

# 2021 Children's Sabbath

## CDF Advocates' Book Clubs (ABCs)

**Launch a CDF Advocates' Book Club on the Children's Sabbath weekend!** Members of CDF Advocates' Book Clubs will read, reflect, engage, and cultivate necessary prophetic voices with communities on the margins – communities contending against systemic injustices that directly impact children and youths, and challenge biblical and theological assumptions justifying institutional complicity with oppressive systems.

### Overview:

This guide to organizing a CDF Advocates' Book Club (CDF ABC) offers the following:

- Various ways to structure your CDF ABC: monthly, weekly, or by theme
- Suggestions for organizing your CDF ABC
- Resources to supplement the readings: discussion guides, questions, videos, and other resources
- Recommended Book List: more than 30 titles from which to choose
- Sample Book Group Reading Schedules

### Structuring Your CDF ABC:

There are several possibilities for how you organize your CDF ABC.

- 1. Monthly or Bi-Monthly CDF Advocates' Book Clubs** Invite people to sign up in advance and read the first book before the Children's Sabbath weekend so you can hold your first meeting that weekend, if possible. Then plan to meet every month or every other month through May or June, taking the summer off before resuming in the fall. Organizers can select the first book and then involve participants in selecting books from the suggested list for the following months, or organizers can select all of the books that will be read during the year.
- 2. Weekly or Bi-weekly CDF Advocates' Book Clubs** This model, with the group meeting every week or every two weeks, would move through fewer books but more in-depth. The group would read one chapter each week (or two chapters every two weeks), and then discuss those chapters at the weekly or bi-weekly meeting. This could take place during a customary time for adult education in your place of worship, immediately after services, or on another day or evening.
- 3. CDF Advocates' Book Clubs organized around specific themes/concerns** The wide range of suggested readings on the book list offers the possibility for selecting readings on a particular theme, such as immigration, dismantling the cradle to prison pipeline, organizing, white supremacy and racism, Christian education, and theologies of justice and liberation. Organizers could plan one or several CDF Advocates' Book Clubs to gather participants with shared interests and concerns.

We encourage all CDF ABCs to complement the reading and discussion with engaging in listening sessions with young people and those on the margins, and directly engaging in communal struggles for social justice.

## Suggestions for Organizing Your CDF ABC:

- **Promotion** As you promote and recruit for your CDF Advocates' Book Club, share your purpose and hopes for the gathering, when it is scheduled, and how long the commitment will be (for instance, October-May).
- **Build Community** At your first gathering, take time to build a sense of connection, inviting participants to share the name they want to be called, what drew them to the group, and what they hope to take from their participation. Then, to continue to build community and strengthen relationships in the group, begin each week with a greeting and a “get acquainted” question or a “check-in” to hear how people have been since you last met. Then, depending on what is customary or comfortable in your setting, you may wish to begin (or end) with prayer, before turning to discussion of the reading.
- **Establish a Group Covenant/Commitment** The first gathering is also an important time to establish a group covenant or commitment for your time together. Group commitments might include: listening from a place of curiosity, not judgment (when differences arise, framing them as “I see it differently” rather than “I disagree” invites understanding rather than argument); speaking one at a time—no interrupting; affirming that no one is forced to share/speak; and affirming that what is shared in the group will stay in the group. The group's list of agreements/commitments can be generated at the first gathering, or you may come with a list that you would like to propose. Following are two examples:

### Group Covenant from Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, NJ

- **What happens in the group stays in the group.** To build and maintain an atmosphere of trust, confidentiality is essential.
- **Speak and make space for others to speak.** Each voice is important. If you are usually quiet, make an effort to offer your thoughts. If you speak out easily, hold back for others to speak or invite someone who hasn't spoken to speak.
- **Stay with the group.** Physically, be present at each gathering rather than treat attendance as just another option. Mentally, listen to others and participate.
- **Focus on ideas, not the person.** If you disagree, disagree with the idea, but don't belittle the person.
- **Speak from your own awareness.** When offering an opinion, claim it as your opinion rather than make generalizations.
- **Everyone in the group is a learner.** In a small group, there are no experts. Learning is a lifelong process.

