Book-Inspired Sample Prompts for Racial Healing Circles

BOOK 1
*March: Book One* by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell

1. Tell a story about a time when you needed to show courage or overcome fear and you did. How did it make you feel? What impact did it have on your life? On the lives of others?

2. Think of a time when you felt so strongly about something that you just had to speak out and/or do something about it. What happened? How did it affect you?

3. Share a story about the first time you realized that there was a racial hierarchy in this country — a time when you first realized that people were treated differently because of the color of their skin. Then, imagine that it’s 2025 and you just led a successful movement to put an end to racial bias. If you’re walking down the street of the neighborhood where you live or grew up:
   - What would you see?
   - What sounds would you hear?
   - What would you feel?

BOOK 2
*Ms. Marvel* by G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona

1. If you could choose to have a super power, what would it be? Why did you choose it? How would you use it?

2. How do you identify? Think of a time when you were proud of your identity. How did this make you feel? What did it enable you to do or be?

3. Think of something you really like about yourself or something about yourself that you feel is really cool. How does it make you feel to think about that?

4. Tell a story about a time when you did something that really helped someone else. How did it make you feel? What happened as a result of what you did?

5. Share a story about a time you felt that you could be your full, authentic self; a time when you felt that you didn’t have to hide any part of who you are; a time when you felt that you truly belonged. How did this make you feel? What did this feeling allow you to do and/or be?

6. When people hear your name, what do they think/say about who you are? Give two very specific examples and talk about how this is different or the same from what you think about yourself.

7. Talk about your name and share with us what makes it unique or special to you, your family, your community or your traditions.

BOOK 3
*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

1. Tell a story about a lesson in life that you’ve learned and will never forget. How did you learn it? How will this help you in life? How can you use it to help others?

2. Visualize a family or a neighborhood in which you’d like to live. What are the key characteristics about this family or neighborhood? How are they different from your current situation? What are some things you can do to bring these characteristics to your family or neighborhood?

3. Share an experience about a time when you felt different or out of place, but were able to overcome that sense of not belonging. What was it that helped you to overcome it and how did this change your life or the lives of others?
BOOK 4
*Shadowshaper* by Daniel José Older

1. Talk about an activity that you love to do every day (e.g., playing a sport, listening to music, sketching, playing a video game) and describe how it makes you feel when you are doing this activity.

2. Imagine that you are looking at yourself in the mirror. Describe the person that you see. What is the same or different from what your family or friends see?

3. Talk about an experience or a memory when you felt like you were “more than enough,” like you were smart, talented, loved or celebrated. How did this moment influence how you view yourself and/or those around you?

4. What is your full name? Where does each of your names come from, and what do they mean?

5. Think back to a moment or a time when you were treated differently because of your gender or saw another person treated differently because of their gender. How did the experience make you feel? If you could travel back in time, what would you say to those people?

6. Please share your ancestor history if you “know where your people are from.” If you don’t know, how might you find out more information about “where your people are from”?

7. In the story, Sierra challenged her mother about being afraid of and denying her own power. If you could speak honestly with one person in your life, who would it be? What would you say to him/her/them?

8. Talk about a time when you had to do something that was really hard, but you were able to do it because you had people helping or supporting you. Describe how their support made you feel.

9. Think about a food or a dish that is unique or special to your family or friends. Talk about what makes it so special. How do you feel when you eat this food and/or what memories come to you when you smell this dish or a dish like it?

10. Talk about one person in your family that you want to be like when you grow up. Why?

BOOK 5
*The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

1. Think about the first time you met someone who could not speak English. What was your first impression of this person. Did you or others treat him/her differently because they couldn’t speak English?

2. How would you feel if you were told that you had 24 hours to pack your entire life and leave your home?

3. If you had to move away to another country tomorrow and you could take only what would fit into your backpack, what would you take with you and why?

4. Think back to the most recent time you were at a restaurant, a fast food counter or a grocery store. Do you remember the name, gender, race/ethnicity or age of the person who served you?

5. If you had to move to another country at 10 p.m. tonight, what do you think would happen to the places and the people you left behind? What questions or fears might you have about your new life?

6. Choose a form of love from the following list: romantic love, love of yourself, love of your family, love of your community. Share your five key ingredients to falling in love and/or keeping that love.

7. What is your most treasured memory?

8. Your house, containing everything you own, catches fire. After saving your loved ones and pets, you have time to safely make a final dash to save any one item. What would it be and why?

9. Do you have a scientific heart or a poetic heart? Why?

10. Think of someone you know who is in a relationship with a person from different background (e.g., interracial, interethnic, intercultural). Reflect on whether it is the individuals or their cultural background that contributed to the success and/or the failure of their relationship.

BOOK 6
*X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon

1. If you could rename yourself, would you keep your name? Why or why not?

2. If you could rename yourself, what name(s) would you give to yourself and why?

3. If you could have one full day, 24 hours, to be in a place you’ve never been before, where would you go and what would you do?

4. How did you end up living in the home and/or neighborhood that you are living in today? What three things would you add or take away that would make it the perfect home/neighborhood?

5. Talk about an experience when you were really, really hungry and you finally got some food. Describe the food you ate, how it tasted in your mouth and how it made you feel.

6. Talk about a recent time when you went to an event where you didn’t know anyone. How did you feel? What did you do to make it through the event?

7. Talk about a time when you felt like an outsider, but someone invited you into the group. What did they do? How did this make you feel?

8. Talk about a time when you made a decision that felt right at the time, but you later regretted making that decision.

9. Talk about a time when you’ve done something that you later regretted. What did you do, if anything, to correct that action?

10. If you could share some advice with your younger self in elementary school or middle school, what are three things you would tell your younger self?