

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

Information & Resources for Families & Students



Equity is...

- the **fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement** for all people
- **identifying and eliminating barriers** that have prevented the full participation of some people or groups
- increasing **justice, fairness, and the distribution** of resources

Diversity is...

- the ways in which **people differ** and the **different characteristics** that make one individual or group different from another
- diversity of **people**: race, ethnicity, gender, age, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, physical appearance
- diversity of **thought**: ideas, perspectives, values



Inclusion is...

- the act of creating environments in which any individual or group can be and feel **welcomed, respected, supported, and valued**
- a welcoming climate that **embraces differences** and **offers respect** in words and actions for all people

Resources for Families

Articles

- [How White Parents Can Talk To Their Kids About Race](#), *NPR*
- [How to Talk Honestly With Children About Racism](#), *PBS*
- [Talking to Young Children About Race and Racism](#), *PBS*
- [Teaching Your Child About Black History](#), *PBS*
- [How Black Art Can Spark Conversations with Children](#), *PBS*
- [How to Use Children's Books to Talk About Race and Racism](#), *PBS*
- [How to Talk to Your Kids About Anti-Racism: A List of Resources](#), *PBS SoCal*
- [Resources for Parents: Uplifting Youth Through Healthy Communication About Race](#), *"RESilience" American Psychological Association*
- [Becoming Upended: Teaching and Learning about Race and Racism with Young Children and Their Families](#), *NAEYC*
- [Diversity Toolkit: Race and Ethnicity](#), *National Education Association*
- [Race and Ethnicity Resources](#), *Teaching Tolerance*
- [10 Tips for Teaching and Talking to Kids About Race](#), *EmbraceRace*
- [How White Parents Can Use Media to Raise Anti-Racist Kids](#), *Common Sense Media*
- [Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup](#), *Pretty Good*
- [Are Your Kids Too Young to Talk About Race?](#), *Pretty Good*
- [Anti-Racism Resources for Parents and Kids](#), *Healthline Parenthood*
- [Talking to Children About Racial Bias](#), *Healthy Children*
- [How to Talk to Kids About Race: Books and Resources That Can Help](#), *Brightly*
- [Racism and Violence: Using Your Power as a Parent to Support Children Aged Two to Five](#), *ZERO TO THREE*
- [Talking About Racism and Bias: Resources for Parents and Caregivers](#), *Children's Alliance*
- [Anti-Racism for Kids 101: Starting To Talk About Race](#), *Books for Littles*
- [100 Race-Conscious Things You Can Say to Your Child to Advance Racial Justice](#), *Raising Race Conscious Children*

Websites & Organizations

- [EmbraceRace](#): Raising a Brave Generation
- [RESilience](#) (American Psychological Association): Uplifting Youth Through Healthy Communication About Race
- [Teaching Tolerance](#): Diversity, Equity, and Justice
- [Raising Race Conscious Children](#): A Resource for Talking About Race with Young Children
- [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#): "Talking About Race" Program

- [RACE: The Power of an Illusion](#), PBS
- [Border Crossers](#): Training for parents, guardians and caregivers with strategies for how to talk about race and racism with their children
- [The Conscious Kid](#): Parenting and Education Resources through a Critical Race Lens

Books & Bookstores

- [These Books Can Help You Explain Racism and Protest to Your Kids](#), *The New York Times*
- [Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners](#), *Common Sense Media*
- [EmbraceRace](#)
- [Books About Race and Ethnicity](#), *RESilience*
- [Raising Race Conscious Children](#)
- [Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice](#), Dana Williams and Vincent Nguyen
- [So You Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo
- [How to Be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
- [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [A Brighter Day: How Parents Can Help African American Youth](#) by Gail Thompson
- [Stickin' To, Watchin' Over, and Gettin' With: An African American Parent's Guide to Discipline](#) by Howard Stevenson, Saburah Abdul-Kabir, and Gwendolyn Davis
- [Diverse Book Finder](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)
- [Social Justice Books](#)
- [Mahogany Books](#)
- [Lee & Low Books](#)
- [Brightly](#)
- [Black Children's Books and Authors: Our Stories Matter](#)
- [The Brown Bookshelf: United in Story](#)
- [Reading While White](#): Working for racial diversity and inclusion in books for children and teens

Videos

- [Talking to Children Authentically About Race and Racism](#), PBS
- [The Talk: Race in America](#), PBS
- [The Talk: It's Never Too Early to Talk to Your Kids About Race](#), PBS
- [How One Parent Talks to His Biracial Kids About Race](#), PBS
- [Frontline: A Class Divided](#), PBS
- ["You Matter" with Christian Robinson](#), PBS KIDS Read-Along

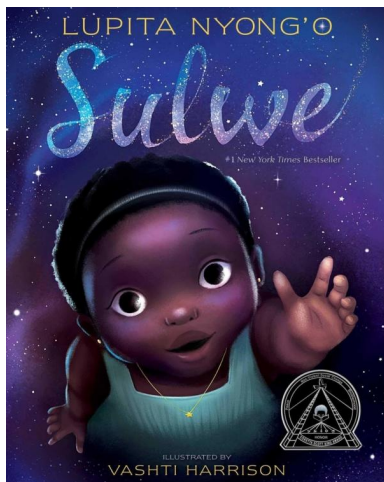
Podcasts

- [Talking Race With Young Children](#), NPR
- [Five Pandemic Parenting Lessons with Cindy Wang Brandt](#), Parenting Forward
- [Fare of the Free Child](#), Raising Free People
- [Raising White Kids with Jennifer Harvey](#), Integrated Schools: Conversations About Integration
- [Seeing White](#), Scene on Radio

Books for Students

Books are one of the most effective tools to engage with children and teens on important issues. To encourage conversations about race and diversity, check out some of the books below to read together and discuss as a family.

Preschool – 4th Grade

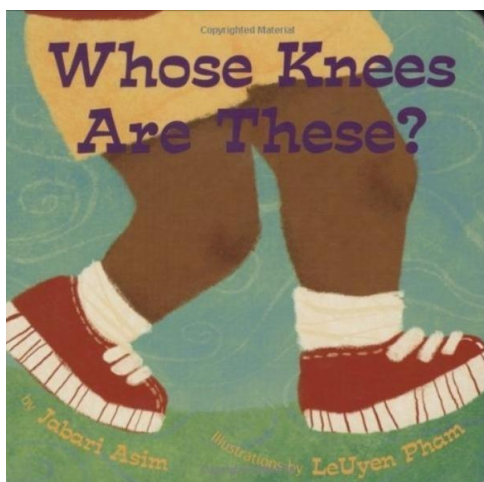


[Sulwe](#) by Lupita Nyong'o (author) and Vashti Harrison (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

A powerful, moving picture book about colorism, self-esteem, and learning that true beauty comes from within. This story is whimsical and heartwarming and inspires children to see their own unique beauty.

