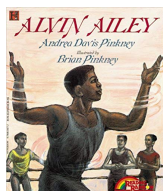


Orchard Reads presents

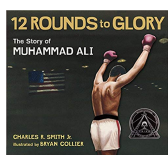
A Comprehensive Black History Children's Book List

Picture Book Biographies (In Alphabetical Order)



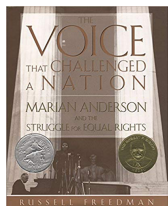
Alvin Ailey (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

A beautifully-illustrated account of famed black dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey.



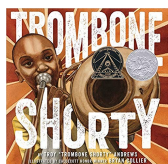
Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammed Ali (Charles R. Smith Jr.)

An in-depth look at the life of world-famous boxer Muhammed Ali.



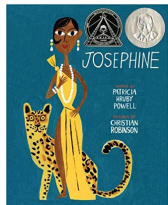
The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights (Russell Freedman)

The journey of celebrated vocalist Marian Anderson from having a limited career because she was black to singing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939.



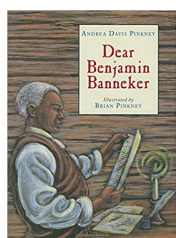
Trombone Shorty (Troy Andrews)

An autobiographical account of the life of trombone player Troy Andrews and the incredible music culture of New Orleans.



Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker (Patricia Hruby Powell)

A look at the life of Josephine Baker, performer and civil rights activist.



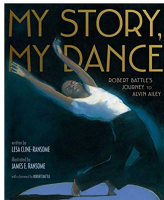
Dear Benjamin Banneker (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

The story of Benjamin Banneker, a black man who dared to write to Thomas Jefferson in 1791 to attack the institution of slavery.



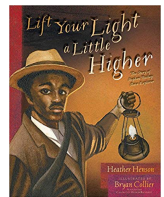
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (Javaka Steptoe)

Learn about Jean-Michel Basquiat's trailblazing collage-style paintings in this Caldecott-winning story.



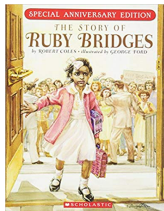
My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey (Lisa Cline-Ransome)

A biography of dancer Robert Battle, who ultimately became the director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



Lift Your Light a Little Higher: The Story of Stephen Bishop: Slave-Explorer (Heather Henson)

The fascinating account of Stephen Bishop, a world-famous explorer of Mammoth Cave.



The Story of Ruby Bridges (Robert Coles)

In 1960, young Ruby Bridges became the first African-American child to integrate into an all-white New Orleans elementary school.



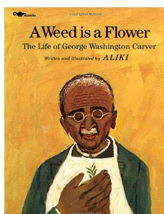
A Song for Gwendolyn Brooks (Alice Faye Duncan)

The poetic tale of Gwendolyn Brooks, the first black author to win the Pulitzer Prize.



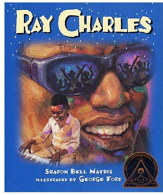
When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop (Laban Carrick Hill)

The story of the origination of Hip Hop music by Clive Campbell, better known as DJ "Kool Herc."



A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver (Aki)

An informative introduction to the life and times of former slave and later college professor and farmer George Washington Carver.



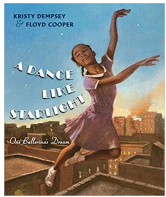
Ray Charles (Sharon Bell Mathis)

An interesting look into the incredible career of blind jazz musician Ray Charles.



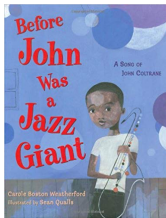
Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman (Nikki Grimes)

The inspirational story of aviator Elizabeth Coleman, who ultimately became the first African-American female pilot.



A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream (Kristy Dempsey)

The story of the first African-American prima ballerina, Janet Collins, and the work she put in to become a famous ballerina in Harlem in the 1950s.



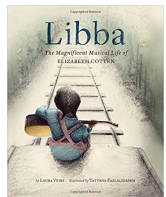
Before John Was a Jazz Giant (Carol Boston Weatherford)

This book highlights the childhood of jazz legend John Coltrane as he grew up in the South in the 1930s.



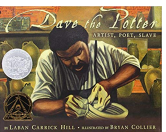
Firebird (Misty Copeland)

Famed ballerina Misty Copeland encourages aspiring young ballerinas with her story.



Libba (Laura Veirs)

Meet and get to know Elizabeth Cotten, one of America's greatest folk musicians.



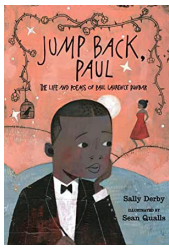
Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave (Laban Carrick Hill)

The story of Dave, a slave who was also a noted poet, potter, and artist living in South Carolina in the 1800s.



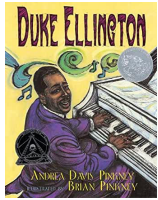
Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass (Dean Robbins)

Susan B. Anthony, a champion of women's rights, and Frederick Douglass, a civil rights activist, get together for tea and compare stories.



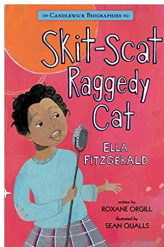
Jump Back, Paul: The Life and Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar (Sally Derby & Sean Qualls)

A unique picture book that tells the story of Paul Laurence Dunbar's life and contains more than 20 of his original poems.



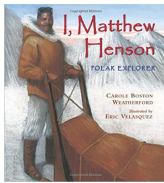
Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra (Brian & Andrea Pinkney)

An introduction to the life and talents of noted jazz pianist and composer Duke Ellington.



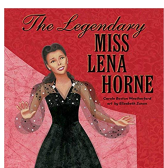
Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat: Ella Fitzgerald (Roxane Orgill)

A look at the life of jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald from her childhood through her illustrious career.



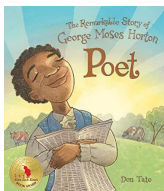
I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer (Carole Boston Weatherford)

The riveting story of explorer Matthew Henson's journey to the North Pole.



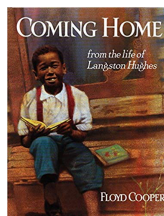
The Legendary Miss Lena Horne (Carole Boston Weatherford)

The inspiring story of singer and performer Lena Horne, who became the first black woman to sign a studio contract with MGM.



Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton (Don Tate)

Though enslaved and uneducated, George Moses Horton taught himself to read and then began prolifically composing poetry.



