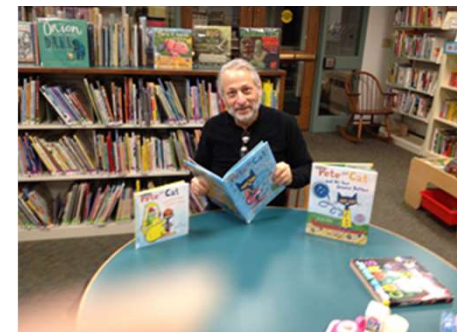


Windows, Mirrors and Doors:



Paths to building empathy with our human diversity via Children and Young Adult Literature

Jack Wool

ALA, VLA, ARSL

With Friends of the Lanpher Memorial Library
Hyde Park, VT

Terms and Context

- **Mirrors:** Books and Media in which children can find themselves, which their family, communities reflected and valued
- **Windows:** Help us develop understandings about the wider world. For some children, this may be the first time they are exposed to differences in culture, skin color, religion, and lifestyle. It's important that their introduction is one of nonjudgmental and supportive acceptance
- **Doors (Sliding Glass Doors, Paths):** Through literature, media, and discussion, parents, libraries, classrooms can provide a doorway to possibilities. Literature can foster a change in perspective about the possibilities in the real world.
- **Key Context:** Showing value in the lives and experiences of the diversity of humankind. The process of using mirrors, windows, and doors can assist with building empathy, flexibility and understanding of our diverse and interesting America.

Structure of the Talk

- Read Along examples – Hearing authentic voices
- Young Children's example areas
 - Black, African American, Traditional Folk tales
 - The Children's Experience
 - Immigration experience
 - Latinx
 - Disabilities
- Middle Grades
- Young Adult
- Changes in publishing using Marvel Comics as examples.
- References and Next steps

Read Alongs – Examples and resources

- PBS Kids Read Along
 - Via PBS web link, Facebook, YouTube
 - Has support materials for some of the books (PBS Kids for Parents!)
 - A wide variety of readers and books
- Netflix Jr Bookmark
 - Via Netflix Streaming Service
 - Focus on Black authors, illustrators and readers
 - “Kids' TV Celebrity readers share children's books by Black authors to spark kid-friendly conversations about empathy, equality, self-love and antiracism.”