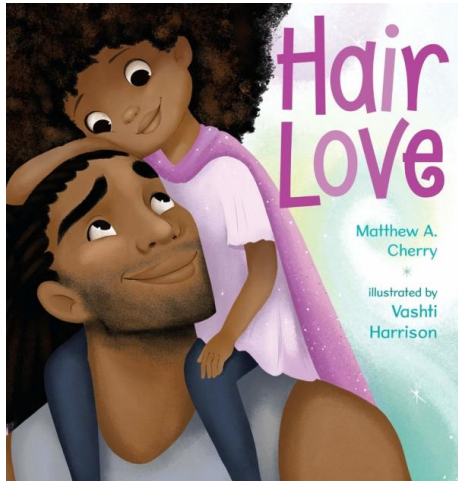
Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.



[Whose Knees Are These?](#) by Jabari Asim (author) and LeUyen Pham (illustrator)

- Ages 2-4

This interactive and multicultural board book is a fun way to embrace diversity through a baby's sweet, dimpled knees.



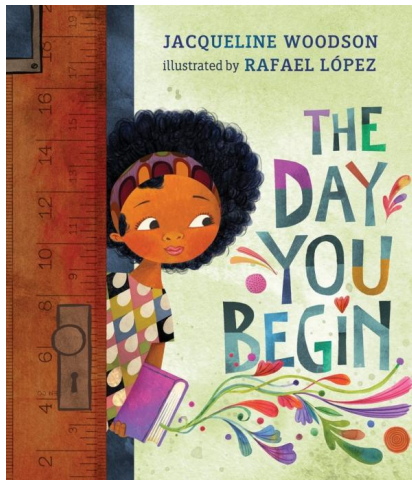
[Hair Love](#) by Matthew A. Cherry (author) and Vashti Harrison (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

Tender and empowering, this story is an ode to self-confidence, loving your natural hair, and the love between fathers and daughters.

Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When dad steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he loves his Zuri, and he'll do anything to

make her - and her hair - happy.

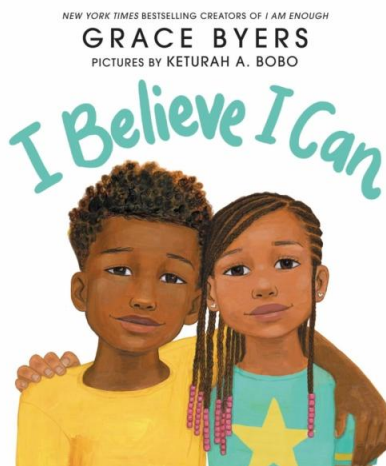


[The Day You Begin](#) by Jacqueline Woodson (author) and Rafael López (illustrator)

- Ages 5-8

A poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. This story reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes - and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. Sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

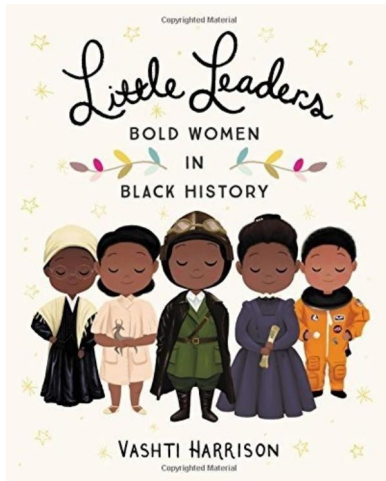
There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.



[I Believe I Can](#) by Grace Byers (author) and Keturah A. Bobo (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

This book is an affirmation for children of every background to love and believe in themselves. An inspirational "can do" paean to youth empowerment, encouraging readers to believe in themselves and dream big regardless of their skin color, racial background, or abilities.



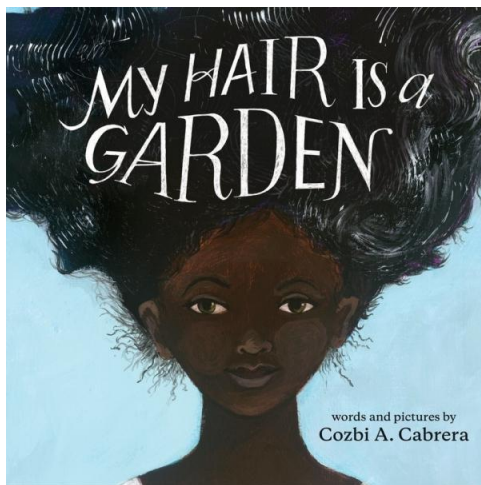
[Little Leaders: Bold Black Women in History](#) by Vashti Harrison (author and illustrator)

- Ages 3-7

This book introduces readers to forty remarkable Black women who changed the world. It educates and inspires as it relates true stories of trailblazing black women in American history.

Among these biographies, readers will find heroes, role models, and everyday women who did extraordinary things - bold women whose actions and beliefs contributed to making the world better for generations of girls and women to come.

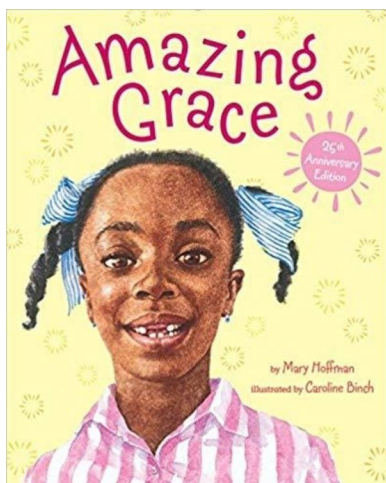
Whether they were putting pen to paper, soaring through the air or speaking up for the rights of others, the women profiled in these pages were all taking a stand against a world that didn't always accept them. The leaders in this book may be little, but they all did something big and amazing, inspiring generations to come.



[My Hair is a Garden](#) by Cozbi A. Cabrera (author and illustrator)

- Ages 5-7

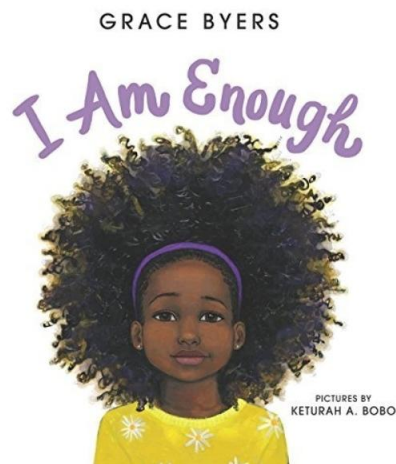
After a day of being teased and taunted by classmates about her unruly hair, Mackenzie turns to her wise and comforting neighbor, Miss Tillie, for guidance and help. Using her lush garden in the backyard as a metaphor, Miss Tillie teaches Mackenzie how to care for and appreciate her hair. Mackenzie learns that natural black hair is beautiful, and that there are many kinds of beauty.



