An illustration of a vibrant city street scene. In the foreground, a young girl with braided hair looks upwards with her hands framing her face. Behind her, another child holds a large bouquet of flowers. The background shows a busy street with a purple car, buildings, and people. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light.

# CORETTA SCOTT KING Book Awards

2011 Discussion Guide

American Library Association  
Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table  
CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS COMMITTEE

## American Library Association Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee • [www.ala.org/csk](http://www.ala.org/csk)

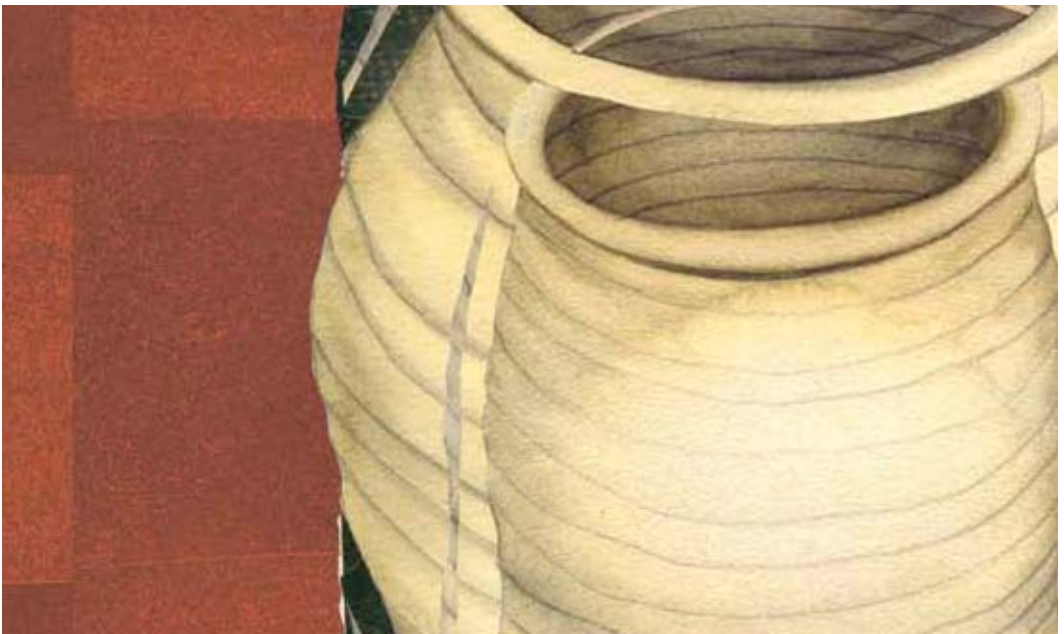
This Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide is prepared by the 2011 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee Chair, Chrystal Carr Jeter, and by members of the 2011 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury: Dr. Jonda C. McNair (Chair), Dr. Lesley Colabucci, Eboni Curry, Dr. Cora Dunkley, Diane Foote, Debby Gold, and Karen Lemmons.

The activities and discussion topics are developed to encompass state school standards. These standards equally apply to students from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Students will demonstrate their proficiency, skills, and knowledge of subject matter in accordance with national and state standards. Please refer to the Web site [www.edu.gov](http://www.edu.gov) for detailed information.

### The Coretta Scott King Book Award: A Living Legend

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards have grown since their conception in the late 1960s. At a dinner gala of the New Jersey Library Association in May 1970, Lillie Patterson was honored for her biography, *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace*. In 1972, the first Coretta Scott King Book Awards breakfast was held at an ALA conference site. Official affiliation with the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) came in 1980, and in 1982, the American Library Association recognized the Coretta Scott King Award as an association award.

During the 2003 ALA Midwinter meeting, the Coretta Scott King Task Force joined the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). The affiliation with EMIERT gave the group a new name: the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. Success of the committee can be



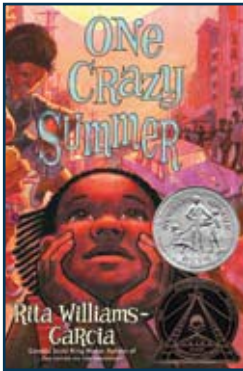
attributed to the work of tireless volunteers and visionary founders. For a more complete history, consult: *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book: From Vision to Reality*, edited by Henrietta Smith, American Library Association, 1999; and *The Coretta Scott King Awards: 1970–2009, fourth edition*, by Henrietta Smith, American Library Association, 2009.

For more than forty years, books by African American writers and artists have been honored by receiving the Coretta Scott King Book Award. This award promotes understanding and appreciation of African American culture and the culture of all peoples. The award is designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood. The multidimensional characteristics of the authors' and illustrators' works reflect the African American experience from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Opportunities to celebrate the rich and powerful experiences depicted in these books lie in the hands of the adults in children's and young adults' lives.

This discussion guide is, therefore, dedicated to those teachers, parents, librarians, booksellers, and caregivers who are committed to enriching the lives of children and young adults with quality literature. Among their many other functions, book awards provide a simple means for casual browsers in bookstores, libraries, and schools to find material that is engaging, well crafted, and satisfying both emotionally and intellectually. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards particularly introduce the best in African American literature to all children. The award now graces dozens of titles, from picture books for the smallest children to novels and nonfiction for teenagers. In this guide, we have examined some of these titles from different angles and perspectives.



