# African Americans

**Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library**  
**A Selective Annotated Bibliography**

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PreK-3</td>
<td><em>Mae Among the Stars</em> by Roda Ahmed and Stasia Burrington. First edition. New York, NY: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2018. Mae wanted to be an astronaut. She dreamed of dancing in space. She imagined herself surrounded by billions of stars, floating, gliding, and discovering…This encouragement, along with Mae's own curiosity, intelligence, and determination, paved the way for her to become the first African American woman to travel in space.</td>
<td>EAH52M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreK-3</td>
<td><em>Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box</em> by Michael S. Bandy. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. One morning, when Granddaddy heads into town in his fancy suit, Michael knows that something very special must be happening--and sure enough, everyone is lined up at town hall! For the very first time, Granddaddy is allowed to vote, and he couldn't be more proud. But can Michael be patient when justice just can't come soon enough?</td>
<td>B2232G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreK-3</td>
<td><em>White Water: Inspired by a True Story</em> by Michael S. Bandy, Eric Stein, and Shadra Strickland. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2011. After tasting the warm, rusty water from the fountain designated for African Americans, a young boy questions why he cannot drink the cool, refreshing water from the &quot;Whites Only&quot; fountain. Based on a true experience co-author</td>
<td>B2232W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Michael S. Bandy had as a boy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Everyone in the Donovan family can dance—and has a dance nickname—except Kai, but his family helps him practice his moves to prepare for his aunt's wedding reception.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Celebrates the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of a barber shop with newly-cut hair.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A boy wakes up one morning to find his father gone. At first, he feels lost. But his father has left him a letter filled with advice to guide him through the times he cannot be there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

A man known as the “Trashcan Wizard” sings and dances his way through the French Quarter in New Orleans, keeping his beloved city clean, until Hurricane Katrina's devastation nearly causes him to lose his spirit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

When Rodney finally gets a chance to go to a real park, with plenty of room to run and climb and shout, and to just be himself, he will never be the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

After being teased yet again about her unruly hair, MacKenzie consults her neighbor, Miss Tillie, who compares hair care with tending her beautiful garden and teaches MacKenzie some techniques. Includes tips for
shampooing, conditioning, and protecting black hair, and recipes for hair products.

A lyrical, heart-lifting love letter to Black and Brown children everywhere reminds them how much they matter, that they have always mattered and they always will.

A little girl's daddy steps in to help her arrange her curly, coiling, wild hair into styles that allow her to be her natural, beautiful self.

Elmore Green likes being an only child, so when his parents bring a new small person, his baby brother, into the house he is not pleased and does his best to keep the new small person out of his life.

Under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, children and teenagers march against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963.

Hungry for learning, Lizzie and her brother Paul attend a new school built for freed slaves.

A girl named Ruth Anne tells the story of her family's train journey from North Carolina to New York City as part of the Great Migration.

Little Mazie wants the freedom to stay up late, but her father explains what freedom really means in the story of Juneteenth, and how her ancestors celebrated their true freedom.


American Ballet Theater soloist Misty Copeland encourages a young ballet student, with brown skin like her own, by telling her that she, too, had to learn basic steps and how to be graceful when she was starting out, and that someday, with practice and dedication, the little girl will become a firebird, too.


This book is based on the viral photograph of African American toddler Parker Curry, who, during a visit to the National Portrait Gallery, became mesmerized by Amy Sherald's portrait of Michelle Obama, who she thought was a queen.


Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty -- and fun -- in their routine and the world around them.


Relates the experiences of a dark-skinned, curly-haired child who wishes he could look more like the lighter-skinned children in his community until his mother helps him realize how wonderful he is inside and out.


Told by succession of exuberant young narrators, Magnificent Homespun Brown is a story- a song, a poem, a celebration- about feeling at home in one's own beloved skin.


This historical fiction picture book presents the story of nine-year-old Lorraine Jackson, who in 1968 witnessed the Memphis sanitation strike--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final stand for justice before his assassination--when her father, a sanitation worker, participated in the protest.


In this poem by award-winning author Zetta Elliott, a Black child explores his shifting emotions throughout the year.

Various zoo animals take residence in a young girl's hair as it becomes more tangled and frizzy.

When they are forced to leave their Mississippi farm, young Cassie and her family head north to Chicago in search of a better life, but never lose their blues-playing roots.

Have you ever been told that you're not enough? That you're not strong enough, tall enough, or fast enough? Bessie was told she was not enough. This book combines an imagined story of Bessie Stringfield as a young girl with historical facts about the real Bessie, a true adventurer and one of the first African American women to travel solo across the United States on a motorcycle.

