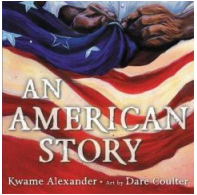


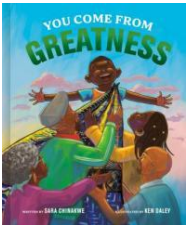
## Black Authors & Illustrators

### Picture books:



Alexander, Kwame. Dare Coulter, illustrator. **An American Story**, 2023. JE/JCSK

From the fireside tales in an African village, through the unspeakable passage across the Atlantic, to the backbreaking work in the fields of the South, this is a story of a people's struggle and strength, horror and hope. This is the story of American slavery, a story that needs to be told and understood by all of us. A testament to the resilience of the African American community, this book honors what has been and envisions what is to be.



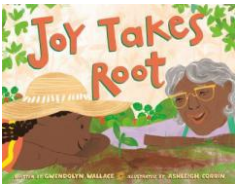
Chinakwe, Sara. Ken Daley, illustrator. **You Come From Greatness**, 2023. JE

A young boy's father shares the stories of and character reflections on their African ancestors, connecting him to the gifts, talents, and purpose God has for him today.



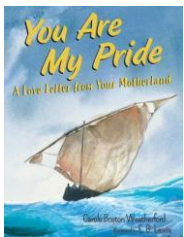
Harrison, Vashti. **Big**, 2003. JE/JCALD

Praised for acting like a **big** girl when she is small, as a young girl grows, "big" becomes a word of criticism, until the girl realizes that she is fine just the way she is.



Wallace, Gwendolyn. Ashleigh Corrin, illustrator. **Joy Takes Root**, 2023. JE

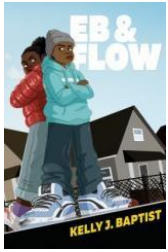
It's Joy's first summer in her grandmother's South Carolina garden - a rite of passage. In the midst of okra, spinach, and strawberries, Grammy teaches Joy that plants are friends with many uses. There in Grammy's abundant backyard, Joy learns to listen for the heartbeat of the earth. By the story's end, she learns to grow seeds in her own garden, honoring all that her grandmother taught her.



Weatherford, Carole Boston. E.B. Lewis, illustrator. **You Are My Pride: A Love Letter from Your Motherland**, 2023. JE

Written in the voice of Mother Africa, who speaks to her children-human beings-this stunning picture book thrums with the love between mother and child as it celebrates humanity's common roots. Before words or tools or fire, Mother Africa's caves sheltered us and her forests fed us. Told in the ringing, singing language of a creation story, this book is a love letter from mother to child that honors our shared history.

## Fiction:



Baptist, Kelly J. **Eb and Flow**, 2023. JFic

Ebony and De'Kari (aka Flow) do not get along. How could they when their cafeteria scuffle ended with De'Kari's ruined shoes, Ebony on the ground, and both of them with ten days of at-home suspension? Now Eb and Flow have two weeks to think about and explain their behavior--to their families, to each other, and ultimately to themselves.



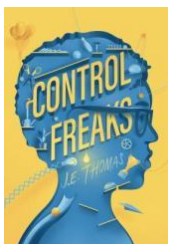
Flake, Sharon. **Once in a Blue Moon**, 2023. JFic

James Henry used to be brave. He hasn't been the same since that fateful night at the lighthouse when his ma went searching for Dog. Now months later, he feels as small as the space between the numbers on a watch, nervous day and night, barely able to go outside. The only person he speaks to is Hattie, his courageous twin sister, who fiercely protects him, especially from bullies. James Henry wants nothing more than to be brave again. However, finding his voice will mean confronting the truth about what happened at the lighthouse--a step James Henry isn't sure he can take. Until a blue moon is forecast, and as Gran has said, everything is possible under a rare blue moon...



Questlove and S. A. Cosby. **The Rhythm of Time**, 2023. JFic

Seventh grader Rahim Reynolds loves testing out the gadgets invented by his brilliant friend Kasia Collins. First there were the X-ray glasses and all the trouble they caused. Now there's the new cell phone she built for his birthday, even though his parents won't let him have one. What he doesn't know is the phone has a special battery that interfaces with a secret government satellite, which spells trouble when the phone transports him back to 1997. Almost immediately, he learns what every time traveler before him has-- Actions in the past jeopardize the future. With Kasia as his only lifeline to the present, Rahim works with her to get home unscathed, all the while dodging bullies (on his end) and suspicious government agents (on hers).



