



Community, Connecting, Cultivating,
& Constructing Conversations
through Literacy





A Girl Like Me

by Angela Johnson
Illustrated by Nina Crews

Inspiring words by acclaimed author Angela Johnson and vibrant photo collage illustrations by Nina Crews come together in a joyful celebration of girls that encourages everyone to reject limitations and follow their dreams.

2nd to 3rd

Black Is a Rainbow Color

by Angela Joy
Illustrated by Ekua Holmes

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.

2nd

Chocolate Me!

by Taye Diggs
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

A timely book 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.

1st

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut

by Derrick Barnes
Illustrated by Gordon C. James

A high-spirited, engaging salute to the beautiful, raw, assured humanity of black boys and how they see themselves when they approve of their reflections in the mirror.

3rd

Don't Touch My Hair!

by Sharee Miller
Illustrated by Sharee Miller

A little girl celebrates her Afro-textured hair and reinforces the idea that it belongs to her alone. The book shows her reaction as she prevents others from touching her hair without permission.

Pre-K to 2nd



Going Down Home With Daddy

by Kelly Starling Lyons
Illustrated by Daniel Minter

In this rich and moving celebration of history, culture, and ritual, Kelly Starling Lyons' eloquent text explores the power of family traditions. Stunning illustrations reveal the motion and connections in a large, multigenerational family.

2nd

Hair Love

by Matthew A. Cherry
Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Tender and empowering, *Hair Love* is an ode to loving your natural hair—and a celebration of daddies and daughters everywhere.

K to 3rd

Hands Up!

by Breanna J. McDaniel
Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

This triumphant picture book recasts a charged phrase as part of a Black girl's everyday life—hands up for a hug, hands up in class, hands up for a high five—before culminating in a moment of resistance at a protest march.

2nd

Happy Hair

by Mechal Renee Roe
Illustrated by Mechal Renee Roe

African American girls and their beautiful hair are celebrated in this bright, joyful read-together picture book that will have girls everywhere repeating the book's chorus—"I love being me!"

1st

Hey Black Child

by Useni Eugene Perkins
Illustrated by Bryan Collier

This title is an adaptation of the poem previously published in *Black Fairy and Other Plays*, by Useni Eugene Perkins, in 1993. "A ... poem that celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young ones to dream big and achieve their goals"—Provided by publisher.

K to 3rd

IntersectionAllies: We Make Room for All

by Chelsea Johnson, Carolyn Choi, and LaToya Council
Illustrated by Ashley Seil Smith

The brainchild of three women-of-color sociologists, *IntersectionAllies* 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.

K to 5th

Let The Children March

by Monica Clark-Robinson
Illustrated by Frank Morrison

In 1963 Birmingham, Alabama, thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their civil rights after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. They protested the laws that kept black people separate from white people. Facing fear, hate, and danger, these children used their voices to change the world. Frank Morrison's emotive oil-on-canvas paintings bring this historical event to life, while Monica Clark-Robinson's moving and poetic words document this remarkable time.

3rd to 5th

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History

by Vashti Harrison

With elegantly simple illustrations, this book highlights the stories and contributions of Black women through history. Harrison's book covers a range of figures in many different fields; some well-known, others less so.

2nd to 5th (and up)

Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History

by Vashti Harrison

In the same vein as the previous volume, this book turns to the contributions of Black men through history, highlighting their achievements and the mark that they left on the world.

2nd to 5th (and up)



M is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child

by Tiffany Rose
Illustrated by Tiffany Rose

Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro, to F is for Fresh, to W is for Worthy. This book teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin that they're in.

Pre-K to 1st

Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration

by Samara Cole Doyon
Illustrated by Kaylani Juanita

Told by a 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.

K to 2nd

My Hair Is Beautiful

by Shauntee Grant

This board book is an introduction to Black hair styles for the youngest readers, naming styles such as Afro puffs and cornrows with simple text and affirmations.

Pre-K

Parker Looks Up

by Parker Curry and Jessica Curry
Illustrated by Brittany Jackson

Parker saw the possibility and promise, the hopes and dreams of herself in this powerful painting of Michelle Obama. An everyday moment became an extraordinary one.

2nd



Princess Hair

by Sharee Miller
Illustrated by Sharee Miller

From dreadlocks to blowouts to braids, *Princess Hair* shines a spotlight on the beauty and diversity of Black hair, showing young readers that every kind of hair is princess hair.

K to 3rd

Ruth and the Green Book

by Calvin A. Ramsey, with Gwen Strauss
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper

When Ruth and her parents take a motor trip from Chicago to Alabama to visit her grandma, they rely on a pamphlet called "The Negro Motorist Green Book" to find places that will serve them. Includes facts about "The Green Book."

2nd to 5th

Sing a Song: How Lift Every Voice and Sing Inspired Generations

by Kelly Starling Lyons
Illustrated by Keith Mallett

Just in time for the 120th anniversary of the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing"—this stirring book celebrates the Black National Anthem and how it inspired five generations of a family.