Kameeka yearns to continue her hula hooping competition with her rival, Jamara, rather than help prepare for Miz Adeline’s birthday party, and “the itch” almost ruins the party before the girls learn who the real winner is.

Thinker isn't just an average puppy--he's a poet. So is his owner, Jace. Together they turn the world around them into verse. There's just one problem: Thinker has to keep quiet in public, and he can't go to school with Jace. That is, until Pets' Day. But when Thinker is allowed into the classroom at last, he finds it hard to keep his true identity a secret.

In this imaginative biographical story, Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony sit down over a cup of tea in 1904 to reminisce about their struggles and triumphs in the service of freedom and women's rights.


Jayden expects to see nothing but brown his first morning in New Mexico, but after being surprised by colorful rocks, flowers, birds, and animals, he wonders if this place could become home.

PreK-3 Grigsby, Susan. *In the Garden with Dr. Carver*. Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman, 2010. E G878I

A fictionalized account of how plant scientist George Washington Carver came to an Alabama school and taught the children how to grow plants and reap the rewards of nature's bounty.


After attending a concert with his grandmother, Frankie finds his guitar, determined to learn to fingerpick and, with the help of a homeless man, begins to play the blues.


Told from the perspective of both the girl, Nia, and her pet turtle, Alfie, and describes what happens when he disappears on the eve of her seventh birthday to find her a special present.


In 1847 St. Louis, Missouri, when a new law against educating African Americans forces Reverend John to close his school, he finds an ingenious solution to the new state law by moving his school to a steamboat in the Mississippi River.


A child prodigy at the piano sprinkles her music with a little jazz. Includes an afterword about the life of the twentieth-century jazz musician, Mary Lou Williams.

An ailing grandfather and his helpful granddaughter play a unique game of seek and find.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreK-3</td>
<td>Lyons, Kelly Starling, and Daniel Minter</td>
<td><em>Going Down Home with Daddy</em></td>
<td>First edition</td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia: Peachtree Publishers, 2019.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A child reflects on the meaning of being Black in this anthem about a people, a culture, a history, and a legacy that lives on.

Ten-year-old African American boy wants to welcome the circus elephant named Miss Fancy to her new home in a nearby park, but he is disappointed to see a sign: "No Colored Allowed."

After school orchestra practice, young Nic carries his double bass through rough neighborhoods to his grandfather's home, where he and Grandaddy Nic play jazz music with friends, delighting the neighbors.

Alan looks forward to the annual family reunion at the farm where Daddy grew up, but everyone is supposed to share something special and Alan worries about arriving with empty hands.

Illustrations and easy-to-read text follow a family through five generations as each is inspired by the song written in 1900 to honor Abraham Lincoln. Includes author's note on the history of the song and its meaning in her family.

Tosh has spent many days in the kitchen with his grandmother, Honey, watching her bake cookies and listening to tales of their slave ancestors, so when Honey's memory starts to fail, Tosh is able to help with the cookies and more.

Tiara's mother, a talented and popular hatmaker, closes her shop when a new
store opens that sells cheaper hats, but Tiara finds a way to help restore Momma's dream. Includes author's note and introductions to famous black milliners.


A young girl lifts her hands up in a series of everyday moments before finally raising her hands in resistance at a protest march.


In Harlem in the 1920s, in the middle of a family Christmas party, Marie receives a nutcracker from her Uncle Cab, which leads to a marvelous dream in this resetting of E.T.A. Hoffmann's familiar tale.


Lola loves to hear Daddy read a new library book each night, an activity that spurs her imagination and results in inventive play the next day.


An African American man tells his grandson about a time when, despite all the wonderful things his hands could do, they could not touch bread at the Wonder Bread factory.


Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend. They do everything together and even live in twin apartments across the street from each other: Daniela with her mami and hamster, and Evelyn with her mami, papi, and cat. But not after today--not after Evelyn moves away.


In this historical fiction picture book, Ella Mae and her cousin Charlotte, both African American, start their own shoe store when they learn that they cannot try on shoes at the shoe store.


Bused across town to a school in a white neighborhood of Boston in 1974, a
young African American boy named Brewster describes his first day in first grade.

PreK-3


Growing up in the segregated town of Clarksville, Tennessee, in the 1960s, Alta's family cannot afford to buy her new sneakers—but she still plans to attend the parade celebrating her hero Wilma Rudolph's three Olympic gold medals.