PBS Kids Read-Along Mondays with Michelle Obama

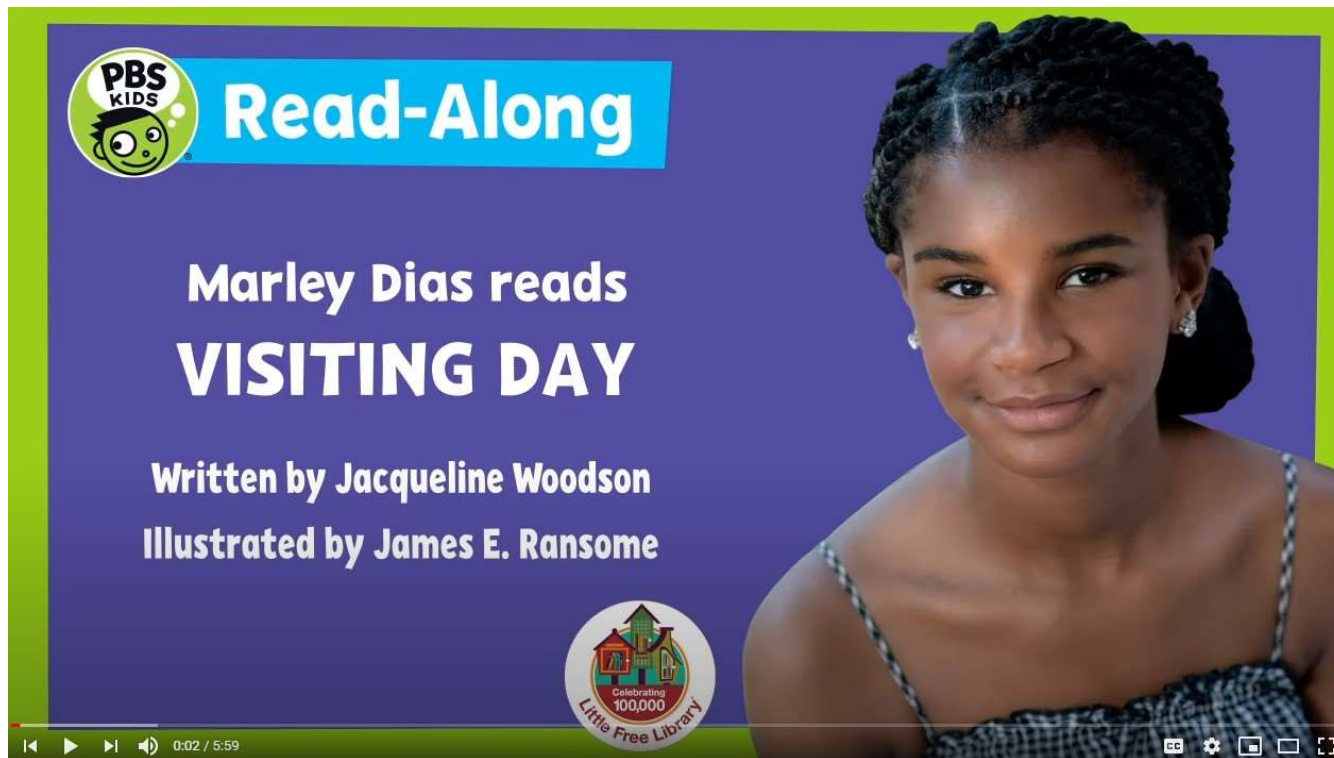


PBS Kids Read-Along Mondays with Michelle Obama



PBS Kids Read-Along

Marley Dias – Visiting Day by Jacqueline Woodson



PBS Kids Read-Along

Last Stop on Market Street





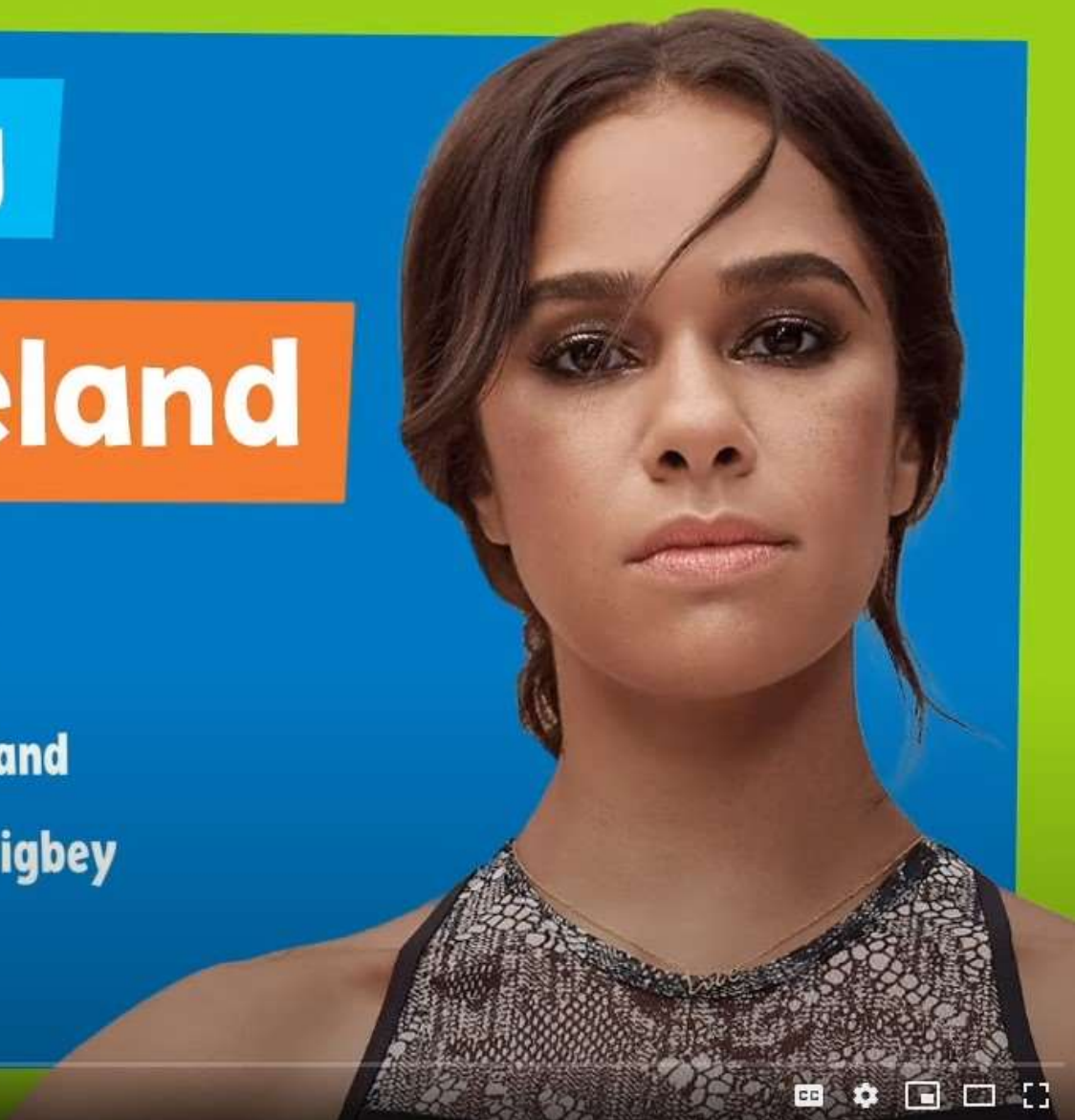
Read-Along

Misty Copeland

Bunheads

Written by Misty Copeland

Illustrated by Setor Fiadzigbey



0:00 / 10:09



Bunheads



New York Times Bestselling Author of *Firebird*

MISTY COPELAND

Illustrated by **SETOR FIADZIGBEY**

0:21 / 10:09



When Miss Bradley announced they'd be performing the ballet *Coppélia* for the recital, everyone in Misty's class shouted excitedly and gathered around to hear their teacher tell the story of *Coppélia*.

