

STAMPED

by Jason Reynolds

Published in 2020

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

This revealing and informative book by Jason Reynolds is meant to open discussions regarding race beyond conflict. It is especially targeted at informing teenagers on the complexity of racism. From the beginnings of institutionalized racism to the many ways it was justified, and how it is present today, the book is very useful as a tool to understanding what racism is, and how to combat it.

The book does a good job of breaking down a very controversial issue such as racism, in rudimentary way for teens to understand and wrap their heads around. It dumbs down the main issues, explains the origins and causes, and details how it is visible today. While it may not be a captivating tale like a Harry Potter per se, it does a great job of putting an issue such as racism into the minds of teens in a way that they can use this education to make a change.

I really appreciated their mantra that this book "was not a history book," listing facts and stating arguments. Instead it took cases such as the Tarzan movie and the 'War on Drugs' of the '80s to explain how racism is woven into our culture and how it particularly has discriminated and harmed African Americans. It breaks down rationales for racism and how they are in essence, stupid. I think this book is for anybody, not just teens, racism is an important issue to tackle, and one that can't be done with proper education. While there are still debates as to whether Critical Race Theory can be taught in schools, this book is perfectly unbiased and offers a great breakdown of racism in America, and how you can combat it.

By Mark H, 10th grade, enjoys reading action/adventure and historical fiction