

# LIBRARY LINKS

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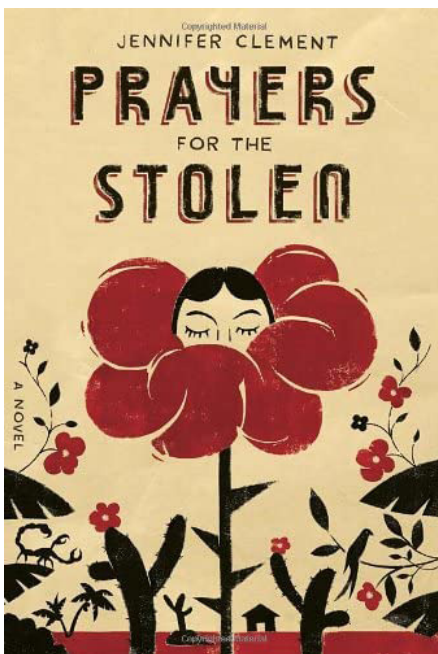


# EXPERIENCING A NEW PERSPECTIVE

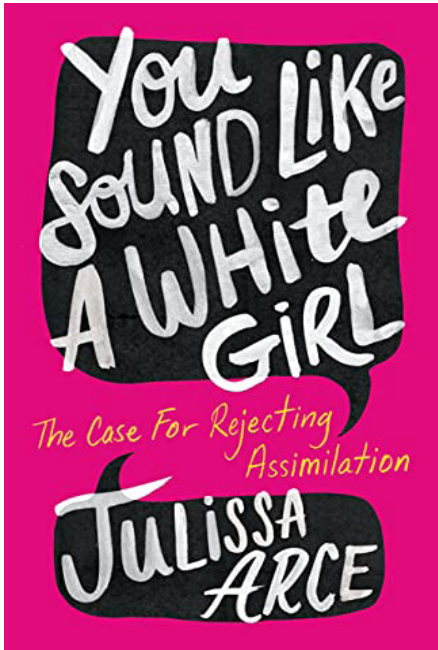
BY SAVANNA ROMERO

Books have a profound ability to transform, inform, inspire, and connect. Great books make the reader feel something and instill a desire to act. With that in mind, why is it so important to have representation of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) voices in literature? The answer is rather simple. Minority representation allows the reader to find communities based on their own life experiences; in addition, showcasing BIPOC voices allows for readers to understand and empathize with others' experiences, and combat injustice. With the rise of social change, it is pertinent that individuals strive to understand and address the voices of the BIPOC community; but finding a place to start can be difficult!

Books are one of the best ways to understand communities apart from your own. Below is a short list highlighting four books, recommended by Utah Tech University students and staff, that strive to give voice to the BIPOC community.



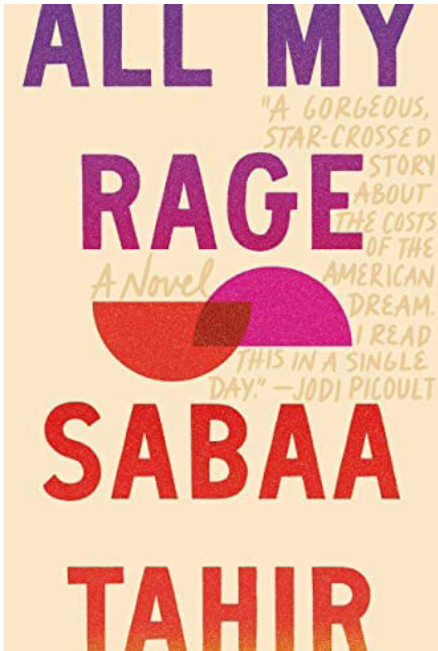
*Prayers for the Stolen*, by Jennifer Clement, is recommended by Utah Tech freshman, Emma Zarate. *Prayers for the Stolen*—a literary fiction novel—follows the story of Ladydi Garcia Martinez who lives in the mountains of Guerrero, Mexico. Ladydi faces many challenges, such as drug lords, lack of education, and limited opportunity. Emma explains how Jennifer Clement does a beautiful job of drawing attention to the “raw and real side of what women must endure [...] when it comes to equal rights.”



