



# African-American Heritage

## Booklist for Children

### **Books for Younger Readers**

**Bryan, Ashley • E782.253026**

#### ***Let it Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals***

Colorful illustrations and simple text introduce versions of three well-known spirituals, along with a brief music score and a short history of slave songs before the Civil War. 40 pages

**Coles, Robert • EB Bridges**

#### ***The Story of Ruby Bridges***

For months, six-year-old Ruby Bridges confronts the hostility of white parents when she becomes the first African-American girl to integrate Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960. 32 pages

**Ehrhardt, Karen • E Ehrhardt**

#### ***This Jazz Man***

This colorful counting book pays tribute to nine famous jazz musicians. 31 pages

**Evans, Freddi Williams • E Evans**

#### ***Hush Harbor: Praying in Secret***

While Simmy watches for danger from high in a tree, other slaves gather in a hidden spot in the woods to sing and pray together in their own way, risking their lives in pursuit of religious freedom. 32 pages

**Krull, Kathleen • E796.42092**

#### ***Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman***

This heroic story tells the life of the first African-American woman to win three gold medals in the same Olympic Games. 44 pages

**McKissack, Patricia • E McKissack**

#### ***Goin' Someplace Special***

A young girl faces the injustices of 1950s segregation to visit the public library. 36 pages

**Nelson, Vaunda Michaeux • E Nelson**

#### ***Almost to Freedom***

Sally, a tattered rag doll, tells the story of a young girl and her parents as they escape from slavery and start the dangerous journey along the Underground Railroad to a place called Freedom. 40 pages

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis • E Pinkney**

#### ***Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation***

This blues-infused tribute honors the men and women of the Montgomery bus boycott, who refused to give up until they got justice. 30 pages

**Shange, Ntozake • E811.54**

#### ***Ellington Was Not a Street***

The poem "Mood Indigo" serves as the text for this award-winning picture book in which a little girl's family enjoys visits with some of the most important personalities of the Harlem Renaissance. 34 pages

**Slate, Joseph • E Slate**

#### ***I Want to be Free***

This story, based on a sacred Buddhist tale, recounts the story of an escaped slave who rescues an abandoned baby from slave hunters. 32 pages

**Stroud, Bettye • E Stroud**

#### ***The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom***

A father leads his daughter away from a plantation and towards Canada and freedom, using codes hidden in the squares of a quilt. 32 pages

**Winter, Jonah • EB Gillespie**

#### ***Dizzy***

This is the story of Dizzy Gillespie, a unique trumpet player who created the musical style of Bebop. 48 pages

### **Books for Older Readers**

**Applegate, Katherine • J Applegate**

#### ***Home of the Brave***

Kek, an African refugee living with his aunt and cousin in Minneapolis, longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner. 249 pages

**Curtis, Christopher Paul • J/Y Curtis**

#### ***Bud, Not Buddy***

A boy living in Michigan during the Great Depression leaves a bad foster home to try to find the man he believes to be his father. 245 pages

**Elliott, Zetta • J Elliott**

#### ***Bird***

Bird, an artistic young African-American boy, expresses himself through drawing as he struggles to understand his older brother's drug addiction and death. 42 pages

**Farris, Christine King • J323.092**

#### ***March On!: The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World***

The sister of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. describes the day Dr. King delivered his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington D.C. 32 pages

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Flake, Sharon • J Flake

***The Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33rd Street***

With help from her parents and the “broken bike boy” across the street in the projects, fifth-grader Queen learns that good queens have good hearts, so she strives to be nice to others even when it is difficult. 132 pages

Fox, Paula • J Fox

***The Slave Dancer***

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship in 1840, 13-year-old Jessie discovers that his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo. 138 pages

Freedman, Russell • JB Anderson

***The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights***

Marian Anderson, one of the greatest singers of all time, was denied the right to sing at Constitution Hall in Washington D.C. because of her race. 114 pages

Grimes, Nikki • J Grimes

***The Road to Paris***

Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family, but just as she learns to trust them she faces a life-changing decision. 153 pages

Hamilton, Virginia • J398.208996

***The People Could Fly: The Picture Book***

In this retelling of a folktale, a group of slaves, unable to bear their sadness and starvation, call upon the African magic that allows them to fly away. 95 pages

Hoffman, Mary • J Hoffman

***Starring Grace***

Grace has many summer adventures with her friends: going to the circus, making friends with an elderly neighbor and calling the paramedics when her grandmother has an accident. 95 pages

***In Daddy's Arms I am Tall: African-***

***Americans Celebrating Fathers*** • J811

Twelve poets describe the unique relationship fathers have with their children. 30 pages

Levine, Kristin • J Levine

***The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had***

The unexpected friendship between a white farm boy and an African-American city girl sends ripples through a rural Alabama town. 266 pages

McKissack, Patricia • J McKissack

***The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural***

A collection of ghost stories with African-American themes, designed to be told during the Dark-Thirty-the half hour before sunset-when ghosts seem all too believable. 122 pages

Morrison, Toni • J379.263022

***Remember: The Journey to School Integration***

Historic photographs, history notes and a narration voicing the feelings of black and white youth all document this crucial period in which the country struggled to achieve integrated education. 78 pages

Moses, Shelia P. • J Moses

***I, Dred Scott: A Fictional Slave Narrative Based on the Life and Legal Precedent of Dred Scott***

Having served his master in northern states under the provisions of the Missouri compromise, the slave Dred Scott may be eligible for emancipation, but legal obstacles stand in the way of his freedom. 96 pages

Nelson, Kadir • J796.35764

***We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball***

This illustrated history explores Negro League baseball teams. 88 pages

Paulsen, Gary • J Paulsen

***Nightjohn***

Twelve-year-old Sarny's life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her to read. 92 pages

Taylor, Mildred • J Taylor

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***

A black family living in the South during the 1930s faces prejudice and discrimination which the children do not understand. 276 pages

Thomas, Joyce Carol • J811.54

***The Blacker the Berry: Poems***

A collection of poems celebrating individuality and African-American identity. 32 pages

Weatherford, Carole Boston • JB Scott

***Racing Against the Odds: The Story of Wendell Scott, Stock Car Racing's African-American Champion***

A biography of Wendell O. Scott, who made history as the only African-American driver to win a race in a NASCAR Grand National division. 40 pages

Woodson, Jacqueline • J Woodson

***Feathers***

When a new white student nicknamed “The Jesus Boy” joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. 118 pages