### Group Agreement from the Unitarian Universalist Association:

- We agree to speak from our own experiences and perspectives and to present our statements as our thoughts rather than as indisputable truths.
- We agree to listen respectfully and intently to the experiences and perspectives of other people.
- We agree to pay attention to the group process, making sure that everyone has the opportunity to speak and to listen. We agree to use this time as an opportunity for ethical, religious, and spiritual discernment, rather than as a time to debate politics or public policy.

## Resources to Supplement the Readings:

### Discussion Guides and Video Interviews with the Authors

Discussion Guides for *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children and Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors* are below.

If the books include discussion guides or questions that is noted in the reading list, and if there are separate discussion guides or video resources for them those resources are noted as well. A number of the books on the reading list include discussion questions for each chapter or for the book as a whole.

Links to interviews with several of the authors are also posted on CDF's website and may be viewed in advance of the book club meeting or during your time together.

Additional discussion guides and video interviews for other books on the reading list will be posted on CDF's website as they become available.

### Questions for CDF ABCs to explore:

1. Who are we in justice work, God's work, in our communities? How are we advocates for a plumbline of justice in our communities? How do we measure justice?
2. What structures perpetuate poverty, mass incarceration, white supremacy, and other forms of systemic oppression?
3. What theologies perpetuate poverty, mass incarceration, white supremacy, and oppression?
4. How can we move faith communities from charity to justice?
5. How can we develop strong and effective interfaith partnerships to seek justice for all of our children?
6. How do we listen to and learn from and with young people? What can we learn from their stories and leadership?
7. How can we work through collective nonviolent direct action organizing to disrupt and dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline?
8. How do we become partners WITH instead of planning programs FOR young people who are wounded by the structural violence of poverty, white supremacy, inequitable public education, zero tolerance discipline policies, and the cradle to prison pipeline?

### Each reading invites reflection and discussion of the following:

- What surprised you? Challenged you? What did you find most helpful? Disturbing? Prophetic?
- How does the reading push you to change, to redefine ministry, to work in new ways?
- What questions would you like to ask the author
- What does this reading mean for me? Does it call me to change my thinking or perspective, or what I will do?

## CDF Advocates' Book Club Recommended Reading List:

Many of the following books are available for purchase from CDF's Haley Farm online bookstore: <https://cdfwebstore.com> Most are also available through other booksellers.

Baldwin, Lewis and Victor Anderson, editors. *Revives My Soul Again: The Spirituality of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2018.

Barber II, William J. *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement.* (Paperback title: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*) Boston: Beacon Press, 2016.

Blount, Reginald and Virginia Lee, eds. *Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth.* New York: Friendship Press, 2019.

Brooks, Adrian. *The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQI Activism.* Hoboken, NJ: Cleis Press, 2015.

Conde-Frazier, Elizabeth. *Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families.* King of Prussia, PA: Judson Press, 2011.

Couture, Pamela D. *Seeing Children, Seeing God: A Practical Theology of Children and Poverty.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

De La Torre, Miguel. *Burying White Privilege: Resurrecting a Badass Christianity.* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2018.

Daley-Harris, Shannon. *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016. (Questions for reflection and discussion are included at the end of each chapter.)

Douglas, Kelly Brown. *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God.* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2015.

Edelman, Marian Wright. *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1999.

—*The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours.* Boston: Beacon Press, 1992.

Edelman, Peter. *Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America.* New York: The New Press, 2019.

Ellison, Gregory, ed. *Anchored in the Current: Discovering Howard Thurman as Educator, Activist, Guide, and Prophet.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2020.

—*Cut Dead but Still Alive: Caring for African American Young Men.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.

—*Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice.* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017. (Visit [www.fearlessdialogues.com](http://www.fearlessdialogues.com) to learn more about this work.)

Enns, Elaine and Ched Myers. *Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization.* Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2021. (Visit <https://healinghauntedhistories.org> for resources including a readers' guide, videos, and more.)



## CDF ADVOCATES' BOOK CLUBS (ABCS)

—*Ambassadors of Reconciliation, Volume I: New Testament Reflections on Restorative Justice and Peacemaking and Volume II: Diverse Christian Practices of Restorative Justice and Peacemaking*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2009.

Fluker, Walter. *The Ground Has Shifted: The Future of the Black Church in Post-Racial America*. New York: NYU Press, 2018.