Misty didn't know what *Coppélia* meant, and she was too shy to ask—especially since it was her first ballet class ever! So Misty took a spot on the floor, and before she knew it, she was completely entranced as Miss Bradley told the tale.



9:39



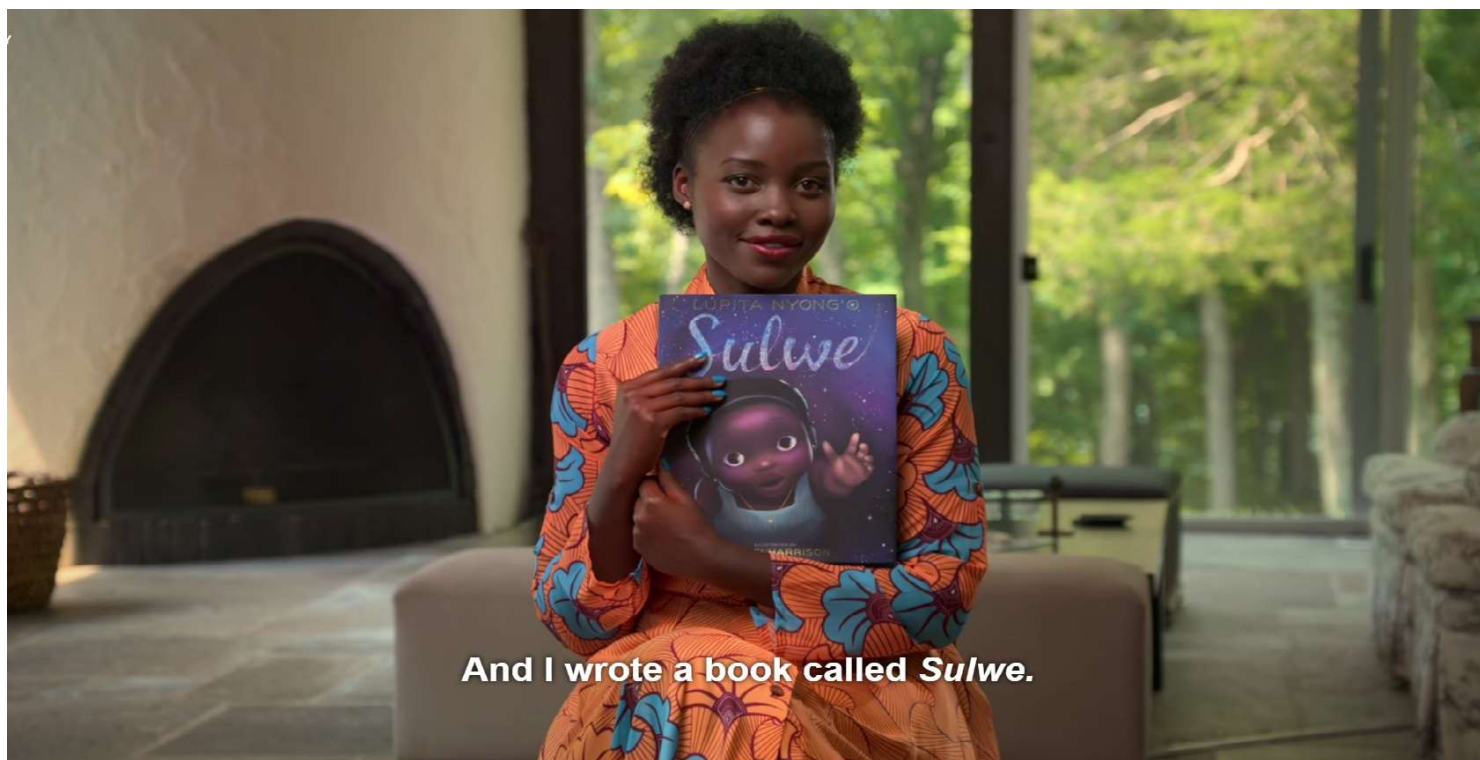