[Amazing Grace](#) by Mary Hoffman (author) and Caroline Binch (illustrator)

- Ages 3-8

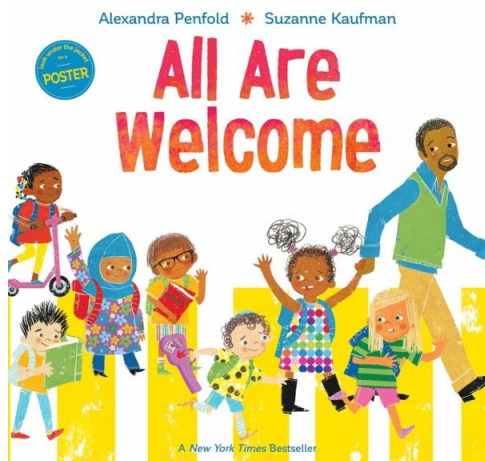
Grace loves to act, but one day some kids tell her she can't play the part of Peter Pan because of the way she looks. Grace's grandmother helps her realize that, with effort, anything can be achieved.



[I Am Enough](#) by Grace Byers (author) and Keturah A. Bobo (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

This gorgeous, lyrical ode to female empowerment is about loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another.

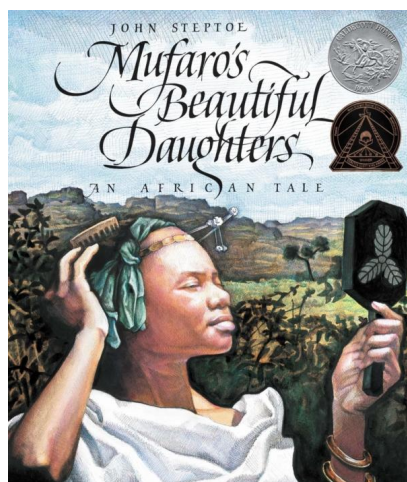


[All Are Welcome](#) by Alexandra Penfold (author) and Suzanne Kaufman (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

This warm and welcoming picture book celebrates diversity and lets children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, and they are welcome in their school.

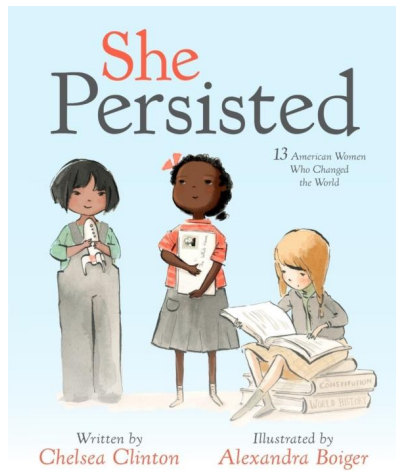
Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions and the whole community gathers to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



[Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale](#) by John Steptoe (author and illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

This book is inspired by a traditional African folktale that is a classic Cinderella story and is perfect for introducing children to the fairy tale as well as the history, culture, and geography of the African nation of Zimbabwe.

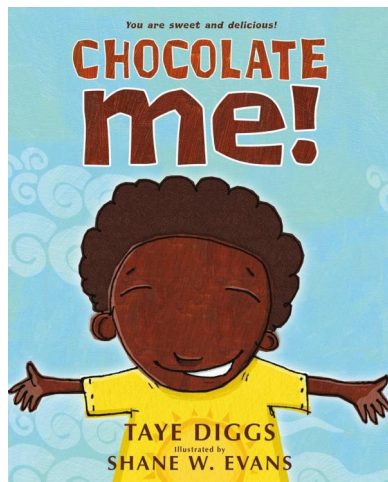


[She Persisted: 13 Women Who Changed the World](#) by Chelsea Clinton (author) and Alexandra Boiger (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

This book features thirteen women throughout history and today who persevered in the face of adversity, encouraging children to speak up and keep striving for their dreams. This is a book for everyone who has ever wanted to speak up but has been told to quiet down, for everyone who has ever tried to reach for the stars but was told to sit down, and for everyone who has ever been made to feel unworthy or unimportant or

small. No matter what obstacles may be in your path, you shouldn't give up on your dreams. Persistence is power.

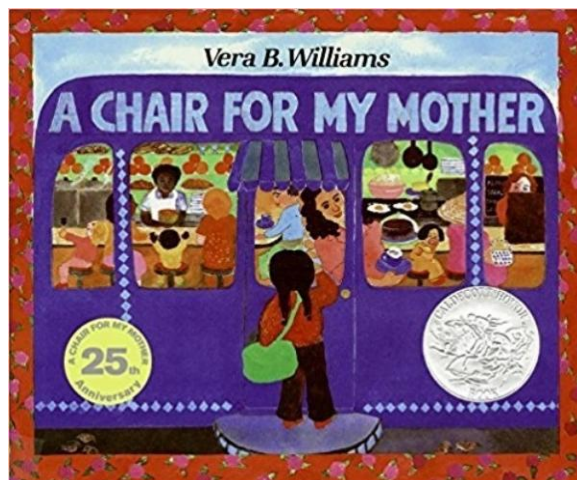


[Chocolate Me!](#) by Taye Diggs (author) and Shane W. Evans (illustrator)

- Ages 4-8

This book is about how it feels to be teased and taunted, and how each of us is sweet and lovely and delicious on the inside, no matter how we look. It is based on experiences of feeling different and trying to fit in and encourages all people to love themselves.

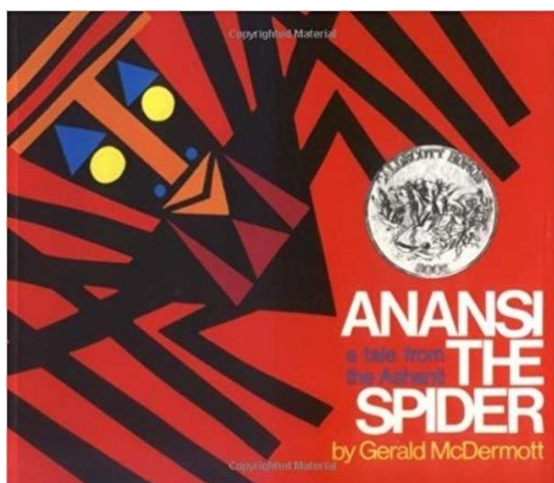
A boy is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker and his hair is curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. She helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.