K to 3rd

Something Happened in Our Town: a Child's Story About Racial Injustice

by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard
Illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin

After discussing the police shooting of a local Black man with their families, Emma and Josh know how to treat a new student who looks and speaks differently than his classmates. Includes an extensive note to parents and caregivers that provides general guidance about addressing racism with children, child-friendly vocabulary definitions, conversation guides, and a link to additional online resources for parents and teachers.

2nd

Sulwe

by Lupita N'yongo
Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Little Sulwe, whose name means "midnight," is teased for her beautiful, deep dark skin, which she feels makes her ugly. Through the affirmations of her mother, and a journey through the land of stars, Sulwe learns that the darkness is beautiful, and that what's inside of her is just as important as what's on the outside.

Pre-K to 3rd

The Day You Begin

by Jacqueline Woodson
Illustrated by Rafael López

Other students laugh when Rigoberto, an immigrant from Venezuela, introduces himself but later, he meets Angelina and discovers that he is not the only one who feels like an outsider.

1st to 3rd

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned To Read

by Rita Lorraine Hubbard
Illustrated by Oge Mora

This heartwarming picture book tells the story of Mary Walker, a former enslaved woman who learned to read and write at the age of 116. Hubbard's story traces Walker's life and the obstacles that prevented her from accessing an education, as well as her persistence and determination to understand the written word.

1st to 4th

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne

by Lesa Cline-Ransome
Illustrated by John Parra

Seeking truth, justice, and equality, Ethel followed stories from her school newspaper in Chicago to Japan during World War II. It even led her to the White House briefing room, where she broke barriers as the only Black female journalist.

2nd

The Undeclared

by Kwame Alexander
Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

The Newbery Award-winning author of *The Crossover* pens an ode to black American triumph and tribulation, with art from a two-time Caldecott Honoree.

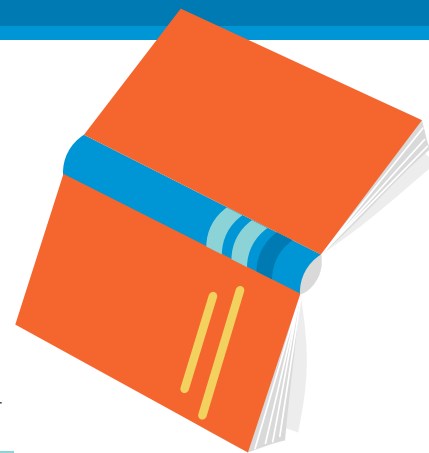
Pre-K to 4th

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy

by Tony Medina
Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, Gregory R. Christie, Ekua Holmes, and Floyd Cooper

These short, vibrant tanka poems about young men of color depict thirteen views of everyday life, each poem paired with a different artist—including recent Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Award recipients.

1st to 8th



Ways to Make Sunshine

by Renée Watson

Ryan is all about trying to see the best. Even when things aren't all she would wish for—her brother is infuriating, her parents don't understand, when her recipes don't turn out right, and when the unexpected occurs—she can find a way forward, with wit and plenty of sunshine.

4th

We March

by Shane Evans
Illustrated by Sharee Evans

Chronicles a young child's day participating with family in the March on Washington in 1968, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.

1st

You Matter

by Christian Robinson
Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Young readers will be drawn into the luminous illustrations inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.

2nd





A Good Kind of Trouble

by Lisa Moore Ramee

Twelve-year-old Shayla is allergic to trouble. All she wants to do is to follow the rules. (Oh, and she'd also like to make it through seventh grade with her best friendships intact, learn to run track, and have a cute boy see past her giant forehead.) But in junior high, it's like all the rules have changed. Now she's suddenly questioning who her best friends are and some people at school are saying she's not black enough. Shay's sister, Hana, is involved in Black Lives Matter, but Shay doesn't think that's for her. After experiencing a powerful protest, though, Shay decides some rules are worth breaking.

4th to 8th

Betty Before X

by Ilyasah Shabazz and Renne Watson

Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.

5th to 8th

Black Brother, Black Brother

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

From award-winning and bestselling author, Jewell Parker Rhodes comes a powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition.

6th

Black Enough: stories of being young & Black in America

by Edited by Ibi Zoboi

Edited by National Book Award finalist Ibi Zoboi, and featuring some of the most acclaimed bestselling Black authors writing for teens today—Black Enough is an essential collection of captivating stories about what it's like to be young and Black in America.

7th to 8th

Black Women in Science: A Black History Book for Kids

by Kimberly Brown Pellum

Featuring 15 powerful stories of fearless female scientists that advanced their STEM fields and fought to build a legacy.

5th

Blended

by Sharon Draper

Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.

5th to 8th

Brave. Black. First.: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World

by Cheryl Hudson

Illustrated by Erin K. Robinson

Published in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, discover over fifty remarkable African American women whose unique skills and contributions paved the way for the next generation of young people. Perfect for fans of Rad Women Worldwide, Women in Science, and Girls Think of Everything.

5th

Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson

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.