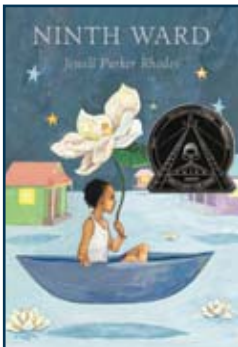
## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD WINNER, HONOR, AND STEPTOE TITLES



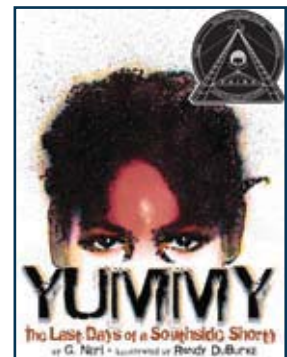
Coretta Scott King Book Award  
**Author Winner**  
**ONE CRAZY SUMMER**  
Written by Rita Williams-Garcia  
Published by Amistad  
An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers



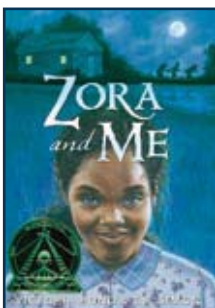
Coretta Scott King Book Award  
**Author Honor Award**  
**LOCKDOWN**  
Written by Walter Dean Myers  
Published by Amistad  
An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers



Coretta Scott King Book Award  
**Author Honor Award**  
**NINTH WARD**  
Written by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
A division of Hachette Book Group



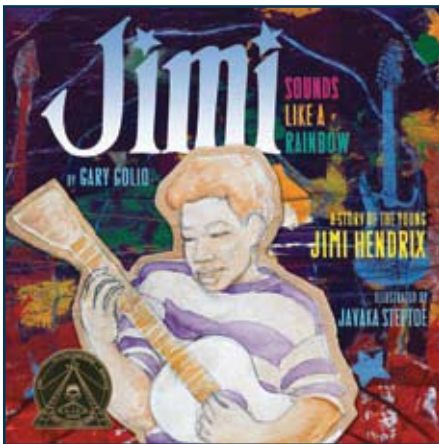
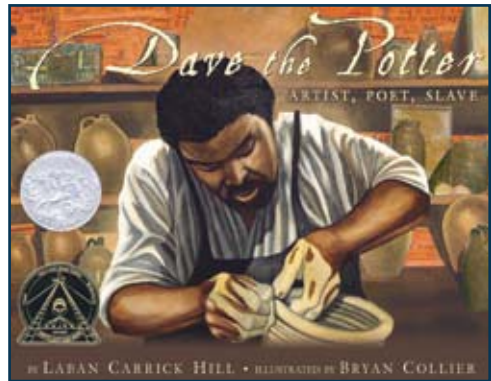
Coretta Scott King Book Award  
**Author Honor Award**  
**YUMMY: THE LAST DAYS  
OF A SOUTHSIDE SHORTY**  
Written by G. Neri  
Illustrated by Randy DuBurke  
Published by Lee & Low Books Inc.



Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe  
**New Talent Author Award**  
**ZORA AND ME**  
Written by Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon  
Published by Candlewick Press

Coretta Scott King Book Award  
**Illustrator Winner**  
**DAVE THE POTTER: ARTIST, POET, SLAVE**

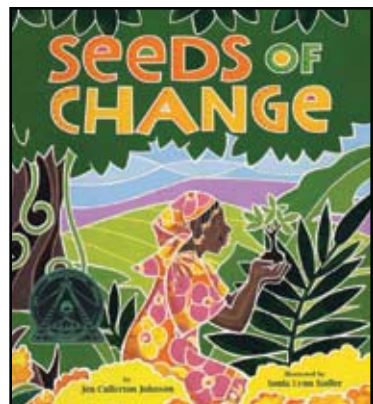
Illustrated by Bryan Collier  
Written by Laban Carrick Hill  
Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
A division of Hachette Book Group