[A Chair for My Mother](#) by Vera Williams

- Ages 3-6

After a fire destroys their home and possessions, Rosa, her mother, and her grandmother save their money to buy a big comfortable chair. Suffused with warmth and tenderness, this book celebrates family love and determination.

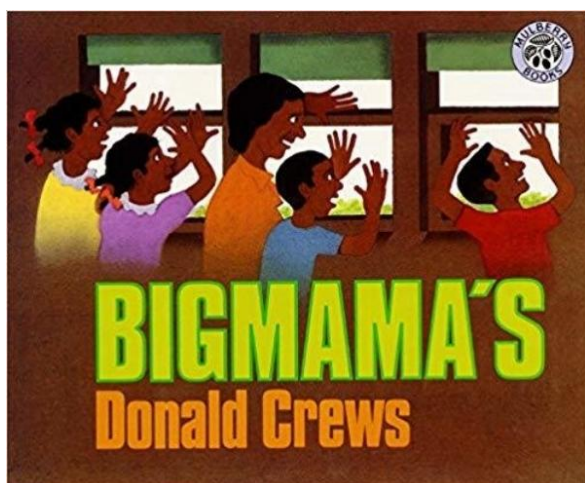


Anansi the Spider: A Tale From the Ashanti

by Gerald McDermott

- Ages 3-6

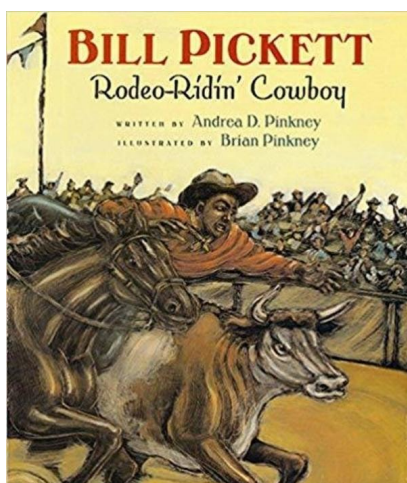
Have you ever wondered how the moon got where it is? According to this Ashanti tale, Nyame, the god of all things, put it there when Anansi could not decide which of his sons deserved it. Brilliant illustrations accompany this classic retelling of a traditional tale.



Bigmama's by Donald Crews

- Ages 3-6

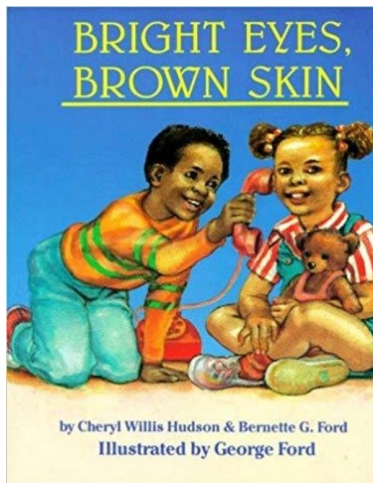
Every year the narrator and his family take a trip down to Cottondale, Florida, to visit his grandmother, Bigmama. This autobiographical story recalls the joys of summer and the contrast between the author's life in the city and Bigmama's lush, rural home. While the illustrations suggest it was a period of segregation, this thought never overpowers the carefree summer celebration.



Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin' Cowboy by Andrea Pinkney (author) and Brian Pinkney (illustrator)

- Ages 6-9

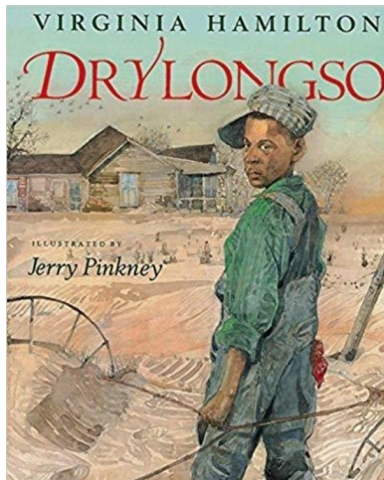
The most celebrated black cowboy was Bill Pickett, a fearless rodeo star with a knack for taming bulls that brought the crowds to their feet. The closing note in this book provides an overview of the history of rodeos and black cowboys.



Bright Eyes, Brown Skin by Cheryl Hudson and Bernette Ford (authors) and George Cephas Ford (illustrator)

- Ages 3-6

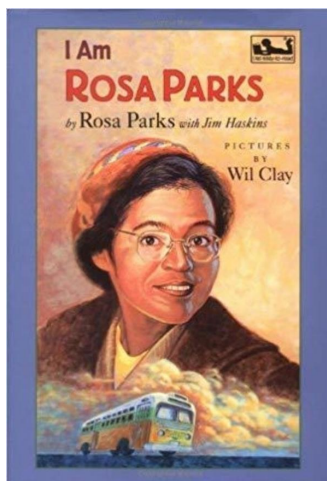
Four African American children interact with one another in a preschool environment, exploring their facial features, skin tones, what they wear, what they do, and how they learn from and enjoy each other. A happy book and nice addition to preschool and kindergarten classrooms.



Drylongso by Virginia Hamilton (author) and Jerry Pinkney (illustrator)

- Ages 6-9

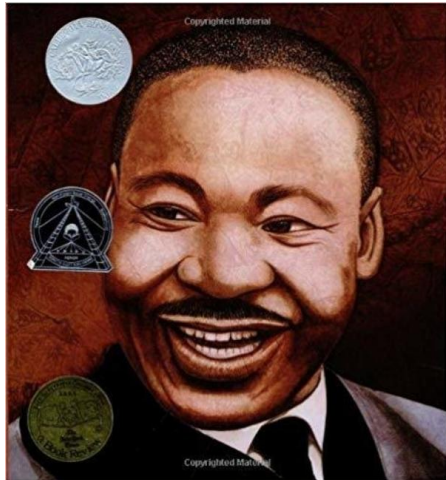
Newbery Award winner Virginia Hamilton describes how Lindy and her family suffer through a long drought. Then a mysterious boy comes and teaches them the secrets of finding water hidden in the earth.



I Am Rosa Parks by Rosa Parks and James Haskins (authors) and Wil Clay (illustrator)

- Ages 6-9

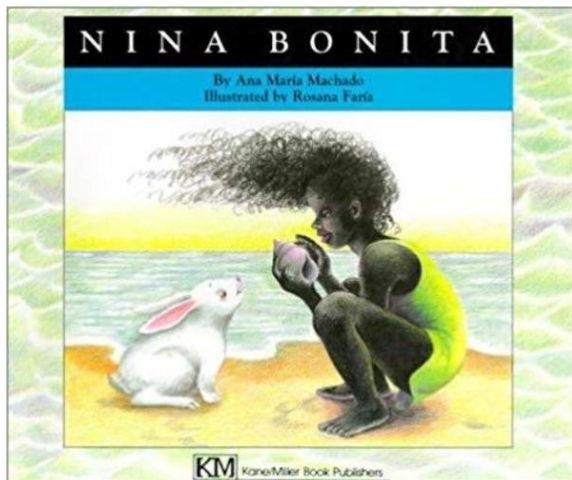
The famous civil rights activist Rosa Parks has simplified her autobiography for young readers in this Puffin Easy to Read book. She describes how she was arrested for not giving up her bus seat and shows that her personal role was part of a wider political struggle.



Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport (author) and Bryan Collier (illustrator)

- Ages 6-9

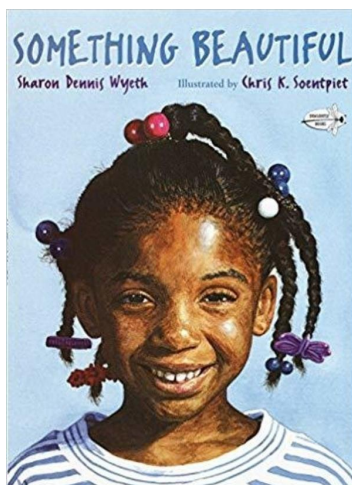
Martin Luther King Jr. grew up fascinated by big words. He would later go on to use these words to inspire a nation and call people to action. In this award-winning book, powerful portraits of King show how he used words, not weapons, to fight injustice.



Nina Bonita by Ana Machado (author) and Rosana Faria (illustrator)

- Ages 3-6

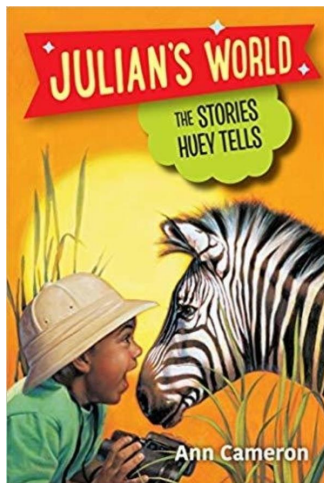
This delightful book is set on a Caribbean island and features a little white rabbit who admires a beautiful black girl. He asks her what her secret is and she tells him to drink lots of black coffee and to eat lots of black beans. He doesn't give up though and in the end finds what change he can make.



Something Beautiful by Sharon Wyeth (author) and Chris K. Soentpiet (illustrator)

- Ages 3-6

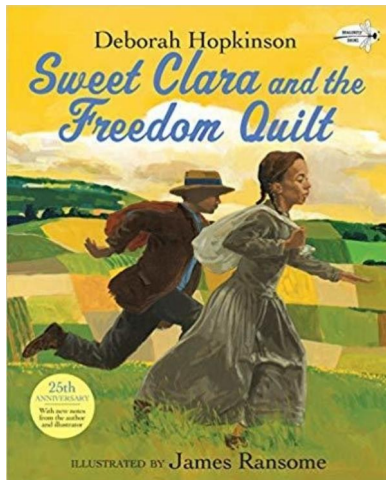
A young girl learns to find beauty in her sometimes gritty urban neighborhood, showing how the way one sees makes a difference that affects others. Luminous watercolors detail the child, her neighborhood, and suggest what she sees around her.



[Julian's World: The Stories Huey Tells](#) by Ann Cameron (author) and Roberta Smith (author and illustrator)

- Ages 6-9

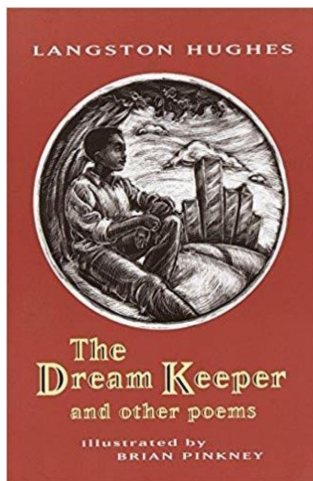
These five short and funny stories show the mischief that Huey gets into in daily adventures with his annoying older brother Julian. The stories are filled with fun and warmth.



[Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt](#) by Deborah Hopkinson (author) and James Ransome (author and illustrator)

- Ages 6-9

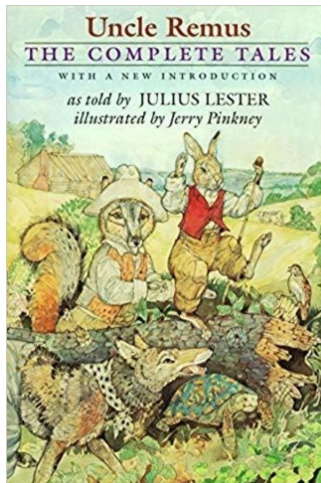
Clara is born into slavery but learns an important skill when she becomes a seamstress. Her quilting ability allows Clara to put together directions to escape north to freedom when she overhears a conversation about a route to Canada.



[The Dream Keeper and Other Poems](#) by Langston Hughes, Brian Pinkney (authors), and Brian Pinkney (illustrator)

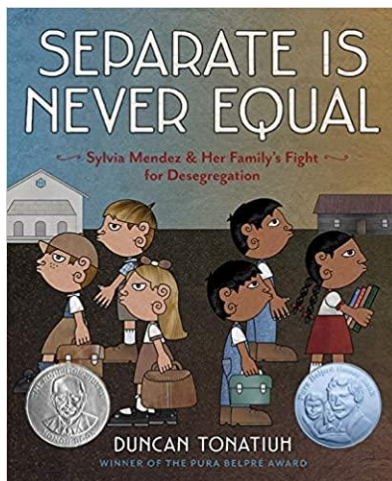
- Ages 6-9

The great American poet Langston Hughes chose the poems in this classic collection, originally published for young people in 1932.



[Uncle Remus: The Complete Tales](#) by Julius Lester (author) and Jerry Pinkney (illustrator)
- Ages 3-6

One of the most well known of African American folktales are the Uncle Remus tales, originally written down by Joel Chandler Harris over a hundred years ago. This four-book series drops the heavy and difficult dialect of the original tales and adds contemporary language and references to Brer Rabbit's fun.



[Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh
- Ages 6-9

When her family moved to the town of Westminster, California, young Sylvia Mendez was excited about enrolling in her neighborhood school. But she and her brothers were turned away and told they had to attend the Mexican school instead. Sylvia could not understand why—she was an American citizen who spoke perfect English. Why were the children of Mexican families forced to attend a separate school? Unable to get a satisfactory answer from the school board, the Mendez family decided to take matters into its own

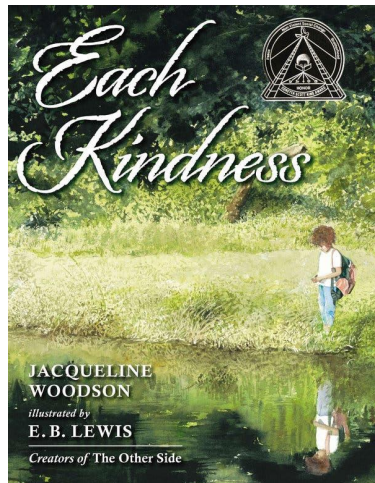
hands and organize a lawsuit.



[Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All](#) by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi (authors) and Ashley Seil Smith (illustrator)
- Ages 6-12

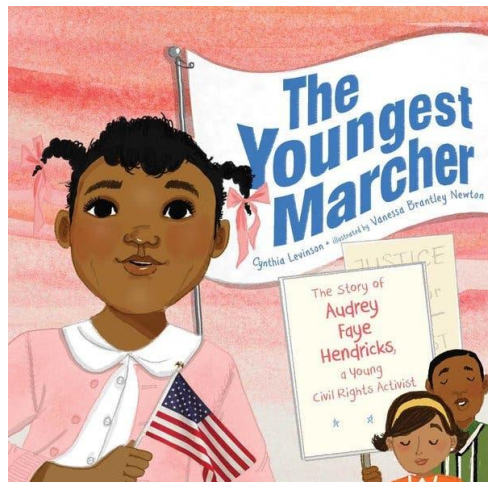
The brainchild of three women-of-color sociologists, Intersection Allies is a smooth, gleeful entry into intersectional feminism. The nine interconnected characters proudly describe themselves and their backgrounds, involving topics that range from a physical disability to language brokering, offering an opportunity to take

pride in a personal story and connect to collective struggle for justice.



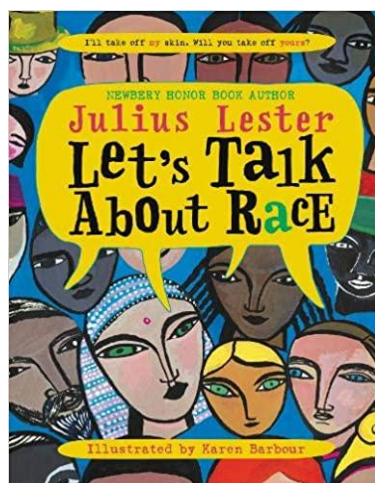
[Each Kindness](#) by Jacqueline Woodson (author) and E.B. Lewis (illustrator)
- Ages 5-8

A new girl, Maya, shows up at school, and the whole class, including Chloe, our main character, shuns her because she's shabbily dressed and seems different. This goes on for a while, and then Maya is suddenly gone, and Chloe realizes she's missed her chance to be kind. This is a powerful picture book that bravely ends with regret.



[The Youngest Marcher](#) by Cynthia Levinson (author) and Vanessa Brantley Newton (illustrator)
- Ages 5-8

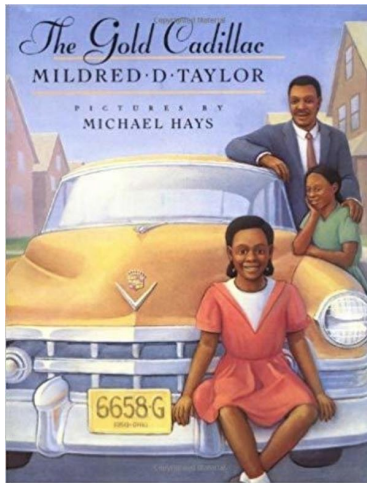
It's one of the more shocking and little-known stories of the civil rights movement: In 1963, the City of Birmingham jailed hundreds of kids for joining the Children's March. Among them was 9-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks, taken from her family to spend a week behind bars, eating 'oily grits' and sleeping on a bare mattress. Levinson and Newton keep her story bright and snappy, emphasizing the girl's eagerness to make a difference and her proud place in her community.



[Let's Talk About Race](#) by Julius Lester (author) and Karen Barbour (illustrator)
- Ages 4-8

In this acclaimed book, the author of the Newbery Honor Book *To Be a Slave* shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. A strong choice for sharing at home or in the classroom.

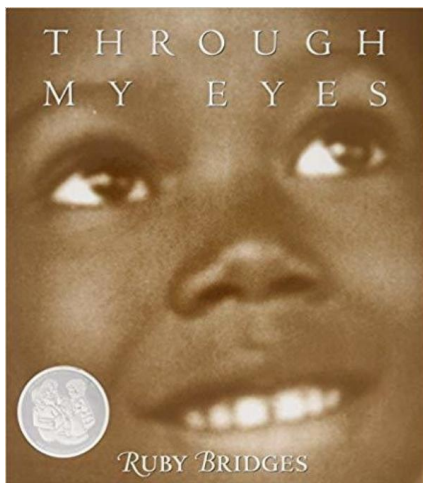
5th — 8th Grade



[The Gold Cadillac](#) by Mildred Taylor (author) and Michael Hays (illustrator)

- Ages 9-12

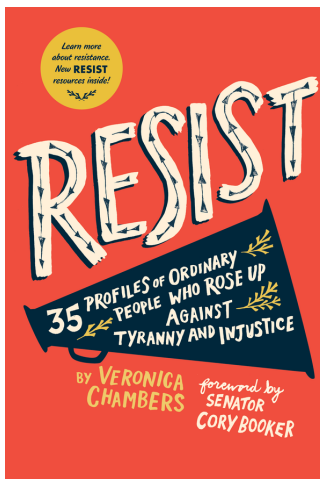
Set in the 1950s, this book by Mildred Taylor is frank in its portrayal of racism. Lois and Wilma are proud when their father buys a brand new gold Cadillac. Only their mother won't ride in it. On a trip from their home in Ohio to Mississippi, there are no admiring glances only suspicion directed toward the black man driving such a fancy car. For the first time, Lois knows what it's like to feel scared because of her skin color.



[Through My Eyes](#) by Ruby Bridges

- Ages 9-12

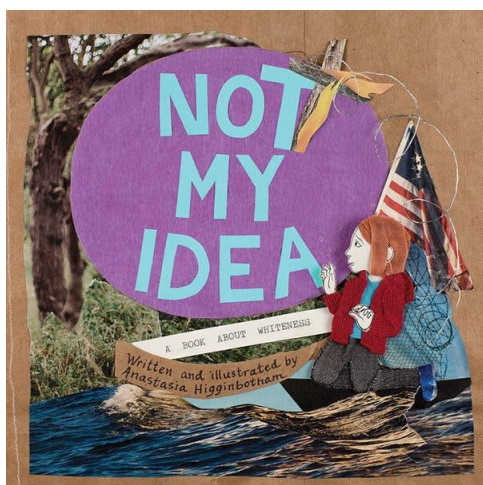
Six-year-old Ruby Bridges became the first African American to integrate an elementary school. Her memories of that year, when so much hatred was directed at her, makes for a powerful memoir. A 1999 Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner.



