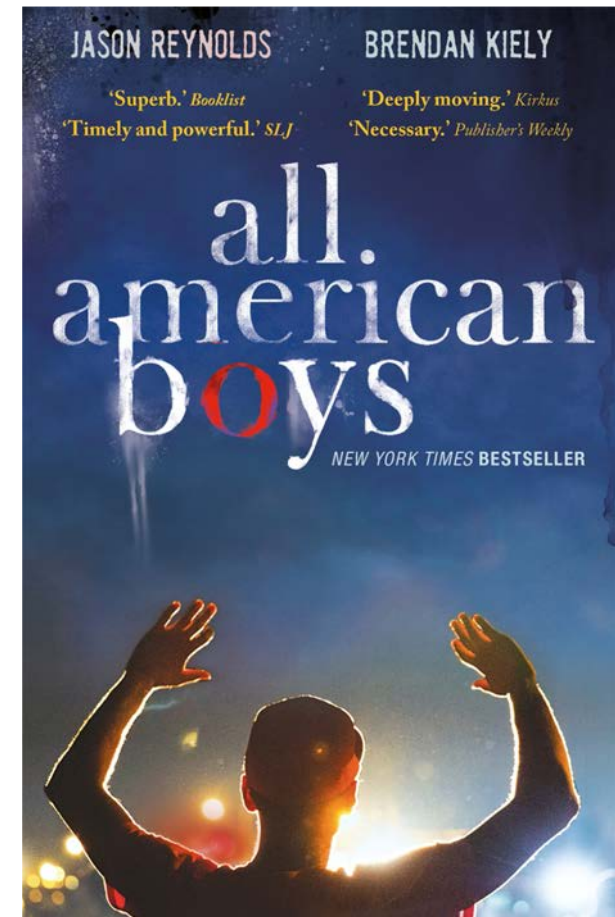
# Stereotyping:

## Research opportunity

### What is the role of the police?

A **Police Officer** serves to preserve law and order in the areas they work in by

- protecting members of the public and their property,
- preventing crime from happening,
- minimising the fear of crime,
- improving the quality of life for all citizens.





# Stereotyping:

## Stretch and challenge discussion

What is the significance of the title of the book?

Would Rashad and Quinn be considered “all American boys” ? Why?



The all American boy persona was originally almost always white. The boy would often have blond hair, (sometimes brunette) with blue-eyes and freckles. He would love sports, apple pie, his mother etc.

**Is this the stereotype now?**



# Stereotyping:

## Innovating Teaching Idea

Are all people arrested by the police guilty?



### The Mangrove Nine

They were a group of Black British activists, who were arrested and accused of starting a riot at a peaceful protest in the 1970s. They had planned a peaceful protest against the police, who kept targeting the Mangrove Restaurant owned by Frank Crichlow. The Mangrove was a Caribbean restaurant based in Notting Hill, West London and the police didn't like the Black owned business or the people who went there. The police regularly harassed and attacked the people who were connected to the venue for over 20 years.

Their trial lasted 55 days and involved various challenges by the Nine to the legitimacy of the judicial process. This case began to expose the institutionalised racism in the police and police brutality faced by Black British People.

Recommended further research on this topic is Steve McQueen's *Small Axe: Mangrove* (BBC One)



# Activity 3:

# Prejudice & Discrimination



# Prejudice: Stretch and challenge discussion

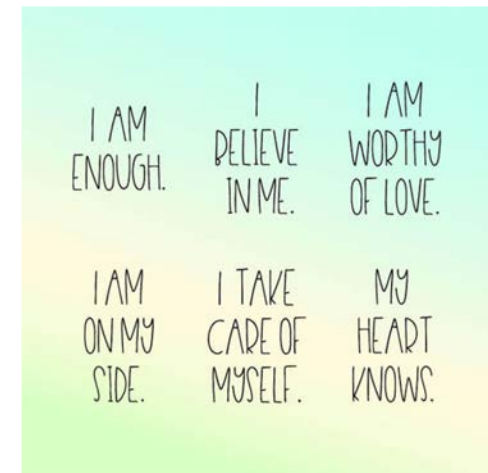
Quinn

“And then I thought about what was right there in the text. Ralph Ellison talking about invisibility. Not the wacky science fiction kind, but the kind where people are looking at you but not seeing you, looking through you, or around you – like, why the hell shouldn’t the classes be talking about what happened to Rashad? What happened to make him invisible? Was he invisible?” \*

**Why is invisibility a strong theme throughout *All American Boys*?**  
**Why is it important that Quinn “sees” Rashad?**



\*(See page 215)





# Prejudice: Stretch and challenge discussion

Why do some people  
feel invisible in  
society?

Why is allyship  
important?

What is the impact of  
inequality?

"But before I go, I wanted to ask . . . did you ever finish that drawing you were working on?"

"Yeah, I finished it yesterday." I slid my sketch pad off the dresser and handed it to her.

"Wow," Clarissa said, gazing at the paper, then glancing back at me. "Rashad, this is incredible. You should be proud." Then she looked a little closer. "Hey . . . this one has a face."

"Yeah."

"Why?"

"Because, well, whoever is looking at this scene, you, me, I don't know, that lady Claudia James, my friends, my family, Mrs. Fitzgerald—"

"Who?"

"This lady I met," I said. "Anyway, all of us looking at the scene see the person who has the hand put through his chest. The dude with his heart torn out. It's impossible to ignore him. He has a face. He deserves a face."

Clarissa looked from the drawing, to me, then back to the drawing. "Yeah, he does." \*



\*(See page 273)