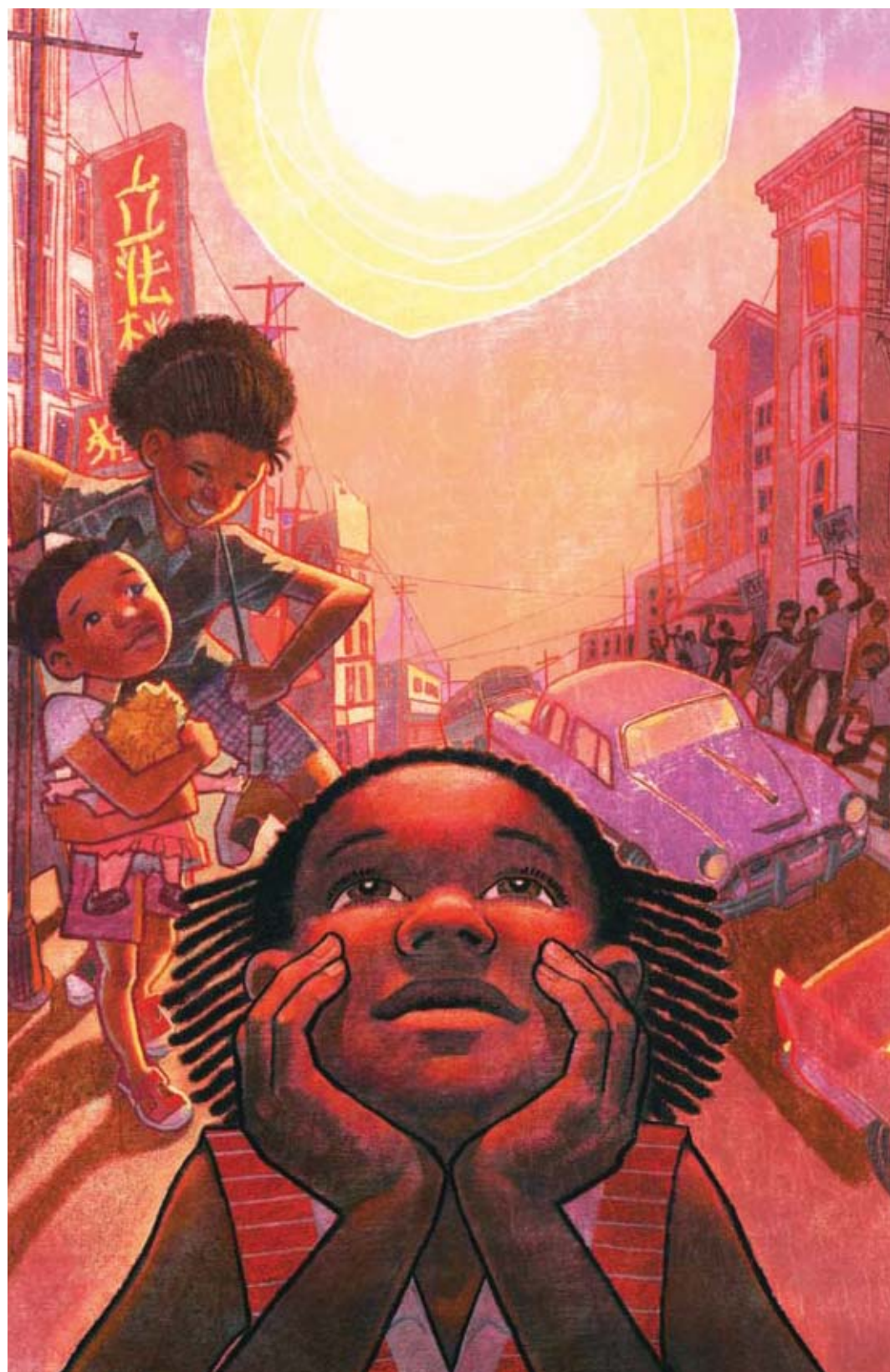


Coretta Scott King Book Award  
**Illustrator Honor Award**  
**JIMI SOUNDS LIKE A RAINBOW:  
A STORY OF THE YOUNG JIMI HENDRIX**  
Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe  
Written by Gary Golio  
Published by Clarion Books  
An imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe  
**New Talent Illustrator Award**  
**SEEDS OF CHANGE**

Illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler  
Written by Jen Cullerton Johnson  
Published by Lee & Low Books Inc.





## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR WINNER

### ONE CRAZY SUMMER

By Rita Williams-Garcia

Amistad, An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Eleven-year-old Delphine travels with her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, to California to visit their estranged mother. It's 1968, and this close-knit threesome of girls spends their days at a summer camp run by the Black Panthers. Williams-Garcia delves honestly into this often-overlooked aspect of the Civil Rights Movement. As a piece of historical fiction, *One Crazy Summer* offers a perfect balance of family themes and social issues.



### ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Create a KWL (what you know, what you want to know, what you learned) chart about the Black Panthers and their role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Develop a statement defending or critiquing Cecile, the girls' mother. Find evidence from the book that suggests she is a "Mommy, Mom, or Ma" or a "statement of fact," as described by Delphine.
- Create a character web for Delphine. List character traits and decide if she is believable as an eleven-year-old.
- Consider developing readers' theater scripts to capture each sister's voice.
- Choose one option: list (any) other books you know that feature siblings on their own or make a list of titles that focus on the unique connections among sisters and brothers.

### RELATED CSK TITLES

*Jazmin's Notebook*, written by Nikki Grimes, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group

*The Rock and the River*, written by Kekla Magoon, published by Aladdin, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, written by Christopher Paul Curtis, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books



## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR WINNER

### DAVE THE POTTER: ARTIST, POET, SLAVE

Illustrated by Bryan Collier

Written by Laban Carrick Hill

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, A division of Hachette Book Group



Laban Carrick Hill introduces us to Dave, an artist, poet, and slave, who lived in South Carolina in the 1800's. While little is known about him, Dave created extraordinary art under less than ideal circumstances; art that has stood the test of time. Bryan Collier combines riveting earth-toned watercolors in shades of gold, amber and jeweled tones of blue and emerald to perfectly capture the essence of the earth, the process of his craft, and the loveliness of each of Dave's majestic pots.

### ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

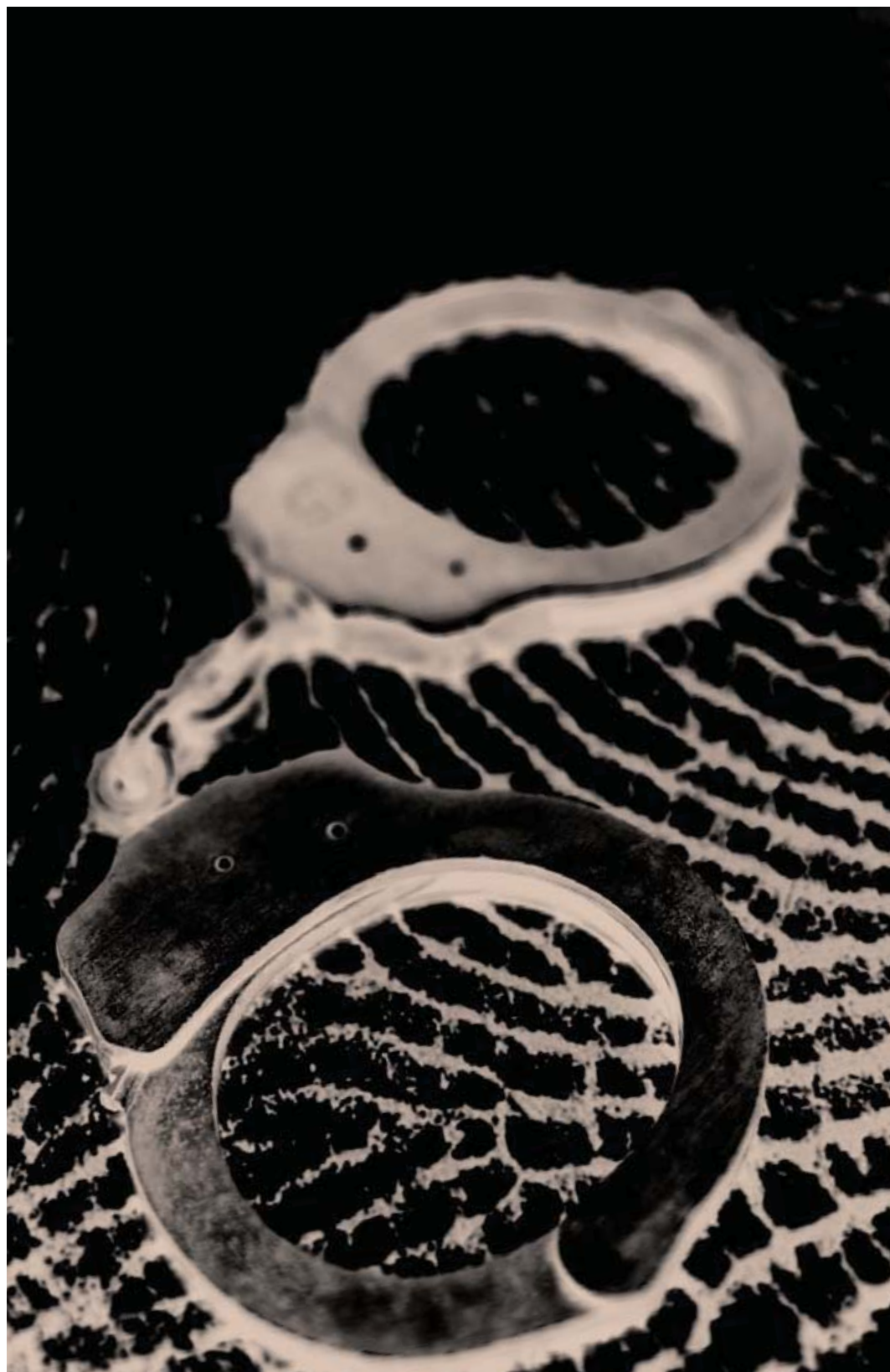
- Dave was able to see ordinary things (dirt, pots) as amazing opportunities to create art. Can you think of other art forms that take ordinary objects and transform them into beautiful things?
- Dave sometimes wrote poems on his pots. What are some of your favorite poems? Try writing a poem of your own.
- Bryan Collier uses collage to create his pictures. Make a collage of an ordinary, everyday subject of your choice using old magazines, newspaper, etc.
- A simple alternative to clay is play-dough. See what you can create.
- Research African American artists, painters, sculptors (Augusta Savage, Richmond Barthe, etc).

### RELATED CSK TITLES

*Ellington Was Not a Street*, written by Ntozake Shange, illustrated. by Kadir Nelson, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

*In the Time of the Drums*, written by Kim L. Siegelson, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children

*Soul Looks Back in Wonder*, selected and illustrated by Tom Feelings, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group



## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

### LOCKDOWN

By Walter Dean Myers

Amistad, An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Myers takes us “behind the scenes” of the correction system, revealing the plight of fourteen-year-old Reese, who is incarcerated for a nonviolent offense. The authentic dialogue, complex relationships, and gritty honesty make for a realistic and engaging portrayal. This story invites readers to reflect on how both the “system” and Reese are implicated in this teenager’s unfortunate circumstance.



### ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

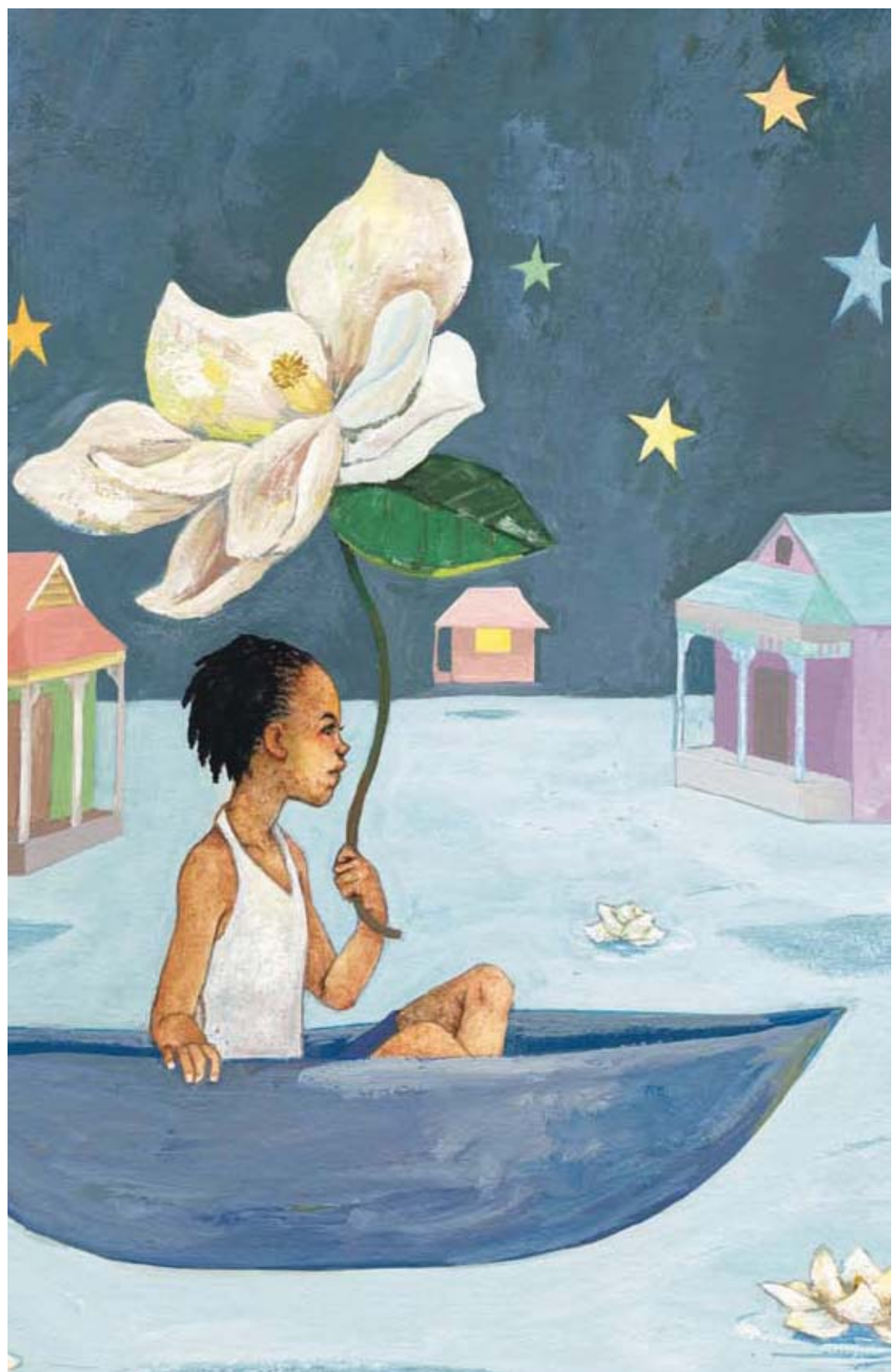
- Reese is selected to work at an assisted-living center for seniors. Write about a grandparent or older adult (mentor, neighbor, teacher, etc.) and capture the nature of your relationship. Research senior citizen resources in your community.
- Icy, Reese’s sister, writes a letter to him at the detention center that gives him hope for the future. Write a letter of thanks to a family member, teacher, or clergy person who has encouraged you.
- Reese commits a “victimless crime.” There are those who take the position that there are no victimless crimes. Would you agree or disagree with this statement? Debate the pros and cons of this position.
- Walter Dean Myers depicts various protagonists who make mistakes and face consequences much bigger than anticipated. Compare Reese to other main characters in Myers’s books.

### RELATED CSK TITLES

*Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*, written by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke, published by Lee & Low Books Inc.

*Miracle’s Boys*, written by Jacqueline Woodson, published by G. P. Putnam’s Sons, a division of Penguin Books for Young Readers

*Monster*, written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers



## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

### NINTH WARD

By Jewell Parker Rhodes

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, A division of Hachette Book Group

Mystical elements are integrated into this realistic fiction portrayal of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. Lanesha and Mama Ya-Ya, her adopted grandmother, are both gifted with the ability to see spirits (“sight”). Lanesha’s story of survival extends beyond the storm; she overcomes the limitation of caul over her eyes, the loss of her mother at childbirth, and the subsequent rejection of her by her mother’s family. The various ways people coped with Katrina are explored, and horrifying details are not spared.



### ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Lanesha’s experiences during the hurricane are often scary. Using the art form of your choice, create an image capturing the most frightening scene for you.
- Research natural disasters. Make a list of and identify several examples of the ways they have affected people’s lives. Consider issues of displacement, poverty, and recovery.
- Describe the art on the book cover. What does the picture say to you? Where is Lanesha going? What do you think she is feeling?
- Lanesha has a passion for words and a love of math. Compare a list of your favorite words to Lanesha’s list. Describe how she uses math in every day life and for survival.

### RELATED CSK TITLES

*The Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural*, written by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books

*Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*, written by Mary Williams, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, published by Lee & Low Books Inc.

*Thunder Rose*, written by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, published by Harcourt Children’s Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

### YUMMY: THE LAST DAYS OF A SOUTHSIDE SHORTY

Written by G. Neri

Illustrated by Randy DuBurke

Lee & Low Books Inc.

Compelling and gritty, G. Neri's graphic novel tells the story of Robert Sandifer. Nicknamed "Yummy" for his love of candy and sugar, Sandifer's childhood was far from sweet. The 11-year-old participated in, and ultimately died from, the gang violence in Chicago's Southside neighborhood of Roseland in 1994. Told from the viewpoint of young acquaintance Roger, this book ultimately includes the conversations of an entire nation struggling to come to grips with youth violence.



### ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Find the *Time* magazine cover and story of Robert Sandifer. Does the information in *Time* contradict or coincide with what was described in *Yummy*?
- Some in the community believed Yummy was a bully; others believed he was a victim. What do you believe? Is it possible he was both? Support your beliefs with examples.
- The story begins with Roger's observations about his neighborhood and its history. Share observations and knowledge about your neighborhood. Include whatever information you know about your neighborhood history.
- Research youth violence statistics in your community (consult Youth Violence Project, Department of Justice). Is it a big problem? What do you think might be causing youth violence?