PreK-3


Aria loves her soft and bouncy hair, but must go to extremes to avoid people who touch it without permission until, finally, she speaks up. Includes author's note.

K


Little girls pretending to be princesses celebrate the different shapes, textures, and styles of their black hair.

PreK-3


An eight-year-old girl accompanies her grandmother on a singing tour of the segregated South, both of them knowing that Grandmama's songs have the power to bring people together.

1-3


In the antebellum South, two siblings shelter a large, mysterious, wounded bird and eventually follow it west toward freedom.

1-3


Eliza and Martin visit the state legislature for an exciting adventure learning how to make a law. In any state this book will excite kids to want to know more about how government works.

PreK-1


On a small family farm, an old truck falls into disrepair and lies nearly forgotten, except by the family's daughter. The truck has been part of her
daydreams as she grows up and develops strength and independence. As an industrious young woman, she pulls the rusted and overgrown vehicle from its almost-grave and restores it.

|        | Every single morning, the overseer of the plantation rings the bell. Daddy gathers wood. Mama cooks. Ben and the other slaves go out to work. Each day is the same. Full of grueling work and sweltering heat. Every day, except one, when the bell rings and Ben is nowhere to be found. Because Ben ran. Yet, despite their fear and sadness, his family remains hopeful that maybe, just maybe, he made it North. That he is free. |        |

|        | As family members braid, brush, twirl, roll, and tighten their hair before bedtime, putting on kerchiefs, wave caps, and other protective items, the little sister cannot find her bonnet. |        |

|        | Lonnie and his uncle journey back in time to the Harlem Renaissance. |        |

|        | Eight-year-old Ava Murray lives in a Bronx neighborhood filled with music, art, and people from all over the world. It is very different from the Bronx she sees in the news. When her mother explains that the power of stories lies in the hands of those who write them, Ava decides to become a journalist. She shows everyone the world as she sees it, inspiring children to use the power of their own voice. |        |

|        | Black boy, black boy what do you see? I see a bright future ahead of me! |        |

|        | Children discover the many sources of light in the world—from the sun to the smile on a friend’s face. |        |

Seven-year-old Layla divulges many things that make her happy, especially her family and their community garden.

**PreK-4**

E T3708Y

Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class.

**PreK-3**

E T793AS

A thirteen-year-old African American boy in 1960s Greenville, North Carolina, uses his typing skills to make a statement as part of the Civil Rights movement.

**PreK-3**

E W3784F

Six days a week, slaves labor from sunup to sundown and beyond, but on Sunday afternoons, they gather with free blacks at Congo Square outside New Orleans, free from oppression.

**PreK-3**

E W3784I

A prayer from mother to son that he will always be in safe hands

**PreK-3**

E W7345L

As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves in front of a courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then the long fight that led to her right--and determination--to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American the right to vote.

**PreK-3**

E W868P

When Mama's pregnancy draws attention away from Gia, she worries that the special bond they share will disappear forever once the baby is born.

**FICTION**

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.


In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.


When America is not so beautiful, or right, or just, it can be hard to know what to do. Best friends Walt and Noah decide to use their voices to grow more good in the world, but first they've got to find cool.


As the Revolutionary War rages on, Isabel and Curzon are reported as runaways, and the awful Bellingham is determined to track them down. With purpose and faith, Isabel and Curzon march on, fiercely determined to find Isabel's little sister Ruth, who is enslaved in a Southern state.


Isaiah is now the big man of the house. But it's a lot harder than his dad made it look.


A twelve-year-old girl discovers her father is the keeper of the gateway between our world and The Dark, and when he goes missing she'll need to unlock her own powers and fight a horde of spooky creatures set on starting a war.


When Mariah and her young brother Zeke are suddenly freed from slavery, they set out on Sherman's long march through Georgia during the Civil War. Mariah wants to believe that the brutalities of slavery are behind them forever and that freedom lies ahead. When she meets Caleb, an enigmatic young black man also on the march, Mariah soon finds herself dreaming not only of a new life, but of true love as well. But even hope comes at a cost, and as the treacherous march
continues toward the churning waters of Ebenezer Creek, Mariah's dreams are as vulnerable as ever.


Savannah Riddle feels suffocated by her life as the daughter of an upper class African American family in Washington, D.C., until she meets a working-class girl named Nella who introduces her to the suffragette and socialist movements and to her politically active cousin Lloyd.


Twelve-year-old Elias is sent to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky to fight a case of consumption--and ends up fighting for the lives of a secret community of escaped slaves traveling along the Underground Railroad.