[Resist: 35 Profiles of Ordinary People Who Rose Up Against Tyranny and Injustice](#) by Veronica Chambers (author) and Paul Ryding (illustrator)

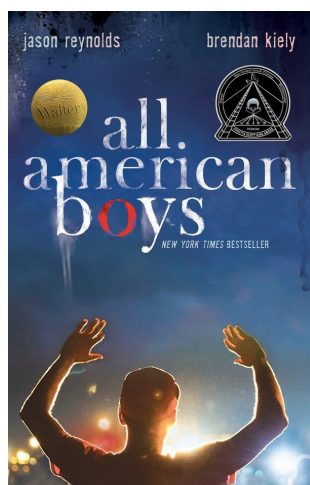
- Ages 9-12

Before they were activists, they were just like you and me. From Frederick Douglass to Malala Yousafzai, Joan of Arc to John Lewis, Susan B. Anthony to Janet Mock—these remarkable figures show us what it means to take a stand and say no to injustice, even when it would be far easier to stay quiet.



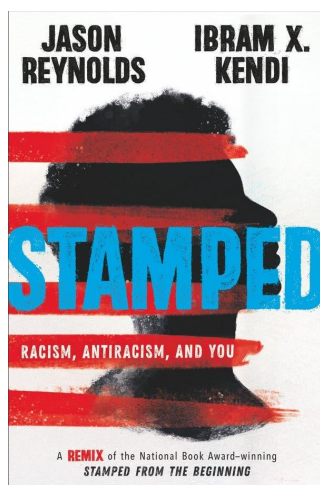
[Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness](#) by
Anastasia Higginbotham (author and illustrator)
- Ages 9-12

An honest explanation about how power and privilege factor into the lives of white children, at the expense of other groups, and how they can help seek justice.



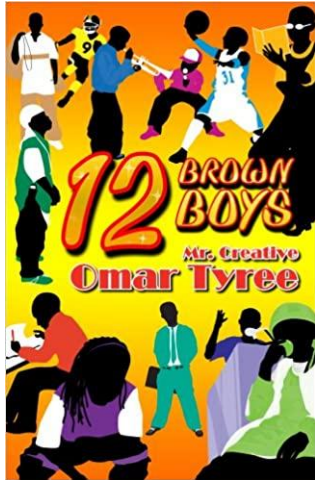
[All American Boys](#) by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- Ages 12+

This is a brilliant look at the effects of police brutality from the perspective of two teen boys: one white and one black. We get inside both of their minds and watch them grapple with the weight of something that is way too familiar in our country.



[Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi
- Ages 12+

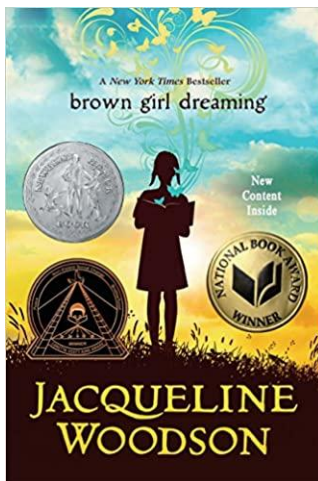
Reynolds and Kendi have created a book that slyly draws attention to the page itself. 'Uh-oh. The R-word,' they write. The word that 'for many of us still feels Rated R. Or can be matched only with the other R word — run. But don't. Let's all just take a deep breath. Inhale. Hold it. Exhale and breathe out' — and here, the text breaks apart to give us the dangerous word — 'race.'



12 Brown Boys by Omar Tyree

- Ages 9-12

A collection of short stories for middle readers that focus on the lives of Black pre-teen boys. Readers will connect with a wide range of characters that reflect the diversity of experiences of Black boys - characters that are funny, serious, edgy, street-wise, studious, and all unforgettable.

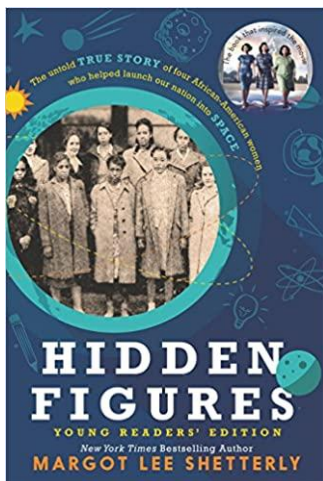


Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

- Ages 9-12

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating

the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

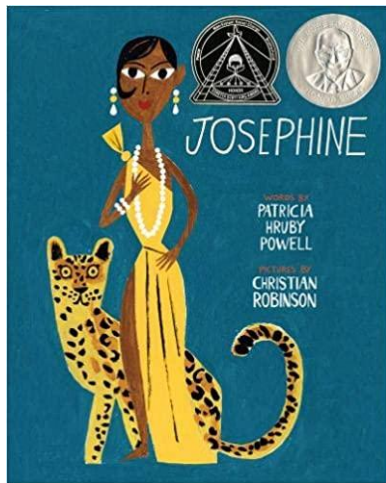


Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition by Margot Lee

Shetterly

- Ages 9-12

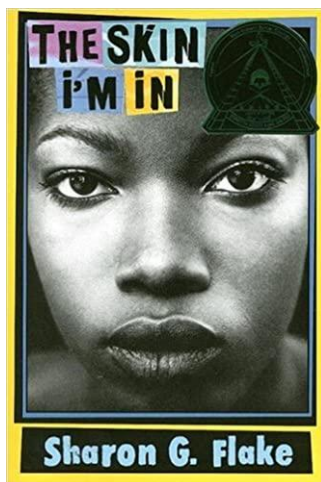
This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.



Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker by Patricia Hruby Powell (author) and Christian Robinson (illustrator)

- Ages 9-12

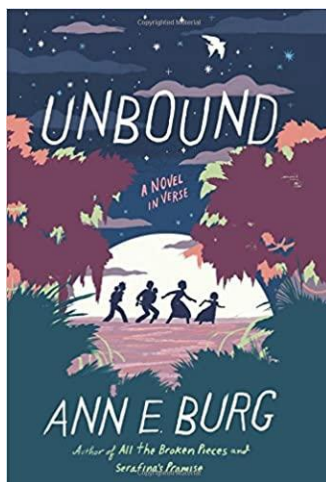
In exuberant verse and stirring pictures, Patricia Hruby Powell and Christian Robinson create an extraordinary portrait for young people of the passionate performer and civil rights advocate Josephine Baker, the woman who worked her way from the slums of St. Louis to the grandest stages in the world. Meticulously researched by both author and artist, Josephine's powerful story of struggle and triumph is an inspiration and a spectacle, just like the legend herself.



