

Books by Black Authors and/or Illustrators
For Grades K-6

Picture Books:

Alexander, Kwame, Illus. by Kadir Nelson. **The Undefeated**, 2019. JE ALEXANDER Undefeated
This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. **Winner of the 2020 Caldecott Medal, Winner of the 2020 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award.**

Barnes, Derrick, Illus. by Gordon C. James. **Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut**, 2017. JE BARNES Crown
Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut is 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.

Brown-Wood, Janay. Illus. by Hazel Mitchell. **Imani's Moon**, 2014. JE BROWN-WOOD Imani's
Imani is a young Maasi girl with a loving mother and a desire to do something great. When she decides she wants to touch the moon, she works hard to reach her goal, even in the face of teasing from the naysayers around her.

Cherry, Mathew A. Illus. by Vashti Harrison. **Hair Love**, 2019. JE CHERRY Hair
Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When Daddy 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.

Clark-Robinson, Monica. Illus. by Frank Morrison. **Let the Children March**, 2018. JE Clark-Robinson Let
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.

Cooke, Trish, Illus. by Paul Howard. **Full, Full, Full of Love**, 2003. JE COOKE Full
For the youngest member of an exuberant extended family, Sunday dinner at Grannie's can be full of hugs and kisses, full of tasty dishes, full to the brim with happy faces, and full, full, full of love.

Curry, Parker & Jessica Curry, Illus. by Brittany Jackson. **Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment**, 2019. JE CURRY Parker
When Parker Curry came face-to-face with Amy Sberald's portrait of First Lady Michelle Obama at the National Portrait Gallery, she didn't just see the First Lady of the United States. She saw a *queen*--one with dynamic self-assurance, regality, beauty, and truth who captured this young girl's imagination.

De la Pena, Matt, Illus. by Christian Robinson. **Last Stop on Market Street**, 2015. JE DE LA PENA Last 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 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.

Winner of the 2016 Newbery Medal

Diggs, Taye, Illus. by Shane W. Evans. **Chocolate Me**, JE DIGGS Chocolate 2011, JTOD Diggs 2019
The boy is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker, his hair curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. And she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.

Diggs, Taye. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. **Mixed Me**, 2015. JE DIGGS Mixed
Mike has awesome hair. He has LOTS of energy! His parents love him. And Mike is a PERFECT blend of the two of them. Still, Mike has to answer LOTS of questions about being mixed. And he does, with LOTS of energy and joy in this charming story about a day in the life of a mixed-race child.

Dillon, Leo and Diane. **Love and the Rocking Chair**, 2019. JE DILLON Love
Simple words and colorful paintings tell the warm, engaging story of new parents who buy a rocking chair when they are expecting a baby. Bright, sunny illustrations show the precious intimacy between parents and their children; the new mother glows with affection, and the new father reads aloud to their young son.

Hooks, Bell, Illus. by Chris Rashka. **Happy to Be Nappy**. JE HOOKS Happy 1999, JTOD HOOKS Happy 2017
The groundbreaking picture book by legendary author Bell Hooks and multi-Caldecott Medalist Chris Raschka that celebrates hair, perfect for fans of *Hair Love* and *I Love My Hair!*

James, LeBron, Illus. Nina Mata. **I Promise**, 2020. JE JAMES I
From Akron, Ohio, LeBron James, the NBA superstar, is dedicated to uplifting youth everywhere. *I Promise* is a lively and inspiring picture book that reminds us that tomorrow's success starts with the promises we make to ourselves and our community today.

Johnson, Angela. Illus. by E.B. Lewis, **All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom**, 2014.
JHOLI JOHNSON All
Through the eyes of one little girl, *All Different Now* tells the story of the first Juneteenth, the day freedom finally came to the last of the slaves in the South. Since then, the observance of June 19 as African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Joy, Angela. Illus. by Ekoa Holmes. **Black is a Rainbow Color**, 2020. JE JOY Black
From the wheels of a bicycle to the robe on Thurgood Marshall's back, Black surrounds our lives. It is a color to simply describe some of our favorite things, but it also evokes a deeper sentiment about the incredible people who helped change the world and a community that continues to grow and thrive.

Lee, Spike and Tonya Lewis Lee. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. **Please, Baby, Please**, 2002. JE LEE Please
Vivid illustrations from celebrated artist Kadir Nelson evoke toddlerhood from sandbox to high chair to crib, and families everywhere will delight in sharing these exuberant moments again and again.

Miller, Sharee. **Don't Touch My Hair**, 2018. JE MILLER Don't
It seems that wherever Aria goes, someone wants to touch her hair. In the street, strangers reach for her fluffy curls; and even under the sea, in the jungle, and in space, she's chased by a mermaid, monkeys, and poked by aliens . . . until, finally, Aria has had enough!