In Seattle in 1937 two seventeen-year-olds, Henry, who is white, and Flora, who is African American, become the unwitting pawns in a game played by two immortal figures, Love and Death, where they must choose each other at the end, or one of them will die.


Echo Brown is a wizard from the East Side of Cleveland, where apartments are small and parents suffer addiction to the white rocks. Yet there is magic everywhere. Every day Echo travels between worlds, attending a rich white school on the West Side. But there are dangers to leaving behind the place that made you.


When eleven-year-old Iris sneaks out at night to make snow angels, she was not expecting to raise the ghost of Avery Moore, a girl her own age: but bringing to light the segregated and abandoned black cemetery seems like the perfect way to help Avery get the recognition she craves, and it will also be a good idea for the school project about the history of her small North Carolina town, where racial tensions are never far from the surface--only it seems that if Avery gets everything she wants Iris will join her as a ghost, best friends forever.

The day nine-year-old Grace is called to work in the kitchen in the Big House, everyone warns her to keep her head down and her thoughts to herself, but the more she sees of the oppressive Master and his hateful wife, the more she questions things until one day her thoughts escape—and to avoid being separated she and her family flee into the Dismal Swamp, to join the other escaped slaves who live there.


Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, which is considered bad luck, twelve-year-old Caroline falls in love with another girl—and together they set out in a hurricane to find Caroline's missing mother.


Twelve-year-old Kingston James is sure his brother Khalid has turned into a dragonfly. When Khalid unexpectedly passed away, he shed what was his first skin for another to live down by the bayou in their small Louisiana town. Khalid still visits in dreams, and King must keep these secrets to himself as he watches grief transform his family.


It is 1983 and Vanessa Martin, a thirteen-year-old African American girl in Newark's public housing, dreams of following in the footsteps of the first black Miss America, Vanessa Williams; but the odds are against her until a new teacher at school organizes a beauty pageant and encourages Vanessa to enter.


Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.


 Raised by his grandparents, first in Mississippi then in Wisconsin, ten-year-old Lymon moves to Chicago in 1945 to live with the mother he never knew, while yearning for his father.


In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and

As long-buried secrets rise to the surface, everything Birdie has known to be true is turned upside down.


Marva Sheridan has always been driven to make a difference in the world, and what better way than to vote in her first election? Duke Crenshaw is so done with this election; he just wants to get voting over with so he can prepare for his band's first paying gig tonight. Only problem? Duke can't vote. When Marva sees Duke turned away from their polling place, she takes it upon herself to make sure his vote is counted. And that's how their whirlwind day begins, rushing from precinct to precinct, cutting school, waiting in endless lines, turned away time and again, trying to do one simple thing: vote. Soon it's clear that there is more to their connection than a shared mission for democracy.


Eighth grader Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn't afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted, and to make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids and is finding it hard not to withdraw, even as their mutual friend Jordan tries to keep their group of friends together.


Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade...Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?


When his poor sharecropper father is killed in an accident and leaves the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie agrees to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of people who have stolen from him; Cap'n Buck tells Little Charlie that his father's debt will be cleared when the fugitives are captured, which seems like a good deal until Little
Charlie comes face-to-face with the people he is chasing.


After her mother dies in an accident, Bree Matthews wants nothing to do with her family memories or childhood home. A residential program for bright high schoolers at UNC-Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape—until Bree witnesses a magical attack her very first night on campus…Now she'll do whatever it takes to find out the truth, even if that means infiltrating the Legendborn as one of their initiates.


Fifteen-year-old Nevaeh Levitz is torn between two worlds, passing for white while living in Harlem, being called Jewish while attending her mother's Baptist church, and experiencing first love while watching her parents' marriage crumble.


In the segregated south of Kentucky in 1953, twelve-year-olds Callie, who is black, and Wendell, who is white, are brought together by an old dog that is clearly seeking something or someone, but they not only face prejudice, they find trouble at a haunted cabin in the woods.


When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.


In Brooklyn, nine-year-old Jax joins Ma, a curmudgeonly witch who lives in his building, on a quest to deliver three baby dragons to a magical world, and along the way discovers his true calling.


Told in two voices, Jax and Kavita, Kavita's brother Vik, and new friend Kenny try to return the baby dragon to the realm of magic before anything else goes wrong.

N/A *The End of Chiraq: A Literary Mixtape*. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern
A collection of poems, rap lyrics, short stories, essays, interviews, and artwork about Chicago, the city that came to be known as "Chiraq" ("Chicago" + "Iraq"), and the people who live in its vibrant and occasionally violent neighborhoods.