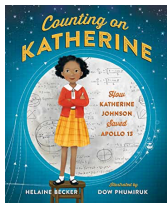
Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes (Floyd Cooper)

A beautifully-illustrated introduction to the life of writer and poet Langston Hughes.



Mae Among the Stars (Roda Ahmed)

A account of the life of Mae Jemison, the first black woman to travel in space.



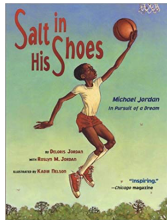
Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 (Helaine Becker & Tiem Dow Phumiruk)

NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson's early love for math contributed to her eventual role in saving lives and calculating moon landings.



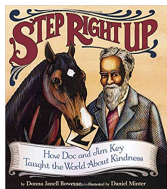
Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions (Chris Barton)

A fun look at NASA engineer Lonnie Johnson's life, with particular focus on his invention of the Super Soaker water gun.



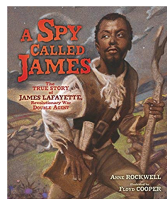
Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream (Deloris Jordan, Roslyn M. Jordan)

An inspirational biography of Michael Jordan, written by his mother and sister.



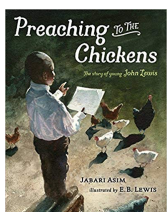
Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World About Kindness (Donna Janell Bowman)

A former slave teaches his horse how to read, write, add, subtract, and more.



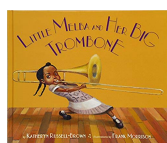
A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent (Anne Rockwell)

After serving as a spy for George Washington during the Revolutionary War, James Lafayette had to continue fighting for his own freedom long after the war was over.



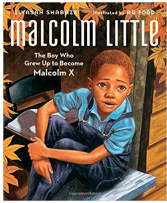
Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis (Jabari Asim)

A peek into the early years of civil rights activist John Lewis, which included preaching to the chickens on his family's farm.



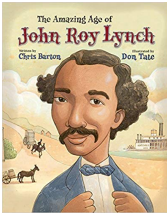
Little Melba and Her Big Trombone (Katheryn Russell-Brown)

An account of the life of Melba Liston, a noted trombone player and prominent player in the world of twentieth century Jazz.



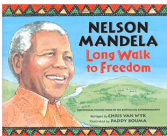
Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X (Ilyasah Shabazz)

A poignant look at the growing up years of Malcolm X, written by his daughter.



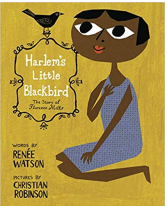
The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch (Chris Barton)

After being freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, John Roy Lynch rose to become Justice of the Peace and a U.S. Congressman.



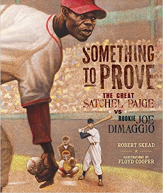
Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (Chris van Wyk)

The incredible story of Nelson Mandela's life and leadership in South Africa.



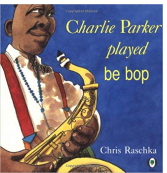
Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills (Renee Watson)

Born to former slaves, renowned singer Florence Mills had humble beginnings in Harlem but rose to stardom as a Broadway actress and singer.



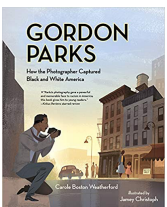
Something to Prove: The Great Satchel Paige vs. Rookie Joe DiMaggio (Rob Skead)

The story of pitching great Satchel Paige and his matchup against a Major League white team, plus rookie Joe DiMaggio.



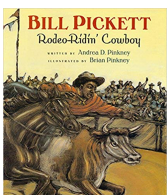
Charlie Parker Played Be Bop (Chris Raschka)

A colorful introduction to the life and times of jazz saxophone player Charlie Parker.



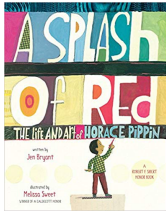
Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America (Carole Boston Weatherford)

Before becoming the first famous black director in Hollywood, Gordon Parks was a photographer who brought light to segregation and racial injustice.



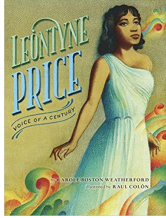
Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin' Cowboy (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

The true story of cowboy, rodeo performer, and Hall of Fame inductee Bill Pickett.



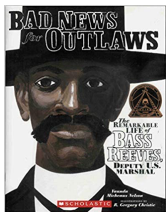
A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin (Jen Bryant)

The fascinating true story of artist Horace Pippin, who not only was an incredible artist but was also shot while serving in the U.S. military during World War I.



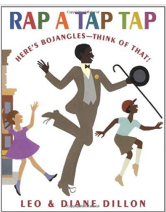
Leontyne Price: Voice of a Century (Carole Boston Weatherford)

Beloved opera star Leontyne Price grew up in small-town Mississippi in the 1930s but rose to fame with her leading roles at the Metropolitan Opera and around the world.



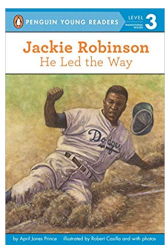
Bad News Outlaws: Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves (Vaunda Micheaux Nelson)

An account of the life of former slave Bass Reeves, the first American Deputy U.S. Marshal who lived west of the Mississippi River.



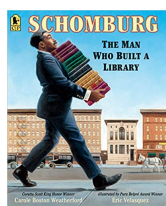
Rap A Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles -- Think of That! (Diane Dillon)

The lively, rhythmic biography of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, one of the most celebrated tap dancers in history.



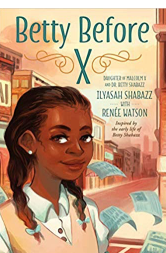
Jackie Robinson: He Led the Way (April Jones Prince)

A wonderful introduction to Jackie Robinson, the first black baseball player to play in the Major Leagues.



Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library (Carole Boston Weatherford)

The unique story of Arturo Schomburg, an Afro-Puerto Rican man who collected books about African-Americans and later donated them to the New York Public Library



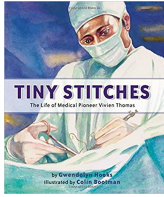
Betty Before X (Ilyasah Shabazz)

The biography of American Civil Rights activist Dr. Betty Shabazz, the wife of Malcolm X, written by their daughter.



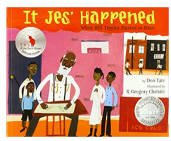
Fast Enough: Bessie Stringfield's First Ride (Joel Gill)

The story of Bessie Stringfield, the first black woman to travel solo across the USA on a motorcycle.



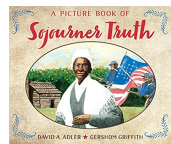
Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas (Gwendolyn Hooks)

Young black medical assistant Vivien Thomas helped to develop a complex surgical technique for juvenile open heart surgery but wasn't given credit because of his color.