Myers, Walter Dean. Illus. by Christopher Myers. **Looking Like Me**, 2009. JE MYERS Looking
This jumping, jazzy, joyful picture book by the award-winning team of Walter Dean Myers and Christopher Myers celebrates every child, and everything that a child can be.

Nyong'o, Lupita. Illus. by Vashti Harrison. **Sulwe**, 2019. JE NYONG'O Sulwe
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.

Peete, Holly Robinson. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. **My Brother Charlie**, 2010. JE PEETE My
A heartwarming story about a boy who happens to be autistic, based on Holly's son, who has autism. It's harder for him to make friends. Or show his true feelings. Or stay safe. But as his big sister tells us, for everything that Charlie can't do well, there are plenty more things that he's good at.

Ringgold, Faith. **Tar Beach**, 1991. JE RINGGOLD Tar
Part autobiographical, part fictional, this allegorical tale sparkles with symbolic and historical references central to African-American culture. **Winner of the 1992 Illustrated Coretta Scott King Award.**

Taylor, S.R., Illus. Dayne Sisen and Charity Russell. **Round**, 2015. JE TAYLOR Round
Although "ROUND" has an anti-bullying message; it is much more than that. It's an imaginative story told in bouncy rhyme that encourages children to embrace their individuality and believe in themselves from the inside out.

Walker, Tricia Elam. Illus. April Harrison. **Nana Akua Goes to School**, 2020. JE WALKER Nana
It is Grandparents Day at Zura's school, and the students are excited to introduce their grandparents. Nana, who is Zura's favorite person in the world, looks different from other grandmas. Zura is hesitant to bring Nana to school. But Nana Akua knows what to do, she is able to explain what makes her special, and to make all of Zura's classmates feel special, too.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. **Freedom in Congo Square**, 2016. JE WEATHERFORD Freedom
This story chronicles slaves' duties each day, from chopping logs on Mondays to baking bread on Wednesdays to plucking hens on Saturday, and builds to the freedom of Sundays and the special experience of an afternoon spent in Congo Square.

Juvenile Graphic Novels:

Alexander, Kwame. **The Crossover**, 2019. JGN Crossover

With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. 'Cuz tonight I'm delivering," raps twelve-year-old Josh Bell. Josh has more than basketball in his blood--he's got mad beats, too, which help him find his rhythm when it's all on the line.

Craft, Jerry. **New Kid**, 2019. JGN New Kid

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, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Jordan soon finds himself torn between his new school and his neighborhood--and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself? **Winner of the 2020 Newbery Medal, Winner of the 2020 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Author Award**

McKissack, Pat and Frederick, Illus. by Randy DuBurke. **Best Shot in the West: The Adventures of Nat Love**, 2012. JGN BEST SHOT WEST

Born into slavery in 1854, Nat Love, also known as Deadwood Dick, grew up to become the most famous African-American cowboy in the Old West.

Juvenile Fiction:

Alexander, Kwame. **The Crossover**, 2014. JFIC ALEXANDER Crossover

(see summary under Graphic Novels) **Winner of the 2015 Newbery Medal Award**

Bryan, Ashley. **Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life**, 2016. JFIC BRYAN Freedom

Through fierce paintings and expansive poetry, the author imagines and interprets each person's life on the plantation, as well as the life their owner knew nothing about--their dreams and pride in knowing that they were worth far more than an Overseer or Madam ever would guess. Visually epic, and never before done, this stunning picture book is unlike anything you've seen.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. **Leaving Lymon**, 2020. JFIC CLINE-RANSOME Leaving

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.

Colbert, Brandy. **The Only Black Girls in Town**, 2020. JFIC COLBERT Only

Beach-loving surfer Alberta has been the only Black girl in town for years. When the bed and breakfast across the street finds new owners, Alberta is ecstatic to learn the family is black-and they have a 12-year-old daughter just like her. When the girls discover a box of old journals in Edie's attic, they team up to figure out exactly who's behind them and why they got left behind. Soon they discover shocking and painful secrets of the past and learn that nothing is quite what it seems.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Watsons Go to Birmingham -- 1963**, 1995. JFIC CURTIS Watsons

When the Watson family--ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron--sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything.

Draper, Sharon. **Blended**, 2018. JFIC Draper Blended

Isabella's dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting: "You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." She knows what they're really saying: "You don't look like your parents." "You're different." When her parents get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

English, Karen. **It All Comes Down to This**, 2017. JFIC ENGLISH It

In 1965, all twelve-year-old Sophie wants to do is write her book, star in the community play, and hang out with her friend Jennifer. But she's the new black kid in a nearly all-white neighborhood. When riots erupt in nearby Watts and a friend is unfairly arrested, Sophie learns that life is even more complicated than she'd once thought.