1:10 / 10:09

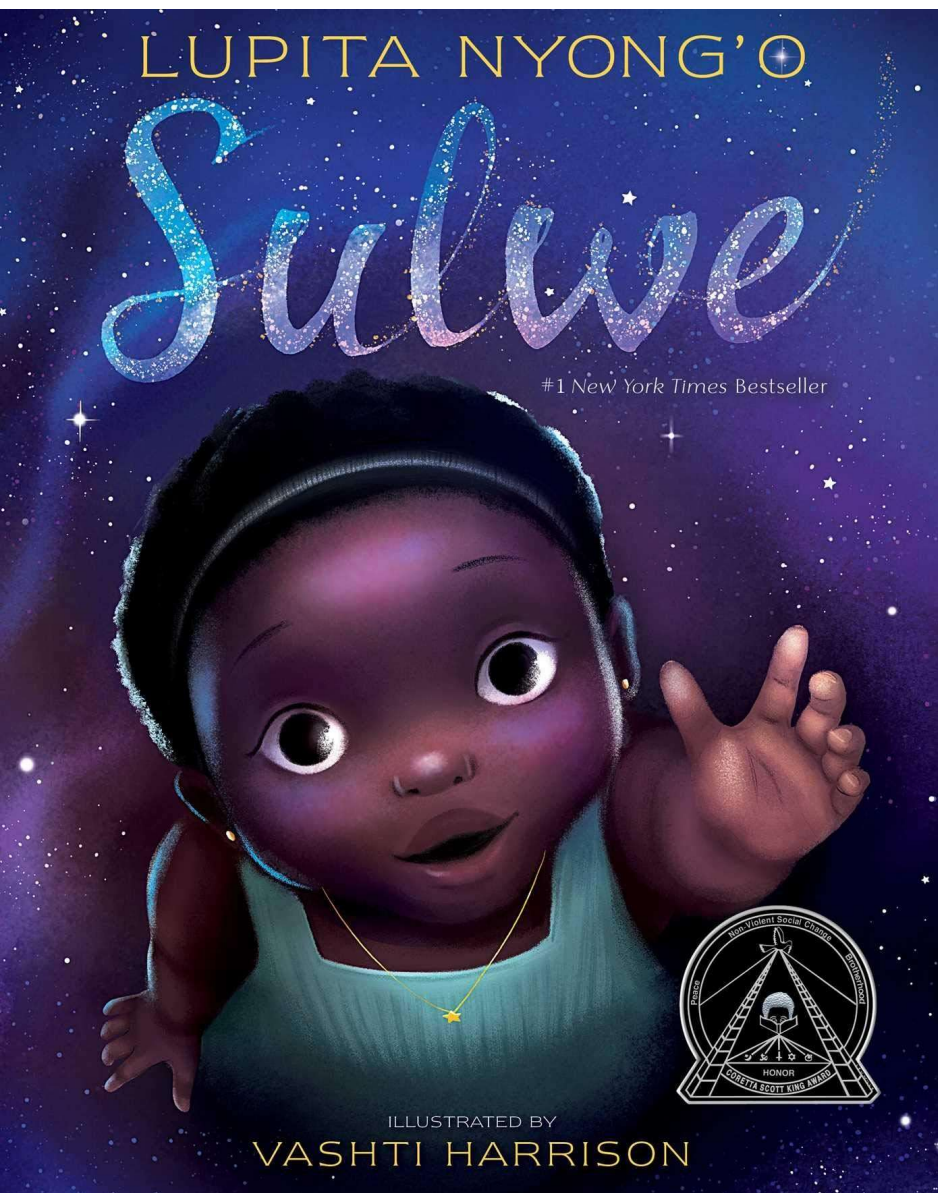




Netflix Jr Bookmarks

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o





Lexile Measure : AD580L

Grade Level : Preschool - 3

Hardcover : 48 pages

ISBN-10 : 1534425365

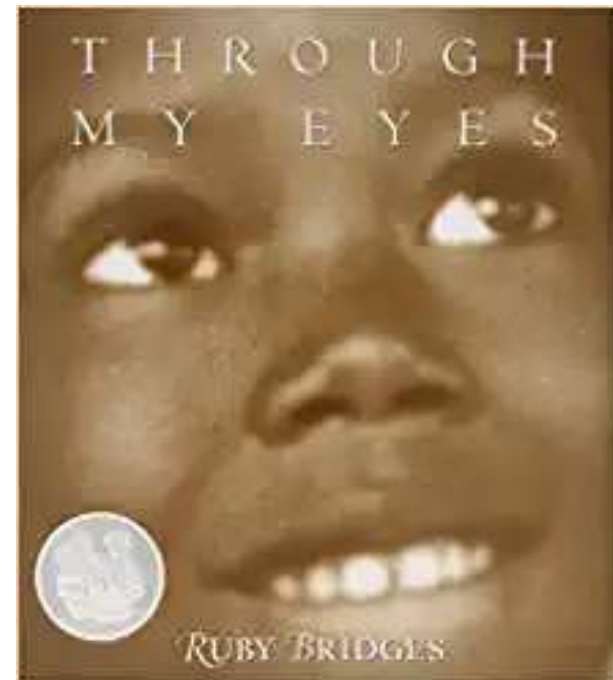