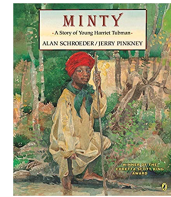
It Jes' Happened (Don Tate)

Former slave and sharecropper Bill Traylor discovers his ability to draw at the age of 81.



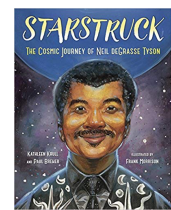
A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth (David A. Adler)

An introduction to the life of a former slave who spoke out strongly against slavery.



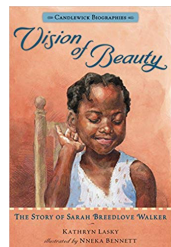
Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman (Alan Schroeder)

Originally named Araminta, or "Minty" for short, this book chronicles the early years of courageous Underground Railroad leader Harriet Tubman.



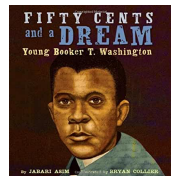
Starstruck: The Cosmic Journey of Neil deGrasse Tyson (Kathleen Krull)

A portrait of the life of astronomer Neil DeGrasse Tyson, whose love of space from a young age inspired him to become a world-renowned scientist and astrophysicist.



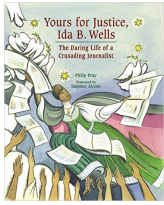
Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker (Kathryn Lasky)

Born in 1867 shortly after the slaves were freed, Sarah Breedlove Walker grew up to become a successful businesswoman.



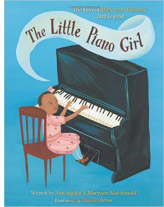
Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington (Jabari Asim)

The incredible story of Washington's rise from slavery to become a renowned author.



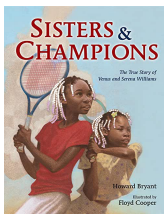
Yours for Justice, Ida B. Wells: The Daring Life of a Crusading Journalist (Philip Dray)

A fascinating look into the life of former slave, journalist, and activist Ida B. Wells.



The Little Piano Girl: The Story of Mary Lou Williams, Jazz Legend (Ann Ingalls)

The interesting tale of jazz pianist Mary Lou Williams, from her early days as a piano prodigy to her later career as a professional musician.



Sisters and Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams (Howard Bryant)

An engaging look at the childhoods and careers of the tennis stars, with particular focus on their relationship as sisters.

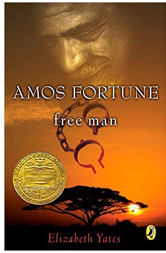


Run the Show Like CEO Oprah Winfrey (Caroline Moss)

The account of major event in the life of Oprah Winfrey, with ten key lessons for the reader to learn from her life.

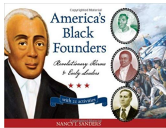
Early American Colonialism

Amos Fortune: Free Man (Elizabeth Yates)



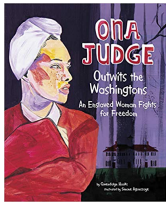
An incredible look at the life of 18th century Amos Fortune, from his passage on a slave ship from Africa, to his slavery, to his eventual freedom and career as a tanner.

America's Black Founders: Revolutionary Heroes & Early Leaders with 21 Activities (Nancy I. Sanders)



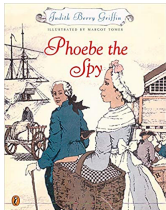
A look at lesser known early colonial black leaders like Cripus Attucks, James Lafayette, and Phillis Wheatley.

Ona Judge Outwits the Washingtons: An Enslaved Woman Fights for Freedom (Gwendolyn Hooks)



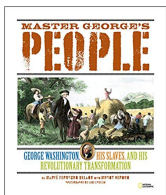
The true story of one of the Washington's most skilled slaves, Ona Judge, who escaped to freedom but was pursued by the Washingtons for years.

Phoebe the Spy (Judith Griffin)



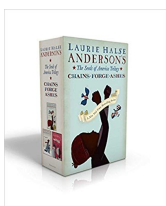
The fascinating true story of a slave girl who overheard a plot to poison George Washington and ultimately saved him from it.

Master George's People: George Washington, His Slaves, and His Revolutionary Transformation (Marfe Ferguson Delano)

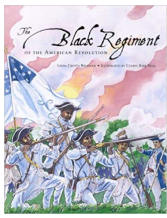


An intimate look at the slaves who lived and worked at Mount Vernon and the tension between Washington's pursuit of national freedom and his keeping of slaves.

The Seeds of America Trilogy (Laurie Halse Anderson)

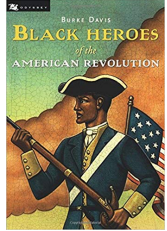


Three slaves in 1776 live between the tension of America's burgeoning freedom and their own bondage.



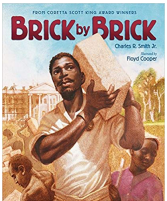
The Black Regiment of the American Revolution (Linda Crotta Brennan)

The little-known story of a Black Regiment who fought with distinction at both Yorktown and the Battle of Rhode Island during the American Revolution.



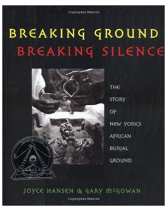
Black Heroes of the American Revolution (Burke Davis)

A compilation of stories about brave black men and women who made significant contributions in the fight for American independence.



Brick By Brick (Charles R. Smith)

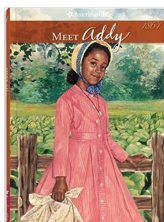
An in-depth look at the slaves who built the White House and the process that went into the construction.



Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence: The Story of New York's African Burial Ground (Joyce Hansen)

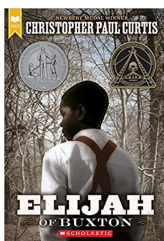
A fascinating look at what scientists discovered when they uncovered a large grave with the bodies of colonial-era slaves inside.

Era of Slavery



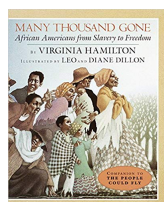
Meet Addy (Connie Porter)

The first book in the six-book American Girl series that chronicles the life of 9-year-old Addy, a runaway slave who makes a new life in Philadelphia.



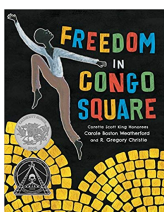
Elijah of Buxton (Christopher Paul Curtis)

11-year-old Elijah is born free in a colony of runaway slaves in Canada, but he must prove himself by tracking down a thief and embarking on a dangerous journey.