Francis, Leah Gunning. *Ferguson & Faith: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community*. Nashville: Chalice Press, 2015.

Garza, Alicia. *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart*. New York: One World, 2020.

Harvey, Jennifer. *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*. Abingdon Press, 2019. (Videos and discussion guide are available at [www.abingdonpress.com/raisingwhitekids](http://www.abingdonpress.com/raisingwhitekids).)

Janssen, Denise, ed. *Educating for Redemptive Community*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2015.

Kaba, Mariame. *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2021.

Khan-Cullors, Patrisse and asha bandele. *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*. New York: St. Martins Press, 2017.

Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1995.

Lightsey, Pamela R. *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2013.

Limmer, Rabbi Seth M. and Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, eds. *Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority*. New York: CCAR Press, 2018.

Lindner, Eileen. *Thus Far on the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy*. Louisville: Witherspoon Press, 2006. (available through CDF webstore.)

Moss III, Otis. *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of Despair*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2015.

Myers, Bryant. *Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2011.

Myers, Ched and Matthew Colwell. *Our God Is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012.

Parker, Evelyn. *The Sacred Selves of Adolescent Girls: Hard Stories of Race, Class, and Gender*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2010.

Reyes, Patrick. *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2021.



## CDF ADVOCATES' BOOK CLUBS (ABCS)

—*Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2016.

Rich, John A. *Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 2009.

Schindler, Rabbi Judith and Judy Seldin-Cohen. *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America*. New York: CCAR Press, 2018.

Secours, Molly. *White Privilege Pop Quiz: Reflecting on Whiteness*. Independently published, 2020.

Salvatierra, Alexia and Peter Heltzel. *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2013.

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. New York: One World, 2015 reprint.

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.

T'ruah. *Handbook for Jewish Communities Fighting Mass Incarceration* (available for download at <https://truah.org/resources/handbook-for-jewish-communities-fighting-mass-incarceration/>)

Wolf, Janet. *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*. New York: United Methodist Women, 2019. (Available through the [CDF webstore](#). A four-session study guide is available in English, Spanish, and Korean at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org).)

Wong, Kent, Ana Luz Gonzalez and James M. Lawson Jr. *Nonviolence and Social Movements: The Teachings of Rev. James M. Lawson Jr.* Los Angeles: UCLA Labor Center, 2016. (available through CDF webstore.)

Wright, Almeda. *The Spiritual Lives of Young African Americans*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

## Sample Book Group Reading Schedules

### CDF Advocates' Book Club 2021 Selections for All Congregations and Communities:

September/October: *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children* by Shannon Daley-Harris (Chapters 1-6, 8, and 12)

November/December: *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors* by Marian Wright Edelman

January/February: *Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice* by Gregory C. Ellison II

March/April: *Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America* by Peter Edelman

May/June: *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive* by Patrick B. Reyes

### CDF Advocates' Book Club 2021 Selections for Churches:

September/October: *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children* by Shannon Daley-Harris

November/December: *Thus Far on the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy* by Eileen W. Lindner

January/February: *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* by Janet Wolf

March/April: *Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth, A Reader ed.* Reginald Blount and Virginia Lee

May/June: *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive* by Patrick B. Reyes

July: Attend (virtually or in-person) CDF's Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry at CDF Haley Farm July 18-22, 2022.

### CDF Advocates' Book Club 2021—Focus on Organizing Strategies

October: *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* by Alicia Garza

November: *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World* by Alexia Salvatierra (for churches), *Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority* by Rabbi Seth M. Limmer and Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner (for synagogues)

December: *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* by William J. Barber II

January: *Nonviolence and Social Movements: The Teachings of Rev. James M. Lawson Jr.* by Kent Wong, Ana Luz Gonzalez, and James M. Lawson, Jr. (Optional: Watch a video interview with Kent Wong and Rev. James Lawson <https://www.labor.ucla.edu/nonviolence/>)

February: *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice* by Mariame Kaba



## CDF ADVOCATES' BOOK CLUBS (ABCS)

March: *Ferguson & Faith: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community* by Leah Gunning Francis

April: *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Kullors and asha bandele

May: *The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQI Activism* by Adrian Brooks

June: *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* by Janet Wolf (for churches); *Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews, and America* by Rabbi Judith Schindler and Judy Seldin-Cohen (for synagogues)

