Black Creators
Nonfiction and Biographies

Nonfiction: History

Asim, Jabari. A Child’s Introduction to African American History: The Experience, People, and Events that Shaped Our Country. (973.049 ASI)

Bayne, Bijn C. Black Trailblazers: 30 Courageous Visionaries Who Broke Boundaries, Made a Difference, and Paved the Way. (920.009 BAY)

Baptisté, Tracey. African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History. (920 BAP)

Black Achievements in Activism (323.119 TYN); Business (350.1 DX); Politics (320.092 TYN), STEM (509.22 TYN).


Castrovilla, Selene. Seeking Freedom: The Untold Story of Fortress Monroe and the Ending of Slavery in America. (973.711 CAS)

Coleman, Little. ABC: That Could Be Me! (305.896 COL)

Farrell, Mary Cronk. Standing Up Against Hate: How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII. (940.541 FAR)

The Fierce 44: Black Americans Who Shook Up the World. (920.009 REI)

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 Real-Life Tales of Black Girl Magic. (920.72 GOO)

Green, Amanda Jackson. Hidden Black History: From Juneteenth to Redlining. (323.119 GRE)

Greenfield, Eloise. The Women Who Caught the Babies: A Story of African American Midwives. (618.2 GRE)

Hannah-Jones, Nikole. Born on the Water. (306.362 HAN)

Harrison, Vashti. Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History (920.71 HAR) and Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History. (920.72 HAR)

Henson, Heather and Bryan Collier. Lift Your Light a Little Higher: The Story of Stephen Bishop, Slave-Explorer. (973.711 HEN)

Hudson, Cheryl Willis. Brave, Black, First: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World. (920.72 HUD)

Hudson, Wade. Invincible: Fathers and Mothers of Black America. (973.049 HUD)

Madigan, Tim and Hilary Beard. The Burning: Black Wall Street and the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921 (Adapted for Young People). (976.686 MAD)

Mees, Kate and Damon Smyth. History Smashers: The Underground Railroad. (973.049 MES)


Tyner, Artika R. Focus on the Harlem Renaissance. (700.89 TYN)

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices. (305.8 WE)


Williams Dockery, Patricia. Slavery and the African-American Story. (306.362 WIL)

Williams, Schele. Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of Our Enslaved History. (973.049 WIL)

Wilson, Jamia. Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes From Past and Present. (series, 920 WIL)


Zoboi, Ibi Aanu. The People Remember. (973.049 ZOB)

Poetry & Folk Tales

Alexander, Kwame. Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets and The Undefeated. (811 ALE)

Brantley-Newton, Vanessa. Just Like Me. (811 BRA)

Brooks, Gwendolyn. Bronzeville Boys and Girls. (811 BRO)

Browne, Mahogany L. Woke: A Young Poet’s Call to Justice. (811 BRO)

Bryan, Ashley. Freedom Over Me. (811 BRY)

Greenfield, Eloise. Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me. (811 GRE)

Grimes, Nikki. Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance. (811 GRI)


Hughes, Langston. I, Too, Am America. (811 HUG)

Latham, Irene and Charles Waters. Can I Touch Your Hair?: Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship. (811 LAT)

Medina, Tony. Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy. (811 MED)

Myers, Walter Dean. Looking Like Me. (811 MYE)

Nelson, Marilyn. A Wreath for Emmett Till. (811 NEL)

Thomas, Joyce Carol. The Blacker the Berry: Poems. (811 THO)

Wright, Richard. Seeing Into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright. (811 WRI)

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Black Creators
Nonfiction and Biographies

**Nonfiction: Civil Rights and Activism**

Bolden, Tonya. *Going Places: Victor Hugo Green and His Glorious Book.* (323.119 BOL)

Brown, Austin Channing. *I’m Still Here: Loving Myself in a World Not Made for Me.* (305.896 BRO)

Chambers, Veronica. *Call and Response: The Story of Black Lives Matter.* (323.119 CHA)

Clark-Robinson, M. and Frank Morrison. *Let the Children March.* (323.119 CLA)

Dionne, Evette. *Evicted!: The Struggle for the Right to Vote.* (323.34 DIO)

Duncan, Alice Faye and Charly Palmer. *We Can: Portraits of Power.* (303.484 DUN)

Evicted!: The Struggle for the Right to Vote.

Goodman, Susan and E.B. Lewis. *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial.* (344.079 GOO)

Gordy, Tyler. *We Can: Portraits of Power.* (920.009 GOR)


Jewell, Tiffany. *The Antiracist Kid: A Book About Identity, Justice, and Activism.* (305.8 JEW)

King, Dr. Martin Luther, Jr. *I Have a Dream.* (323.092 KING)

King, Shani M. *Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter.* (920.009 KIN)

Kirkwood, Kathryn J. *Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me ’Round: My Story of the Making of Martin Luther King Day.* (323.092 KIR)

Langley, Sharon. *A Ride to Remember: A Civil Rights Story.* (305.8 LAN)


Nichols, De. *Art of Protest: Creating, Discovering, and Activating Art for Your Revolution.* (701.03 NIC)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Because of You, John Lewis: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship.* (323.119 PIN)

Reynolds, Jason. *Stamped and Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You.* (305.8 REY)

Saad, Layla F. *Me and White Supremacy: Young Readers’ Edition.* (305.8 SAA)

Wallace, Sandra Neil. *The Teachers March!: How Selma’s Teachers Changed History.* (323.119 WAL)

**Art, Music, Dance & Sports**


Black Achievements in Arts and Literature (709.239 SMI); Entertainment (791.089 SMI); Music (780.89 SMI); Sports (796.089 SMI).