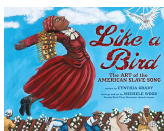
Many Thousand Gone (Virginia Hamilton)

This renowned compilation traces the roots and history of slavery in America.



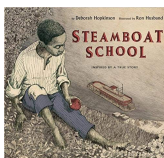
Freedom in Congo Square (Carole Boston Weatherford)

The history of a little-known area in 19th century New Orleans where slaves could come sing, dance, and play music together.



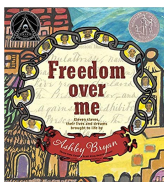
Like a Bird: The Art of the American Slave Song (Cynthia Grady)

A compilation of stories behind well-known slave songs, with sheet music included.



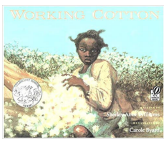
Steamboat School (Deborah Hopkinson)

A school for free blacks in Missouri must be moved to a boat on the Mississippi River when a law is changed forbidding black education.



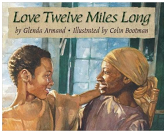
Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan (Ashley Bryan)

A tribute to the lives and aspirations of 11 slaves, based on real historical documents.



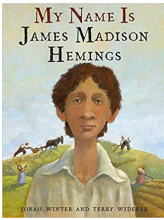
Working Cotton (Sherley Anne Williams)

A very raw, honest look at a child's long day spent working in a cotton field.



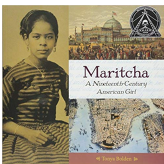
Love Twelve Miles Long (Glenda Armand)

A fictional portrayal of young Frederick Douglass and his mom conversing about why they must live on separate plantations.



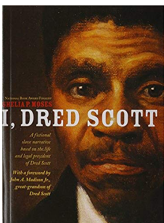
My Name is James Madison Hemings (Jonah Winter)

A look at the everyday life of James Madison Hemings, the son of Thomas Jefferson and his slave, Sally Hemings, with noted comparison to Jefferson's white children.



Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl (Tonya Bolden)

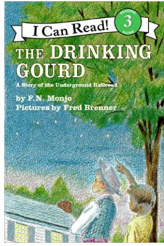
A unique portrait of the life of a free black girl in New York City in the mid-1800s.



I, Dred Scott (Shelia P. Moses)

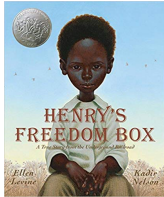
A fictional portrayal of the life of Dred Scott and the famous court case that bears his name.

The Underground Railroad



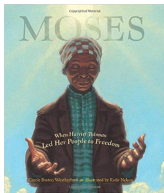
The Drinking Gourd (F.N. Monjo)

A 10-year-old white Quaker boy tells the story of a runaway slave family coming to hide at his home on their way to freedom.



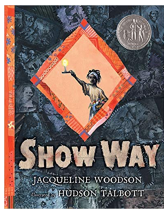
Henry's Freedom Box (Ellen Levine)

The incredible true story of a slave who mailed himself to freedom from a warehouse in a wooden crate.



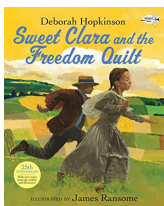
Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom (Carole Boston Weatherford)

A moving tribute to Harriet Tubman and her tireless work on the Underground Railroad.



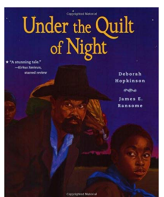
Show Way (Jacqueline Woodson)

A meaningful explanation of the age-old practice of sewing patches in quilts that were secret maps for slaves to follow to freedom.



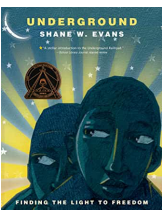
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt (Deborah Hopkinson)

The tale of Clara, a slave and seamstress, who sews freedom quilts to assist the work of the Underground Railroad.



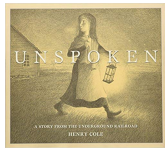
Under the Quilt of Night (Deborah Hopkinson)

A sequel to the book above about a runaway slave who uses a quilt to navigate the Underground Railroad.



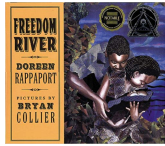
Underground (Shane W. Evans)

The story of one family's journey toward freedom on the Underground Railroad.



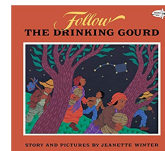
Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad (Henry Cole)

A young white girl who finds a runaway slave in her barn must decide what to do.



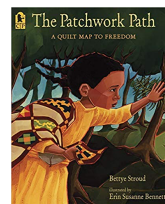
Freedom River (Doreen Rappaport)

This well-loved book is based on the true story of former slave John Parker, who risked his life to help slaves on the Underground Railroad.



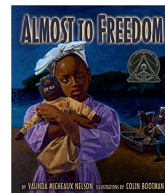
Follow the Drinking Gourd (Jeanette Winter)

Peg Leg Joe assists slaves on the Underground Railroad by pointing them to the Drinking Gourd (the Big Dipper).



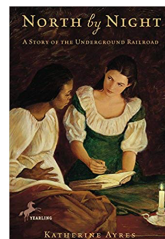
The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom (Bettye Stroud)

Young Hannah and her father use a patchwork quilt as a map to lead them to freedom in Canada.



Almost to Freedom (Vaunda Micheaux Nelson)

A young slave girl's doll tells the story of their flight to freedom on the Underground Railroad.



North By Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad (Katherine Ayres)

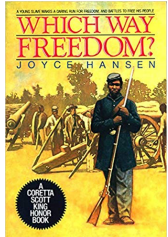
A middle-grade chapter book about the home of a white family that serves as a stop on the Underground Railroad in Ohio in 1851.

Civil War and Reconstruction



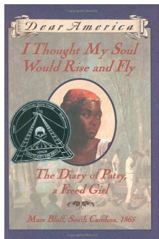
Mary Bowser and the Civil War Spy Ring (Enigma Alberti)

An exciting middle-grade book about Mary Bowser, a black spy who gained critical information from the Confederate forces.



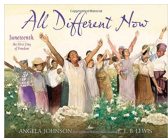
Which Way Freedom? (Joyce Hansen)

The story of a slave who was sold away from his mother and ran away at the beginning of the Civil War to try and find her again.



I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl, Mars Bluff, South Carolina 1865 (Joyce Hansen)

A late-elementary book about a freed slave girl who ultimately becomes a teacher.