The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake

- Ages 9-12

Maleeka Madison is a strong student who has had enough of being teased about her "too black" skin and handmade clothes. So when she starts seventh grade, she decides to adopt a sassier attitude and a tougher circle of friends. The last thing she expects is to get "messed up" with another "freak," but that's exactly what happens.

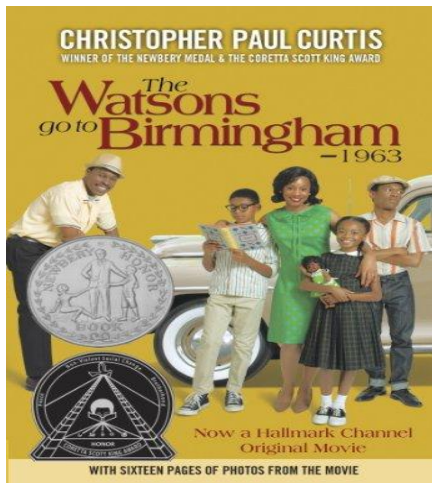


Unbound: A Novel in Verse by Ann E. Burg

- Ages 9-12

The day Grace is called from the slave cabins to work in the Big House, Mama makes her promise to keep her eyes down. Uncle Jim warns her to keep her thoughts tucked private in her mind or they could bring a whole lot of trouble and pain. But the more Grace sees of the heartless Master and hateful Missus, the more a rightness voice clamors in her head-asking how come white folks can own other people, sell them on the auction block, and separate families forever. When that voice escapes without warning, it sets off a terrible chain of events that prove Uncle Jim's words true.

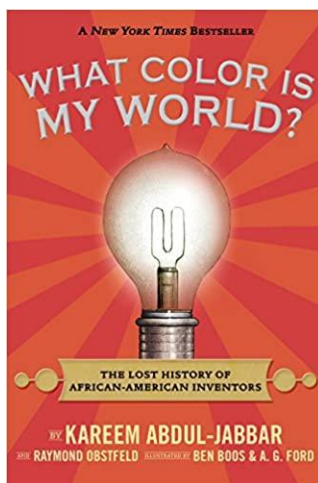
Suddenly, Grace and her family must flee deep into the woods, where they brave deadly animals, slave patrollers, and the uncertainty of ever finding freedom.



[The Watsons Go to Birmingham](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis

- Ages 9-12

Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Byron gets into too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they'll be in Birmingham during one of the darkest moments in America's history.

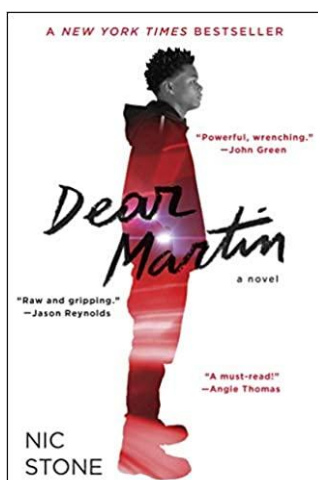


[What Color Is My World?: The Lost History of African-American Inventors](#) by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld (authors) and Ben Boos and A.G. Ford (illustrators)

- Ages 9-12

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, basketball legend and the NBA's all-time leading scorer, champions a lineup of little-known African-American inventors in this lively, kid-friendly book. Offering profiles with fast facts and framed by a funny contemporary story featuring two feisty twins, here is a tribute to black inventors whose ingenuity and perseverance against great odds made our world safer, better, and brighter.

9th – 12th Grade

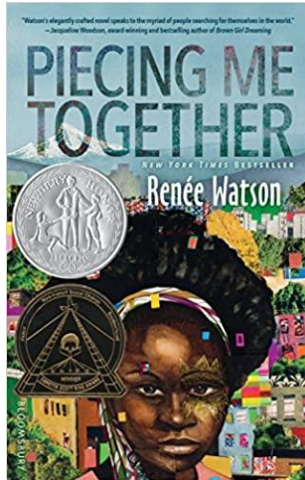


[Dear Martin](#) by Nic Stone

- Ages 14-18

Justyce McAllister is a good kid, an honor student, and always there to help a friend—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. Despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.



Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson

- Ages 14-18

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,

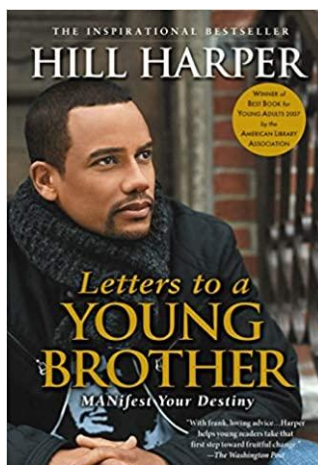
someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference.



Testimony: Young African-Americans on Self-Discovery and Black Identity by Natasha Tarpley

- Ages 14-18

In *Testimony*, Black students across the country express their generation's shared experiences—from racism in school to the politics of hair. One student considers the dynamics between Black men and women as he explores his own relationships; another writes of her decision to attend a women's college, and the importance of women role models in her development. Through their compelling poetry and prose, these student writers claim identities from fragmented lives, embrace themselves, and resurrect their spirits.

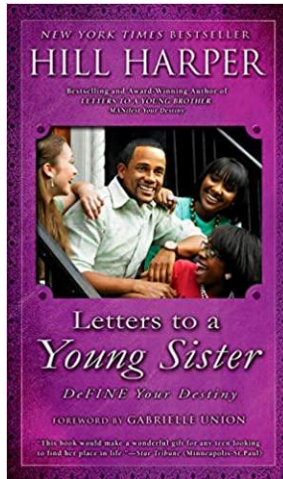


Letters to a Young Brother: Manifest Your Destiny by Hill Harper

- Ages 14-18

Offering inspirational advice in a down-to-earth style, this unique compilation of letters provides wisdom, guidance, and heartfelt

insight to help the reader chart their own path to success. Based on the author's motivational speaking at inner-city schools across the country, the letters deal with the tough issues that face young people today.



[Letters to a Young Sister: Define Your Destiny](#) by Hill Harper

- Ages 14-18

Letters to a Young Sister unfolds as a series of letters written by older brother Hill to a universal young sister. She's up against the same challenges as every young woman: from relating to her parents and dealing with peer pressure, to juggling schoolwork and crushes and keeping faith in the face of heartache. Hill offers guidance, encouragement, personal stories, and asks his female friends to help answer some truly tough questions. Every young sister needs to know that it's okay to dream big and to deFINE her own destiny. This is a book that will educate, uplift and inspire.