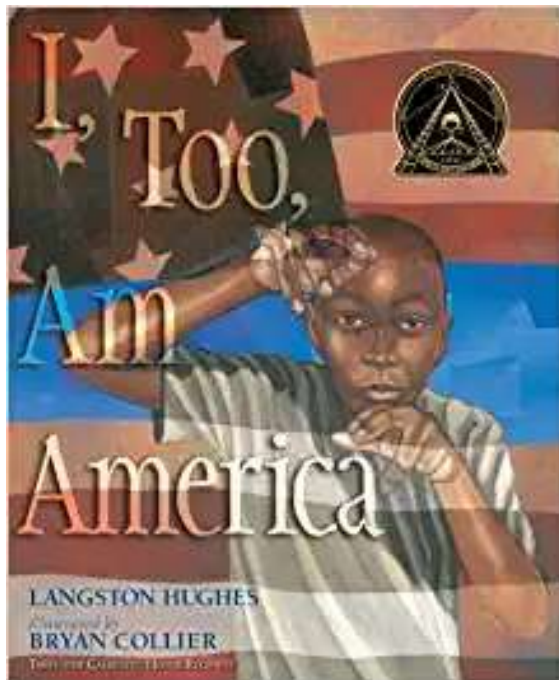
ISBN-13 : 978-1534425361

Publisher : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers;
Illustrated Edition (October 15, 2019)

Reading level : 4 - 8 years

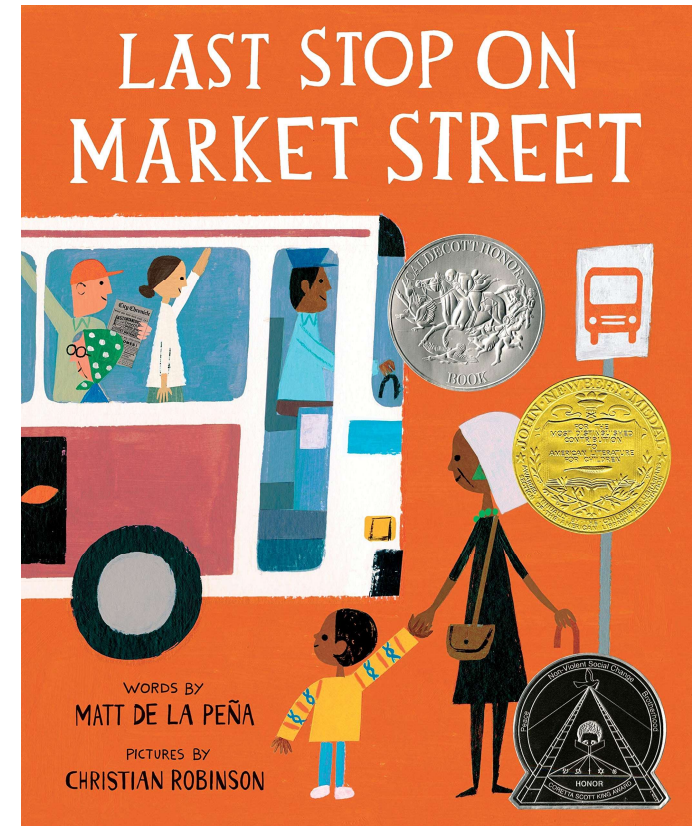
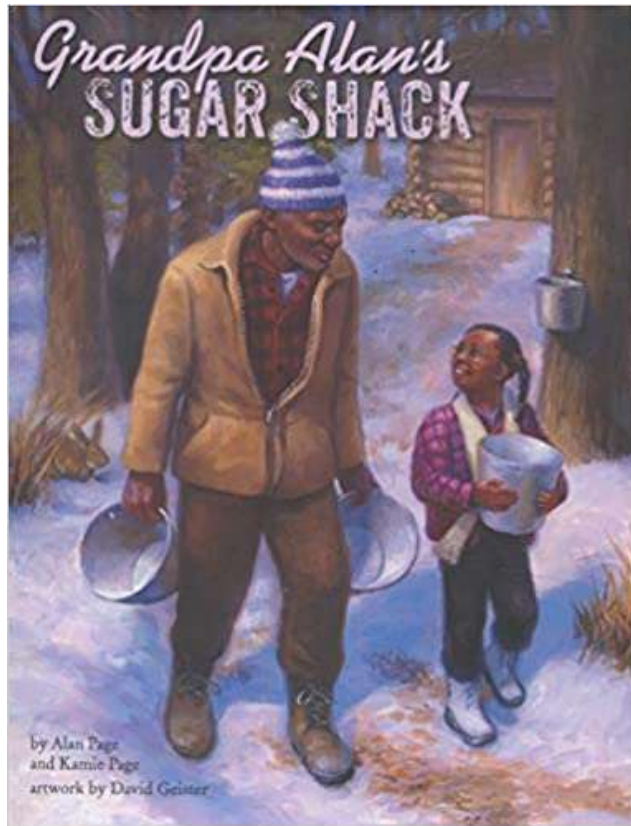
The Children's Experience

