



## Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students

invites your participation in the

### IDEAS Book Group (2022-23 School Year)

- All meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom on Thursdays, 3:30 - 5:30 pm.
- Two contact hours will be awarded for attendance per meeting.

The IDEAS Book Group provides an opportunity for educators from IDEAS schools and districts to meet and share thoughts on the selected books and to discuss how they relate to educational practices and current events. The group will meet nine times during the 2022-23 school year. An email is sent out each month to remind Book Group members about the upcoming meeting. You need to reply only if you can attend. **There is no commitment to attend all meetings.**

### 2022-23 Book Selections and Meeting Dates

September 29, 2022: *Not Light, But Fire* by Matthew Kay

Inspired by Frederick Douglass's abolitionist call to action, "It is not light that is needed, but fire," author Matthew Kay has spent his career learning to lead students through the most challenging race conversations.

October 13, 2022: *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich

A Native American novel that reckons with ghosts—of both specific people and the shadows resulting from America's violent, dark habits. Flora, an independent bookstore's most burdensome customer, is even more exasperating in death, deciding to haunt her favorite haunt, Birchbark Books. This book takes place in Minneapolis during the murder of George Floyd. It's also no ordinary ghost story, as the motley crew of characters effortlessly endear themselves to you despite their shortcomings (and maybe because of them), reckons with profound wounds, both self-inflicted and societal.

November 10, 2022: *The Unlikely Thru-Hiker: An Appalachian Trail Journey* by Derick Lugo

This is the story of how a young black man from the city, unfamiliar with both the outdoors and thru-hiking culture, sets off with an extremely overweight pack and a willfully can-do attitude to conquer the infamous trail. What follows are lessons on preparation, humility, and nature's wild unpredictability. But this isn't a hard-nosed memoir of discouragement. What sets Lugo apart from the typical walk in the woods is his refusal to let any challenge squash his inner Pollyanna.

December 15, 2022: *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi

Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated Five write a powerful young adult (YA) novel in verse about a wrongfully incarcerated boy. Amal Shahid has always been an artist and a poet. But even in a diverse art school, he's seen as disruptive and unmotivated by a biased system. Then one fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighborhood escalates into tragedy. "Boys just being boys" turns out to be true only when those boys are white.

January 19, 2023: *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith

Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Clint Smith leads the reader on an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks – those that are honest about the past and those that are not – that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history.

February 9, 2023: *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama

A riveting, deeply personal account of history in the making – from the President who inspired us to believe in the power of democracy.

March 9, 2023: *Change the Narrative: How to Build an Antiracist Culture in Your School* by Henry Turner and Kathy Lopes

These school leaders, in partnership with educators, students, parents, and the community, have the remarkable potential to change the narrative so that all students, regardless of race, can feel seen, empowered, and engaged in their learning communities. Through the lens and actions of antiracism, the book provides a pathway for school administrators, leaders, and change agents who want to implement the values of antiracism in their school community every day.

April 6, 2023: *Indian Givers: How Native Americans Transformed the World* by Jack Weatherford

After 500 years, the world's huge debt to the wisdom of the Indians of the Americas has finally been explored in all its vivid drama by anthropologist Jack Weatherford. He traces the crucial contributions made by the Indians to our federal system of government, our democratic institutions, modern medicine, agriculture, architecture, and ecology, and in this astonishing, ground-breaking book takes a giant step toward recovering a true American history.

May 11, 2023: *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice* by Marianne Celano

This book follows two families – one White, one Black – as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events and help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives. It includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers with guidelines for discussing race.