### RELATED CSK TITLES

*Lockdown*, written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

*Miracle's Boys*, written by Jacqueline Woodson, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group

*Monster*, written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers



## CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

### **JIMI SOUNDS LIKE A RAINBOW: A STORY OF THE YOUNG JIMI HENDRIX**

Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

Written by Gary Golio

Clarion Books, An imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



Javaka Steptoe uses layered mixed-media to illustrate Jimi Hendrix's childhood and musical talent. As colorful and unique as Hendrix himself, the pictures bring to life the story of a young man who integrates all that he sees around him into his remarkable music and art.

### **ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- Research Jimi Hendrix, his life, and his music.
- What music/musicians influenced Jimi? What type of music did he (Jimi Hendrix) play?
- Research the history of the guitar. What kinds of music do we think of most often when we think of the guitar?
- Create a Jimi Hendrix radio station (Pandora.com, lastfm, etc). Are there any Hendrix songs you enjoy? What other artists would you recruit to perform on your station?
- Which musicians do you believe Jimi Hendrix might enjoy today?

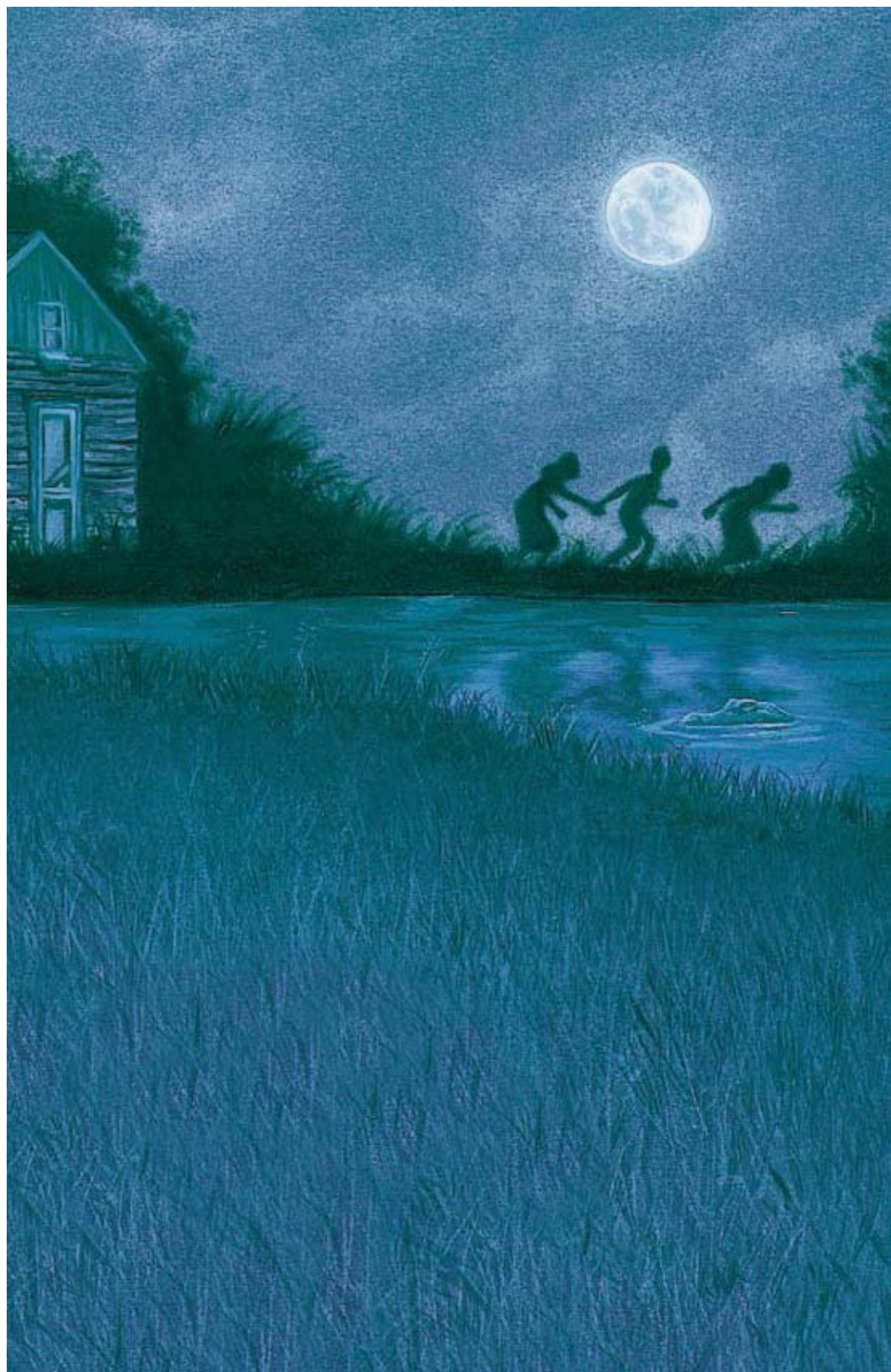
### **RELATED CSK TITLES**

*Becoming Billie Holiday*, written by Carole Boston Weatherford, illus. by Floyd Cooper, published by Wordsong, an imprint of Boyd's Mills Press, Inc.