A place in History

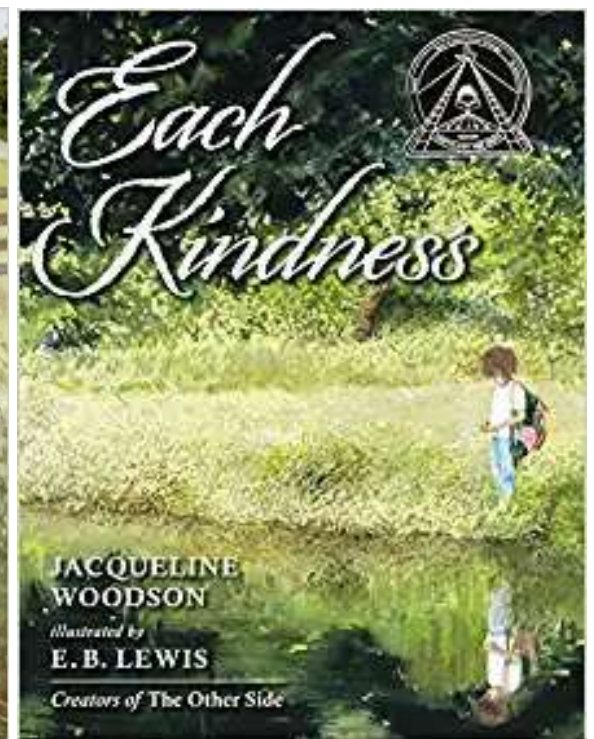
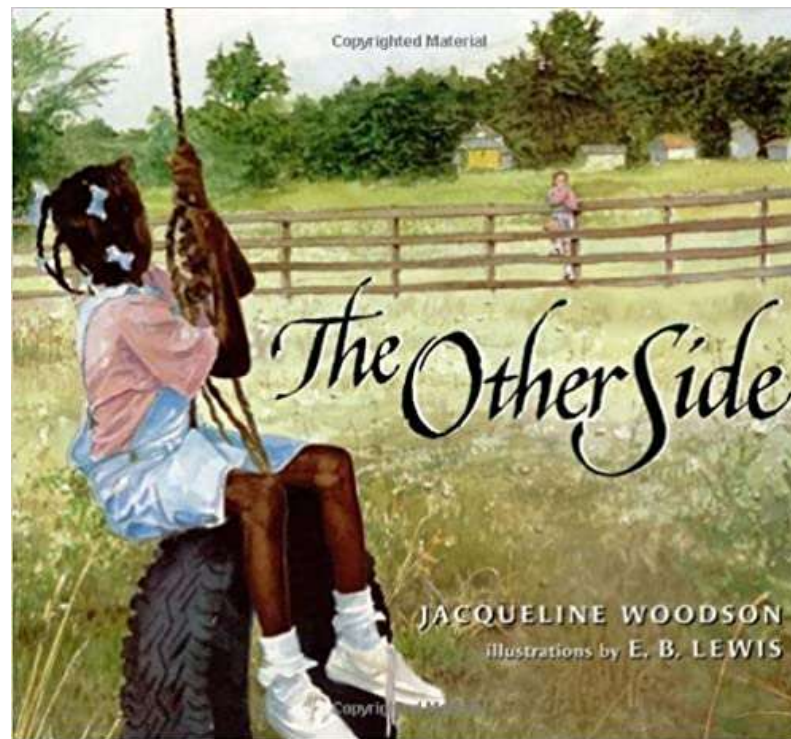
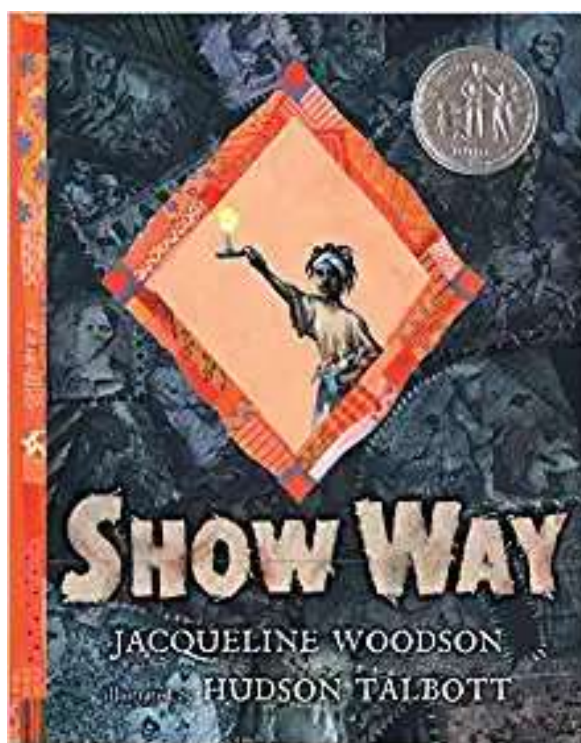