Thomas, J. E. **Control Freaks**, 2023. JFic

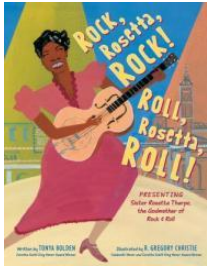
The kids at Benjamin Banneker College Prep are a little... competitive. Okay. They're a LOT competitive. The minute Principal Yee announces an epic competition for the golden B-B trophy, seventh-grader Frederick Douglass Zezzmer knows he has to win. But it won't be easy. The competition doesn't just include science, technology, engineering and math. It also has arts and sports. Not Doug's best subjects... With only a week to go, Doug launches a quest to turn his team of outcasts into winners... and maybe even friends.



Wilson, Lakita. **Sparkle**, 2023. JFic

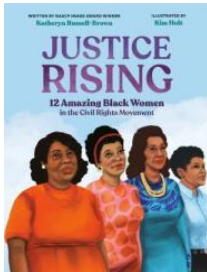
Sparkle Moore is destined to be a star. Her mother is determined to turn her and her younger sister, Nova, into social media influencers and budding superstars. And after her dad has lost work as a sitcom actor, Sparkle wants to do whatever she can to help her family financially, too. But at the onset of middle school, Sparkle begins losing her hair. It's hard enough having to go to school and hide her diagnosis from her friends, but Sparkle quickly has to deal with weird medications, itchy wigs, and lost opportunities her mom has wrangled. Despite everything she might do to hide what's happening, when Sparkle's secrets start coming to the surface--Sparkle has to come to terms with the changes in her life and show her classmates and her family what she can do with or without hair.

## Non-Fiction:



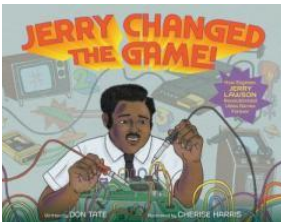
Bolden, Tonya. R. Gregory Christie, illustrator. **Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll, Rosetta, Roll! Presenting Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Godmother of Rock & Roll**, 2023. JBJO

An inspiring true story about the life, career, and impact of 20th-century blues and gospel singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe, who was a trailblazer for rock-and-roll. Includes a timeline of Sister Rosetta Tharpe's life, author's note, and a list of sources. Before there was Elvis, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, and Johnny Cash, there was Sister Rosetta Tharpe. The godmother of rock & roll started as a little girl from Arkansas with music in her air, in her hair, in her bones, wiggling her toes. With a big guitar in hand and a big voice in her soul, she grew into a rock & roll trailblazer in a time when women were rarely seen rocking out. Her guitar picking was like nobody else's!



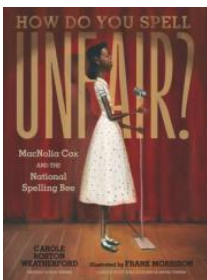
Russell-Brown, Kathryn. Kim Holt, illustrator. **Justice Rising: 12 Amazing Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement**, 2023. JNF 323.092 R961j

Told through twelve short biographies, this book celebrates just some of the many Black women--each of whom has been largely underrepresented until now--who were instrumental to the nation's fight for civil rights and the contributions they made in driving the Movement forward.



Tate, Don. Cherise Harris, illustrator. **Jerry changed the game! : How engineer Jerry Lawson revolutionized video games forever**, 2023. JBJO

This engaging picture book biography explores how Jerry Lawson, a Black engineer, revolutionized the video game industry. Before Xbox and PlayStation and Nintendo Switch, there was a tinkerer named Jerry Lawson. As a boy, Jerry loved playing with springs, sprockets, and gadgety things. When he grew up, Jerry became an engineer--a professional tinkerer! In the 1970s, Jerry decided to tinker with video games. Back then, if players wanted a new video game, they had to buy an entire new console. This made gaming very expensive. Jerry was determined to fix this problem. He hit some roadblocks along the way and had to repeat a level or two, but it was never GAME OVER for Jerry. After working hard to find a solution, he finally LEVELED UP and built a brand new kind of video game console--one that allowed players to switch out video game cartridges! He also founded Video Soft, Inc., the first African American owned video game company in the country. Jerry's tinkering and inventions changed the video gaming world forever. Today, gamers have access to hundreds of video games at the push of a button, all thanks to him. GAME ON!



Weatherford, Carole Boston. Frank Morrison, illustrator. **How Do You Spell Unfair?: MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee**, 2023. JNF 305.896 W362h

A true story of determination and groundbreaking achievement follows eighth grade African American spelling champion MacNolia Cox, who left Akron, Ohio, in 1936 to compete in the prestigious National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., only to be met with prejudice and discrimination.