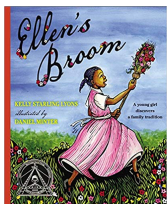
All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom (Angela Johnson)

A little girl tells about her experience on June 19, 1865, the day that freedom came to the final slaves in the South.



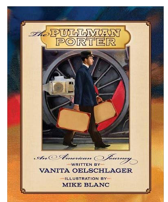
Juneteenth for Mazie (Floyd Cooper)

A little girl looks forward to celebrating Juneteenth, the day the last of the slaves were finally free after the Civil War.



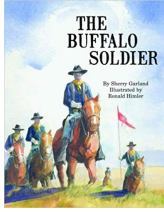
Ellen's Broom (Kelly Starling Lyons)

A young girl watches her parents legally marry after they are free, but they still hold on to their old tradition of "jumping the broom."



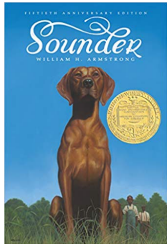
The Pullman Porter (Vanita Oelschlager)

The fascinating story of Pullman porters, black men hired after the Civil War to serve whites on train cars.



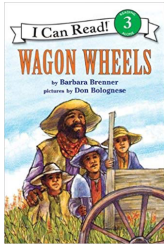
The Buffalo Soldier (Sherry Garland)

Many African-Americans headed west to join the military after the Civil War, and they were called "Buffalo Soldiers" by local Native Americans.



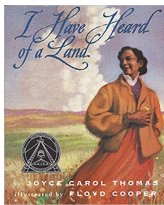
Sonder (William H. Armstrong)

A poor sharecropping family relies on their dog, Sonder, to hunt and put food on their table, until one day the father is unfairly taken away by the Sheriff.



Wagon Wheels (Barbara Brenner)

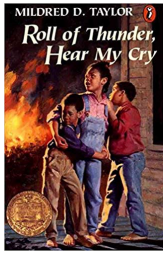
Three African-American brothers have wilderness adventures as they pioneer west in 1870's America.



I Have Heard of a Land (Joyce Carol Thomas)

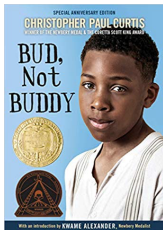
Thousands of slaves head to Oklahoma in the 1880s to seek out new lives and families for their future.

Great Depression-Era Black History (1920s-1930s)



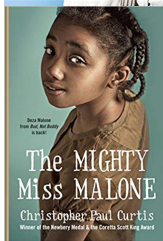
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Mildred D. Taylor)

An incredibly riveting account of the Logan family and their fight to keep their own land in Mississippi among racial tensions and violence.



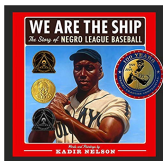
Bud, Not Buddy (Christopher Paul Curtis)

A young boy from Flint, Michigan goes searching for his father in 1936.



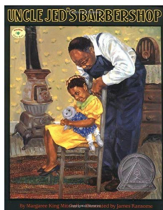
The Mighty Miss Malone (Christopher Paul Curtis)

Deza is a brilliant girl in Depression-era Gary, Indiana, but her family must leave to find her father, who has gone to Michigan to look for work.



We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball (Kadir Nelson)

An in-depth look at African-American baseball players and team owners who fought through segregation, poor conditions, and disrespect to do what they loved.



Uncle Jed's Barbershop (Margaree King Mitchell)

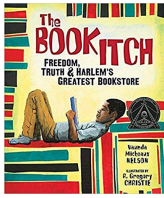
Sarah Jean's Uncle Jed used to travel around the segregated 1920s South to cut his clients' hair, but one day he finally got to open up his own shop.



Stella by Starlight (Sharon M. Draper)

Young Stella and her brother witness something they aren't supposed to see in the segregated South, and they must navigate the consequences.

The Harlem Renaissance (1920-1940)



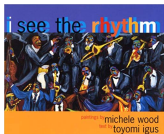
The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore (Vaunda Micheaux Nelson)

The story behind the founding of Harlem's National Memorial African Bookstore.



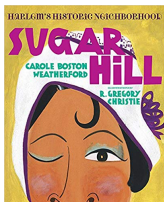
Blues Journey (Walter Dean Myers)

Blues-style verse paired with meaningful illustrations tributes the beauty of the blues.



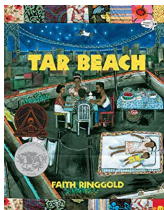
I See The Rhythm (Toyomi Igis)

A vibrant, poetic portrayal of different rhythms, from swing to blues to gospel.



Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood (Carole Boston Weatherford)

As you walk through Harlem's Sugar Hill neighborhood, you learn about the culture and people that made it a thriving black neighborhood during the Harlem Renaissance.



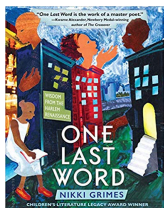
Tar Beach (Faith Ringgold)

An 8-year-old girl's dream has her flying over (and learning about) a 1939 Harlem neighborhood.



Jazzy Miz Mozetta (Brenda C. Roberts)

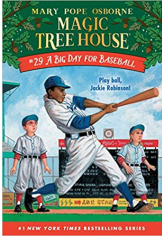
Spend a rhythmic, foot-tapping evening with Miz Mozetta and some of her old friends.



One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance (Nikki Grimes)

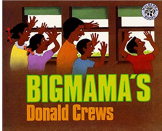
A poem collection inspired by famous writers from the Harlem Renaissance.

Black History in the 1940s-1950s



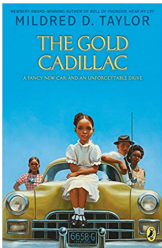
A Big Day for Baseball (Mary Pope Osborne)

Jack and Annie journey to 1947 Brooklyn where they become ball boys in a baseball game featuring Jackie Robinson.



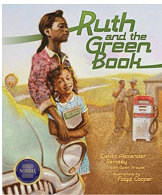
Bigmama's (Donald Crews)

Four children travel with their mother to visit their grandma in Florida for the summer.



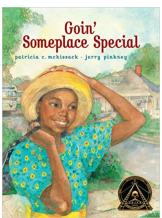
The Gold Cadillac (Mildred D. Taylor)

Two young black girls can't wait to drive their dad's new Cadillac from Ohio to Mississippi, but they are soon under suspicion because of their skin color.



Ruth and the Green Book (Calvin Alexander Ramsey)

Young Ruth and her family must consult The Green Book on their family trip to the South in order to find places that will serve them during the Jim Crow era.



Goin' Somewhere Special (Patricia C. McKissack)

A young girl's first solo bus ride opens her eyes to the realities of segregation and Jim Crow laws.



