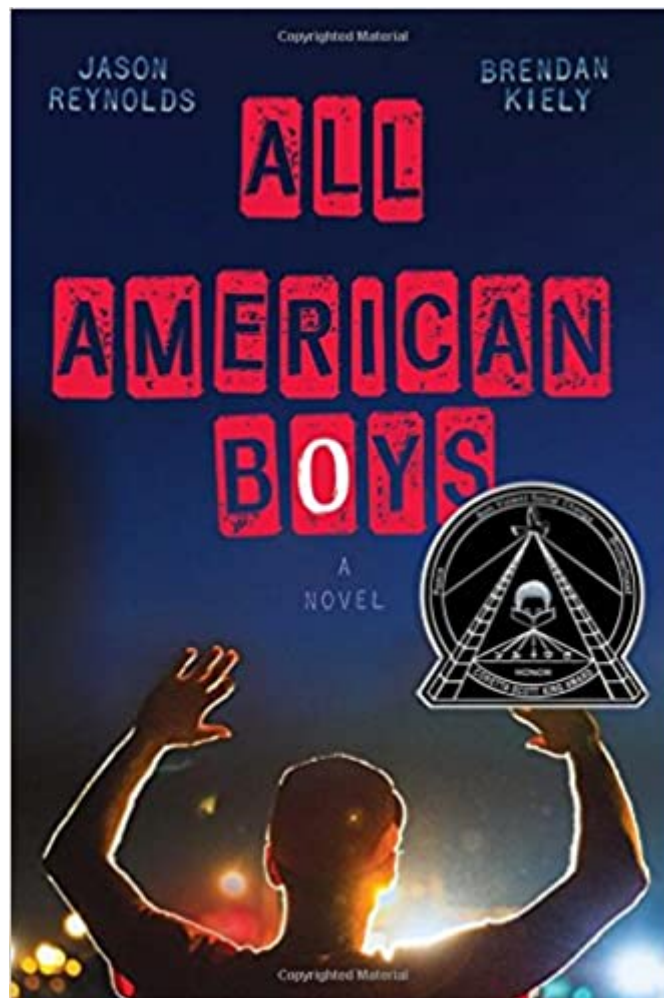


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# All American Boys



## Synopsis

A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature. In this Coretta Scott King Honor Award-winning novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension. A bag of chips. That's all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad's pleadings that he's stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad's resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad's every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement? There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad's classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad's best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before. Written in tandem by two award-winning authors, this four-starred reviews tour de force shares the alternating perspectives of Rashad and Quinn as the complications from that single violent moment, the type taken from the headlines, unfold and reverberate to highlight an unwelcome truth.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: HL770L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 320 pages

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Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1481463331

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 147 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,513 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence #17 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Law & Crime #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • Rashad Butler is a quiet, artistic teen who hates ROTC but dutifully attends because father insists "there's no better opportunity for a black boy in this country than to join the army." He heads to Jerry's corner store on a Friday night to buy chips, and ends up the victim of unwarranted arrest and police brutality: an event his white schoolmate Quinn Collins witnesses in terrified disbelief. Quinn is even more shocked because the cop is Paul Galluzzo, older brother of his best friend and Quinn's mentor since his father died in Afghanistan. As events unfold, both boys are forced to confront the knowledge that racism in America has not disappeared and that change will not come unless they step forward. Reynolds and Kiely's collaborative effort deftly explores the aftermath of police brutality, addressing the fear, confusion, and anger that affects entire communities. Diverse perspectives are presented in a manner that feels organic to the narrative, further emphasizing the tension created when privilege and racism cannot be ignored. Timely and powerful, this novel promises to have an impact long after the pages stop turning. VERDICT Great for fostering discussions about current events among teenage audiences. A must-have for all collections. • Ashleigh Williams, School Library Journal

"ALL AMERICAN BOYS is a terrific story that will compel readers to consider who they are, what they stand for, and what they should stand for. It's that good." -Richie's Picks\* "With Reynolds writing Rashad's first-person narrative and Kiely Quinn's, this hard-edged, ripped-from-the-headlines book is more than a problem novel; it's a carefully plotted, psychologically acute, character-driven work of fiction that dramatizes an all-too-frequent occurrence. Police brutality and race relations in America are issues that demand debate and discussion, which his superb book powerfully enables." - Booklist, starred review "Timely and powerful, this novel promises to have an impact long after the pages stop turning." - School Library Journal, starred review "The scenario that Reynolds and Kiely depict has become a recurrent

feature of news reports, and a book that lets readers think it through outside of the roiling emotions of a real-life event is both welcome and necessary." - Publishers Weekly"...[The authors'] passion elevates the novel beyond a needed call to action to a deeply moving experience." -Kirkus Reviews

This story drew me in from the beginning, with characters I felt for and cared about. Both protagonists were complex boys, with normal, complicated lives and motivations. Their similarities and differences were woven together brilliantly, as was the pressure each received from family and friends. It's such an important story to tell, with the real-life backdrop of racism and police violence, but it didn't feel heavy-handed. The use of "text-speak" was a bit much at times, and made a few passages a little harder to read, and the ending was not as conclusive as I would have liked, but this is a good book, and I recommend it.

Very good approach to a very difficult subject. While I have some minor quibbles with the storyline, I can't imagine how hard this was to write, so I was fine letting them go. I strongly recommended this to my sister for my nephew's mother/son book club. He is 12. I think it is a great springboard into a hard topic.

I recommend this book to all who have a passion for change for the good of America. Great timing! This is a great book that dives into the lives of black and white America and involves you in the dinner time conversations on race, family, and finding one's voice. This is a great book for teens, but it is also a great book for adults. Read it, but don't just read it. Have conversations, start doing something to make a difference. Get to know someone that doesn't look like you or live where you live. You won't regret getting to know your fellow America. Great fiction that becomes real as you read it. Thanks Jason and Brendan for sparking the conversation!

This book was chosen for The Great American Read Aloud. Teachers and students from all over the world will be reading it and making judgments about our justice system and profiling young black men. The authors have portrayed an everyday event in many communities. The portrayal of a white and black student through alternating chapters gave a very clear picture of how they both changed. Excellent for class discussions.

Although I wasn't initially impressed with the writing, I was quickly drawn in by the plot. Unfortunately, the book is very timely, as it deals with police brutality against black men. It could

have been an easy, predictable narrative, but it wasn't. The authors throw in a couple of twists that make you rethink systemic racism in ways you might not have considered. (Saying anything else would give the plot away.) I'm writing this after the Dallas shootings, making this subject even more uncomfortable, given that the police who were killed were there to protect people participating in a peaceful demonstration against police brutality. The plot thickens.

All-American Boys is a call to action for every baby-boomer like me who thought we fixed this in the Age of Aquarius. We never truly opened our eyes, and like Rashad's early drawings, never saw faces on our Black neighbours, acquaintances, fellow church members or "friends.". Can I take a new course away from injustice? Do I have the guts to stand FOR justice? I only know that I must. Every day. Every opportunity. I must see the faces and the human beings who wear them. I can do no less and call myself human.

I heard about this book while listening to a podcast interview with the authors, a black and a white writer. They met while on a joint book tour and decided to do this project together. They each wrote from the perspective of the character sharing their race. Now they visit schools and give kids a forum to have the hard conversations that adults are afraid of. This is the kind of story and work that can change things.

One of the best books I have read, provides real life perspectives and I loved the idea of two narrators. Only thing I wished was better would be the ending, kind of ended with nothing but what you expect, there's really no conclusion and leaves readers wanting to know what happens. More of an eye-opening perspective book than a mystery that a reader would think throughout the novel.

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