HOW TO USE THIS TOOLBOX
TALKING ABOUT RACE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE...

• Everyone has a racial identity.
• Race has a major impact on a person’s life.
• Race is a defining social construct of American life.
• The majority of U.S classrooms are diverse.

Based on the priorities of First Book’s Network of educators, this Empowering Educators Toolbox provides resources designed to help educators:

• Promote awareness, respect, and empathy for different lived experiences.
• Help students develop understanding and respect for racial differences.
• Encourage students to reflect on their own lived experiences and shape positive identities.
• Facilitate conversations about equity/inequity and current events.

Source: Talking About Race
National Museum of African American History and Culture

FIRST BOOK is committed to removing barriers to quality education through providing books and learning resources to classrooms and programs serving children in need, from birth to age 18.

The Empowering Educators Toolbox has everything you need to incorporate ABAR into your classroom and facilitate productive and powerful conversations about racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. This Toolbox is designed to give you actionable resources you can put into practice immediately without having to spend time researching. The content is intended for both formal and informal educators working with kids of all ages. Revisit this guide as often as you need, using different sections depending on your classroom’s goals and the needs and interests of your students.
WHAT’S IN THE TOOLBOX:

1. UNCONSCIOUS BIAS: AN EDUCATOR’S SELF-ASSESSMENT
An important resource that will help you understand bias and why we all have it. This topic is especially relevant for educators because whether our language, actions, and decisions are unconsciously or consciously motivated, the impact on students is the same. This guide will help you understand where you have bias and what to do about it.

2. EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: A GUIDEBOOK ON RACE & RACISM
   SECTION 1 focuses on the important inner work, which includes understanding the relevant history, increasing awareness, and acknowledging personal bias and prejudice.
   SECTION 2 is about the outer work: creating a framework, evaluating your classroom culture, and creating lesson plans.
   SECTION 3 covers the power of literature. It explains how to lead with positive narratives as opposed to those about trauma, using an ABAR lens to select books, and guiding conversations with stories.

3. DIGITAL SERIES ON RACE & RACISM
In a two-part series of videos, subject matter experts and practicing educators offer actionable advice and encouragement for having effective conversations about race with students and explain how to incorporate ABAR teaching into everything you do.
   PART 1: Leading anti-bias, antiracist (ABAR) educators dive deep into ABAR theories and model examples of how to put them into practice.
   PART 2: Educators and their students from around the country show how they are talking about race, identity, diversity, and inclusion.

4. BEST PRACTICES FOR BUILDING AN ABAR ENVIRONMENT
This resource covers best practices to use when incorporating ABAR into your class and program, including incorporating ABAR year-round, remembering to teach the joy, and engaging parents.

5. CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE & RACISM
A collection of strategies for how to facilitate productive, respectful conversations, including scripts to use during challenging moments, conversations starters, and debriefing.

6. TEACHING STRATEGIES & LESSON PLANS
This section contains guidance about using news articles and videos to start and enhance discussions, writing prompts, and lesson plans related to race and identity.

7. OUR FAVORITE TOOLS & RESOURCES
Finally, we list so you can stay current on ABAR strategies and DEI issues by following and learning from the experts.

[Images and links for Watch Part 1 and Watch Part 2]