Johnson, Angela. **Heaven: A Novel**, 1998. JFIC JOHNSON

Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents. **Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award.**

Johnson, Varian. **The Parker Inheritance**, 2018. JFIC JOHNSON Parker

Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother. When she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on a treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery. She sets out to find the inheritance, exonerate her grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in Lambert.

Marks, Janae. **From the Desk of Zoe Washington**, 2020. JFIC MARKS From

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? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth.

Reynolds, Jason. **Ghost** and others in the **Track** series, JFIC REYNOLDS Ghost 2016

Running. That's all Ghost has ever known-- running away from his problems until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

Simon, T. R. **Zora and Me: The Cursed Ground**, 2018. JFIC SIMON Zora

When Zora Neale Hurston and her best friend, Carrie Brown, discover that the town mute can speak after all, they think they've uncovered a big secret. But Mr. Polk's silence is just one piece of a larger puzzle that stretches back half a century to the tragic story of an enslaved girl named Lucia.

Stone, Nic. **Clean Getaway**, 2020. JFIC STONE Clean

Set against the backdrop of the segregation history of the American South, take a trip with this New York Times bestseller and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--his G'ma included.

Williams, Alicia D. **Genesis Begins Again**, 2019. JFIC WILLIAMS Genesis

This deeply sensitive and powerful debut novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself. **Winner of the Coretta Scott King - John Steptoe for New Talent Author Award**

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **One Crazy Summer**, 2010. JFIC WILLIAMS-GARCIA One

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 wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. **Winner of the 2011 Coretta Scott King Author Award.**

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Harbor Me**, 2018. JFIC WOODSON Harbor

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Brown Girl Dreaming**, 2014. JFIC WOODSON Brown

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. **Coretta Scott King 2015 Author Award Winner.**

Zoboi, Ibi Aanu. **My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich**, 2019. JFIC ZOBOI My

Harlem, New York in 1984 is an exciting and terrifying place for a girl from Hunstville, Alabama. Her first instinct is to retreat into her imagination. But soon 126th Street begins to reveal that it has more in common with her beloved sci-fi adventures than she ever thought possible.

Juvenile Non-Fiction:

Alko, Selina. Illus. by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko. **The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage**
JNF 306.846 AI41c 2015

King, Martin Luther, Jr. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. **I Have a Dream**
JNF 323.092 K53ih 2012

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Illus. by Tim Ladwig. **The Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights**
JNF 323.0973 W362b 2010

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. **Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down**
JNF 323.1196 P655s

Hamilton, Virginia. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. **Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales**
JNF 398.2082 H221h 1995

Hamilton, Virginia. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. **The People Could Fly: The Picture Book**
JNF 398.2089 H221pf 2004

Hughes, Langston. Illus. by Bryan Collier. **I, Too, Am America**
JNF 811.52 H893i 2012

Hughes, Langston. Illus. by Sean Qualls. **Lullaby (For a Black Mother)**
JNF 811.54 H893Lu 2013

Myers, Walter Dean. Illus. by Christopher Myers. **Blues Journey**
JNF 811.54 M996bj 2003

Perkins, Useni Eugene. Illus. by Bryan Collier. **Hey Black Child**
JNF 811.54 P451b 2017

Thomas, Joyce Carol. Illus. by Floyd Cooper. **The Blacker the Berry: Poems**
JNF 811.54 T458b 2008

Musgrove, Margaret. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. **Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions**
JCALDECOTT 916 M972a 1976

Nelson, Kadir. **Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African-Americans**
JNF 973.0496 N427h 2011

Hamilton, Virginia. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon.
Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom
JNF 973.7115 H222m 1993

Bryan, Ashley. **Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace**
JBIO BRYAN, A B915i 2019

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. **Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa**
JBIO FITZGER, E P655e

Russell-Brown, Katheryn. Illus. by Laura Freeman. **A Voice Named Aretha**
JBIO FRANKLI, A R968v 2020

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Illus. by Ekoa Holmes
Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement
JBIO HAMER, F W362v 2015

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Illus. by Raul Colon
Counting the Stars: The Story of Katherine Johnson NASA Mathematician
JBIO JOHNSON, K C641c 2019

Winter, Jonah. Illus. by Bryan Collier. **Thurgood**
JBIO MARSHALL, T W785t 2019

DiCicco, Joan. Illus. by Ebony Green. **The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan: Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero**
JBIO MORGAN, G D54u 2019

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Illus. by John Parra
The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne
JBIO PAYNE, E C641p 2020

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Illus. by Eric Velasquez. **Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library**
JBIO SCHOMBU, A W362s 2017

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. Illus. by James E. Ransome. **Before She Was Harriet**
JBIO TUBMAN, H C641b 2017

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Illus. by Kadir Nelson.
Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom
JCoretta Scott King or JBIO TUBMAN, H W362m 2006