



Hello family and friends,

I see many statements every day via social media and/or email with opinions and recommendations on how we should correct our country's current dilemma. I do not pretend to represent an answer.

That said, as the Founder and President of Reading Legacies, in this current context I am simply sharing my thoughts as they relate to our mission and purpose of existence.

**Our children are watching us in all that we do and say! We are their role models!! They are our future!!!**

The shock and confusion and fear they must be feeling as they watch the racial hatred that was demonstrated in the killing of an innocent African-American man, and then the anger that is being demonstrated in unruly and destructive actions must be terribly harmful to their little hearts and minds.

I am saddened and embarrassed by our adult behavior and long to help protect our children from the harm they must be experiencing in this time in our history. I would simply suggest to you ALL – no matter what race you may be, your socioeconomic status, your faith persuasions, your age or relationship to a child you know, **to stop and think about what message you are giving the young children who are watching you right now by your actions.**

There are many quality children's books on racial differences and how they should be celebrated, as well as books on responsible citizenship in a civil society – along with many others such as acceptance of people of different faiths (Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and others). All of these books are OPPORTUNITIES for parents (and other family members) to instill character values in the children they love.

Our method of action at Reading Legacies is **to empower YOU as the “first and most important teachers” your children will ever have** – and to provide options in your choices as they relate to reading aloud with children.

- By reading aloud with them, we instill the love of reading and a special bond between each other.
- By reading books that illustrate character values, we instill these values in their hearts and minds.
- By demonstrating these same values to them, we provide good models for their own behavior choices in the future.

The character traits that we feature on our website provide a “treasure trove” of fun and meaningful books to read together with children while instilling strong messages of respect, responsibility, compassion, courage, perseverance, trust, honesty, gratitude, self-discipline, and citizenship.

We trust you, we love you, we grieve with the African-American community, we pray for reconciliation, and we suggest that you spend time with your children reading and talking

and teaching them these values for their future and that of our country.

Onward & Upward!

Together, we can do this!!!

*Blessings,*

*Betty J. Mohlenbrock*

