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   During his experiment in racial passing Griffin legitimately experienced the sort of degrading racial prejudice suffered by African Americans on a daily basis.

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   By focusing his efforts at racial passing on skin color and economic conditions, Griffin inadvertently accepts the assumptions that he is theoretically attempting to disprove.
3. *Black Like Me* Is About Humanity, Not Race

*Sarfraz Manzoor*

The enduring popularity of *Black Like Me* can be attributed to the fact that the book is not exclusively about 1950s racism but is, rather, a universal exploration of human experience and all its unexpected kindness and cruelty.

4. *Black Like Me* Is Regaining Popularity Among African Americans in the Twenty-First Century

*Jay Copp*

Although it was initially well received by African American readers and reviewers, *Black Like Me* was widely criticized by black intellectuals throughout the 1960s and 1970s. But by the 1990s the book had again been embraced by many African American thinkers, especially educators.

5. Analyzing the Enduring Effectiveness of *Black Like Me*

*Hugh Rank*

A detailed examination of the rhetorical techniques used in *Black Like Me* explains why the work is so effective and how it has remained popular and important for more than fifty years.

6. *Black Like Me* Was Cold War Propaganda

*Nelson Hathcock*

By simultaneously exposing America’s hypocritical racism and making clear that democracy and free-market capitalism offer viable routes to equality, *Black Like Me* constitutes the perfect piece of pro-American Cold War propaganda.

7. Families Switch Ethnic Identities

*Lynn Elber*

A television series in which families switch races, enacting the same experiment as John Howard Griffin’s years later, reveals the difficulty for whites and blacks to see the world through each other’s eyes.
8. Students’ Accounts of Discrimination Enhance Their Understanding of Black Like Me
Jennifer Haberling and Brian White

Having students generate their own case studies of discrimination and bias in their lives helps them see that the fundamental prejudices Griffin exposed continue to negatively affect people’s lives.

Chapter 3: Contemporary Perspectives on Race

1. Racism Is Internalized in Modern America

Nadra Kareem Nittle

Media messages are very powerful and are often so successful at communicating the biases of the majority culture that they can cause minority members to unconsciously internalize, and even promote, this demeaning bigotry.

2. African American Children Still Suffer from a Negative Self-Image

Hazel Trice Edney

Despite a half-century of progress in race relations, African American preschoolers still show the same racial biases and poor self-esteem that were documented in the 1950s and instrumental in demonstrating the need to end “separate but equal” school segregation.

3. Talking About Racism Is Awkward and Painful but Vitally Important

Jen Graves

In the twenty-first century, de facto racial segregation has reasserted itself in many urban and suburban parts of the United States. This is not the result of a lack of rights under the law, but a lack of consciousness of racial biases among most people. Openly discussing such biases is difficult but necessary.
4. American Public Education Still Fails Students of Color

*RiShawn Biddle*

More than half a century after the end of school segregation, the American educational system continues to often show contempt for African American students. This is not the result of simple racism, but of a poorly designed teacher-training system.

5. An Unexpected Epilogue for Two Civil Rights Icons

*David Margolick*

A very unlikely friendship develops between two women—one black, the other white—who, as teenagers, inadvertently became the symbols of segregation, racially motivated hate, and the slow progress of the nonviolent civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

For Further Discussion

For Further Reading

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