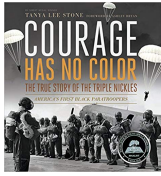
These Hands (Margaret H. Mason)

A young boy learns about segregation through the story of his Grandfather not being able to work in a bread factor in the 1950s.



Summer Sun Risin' (W. Nikola Lisa)

A young boy spends a full day working on his family's farm in 1950s Texas.



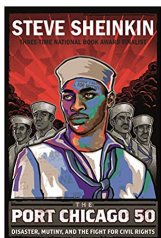
Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers (Tanya Lee Stone)

A portrait of America's first black paratroopers who fought the Japanese during World War II.



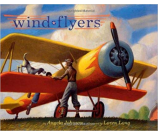
How High the Moon (Karyn Parsons)

A coming-of-age story of 12-year-old Ella, whose life is torn between her home in South Carolina and her mother's world in Boston during the Jim Crow era.



The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights (Steve Sheinkin)

The fascinating story of a huge explosion on a segregated Navy base in California during World War II and its aftermath.



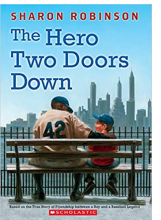
Wind Flyers (Angela Johnson, Loren Long)

The oft-forgotten story of one soldier from the Tuskegee Army, African-American military pilots who fought in World War II.



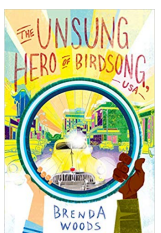
Midnight Without a Moon (Linda Williams Jackson)

This middle-grade book weaves the fictional story of Rose Lee Carter into real historical events that happened in 1955 Mississippi that laid groundwork for racial equality.



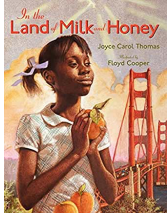
The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend (Sharon Robinson)

This book chronicles the true friendship between Jackie Robinson and his 8-year-old Jewish neighbor, Stephen Satlow.



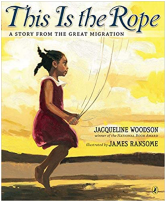
The Unsung Hero of Birdsong (Brenda Woods)

A young white boy befriends a black World War II vet in the Jim Crow era.



In the Land of Milk and Honey (Joyce Carol Thomas)

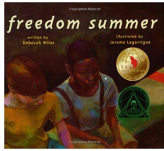
The true story of the author's move from Oklahoma to California in 1948, told from her perspective as a little girl.



This Is The Rope: A Story from the Great Migration (Jacqueline Woodson)

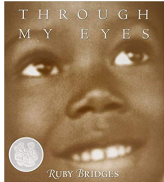
A little girl's family relocates from South Carolina to New York City during the Great Migration, but a rope is the tie that will bind her family together for generations.

Segregation



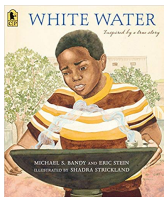
Freedom Summer (Deborah Wiles)

Two boys, one white and one black, are best friends who are thrilled when segregation is finally banned, but they realize the issue is deeper-rooted than they can understand.



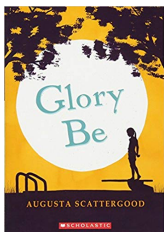
Through My Eyes (Ruby Bridges)

The autobiographical account of the first black child to attend an all-white school after segregation was finally outlawed.



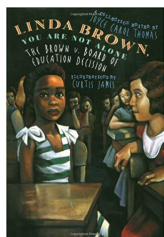
White Water (Michael S. Bandy)

The author recounts his own memory of being forced to drink from a dirty, gritty water fountain rather than the clean “whites only” one nearby.



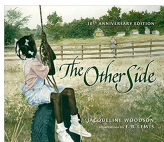
Glory Be (August Scattergood)

This book is based on true events that occurred at a segregated pool in Mississippi in 1964, told from the view point of an 11-year-old girl.



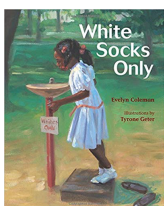
Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone: The Brown vs. Board of Education Decision (Joyce Carol Thomas)

Reflections on the desegregation of public schools by noted children’s authors.



The Other Side (Jacqueline Woodson)

Two girls become friends by the fence that separates the white and black parts of town.



White Socks Only (Evelyn Coleman)

A young girl in the segregated South thinks her white socks will allow her to drink from the “Whites Only” water fountain.

The Civil Rights Movement

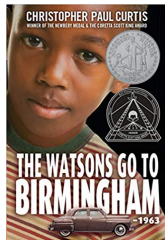
PENGUIN YOUNG READERS LEVEL 4

I Am Rosa Parks



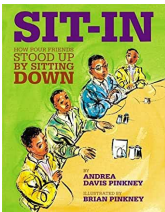
I Am Rosa Parks (Rosa Parks)

Rosa Parks' autobiographical description of her early life to the moment that defined the Civil Rights Movement — her refusal to give up her seat to a white man.



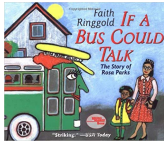
The Watsons Go To Birmingham 1963 (Christopher Paul Curtis)

The Watson family travels from their home in Michigan to family in Alabama and arrive just in time for one of the darkest moments in American history.



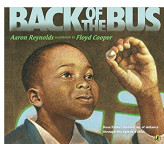
Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

A description of four college students who staged a peaceful protest, later called Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in.



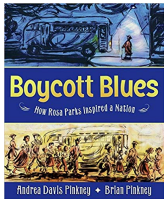
If A Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks (Faith Ringgold)

The bus tells the story of a woman named Rosa Parks who stood up for her freedom.



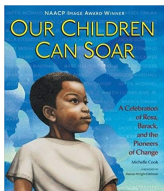
Back of the Bus (Aaron Reynolds)

A young boy on Rosa Parks' bus witnesses her protest and arrest.



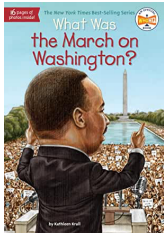
Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

A rhythmic tribute to Rosa Parks and all of the men and women who participated in the Montgomery bus boycott.



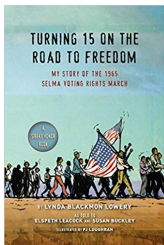
Our Children Can Soar (Michelle Cook)

The tracing of black history from the Civil Rights Movement to the election of the first black president, Barack Obama.



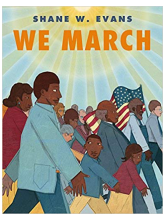
What Was the March on Washington? (Kathleen Krull)

A fact-filled short chapter book about the March on Washington's roll in the Civil Rights Movement.



Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March (Lynda Blackmon Lowery)

The memoir of Lynda Blackmon Lowery, the youngest person to march from Selma to Montgomery alongside MLK.



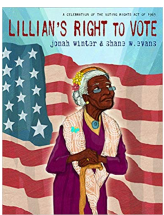
We March (Shane W. Evans)

A moving account of the March on Washington on August 28, 1963, which culminated with MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech.



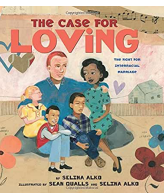
A Sweet Smell of Roses (Angela Johnson)

Two young girls sneak out of their house to see people gathering for a Civil Rights march.



Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Jonah Winter)

Published to celebrate the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a 100-year-old black woman reflects on the events that ultimately gave her the right to vote.



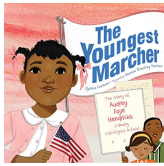
The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage (Selina Alko)

The story of the Loving family, whose case for interracial marriage went to the Supreme Court and enacted nationwide change.



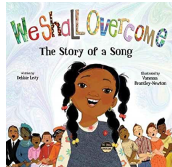
March: Book One (John Lewis)

A graphic novel written by activist John Lewis about his role in the Civil Rights movement. If you enjoy the first one, don't miss books two and three.



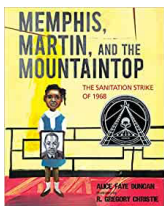
The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist (Cynthia Levinson and Vanessa Brantley-Newton)

Nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks participated in a civil rights protest and is the youngest known child to be arrested for her activism.



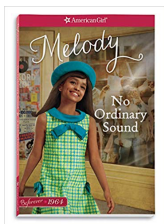
We Shall Overcome: The Story of a Song (Debbie Levy)

An informative tribute to the so-called African-American national anthem, traced from its roots in slavery all the way through the Civil Rights Movement.



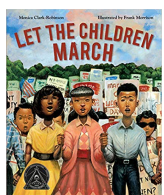
Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop (Alice Faye Duncan)

A fictional portrayal of young Lorraine Jackson, whose father participated in the Memphis sanitation strike shortly before MLK's assassination.



Melody: No Ordinary Sound (Denise Lewis Patrick)

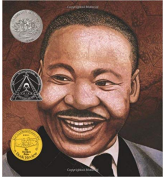
The fictional story of Melody, a young girl growing up in Michigan during the Civil Rights Movement in 1964.



Let The Children March (Monica Clark-Robinson)

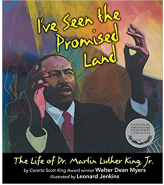
The true story of thousands of black children who wanted to march for their own rights during the Civil Rights Movement.

Martin Luther King



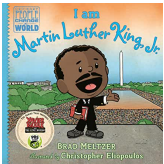
Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Doreen Rappaport)

A very readable introduction to the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



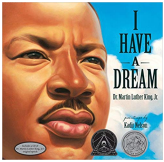
I've Seen the Promised Land (Walter Dean Myers)

An overview of MLK's life that focuses on specific events within the Civil Rights Movement.



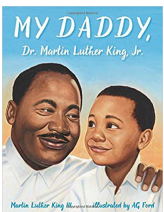
I Am Martin Luther King, Jr. (Brad Meltzer)

A wonderful, inspiring mini-biography of MLK from his birth to his death.



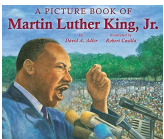
I Have a Dream (Martin Luther King Jr.)

The full transcript of MLK's world-changing speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in 1963.



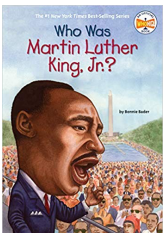
My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Martin Luther King III)

A very personal look at MLK's life through the eyes of his son.



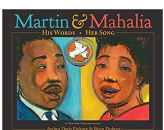
A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. (David A. Adler & Robert Casilla)

A well-illustrated look at the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.? (Bonnie Bader)

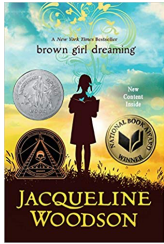
An extremely informative short chapter book that covers the major event in MLK's life.



Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

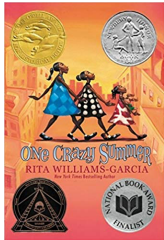
A unique look at MLK and Mahalia Jackson's roles in the March on Washington.

Post-Civil Rights Era



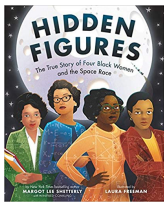
Brown Girl Dreaming (Jacqueline Woodson)

The author's poetic, autobiographical description of her childhood in South Carolina and New York during and after the Civil Rights Movement.



One Crazy Summer (Rita Williams-Garcia)

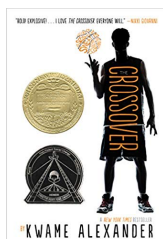
Three sisters visit their mother in Oakland, California in 1967 during summer vacation and attend a day camp run by the Black Panthers.



Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race (Margot Lee Shetterly)

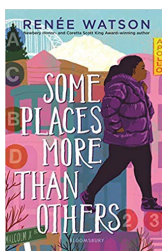
Four female mathematicians left their mark at NASA during some of the most formative and groundbreaking years of space travel.

Modern Times



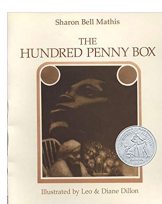
The Crossover (Kwame Alexander)

The poetic account of 14-year-old twins and basketball sensations Jordan and Josh Bell as they navigate life on and off the court.



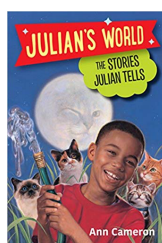
Some Places More Than Others (Renee Watson)

11-year-old Amara can't wait to visit her father and his family in Harlem, but her trip doesn't go exactly as she expects.



The Hundred Penny Box (Sharon Bell Mathis)

Young Michael longs to hear stories from each of the years of his Aunt Dew's life, but he struggles to understand when she can't remember anymore.



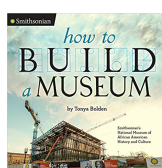
The Stories Julian Tells (Julian's World) (Ann Cameron)

Julian has a huge imagination and loves to tell stories to his brother and friends. If you enjoy this one, check out all of the books in the "Julian's World" series.



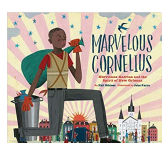
The Hate U Give (Angie Thomas)

One girl, torn between her poor, black neighborhood and wealthy suburban school, witnesses the murder of her best friend by a white cop and must tell her story.



