BAME Must Reads

**My Name is Leon – Kit de Waal**

Featured in Hallam’s Big Read scheme, this story about a mixed-race boy and his white younger brother being taken into foster care has recently been adapted into a BBC film. Equal parts heart-wrenching and heart-warming, try and pick yourself up a copy from the Library!

[My Name is Leon Trailer – BBC - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X64PDrrlfQ)

**Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People About Race – Reni Eddo-Lodge**

This book describes how institutional racism in the UK creates disadvantage for BAME individuals. A great read for everyone and anyone committed to social change.

[Reni Eddo-Lodge: Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vJZdeSqfFY)

**A New Formation: How Black Footballers Shaped the Modern Game – Calum Jacobs**

This brand-new anthology from Stormzy’s #Merky publisher features contributions from some of Britain’s best Black footballers discussing their impact on the beautiful game. As professional sport becomes more publicly engrossed in politics, its important to hear the voices of those who paved the way for today’s athletes.

**Queenie – Candice Carty-Williams**

Queenie tells the story of a young Black woman in London, trying to fit into both Jamaican and British cultures whilst going through a particularly tricky break-up. It’s darkly comic, relatable, and a great read.

**Born Confused – Tanuja Desai Hidier**

This YA novel is funny and relatable for any 2nd generation South Asians! The main character describes themselves as an ABCD: American Born Confused Desi. You follow her navigating friendships, love, and family relationships in modern day America.

**all about love – bell hooks**

Following bell hooks’ recent passing, it is more important than ever for us to keep her memory alive by referring to her important life works. All about love teaches us how to love, romantically, platonically, and in the family, from a Black Feminist angle.

**Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982 – Cho Nam Joo**

A short, cutting read about the realities of millennial life in South Korea. Recently translated into English, this book gives a perspective of feminist issues as they play out in Asia.

**Open Water – Caleb Azumah Nelson**

This book is soon to be a Black British classic! Written from an unusual second person perspective, we’re brought directly into the middle of a budding love story, both helped and hindered by the issues that come with being Black in Britain.

[Caleb Azumah Nelson on his debut book ‘Open Water’ and why he wanted to finally tell his own black narrative](https://www.voice-online.co.uk/post/video/section/interviews/caleb-azumah-nelson-on-his-debut-book-open-water-and-why-he-wanted-to-finally-tell-his-own-black-narrative/)

**Six – Zaffar Kunial**

Six is a short collection of poems by Zaffar Kunial, a British poet with Indian heritage. The collection chronologises his love for cricket – a sport that many of us of ethnic-minority heritage will have grown up with our elders watching!

**The Vanishing Half – Brit Bennett**

This story follows twin sisters through half a century of life as they and their families feel the influences of racism and colourism in the United States; this book will make you think twice about how we define the category of ‘race’.

**Freshwater – Akwaeke Emezi**

This semiautobiographical novel treads the line between mythology and the human experience, combining West African spiritual legend with modern life in America.

[Freshwater by Akwaeke Emezi - BBC Africa Book Club](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCJGMVUeYP4) - YouTube

**On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous – Ocean Vuong**

This is the debut novel of Ocean Vuong, a Vietnamese American poet. The book is based on written communication between a Vietnamese mother and son and tackles LGBT issues, masculinity and race in the South East Asian community.

**Don’t Touch My Hair – Emma Dabiri**

Dabiri grew up as a mixed ethnicity child in the Republic of Ireland, knowing better than most what it’s like to have people touch your hair without your permission. Both a written and visual history of the politics surrounding Afro hair, this book is a great one to pass around to everyone, whether they have Type 1a or Type 4c hair!

**Girl, Woman, Other – Bernadine Evaristo**

The first book written by a black woman to win the Booker Prize, this book shows the powerful intersections of the lives of both white and BAME British women and non-binary individuals. An LGBT and feminist modern classic!

**It’s Not About the Burqa – Mariam Khan**

This anthology of essays chronologises what it means to be a Muslim woman in Britain and beyond today.

[It's Not About The Burqa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5zUz7ZRBWw) - YouTube