*You Sound Like a White Girl*, by Julissa Arce, is recommended by Utah Tech freshman, Lindsay Miles. Arce intertwines her personal experiences and commentary to depict the beauty that lies in cultural diversity in her non-fiction novel, *You Sound Like a White Girl*. Having been born in Mexico and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Arce puts into perspective the struggle that comes with trying to become “American.” Lindsay mentions how “there are many times throughout the book where I could see myself in Arce’s position.”



*Iron Widow*, by Xiran Jay Zhao, is a young-adult fantasy novel inspired by Chinese History. The novel was recommended by Samantha Greeson, a librarian for Utah Tech University. The plot follows the story of 18-year old Huaxia and her journey to uncover and put an end to a misogynistic system that is sacrificing innocent girls. Greeson explains how *Iron Widow* is a “cross between *Hunger Games* [and] *Ender’s Game* [with] a special flare that Xiran Zhao got just right!”



*All My Rage*, by Sabaa Tahir, is currently my favorite young adult contemporary fiction novel. Salahudin and Noor are Pakistani young adults growing up in Juniper, California. Their lives are riddled with difficulty, including sexism, death, abuse, and racism. Their story showcases the importance of family, friends, and rising above their circumstances and those who belittle them. While reading *All My Rage*, I felt like I was granted the opportunity to enter the minds of muslim teenagers growing up in America and gain empathy for those who struggle to feel accepted for their race. Before reading this book, I recommend searching up the trigger warnings.

I am extremely proud of my BIPOC culture, where I come from, and those who sacrificed and paved the way to give me a life of opportunity. Not only do such books connect me with my loved ones, but also they offer new perspectives on the beauty and pain that comes with other cultures and races. The first step to social change is understanding those who are different from ourselves. Books can offer this understanding and perspective. Reading from authors who represent the BIPOC community and showcase BIPOC characters is a powerful tool in correcting patterns of injustice and creating social change.



*photographed by Hailee Crouse.*

# GREATER THAN THEMSELVES: DIVERSITY IN DOCUTAH

BY TAE LAUFISO

DOCUTAH is a showcase for documentary filmmakers that highlights our film program at Utah Tech. Their vision is to “open hearts and minds to the world through beautifully crafted stories on film, promoting education while creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and community.” John Burns, Head of References and Electronic resources, says, “DOCUTAH is extremely diverse not only in the area of topics, but also in the vast array of cultures and people explored and featured in the films.” With an assortment of 30 feature films and 15 short films for this year, students can access films that reflect different lifestyles and cultures.

Students are able to experience the talent of these filmmakers and also be exposed to the diverse content that is so purposefully created.

Burns says, “It is important for students because of how it relates to the film program here at Utah Tech and because of the amazing range of topics the collection covers”. Filmmaking is a very effective way of bringing a community together in unity thanks to the emotional effect of authentic storytelling and visual documentary.

One inspiring 2022 short film is called “54 Miles from Home” directed by Claire Haughey. This brief documentary is focused on the fight for civil rights in 1965. It showcases three black families who offered their homes for those that participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery. The videography provided actual footage of the homes and had the grandchildren talk about their ancestors and the courage they had. There are hundreds of diverse films in the collection that are available for everyone to see! The film captures so much emotion and history, while beautifully teaching its audience about the sacrifice these families made for something greater than themselves.



# BRIDGING THE GAP

BY TAE LA LAUFISO

The Learning Services at Utah Tech are inclusive to all students and focused on providing help to those who may encounter disadvantages in school. The writing centers and tutors are flexible in assistance as students can walk in for help in general tutoring, departmental tutoring, or even be tutored online if that is what works best. You can locate the Writing Center in the Holland Centennial Commons building in room 421.



*photographed by Hailee Crouse.*

Rob Gray, the Director of Learning Services, talks about how the tutoring they provide is multifaceted. “We don’t tutor just school subjects but we tutor good study habits. So students learn about biology, but also how to best take notes in class.” There are many students who face pressures from family about receiving their education and the support from home can vary depending on cultural backgrounds and perspective. This factor plays a role in why the tutors also focus on teaching first generation students how to study, because those skills were not taught by parents or guardians in the home. Rob also states, “We serve all students and what we try to focus on is bridging those gaps.” The primary goal is to help everyone succeed and overcome the obstacles they face in obtaining an education.



*photographed by Hailee Crouse.*

## **CREDITS**

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