*Ellington Was Not a Street*, written by Ntozake Shange, illus. by Kadir Nelson, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

*Jimi and Me*, written by Jaime Adoff, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children

*Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, Andrea Davis Pinkney, illus. by Brian Pinkney, published by Hyperion Books for Children



## ZORA AND ME

By Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon  
Candlewick Press

Zora, Carrie, and Terry are best friends in an African American community in Eatonville, FL during the early 1900's. Carrie, the narrator of the story, is portrayed as a young Zora Neale Hurston's best friend. The struggles of the time are not sugar-coated; the unfairness of the Jim Crow South is portrayed honestly and realistically, including the painful ramifications of passing for white. The real appeal of this piece of historical fiction is the glimpse it provides into the childhood life of Zora Neale Hurston. This is a story of friendship and family with a fine balance of mystery and history.



## ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

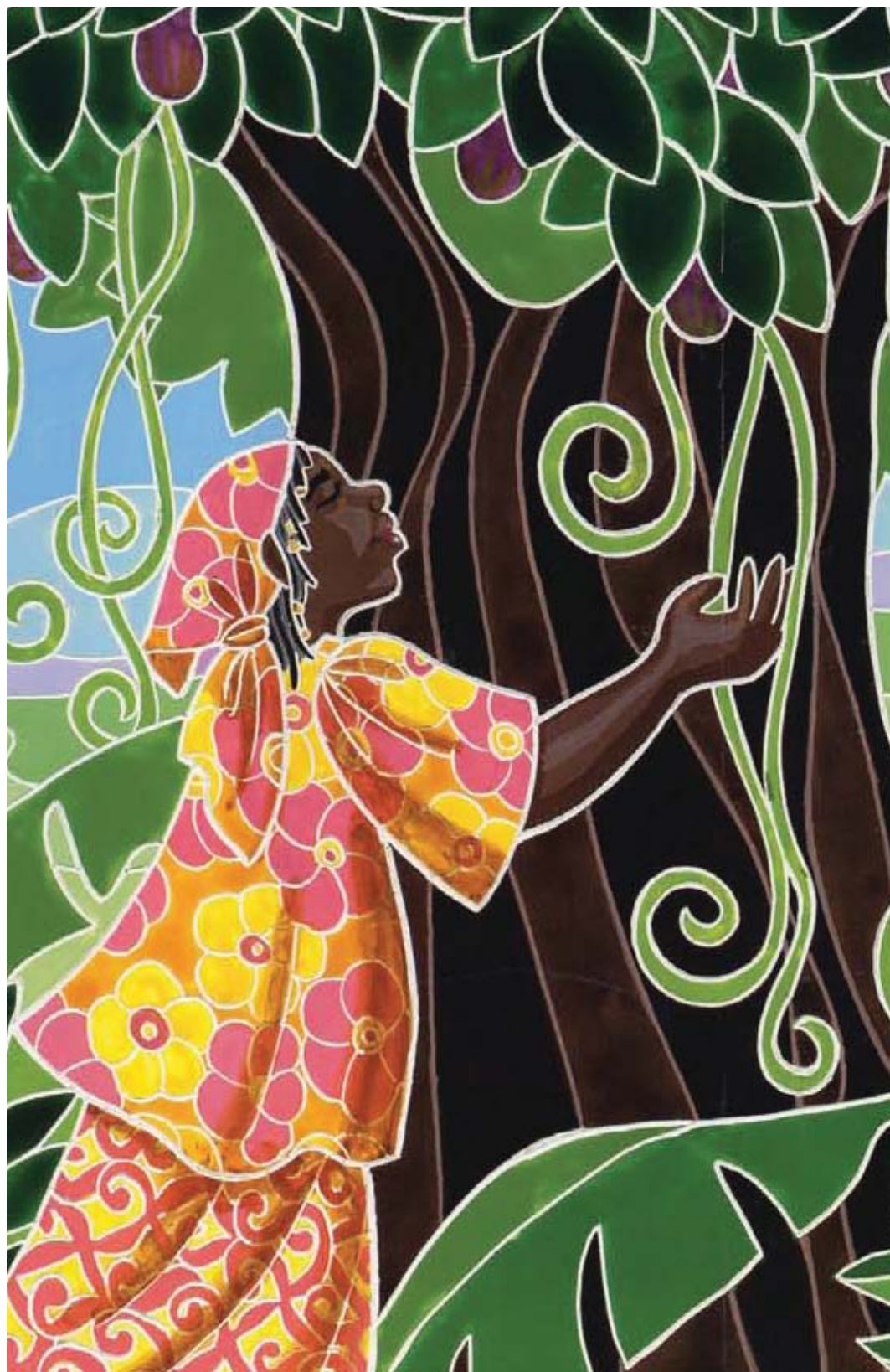
- Write a biographical sketch of Zora Neale Hurston. Think about the chronology of her life from childhood through adulthood and her major accomplishments.
- Carrie distinguishes between a “daddy’s girl” and a “mama’s girl.” Which one best describes Zora’s relationship to her parents? What connections can you make to your own life?
- Think about the Eatonville, Florida that Zora knew. Create a map or illustration of the town from Zora’s perspective. Use [www.zoraandme.com](http://www.zoraandme.com) for additional guidance.
- Visit [www.zoraandme.com](http://www.zoraandme.com) and select “Zora’s Workshop.” Immerse yourself in Zora’s world by experimenting with corn husk dolls or hot water cornbread in order to have a concrete experience with the time period.

## RELATED CSK TITLES

*Carver: A Life in Poems*, written by Marilyn Nelson, published by Front Street, an imprint of Boyds Mills Press, Inc.