### CDF Advocates Book Club 2021—Focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Childhood Trauma, and Trauma-Informed Care

October/November:

- Read *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation* by Jonathan Kozol.
- Watch videos created by young people as part of CDF's Youth Voices Storytelling Fellowship coming soon to CDF's website.
- Introduce participants to the National Council on Family Relations resources related to adverse childhood circumstances, childhood traumatic stress, and more: <https://www.ncfr.org/index.php/cfle-network/summer-2017-ACEs/aces-resources-family-life-educators>. Acquaint them as well with the family-friendly resources at PBS Kids <https://pbskids.org/learn/when-something-scary-happens/>.

December/January:

- Read *Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men* by John A. Rich.
- Read *The Sacred Selves of Adolescent Girls: Hard Stories of Race, Class, and Gender* by Evelyn Parker.

March/April:

- Watch Black Boys documentary.
- Read *Cut Dead But Still Alive: Caring for African American Young Men* by Gregory C. Ellison II.

May/June:

- Engage with resources developed by your faith community for trauma-informed care and responses. For example, the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church developed a four-part Trauma Informed Ministry program: <https://www.westohioumc.org/tim>, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College developed the resource "Trauma, Healing, Resilience," <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/introduction-trauma-healing-resilience-rabbi-jessica-rosenberg>, and the North Carolina Council of Churches has resources for becoming a trauma informed faith community at <https://www.ncchurches.org/sacred-series-toolkit-becoming-a-trauma-informed-faith-community/>





## CDF ADVOCATES' BOOK CLUBS (ABCS)

### CDF Advocates Book Club 2021—Focus on Dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

October: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson

November: *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* by Kelly Brown Douglas

December: *Ferguson & Faith: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community* by Leah Gunning Francis

January: *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice* by Mariame Kaba

February: Watch the documentary “Black Boys” <https://www.peacocktv.com/watch/asset/movies/documentary/black-boys/0ec3eefe-f60f-3d73-921b-c4307e571a0b>

March: *Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood* by Patrick B. Reyes

April: *Practicing Resurrection: Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* by Janet Wolf (for churches); Handbook for Jewish Communities Fighting Mass Incarceration created by T'ruah (for synagogues)

Additional video resource: Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth/Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network video on virtual reality (VR) experience of juveniles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joIgM2LLllc>

### CDF Child Advocates Book Club 2021 for Bi-Weekly Church Group—Reading and Discussing One Chapter per Week, Culminating in Participation in CDF's Proctor Institute

Mid-October-Mid-November: *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* by Janet Wolf

- Use or adapt four-week study guide prepared by United Methodist Women
- Skip Thanksgiving week

December and January: *Thus Far on the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy* by Eileen W. Lindner

- Skip two weeks for Christmas and New Years

February, March, and April: *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children* by Shannon Daley-Harris

- Read one chapter each week for twelve weeks, using the discussion and reflection questions at the end of each chapter.

April, May, and June: *Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth*, Reginald Blount and Virginia Lee, eds.

- Read one chapter per week for nine weeks—omitting chapter 3 excerpted from *Thus Far on the Way: Toward a Theology of Child Advocacy*
- Skip Holy Week and Easter week. (Alternatively, read *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman.)

July: Attend (virtually or in-person) CDF's Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry held at CDF Haley Farm in Clinton, TN, from July 18-22, 2022.

## CDF Advocates' Book Club Discussion Guide

### *Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children*

By Shannon Daley-Harris

(Discussion Guide prepared by Dr. Eileen W. Lindner, Proctor Theologian-in-Residence)

In *Hope for the Future*, veteran child advocate and long-term CDF colleague Dr. Shannon Daley-Harris has authored both a wise and thoughtful primer on the relationship of faith commitments to the vocation of child advocacy. It serves also as a kind of “spiritual survival kit” for practitioners of the art. Drawn from scriptural reflections delivered at annual women’s spiritual retreats held at CDF Haley Farm, each chapter will provide encouragement, inspiration, and solace whether read in the context of a group book club or in the solitary reflections of those who pray and work for the well-being of all our children.