7th to 8th

Clean Getaway

by Nic Stone

For the life of him, William 'Scoob' Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble—and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when G'ma, Scoob's favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say freedom. With G'ma's old maps and a strange pamphlet called the "Travelers' Green Book" at their side, the pair takes off on a journey down G'ma's memory lane.

5th to 8th

Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow

by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Tonya Bolden

American literary critic, teacher, historian, filmmaker and public intellectual Henry Louis Gates Jr. looks at America's history from 1861 to 1915, focusing on the destruction of slavery, the Reconstruction Amendments, and African-American resilience in times of racial unrest and drawing parallels to them with the early twenty-first century in the United States.

8th

Dictionary for a Better World: Poems, Quotes, and Anecdotes from A to Z

by Irene Latham & Charles Waters
Illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini

Organized as a dictionary, entries in this book for middle-grade readers present words related to creating a better, more inclusive world. Each word is explored via a poem, a quote from an inspiring person, a short personal anecdote from one of the co-authors, a prompt for how to translate the word into action, and an illustration.

3rd to 8th

Finding Langston

by Lesa Cline-Ransome

After his mother's death, Langston and his father move from rural Alabama to Chicago as part of a movement called The Great Migration. Langston is lonely in the apartment and bullied at school, with the public library as his only refuge. There, Langston learns about another Langston, which opens his eyes to poetry and the person his mother named him after.

4th to 7th

For Black Girls Like Me

by Mariama J. Lockington

In this lyrical coming-of-age story about family, sisterhood, music, race, and identity, Mariama J. Lockington draws on some of the emotional truths from her own experiences growing up with an adoptive white family.

4th to 7th

KNOW YOUR READER: Some titles may include mature content. Parents, caregivers and educators are encouraged to discuss these experiences with their children.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

Avid baker Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime he says he didn't commit?

3rd to 6th

Genesis Begins Again

by Alicia D. Williams

Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself as is.

7th to 8th

Ghost Boys

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

7th to 8th

Hidden Figures: The Untold True Story of Four African-American Women who Helped Launch Our Nation into Space

by Margot Lee Shetterly

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as -human computers- used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women 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.

7th to 8th





March Forward, Girl

by Melba Patillo Beals
Illustrated by Frank Morrison

Long before she was one of the Little Rock Nine, Melba Pattillo Beals was a warrior. Frustrated by the laws that kept African-Americans separate but very much unequal to whites, she had questions. Why couldn't she drink from a "whites only" fountain? Why couldn't she feel safe beyond home—or even within the walls of church? Adults all told her: Hold your tongue. Be patient. Know your place. But Beals had the heart of a fighter—and the knowledge that her true place was a free one.

5th to 8th

One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williams Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

5th to 7th

One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance

by Nikki Grimes
Illustrated by Various Artists

Inspired by the writers of the Harlem Renaissance, bestselling author Nikki Grimes uses "The Golden Shovel" poetic method to create wholly original poems based on the works of master poets like Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Jean Toomer, and others who enriched history during this era.

7th

Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson

by Katherine Johnson

The inspiring autobiography of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, who helped launch Apollo 11.

7th

Say Her Name

by Zetta Elliott
Illustrated by Loveis Wise

Inspired by the #SayHerName campaign launched by the African American Policy Forum, these poems pay tribute to victims of police brutality as well as the activists insisting that Black Lives Matter. Elliott engages poets from the past two centuries to create a chorus of voices celebrating the creativity, resilience, and courage of Black women and girls.

7th to 8th

Schomburg: the Man Who Built a Library

by Carole Boston Weatherford
Illustrated by Eric Velasquez

In luminous paintings and arresting poems, two of children's literature's top African-American scholars track Arturo Schomburg's quest to correct history, leading to the creation of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in the New York Public Library.

6th

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning Stamped From the Beginning

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

This is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race. Excellent audiobook available.

7th and up

The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure—but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.

4th to 6th

The Season of Styx Malone

by Kekla Magoon

Two brothers, Caleb and Bobby Gene, are determined to have the best summer in the woods behind their house in Indiana. Then, they meet their new and very cool neighbor Styx Malone, who they find out has many secrets in his past.

6th

The Usual Suspects

by Maurice Broaddus

When a gun is found at a neighborhood hangout, Thelonius and his pals become instant suspects. Thelonius may be guilty of pulling crazy stunts at school, but a criminal? T isn't about to let that label stick.

6th

This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality

by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debby Levy

When fourteen-year-old Jo Ann Allen and eleven other African American students walk into Clinton High School on an August morning in 1956, they know they are walking into history: they've been told they are the very first students to integrate a public high school in the American South.

5th-8th

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices

by Wade Hudson & Cheryl Willis Hudson

What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and prejudice and racism run rampant? With 96 lavishly designed pages of original art and prose, fifty diverse creators lend voice to young activists. Featuring poems, letters, personal essays, art, and other works from various authors and poets.

6th to 8th

What Lane?

by Torrey Maldonado

Biracial sixth-grader Stephen questions the limitations society puts on him after he notices the way strangers treat him when he hangs out with his white friends and learns about the Black Lives Matter movement.

6th