*My People*, written by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr., published by Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum, an imprint of Simon and Schuster Children’s Publishing Division

*The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, written by Langston Hughes, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Hyperion Books for Children



## SEEDS OF CHANGE

Illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler

Written by Jen Cullerton Johnson

Lee & Low Books Inc.

This inspiring biography depicts the path of a female environmentalist. Wangari Maathai, also known as “Mama Miti,” founded the Greenbelt Movement in 1977 in Kenya. She later won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work. The scratchboard and oil illustrations feature dominant white outlines that make for a strikingly stylized book. The abundance of green complements the theme of the story. A scientist and activist, Wangari Maathai overcame persecution to change the world.



## ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Compare this book to other biographies about Wangari Maathai. Create a Venn diagram comparing the different versions. Is the information consistent and accurate across multiple sources?
- Consider other outstanding African-American or female scientists, activists, or world leaders—Shirley Ann Jackson, Madame C. J. Walker, etc. Research and write about their accomplishments and struggles. Select three things that impressed you about their lives; or highlight other notable “firsts.” For example, Maathai is considered the first person to win the Nobel Peace Prize primarily for environmental work and is the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Locate the country of Kenya on a map. What countries surround it and what other information does the map provide about this area of the world?
- What do you think Wangari Maathai meant by the statement, “Young people, you are our hope and our future”? Reflect on how this might relate to you.

## RELATED CSK TITLES

*Carver: A Life in Poems*, written by Marilyn Nelson, published by Front Street, an imprint of Boyd's Mills Press, Inc.

*I Have Heard of a Land*, written by Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

*Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn, published by Gulliver Books/Harcourt Children's Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

*My Rows and Piles of Coins*, written by Tololwa M. Mollel, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

## CORETTA SCOTT KING – VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER

### DR. HENRIETTA M. SMITH

Dr. Henrietta M. Smith began her career as a children's librarian and storyteller in the New York public library system in 1948. After receiving her Ed. D. in curriculum and instruction, Smith worked at Florida Atlantic University for ten years before becoming the first African American faculty member at the University of South Florida, School of Information. Retiring in 1993, she remains on the faculty as professor emerita. Dr. Smith has been active in numerous capacities for the American Library Association for more than 40 years, having served on the Coretta Scott King, Newbery, Caldecott, Batchelder, Wilder and Pura Belpré award selection committees. She is a recipient of the ALSC

Distinguished Service Award. As part of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee since its inception, Smith has edited four volumes about the history of the award.



### ABOUT THE CORETTA SCOTT KING-VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is named in memory of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton. The award is presented annually and is presented in odd years to a practitioner for substantial contributions through active engagement with youth using award winning African American literature for children and/or young adults, via implementation of reading and reading related activities/programs. The recipient may be a public librarian, academic librarian, school librarian (public or private), an educator (pre K-12 or any level therein, or higher education) or youth literature advocate whose vocation, work, volunteer service or ongoing promotion of books with and/or on behalf of youth is significant and sustained. In even years, the award honors an African American author, illustrator or author-illustrator for a body of his or her published books for children or young adults who have made a significant and lasting literary contribution.



**VIRGINIA HAMILTON** was an award-winning author of children's books. She wrote more than 35 books throughout her career, including "M. C. Higgins, the Great," for which she won the 1975 Newbery Medal. During her lifetime, Hamilton received numerous awards including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

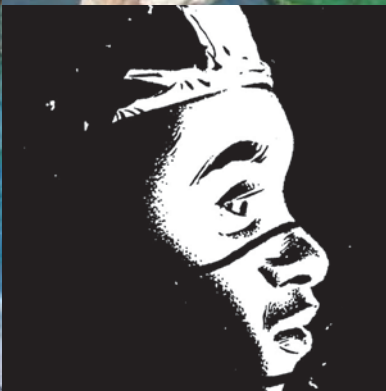
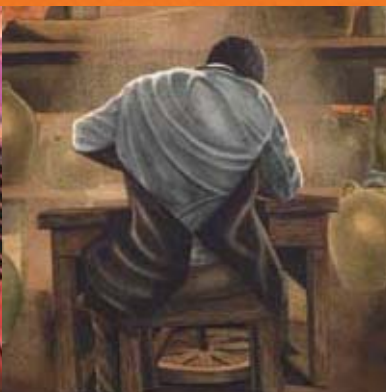
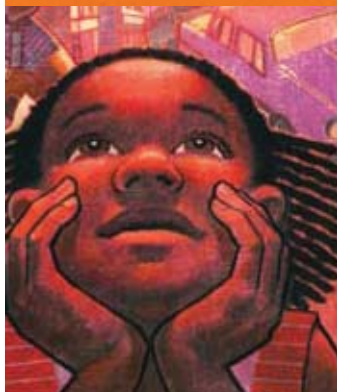
## THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS SEAL



The seal was designed by internationally known artist Lev Mills in 1974. The symbolism used in designing the seal centers around Dr. King's teachings and doctrines, the purpose for which the Award was founded.

The basic circle represents continuity in movement, resolving from one idea to another. Within the circle is the image of a black child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child represent non-sectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength and Atlanta University, where the Award was headquartered at the time the seal was designed. At the apex of the pyramid is the dove, symbol of peace, one of Dr. King's doctrines. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards seal image and award name are solely and exclusively owned by the American Library Association.



The Coretta Scott King Book Award seal image and award name are solely and exclusively owned by the American Library Association.

Featured art © 2010 by Bryan Collier from *Dave The Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*, written by Laban Carrick Hill and published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group