Delving deeply into scripture and then providing examples of historic and contemporary applications of scripture’s lessons, Daley-Harris here offers a cool drink to slake the thirst of many child advocates, parents, pastors, and teachers whose tireless efforts better the lives of children in diverse contexts across the nation. Child advocacy is often overlooked and undersold as a form of fidelity to scripture and the call of the Holy One to live lives of service, kindness, justice, and peace. In this volume one cannot miss the depth of scriptural underpinnings in both Hebrew and Christian teachings compelling the faithful to enable children in the lives for which they were created.

Each chapter concludes with a number of questions for reflection that will provide a jumping off point for book clubs or a stimulus to thought for those reading the book as a part of personal meditation. A particularly appealing feature is that Daley-Harris includes questions that readers might wish to pose in conversation with the children and youth in their lives. This too is a pastoral gesture knowing that child advocates draw renewed strength from direct contact with the children who are so central to their own sense of vocation and calling. Taken as a whole this book will be a companion for advocates of all kinds as they seek the faithful way on behalf of all God’s children.

#### **Questions for Individual Contemplation or Group Discussion**

1. In this book Shannon Daley-Harris identifies three stages of the journey to becoming an ongoing advocate for justice for children. She refers to these as “Calling”—that first sense that faithfulness requires your involvement; “Challenging”—that is, sticking with the task when confronted by seemingly insuperable difficulties; and “Sustaining”—that is, going the distance until justice is achieved. Individually or as a group, trace your own path through these stages, mapping out where you are right now and how you might find the resolve to move forward.
2. The examples given in the book include both stories of renowned and powerful people who take a stand for justice and modest examples of everyday men, women, and children who give of what little they have so others might prosper. Can you list aloud or in your prayer life various people of diverse means, ages, races, and circumstances who have shown you an example of advocating for God’s children?



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3. In the concluding chapter, "Godspeed," Daley-Harris makes the point that time is of the essence in our work. Childhood itself is fleeting and a delay in education, food, juvenile justice or child care programs is likely to deprive a whole generation of children. How can you better express your "holy impatience" to indifferent lawmakers, administrators, or others with the power to move with all deliberate speed? What ways can you, along with other child advocates, make clear the urgency of children's needs? Are there examples you can think of in scripture or in the lives of those who have helped secure freedom and justice for others that were effective in demonstrating the "urgency of now"?

## CDF Advocates' Book Club Discussion Guide

### *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*

By Marian Wright Edelman

In *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors* Marian Wright Edelman offers a rare and poignant glimpse into the making of a remarkable life. Largely autobiographical, this is an outward-looking memoir, not of her own considerable accomplishments, but focusing on those who enabled and enriched her formative years. Her faith-fueled passion for justice for the youngest among us has shaped more than a half century of child advocacy which continues to challenge the American promises to all our children.

#### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Ms. Edelman writes, "I am grateful beyond words for the lanterns shared in this memoir..." As she recounts her own trajectory how does this sense of gratitude and obligation serve to light her way?
2. The lanterns so crucial to Ms. Edelman's formation range from the learned to those without formal education. Some are personal acquaintances and others, like Harriet Tubman, figures from history. Try to identify the common traits that these lanterns possessed and how those traits served as inspiration to a young girl.
3. Which of the many lanterns identified here speak to your own striving for a life of meaning and purpose? For Ms. Edelman, much of the darkness dispelled by the lanterns who lit her way was caused by the long and tortured history of racial injustice in America. Who are the lanterns in 21<sup>st</sup> century America to whom young people might look for illumination and inspiration?
4. *Lanterns* concludes with "A Parent's Pledge" and "Twenty-Five More Lessons for Life." For your own life and circumstance, how would you amend this pledge and these lessons?
5. Ms. Edelman herself joins the ranks of those whose comments are on the book jacket—Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Robert Coles, and Jonathan Kozol—as a great source of illumination. Who in your community and context lights the way? How do your own efforts serve to give greater visibility to a better, fairer, way of life?

#### Suggested Actions for CDF Advocates' Book Clubs

Look for opportunities to be a "lantern" in a child or young person's life. National organizations like the Boys' and Girls' Clubs and Big Brothers/Big Sisters are good possibilities, in addition to local groups. Head Start and child care programs can often use volunteers to read to or provide other support to the children in their care. Young people aging out of the foster care system can also use the support of caring individuals and congregations.