In the summer of 1965, Sophie's family becomes the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life and her own place in it are a lot more complicated than they had seemed.


Fourteen-year-old Dime, a foster child in Newark, New Jersey, finds love and family as a prostitute, but when her pimp rejects her for a new girl, will Dime have the strength to leave?


Otto and Sheed Alston are local sleuths in their zany Virginia town, masters of unraveling mischief using their unmatched powers of deduction. As summer winds down and the first day of school looms, the boys are craving just a little more time for fun, even as they bicker over what kind of fun they want to have. That is, until a mysterious man named Mr. Flux appears with a camera that literally freezes time.


When a formerly segregated North Carolina town hires its first African-American teacher in 1969, two girls—one black, one white—confront the prejudice that challenges their friendship.


Rose Lee Carter, a thirteen-year-old African-American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are unjustly acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement.

Mary B. Addison killed a baby. Allegedly. She didn't say much in that first interview with detectives, and the media filled in the only blanks that mattered: A white baby had died while under the care of a church-going black woman and her nine-year-old daughter. The public convicted Mary and the jury made it official. But did she do it? She wouldn't say. Mary survived six years in baby jail before being dumped in a group home. Now her fate lies in the hands of the one person she distrusts the most: her Momma. No one knows the real Momma. But who really knows the real Mary?


When thirteen-year-old Billie Sims learns that the Freedom Riders, a civil rights group protesting segregation on buses in the summer of 1961, will be traveling through Anniston, Alabama, she thinks change could be coming to her stubborn town. But what starts as angry grumbles soon turns to brutality, and Billie is forced to reconsider her own views.


When Harlan and his best friend, trumpeter Lizard Robbins, are invited to perform at a popular cabaret in the Parisian enclave of Montmartre, Harlan jumps at the opportunity. But after the City of Light falls under Nazi occupation, Harlan and Lizard are thrown into Buchenwald—the notorious concentration camp in Weimar, Germany. Harlan survives five horrific years, and returns home struggling to overcome the chaos he has experienced.


Elijah, seventeen, has always been sure of just one thing—basketball—and believes it will be his way out of West Baltimore, but when gang violence knocks him down, helping a veteran repair his rickety home helps Elijah see what really matters.


Two best friends, a writer and a runner, deal with bullies, family issues, social pressures, and their quest for success coming out of Harlem.


A handless teen escapes from a cult, only to find herself in juvenile detention and suspected of knowing who murdered her cult leader.

In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects.


Loosely based on a school explosion that took place in New London, Texas in 1937, this is the story of two teenagers: Naomi, who is Mexican, and Wash, who is black, and their dealings with race, segregation, love, and the forces that destroy people.


When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend. Told through Rashad and Quinn's alternating viewpoints.


Taja Brown, growing up in a conservative and tightly knit African American family, battles family expectations to discover a sense of self and find her unique voice and purpose.


Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does or does not say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.


Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes
her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities she doesn’t really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn’t mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She’s tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference.

For August, running into a long-ago friend sets in motion resonant memories and transports her to a time and a place she thought she had mislaid: 1970s Brooklyn, where friendship was everything. August, Sylvia, Angela, and Gigi shared confidences as they ambled their neighborhood streets, a place where the girls believed that they were amazingly beautiful, brilliantly talented, with a future that belonged to them. But beneath the hopeful promise there was another Brooklyn, a dangerous place where grown men reached for innocent girls in dark hallways, where mothers disappeared, where fathers found religion, and where madness was a mere sunset away.

NONFICTION


National Book Award-winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, The Fire Next Time, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.


Slavery existed as a legal institution in the United States beginning in colonial times. During and after the American Revolution, things began to change. See what events took place, who was involved, and what life was like for slaves.


Through the powerful stories of five enslaved people who were "owned" by four of our greatest presidents, this book helps set the record straight about the role slavery played in the founding of America. From Billy Lee, valet to George
Washington, to Alfred Jackson, faithful servant of Andrew Jackson, these
dramatic narratives explore our country's great tragedy—that a nation "conceived
in liberty" was also born in shackles.

5 - 7 Huey, Lois Miner. *Forgotten Bones: Uncovering a Slave Cemetery.*

Details the archaeological discovery of thirteen skeletons in upstate New York
that were identified as eighteenth-century slaves from the Schuyler farm.