How to Build a Museum: Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (Tonya Bolden)

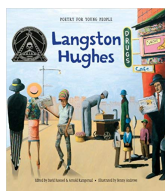
The story of the vision behind and construction of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016.



Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans (Phil Bidner)

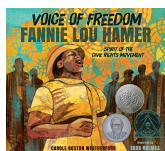
The true story of a garbage man who became a hero in the aftermath of Katrina.

Poetry



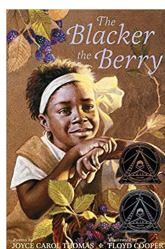
Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes (David Roessel)

Selected poems from Langston Hughes, including "My People," "Harlem," and "I, Too."



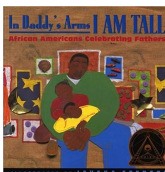
Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer (Carole Boston Weatherford)

Poems that celebrate the legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer, a champion of Civil Rights.



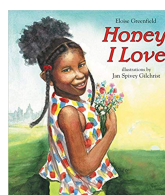
The Blacker the Berry (Joyce Carol Thomas)

A collection of poems that highlight the beauty of all tones of dark skin, as well as themes of family, belonging, and self-confidence.



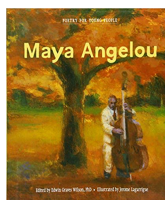
In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall (Various Authors)

A poem collection that tributes fatherhood and the strong between children and fathers.



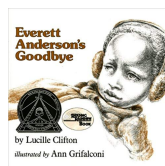
Honey, I Love (Eloise Greenfield)

A memorable poem that celebrates the wonder of loving others and living life together.



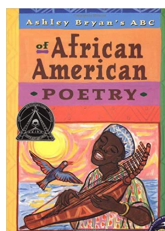
Poetry for Young People: Maya Angelou (Edwin Graves Wilson)

A wonderful anthology of Maya Angelou's poems with introductions and notes about each one.



Everett Anderson's Goodbye (Lucille Clifton)

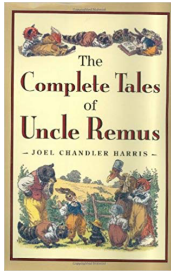
A young child moves through the stages of grief in this poignant poem.



Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American poetry (Ashley Bryan)

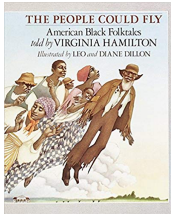
A collection of excerpts from famous poems written by African-Americans.

Folk Tales



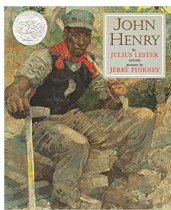
The Complete Tales of Uncle Remus (Joel Chandler Harris)

The beloved tales of Brer Fox, Brer Bear, Brer Wolf, and Brer Rabbit, first compiled over one hundred years ago in 1881.



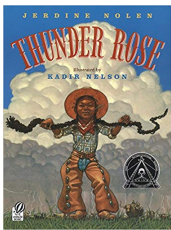
The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales (Virginia Hamilton)

A collection 24 of black American folk tales, including animal stories, slave narratives, didactic fables, and more.



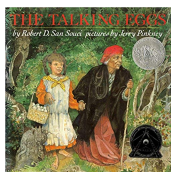
John Henry (Julius Lester)

Nothing can stand in the way of John Henry, whose claims to fame include scaring the sun, being visited by a unicorn, smashing rocks, and being stronger than ten men.



Thunder Rose (Jerdine Nolen)

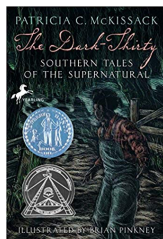
Kids will love the folk character of Thunder Rose, whose confidence and can-do attitude will inspire young girls everywhere.



The Talking Eggs (Robert D. San Souci)

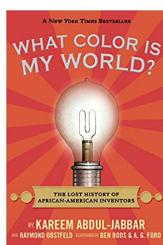
An adaptation of a Creole folktale about two sisters who live in Louisiana.

Anthologies and Story Compilations



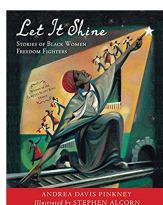
The Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural (Patricia McKissack)

Suspenseful, original tales inspired by African-American history from slavery through the Civil Rights era.



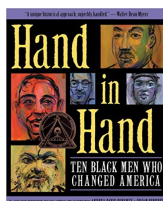
What Color Is My World? (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Raymond Obstfeld)

Profiles and facts about lesser-known African-American inventors whose contributions had lasting impact in American history.



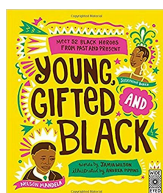
Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters (Andrea Davis Pinkney)

An inspiring collection of biographical tributes to African-American women from Sojourner Truth to Shirley Chisholm.



Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America (Andrea Pinkney)

A chronological compilation of dynamic, visionary black male leaders through American history.



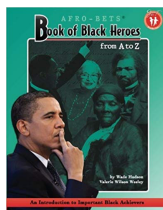
Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present (Jamia Wilson)

A wonderful resource that features one black hero for each week of the year.



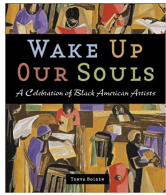
Bedtime Inspirational Stories: 50 Amazing Black People Who Changed the World (L.A. Amber)

This volume celebrates the incredible achievements of notable Black people in history.



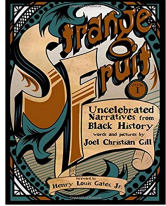
Book of Black Heroes from A to Z: An Introduction to Important Black Achievers for Young Readers (Wade Hudson, Valerie Wilson Wesley)

Read about 54 Black heroes, from James Meredith to Benjamin Quarles.



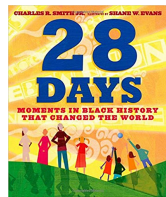
Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of African American Artists (Tonya Bolden)

Originally published with the Smithsonian American Art Museum, this volume covers important black artists from the twentieth century.



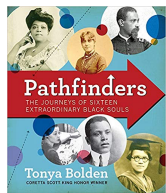
Strange Fruit, Volume I: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History (Joel Christian Gill)

A collection of nine stories about lesser known black heroes or events.



28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World (Charles R. Smith Jr.)

Perfect to read daily during Black History month, this anthology includes influential figures including Crispus Attucks, Daniel Hale Williams, and Matthew Henson.



Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls (Tonya Bolden)

Mini-biographies of 15 black men and women who have made significant contributions to American society in some way.