Black, African American, Traditional Folk tales

Our Life Now



The Children's Experience Jacqueline Woodson



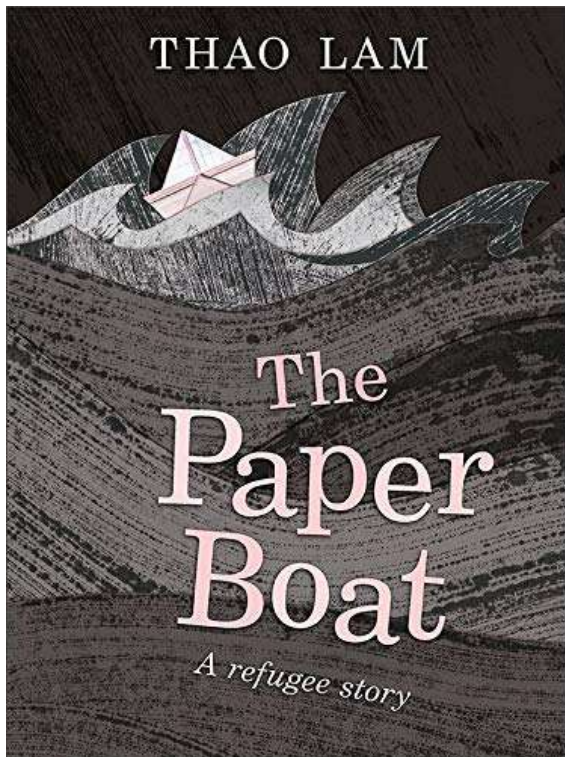
The Children's Experience

Exploring Folk Tales – Virginia Hamilton



Immigrant Experience

The Paper Boat by Thao Lam



The Paper Boat: A Refugee Story
by [Thao Lam](#)

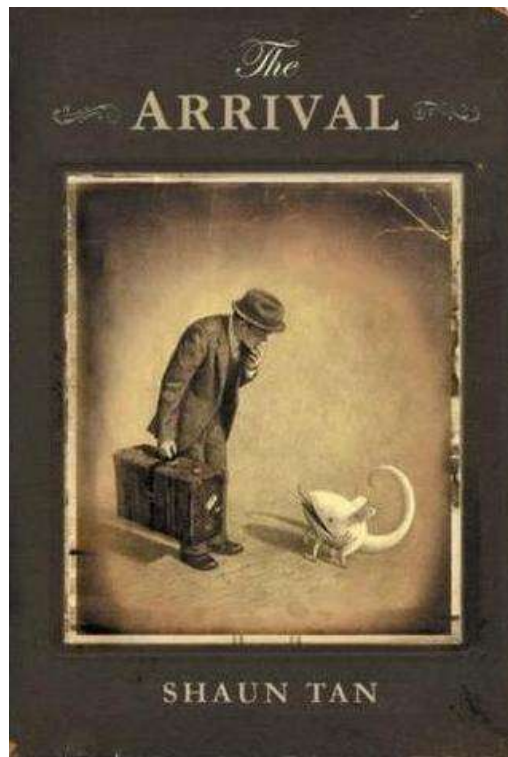
In *The Paper Boat*, Thao's signature collage art tells the wordless story of one family's escape from Vietnam—a journey intertwined with an ant colony's parallel narrative.

At her home in Vietnam, a girl rescues ants from the sugar water set out to trap them. Later, when the girl's family flees war-torn Vietnam, ants lead them through the moonlit jungle to the boat that will take them to safety. Before boarding, the girl folds a paper boat from a bun wrapper and drops it into the water, and the ants climb on. Their perilous journey, besieged by punishing weather, predatory birds, and dehydration, before reaching a new beginning, mirrors the family's own.

Impressionistic collages and a moving, Own Voices narrative make this a one-of-a-kind tale of courage, resilience, and hope.