5 - 12 Brimner, Larry Dane. *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961.* Honesdale,
PA: Calkins Creek, 2017.

For twelve history-making days in May 1961, thirteen black and white civil
rights activists, also known as the Freedom Riders, traveled by bus into the South
to draw attention to the unconstitutional segregation still taking place. Despite
their peaceful protests, the Freedom Riders were met with increasing violence the
further south they traveled.

5 - 12 Lowery, Lynda Blackmon. *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of

A 50th-anniversary tribute shares the story of the youngest
person to complete the momentous Selma to Montgomery March, describing her
frequent imprisonments for her participation in nonviolent demonstrations and
how she felt about her involvement in historic Civil Rights events.

3 - 4 Mortenson, Lori. *Voices of the Civil Rights Movement.* North Mankato, MN:

The Civil Rights Movement brought about major changes in the United States,
including the legal end of segregation between African-Americans and white
Americans. Explore the points of view of the activists who fought for change and
the people who opposed them through powerful primary sources and historical
photos.


In 1954, one of the most significant Supreme Court decisions of the twentieth
Century aimed to end school segregation in the United States. Although known
as Brown v. Board of Education, the ruling applied not just to the case of Linda
Carol Brown, an African American third grader refused entry to an all-white
Topeka, Kansas school, but to cases involving children in South Carolina,
Delaware, Virginia, and Washington, DC.


Shares the story of Sarah Roberts and her 1847 case petitioning that she be
allowed to attend a white school in Boston, explaining how her heroic efforts established key precedents and paved the way for civil rights advancements.


An African-American boy faces the harsh reality of segregation and racial prejudice, but he dreams of a different life--one full of freedom, hope, and wild possibility, where he can fling his arms wide in the face of the sun.


A lyrical, empowering poem that celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young ones to dream big and achieve their goals.


Presents an account of the 1944 civil rights protest involving hundreds of African-American Navy servicemen who were unjustly charged with mutiny for refusing to work in unsafe conditions after the deadly Port Chicago explosion.


A picture book looks at many of the men and women who revolutionized life for African Americans throughout history.

**BIOGRAPHY**


Introduces readers to Benny Andrews, one of the most important African-American painters of the 20th century.

3 - 5  Rappaport, Doreen. *Frederick’s Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass.* Los Angeles, CA: Disney, Jump at the Sun, 2015. B D7475RAP

Traces Frederick Douglass's journey from slavery to international renown as writer and lecturer.

Presents a collage-illustrated treasury of poems and spirituals inspired by the life and work of civil rights advocate Fannie Lou Hamer.


Drawing on a vast amount of new material that has surfaced in the last decade ... jazz writer John Szwed considers how [Holiday's] life inflected her art, her influences, her uncanny voice and rhythmic genius, a number of her signature songs, and her legacy.


Describes the peaceful protest organized by teenager Barbara Rose Johns in order to secure a permanent building for her segregated high school in Virginia in 1951, and explains how her actions helped fuel the civil rights movement.


Looks at the rise of Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement leading up to the 1963 March on Washington where King delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech, presenting details about the march and those who took part.


A picture book biography of John Roy Lynch, one of the first African-Americans elected into the United States Congress.


A biography of US president Barack Obama.


Gordon Parks is most famous for being the first black director in Hollywood. But before he made movies and wrote books, he was a poor African American looking for work. When he bought a camera, his life changed forever. He taught himself how to take pictures and before long, people noticed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presents the African American woman who, in refusing to obey a discriminatory rule about bus seating, set off both the Montgomery Bus Boycott and a movement that changed the nation's laws.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recounts the story of the 1914 disappearance of eleven-year-old Sarah Rector, an African American who was part of the Creek Indian people and whose land had made her wealthy, and what it reveals about race, money, and American society.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Malcolm X grew to be one of America's most influential figures. But first, he was a boy named Malcolm Little. Written by his daughter, this inspiring picture book biography celebrates a vision of freedom.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephens, Claire Gatrell</td>
<td><em>Coretta Scott King Award Books: Using Great Literature with Children and Young Adults</em></td>
<td>Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2000.</td>
<td>016.8108 ST43C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunjufu, Jawanza</td>
<td><em>200+ Educational Strategies to Teach Children of Color</em></td>
<td>Chicago, IL: African American Images, 2009.</td>
<td>370.1170973 K9628T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimble-Ellis, Sonya</td>
<td><em>Traditional African American Arts and Activities</em></td>
<td>New</td>
<td>394.089</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Last Updated Sep-22 JD