Bown, Fred. *Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association.* (796.323 BOW).

Brew-Hammond, Nana Eku. *Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky.* (701.85 BRE)

Copeland, Misty. *Black Ballerinas: My Journey to Our Legacy.* (701.85 BRE)

Elizabeth, Jordannah. *She Raised Her Voice!: 50 Black Women Who Sang Their American National Anthem.* (920.72 ELI)

Grady, Cynthia and Michele Wood. *Like a Bird: The Art of the American Slave Song.* (782.253 GRA)

Harris, Duchess. *The Birth of Hip-Hop.* (781.649 HAR)

Jackson, Sharna. *Black Artists Shaping the World.* (709.22 JAC)

Johnson, James Weldon. *I’m Still Here: From Slavery to the Promised Land.* (305.8 JEW)

Jewell, Tiffany. *Black Creators*.

Kirkfield, Vivian and Alleanna Harris. *Making Their Voices Heard: The Inspiring Friendship of Ella Fitzgerald and Marilyn Monroe.* (781.65 KIR)

McKissack, Pat. *Let’s Clap, Jump, Sing; Games, Songs, and Stories From an African American Childhood.* (305.896 MCK)


Slade, Suzanne and Don Tate. *Swishi! The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters.* (796.323 SLA)


Williams, Andrea. *Baseball’s Leading Lady: Efi Manley and the Rise and Fall of the Negro Leagues.* (781.357 WIL)

**Biographies: Art, Music, Dance & Literature**

Alvin AILEY.

Trailblazing Actor Ira ALDRIDGE.

Marian ANDERSON: Amazing Opera Singer.

Trombone Shorty. (782.25 WES)

Maya’s Song. (ANGELOU)

Struttin’ with Some Barbecue: Lil Hardin ARMSTRONG, the First Lady of Jazz.

Just a Lucky So and So: The Story of Louis ARMSTRONG.

Go Forth and Tell: The Life of Augusta BAKER, Librarian and Master Storyteller.

Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine BAKER.

Pigskins to Paintbrushes: The Story of Football-Playing Artist Ernie BARNES.

My Hands Sing the Blues: Romare BEARDEN’s Childhood Journey.

BEYONCÉ: Shine Your Light.

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn BROOKS.

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist’s Journey from World War II to Peace. (Ashley BRYAN)

Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle BUTLER.
Black Creators
Nonfiction and Biographies

Biographies: Art, Music, Dance & Lit. cont.

Brave Ballerina: Janet COLLINS.

Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John COLTRANE.

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina (Young Reader's Edition). (Misty COPELAND)

Birth of the Cool: How Jazz Great Miles DAVIS Found His Sound.

Ballerina Dreams: From Orphan to Ballerina. (Michaela DEPRINCE)


Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat: Ella FITZGERALD.

The Green Piano: How Little Me Found Music. (Roberta FLACK)

Sing, Aretha, Sing!: Aretha FRANKLIN, "Respect," and the Civil Rights Movement.


A Song for Jimi: The Story of Guitar Legend Jimi HENDRIX.

Mister and Lady Day: Billie HOLIDAY and the Dog Who Loved Her.

The Legendary Miss Lena HONE.

Jump at the Sun: Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale HURSTON.

Dark Was the Night: Blind Willie JOHNSON's Journey to the Stars.

On the Line: Becoming the First African American Rockette. (Jennifer JONES)

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone. (LISTON)

Only the Best: The Exceptional Life and Fashion of Ann LOWE.

Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence MILLS.

On Her Wings: The Story of Toni MORRISON.

Holding Her Own: The Exceptional Life of Jackie ORMES.

Gordon PARKS: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America.

You Gotta Meet Mr. Pierce! The Storied Life of Folk Artist Elija PIERCE.

Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life. (PINKNEY)

Sewing Stories: Harriet POWERS' Journey from Slave to Artist.

Leontyne PRICE: Voice of a Century.

Ordinary Days: The Seeds, Sound, and City that Grew PRINCE Rogers Nelson.

Mae Makes a Way: The True Story of Mae REEVES, Hat & History Maker.

Faith RINGGOLD: Narrating the World in Pattern and Color.

Grandpa Stops a War: Paul ROBESON.

Sonny ROLLINS Plays the Bridge.

In Her Hands: Sculptor Augusta SAVAGE.

Nina: A Story of Nina SIMONE.

Little Rosetta and Her Talking Guitar: The Musical Story of Sister Rosetta THARPE.

