

## Restoration

### Picture Book for K-6

***Something Happened in our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice, written by Mairanne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard and illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin***

*Special note: Because of the topic and book options, one book, will serve as discussion for both age levels. The questions are altered for age groups.*

#### *Summary:*

After a police shooting of a local Black man, two children wrestle with understanding systematic racism and try to make sense of it. When a new student comes into their classroom, they have a chance to act in a better way.

### Questions for K-3

1. What is racism? Why do you think people are treated differently because of they are seen?
2. When something bad happens, how do we make it better?
3. What did you notice that was different between Emma and Josh trying to understand the story? Why do think that is?
4. If you were friends with Josh and Emma what would you say to them at the end of the story?
5. What helps you (and others) get over being scared or angry?

### Questions for 4-6

1. How have you seen racism happen in your community?
2. If you were Josh or Emma's older sibling, and they asked you about the Black man being shot, what would you tell them about it?
3. Is there a way to make things better about racism? What can you do both as a person and as group of people?
4. In what ways are James and Emma unsafe? Who could help make them feel safer?
5. How are people who are new treated at your school or here at the congregation? How should they be treated? If there was a new person from the Middle East, how you best be their buddy to help them feel welcomed?

### **Other Worthy Books**

**Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot by Sy Montgomery (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2010) Grades 2-6** *Saving a dying species from extinction*

**Dinosaurs Divorce: A Guide for Changing Families by Marc Brown (Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 1988) K-3** *Rebuilding after a divorce*

**Books and Bricks: How a School Rebuilt a Community by Sindiwe Magona and Ellen Mayer (Author), and illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright (Star Bright Books, 2017) Grades 2-6** *A South African school is rebuilt after Apartheid.*

**A River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2002) K-3** *A river is reborn through conservation efforts*

**Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion and illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham (Harper Collins, 2006) K-3** *A dog is restored to his former self*

**After the Fall by Dan Santat (Roaring Book Press, 2017) K-3** *How Humpty Dumpty was restored.*

**Green City: How One Community Survived a Tornado and Rebuilt for a Sustainable Future by Allan Drummond (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2016) K-3** *How Greensburg, KS, rebuilt after a tornado*

**The Summer My Father Was Ten by Pat Brisson and illustrated by Andrea Shine (Boyd Mills Press, 1999) K-3** *A boy learns what his father did to a man's garden when he was ten and what he learned from their relationship that followed*

**Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story by Ken Mochizuki and illustrated by Dom Lee (National Geographic, 2010) 2-6** *How one man save Jews in Lithuania*

**Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation by Monique Gray Smith (Orca Book Publishers, 2017) 4-7** *The story of reconciliation and restoration toward native aboriginal people in Canada by the rest of the country*

**Restorative Justice Handbook by Margaret Thorsborne and David Vinegrad , illustrated by Phil Hailstone (Management Pocketbooks, 2009)** *An expert (Thorsborne) on community restoration offers information for adults*