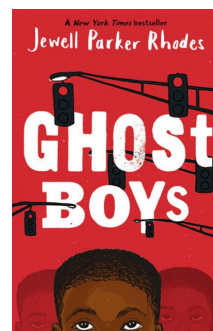


CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS...

This middle grade book (aimed at grades 5-8) ties current events to American history with a ghost story twist. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, he can watch the aftermath of his death, including the responses of his family and community. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till. Emmett and other ghost boys help Jerome understand what has happened to him and how his death is related to theirs. Jerome also gets to know Sarah, the daughter of the police officer who shot him, who is not sure how to feel about her father's actions.

Some librarians in the Minuteman Library Network put together this extensive [list of books](#) for teens & tweens interested in racial justice and activism. Check it out if you are interested in this topic or if you were a fan of the super-popular book *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.



Ghost Boys

by Jewell
Parker Rhodes

**Available as an e-book &
audiobook on the Libby app**



The Port Chicago 50

by Steve Sheinkin

**Available as an e-book &
audiobook on the Libby app**

I struggle to get absorbed in nonfiction books, so I prefer narrative nonfiction (nonfiction that reads more like a story than a history textbook). Steve Sheinkin writes great YA narrative nonfiction and he always chooses unique topics, like this little-known WWII story.

On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion at the Port Chicago Navy base killed over 300 sailors at the docks. The blast was so powerful that it also injured sailors who were asleep in their bunks a mile away! So how did this happen? The base was segregated and the transport (sometimes by hand!!) of dangerous explosives was assigned exclusively to black servicemen, and they received no training in how to do it safely. More than 200 of the 300+ casualties were black sailors. What happened next was a major turning point in the history of the armed forces and the civil rights movement. Have you ever heard of the Port Chicago 50? I definitely hadn't before I read this.

The author's research includes interviews with some of the surviving sailors and I highly recommend the audiobook (performed by multiple voices) to be fully immersed in the story.

Click on my picture to email me your recs!