Ablaze with Color: Painter Alma THOMAS.

By and By: Charles TINDLEY, the Father of Gospel Music.

Ready to Fly: How Sylvia TOWNSEND Became the Bookmobile Ballerina.

It Jes' Happened: When Bill TRAYLOR Started to Draw.

Take a Picture of Me, James VAN DER ZEE!

The In-Between: A Memoir in Verse. (Katie VAN HEIDRICH).

Stompin' at the Savoy: How Chick WEBB Became the King of Drums.

Trailblazer: Ballerina Raven WILKINSON.

Mary's Idea. (Mary Lou WILKINSON)


She Persisted: Oprah WINFREY.

Little Stevie WONDER.

Runaway: The Daring Escape of Ona JUDGE.

Stitch by Stitch: Elizabeth Hobs KECKLY Sews Her Way to Freedom.


A Spy Called James: James LAFAYETTE, Revolutionary War Double Agent.

Hammering for Freedom: William LEWIS.

The Amazing Age of John Roy LYNCH.

Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl. (LYONS)

Searching for Sarah RECTOR: The Richest Black Girl in America.


William STILL and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad.

So Tall Within: Sojourner TRUTH.

Moses: Harriet TUBMAN.

Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. WASHINGTON.

Carter Reads the Newspaper. (WOODSON)

Politics & Activism, 20th-21st Century

Stacey ABRAMS and the Fight to Vote.

Lift as You Climb: The Story of Ella BAKER.

Leaders Like Us: Charlotte BASS.

Saving American Beach: African American Environmentalist MaVyne BETSCH.

This Promise of Change: One Girl's Fight for School Equality. (Jo Ann Allen BOYCE)

I am Ruby BRIDGES.

My Selma: True Stories of a Southern Childhood at the Height of the Civil Rights Movement. (Willie Mae BROWN)

Anita CAMERON.

Not Done Yet: Shirley CHISHOLM's Fight for Change.

Because Claudette. (COLVIN)

How Do You Spell Unfair?: MacNolia COX and the National Spelling Bee.

The Faith of Elijah CUMMINGS.

Politics & Activism, 17th-19th Century

Box: Henry BROWN Mails Himself to Freedom.

Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick DOUGLASS, A Monumental American Man.

Mumbet's Declaration of Freedom. (FREEMAN)

Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann GRANDERSON and Her Secret School.

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When the Schools Shut Down: Virginia’s “Lost Generation.” (Yolanda GLADDEN)

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Segregated Skies: David HARRIS’s Trailblazing Journey.

Kamala HARRIS: Rooted in Justice.

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The Youngest Marcher: Audrey Faye HENDRICKS, a Young Civil Rights Activist.

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Opal LEE and What It Means to Be Free: The Grandmother of Juneteenth.

John LEWIS in the Lead.

Someday is Now: Clara LUPER and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins.

The Highest Tribute: Thurgood MARSHALL's Life, Leadership, and Legacy.

Love is Loud: How Diane NASH Led the Civil Rights Movement.

To Boldly Go: How Nichelle NICHOLS and Star Trek Helped Advance Civil Rights.

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Ground-breaking Journalist Ethel L. PAYNE.

Yes, We Can: Barack OBAMA.

Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers. (Michelle OBAMA)

Rosa. (PARKS)

Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963. (Sharon ROBINSON)

Mighty Justice: Civil Rights Trailblazer Dovie Johnson ROUNTREE.

A Song for the Unsung: Bayard RUSTIN and the 1963 March on Washington.

SCHOMBURG: The Man Who Built a Library.

Vilissa THOMPSON.

Howard THURMAN'S Great Hope.

Choosing Brave: How Mamie TILL-MOBLEY and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement.

Ida B. WELLS Marches for the Vote.

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew up to Become Malcolm X.

Ticktock BANNEKER's Clock.

Sprouting Wings: The True Story of James Herman BANNING, the First African American Pilot to Fly Across the U.S.

Patricia's Vision: The Doctor Who Saved Sight. (BATH)

Secret Garden of George Wash. CARVER.

Flying Free: How Bessie COLEMAN’S Dreams Took Flight.

Dream Builder: Architect Philip FREELON.

No Small Potatoes: Junius G. GROVES and His Kingdom in Kansas.

I, Matthew HENSON: Polar Explorer.

Ice Cream Man: How Augustus JACKSON Made a Sweet Treat Better.

Mae Among the Stars. (JEMISON)

One Step Further: My Story of Math, The Moon, and a Lifelong Mission. (Katherine JOHNSON)

Whoosh! Lonnie JOHNSON’S Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions.

Lewis LATIMER: Engineering Wizard.

Jerry Changed the Game! How Engineer Jerry LAWSON Revolutionized Video Games.

Chasing Space: Leland MELVIN.

Saving the Day: Garrett MORGAN’S Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal.

Rooting for Plants: Unstoppable Charles S. PARKER, Black Botanist and Collector.

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Starstruck: The Cosmic Journey of Neil deGrasse TYSON.