Immigrant Experience

The Arrival by Shaun Tan



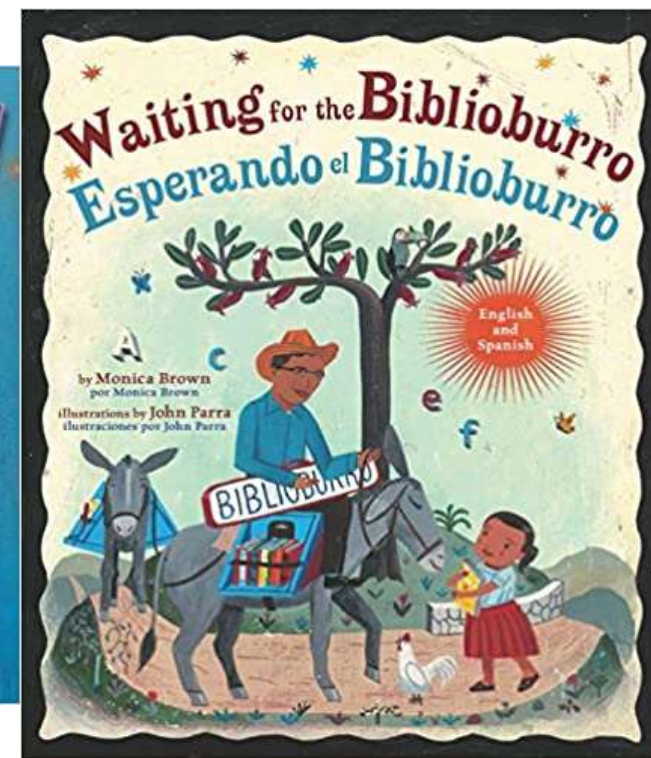
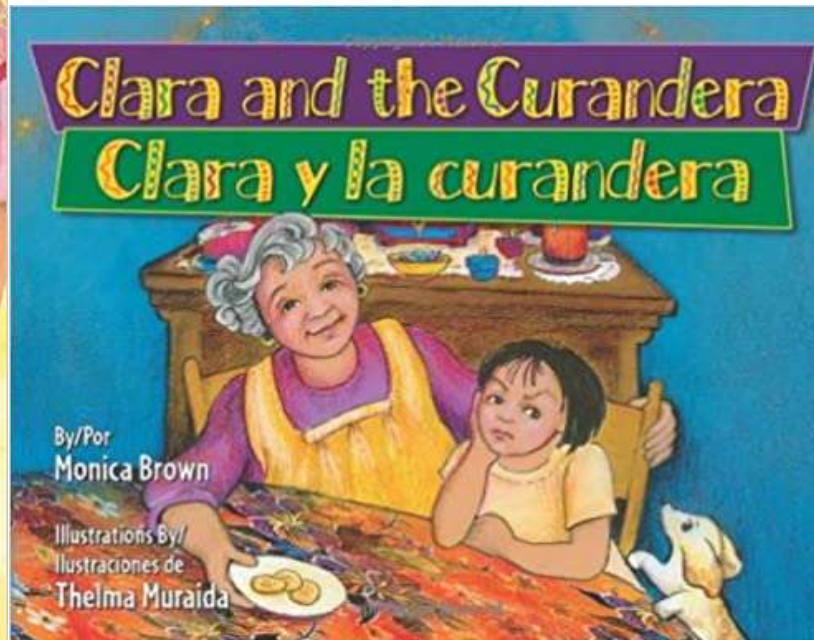
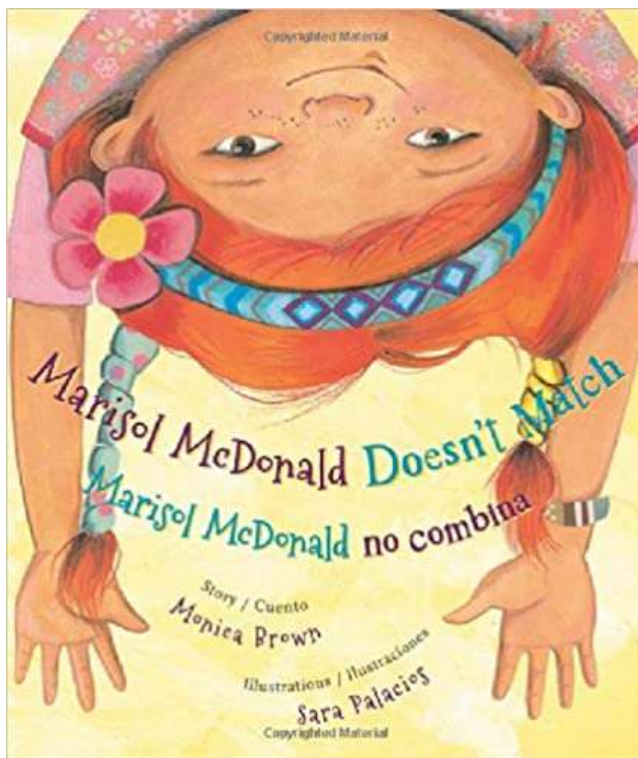
The Arrival
by [Shaun Tan](#)

In a heartbreaking parting, a man gives his wife and daughter a last kiss and boards a steamship to cross the ocean. He's embarking on the most painful yet important journey of his life- he's leaving home to build a better future for his family.

Shaun Tan evokes universal aspects of an immigrant's experience through a singular work of the imagination. He does so using brilliantly clear and mesmerizing images. Because the main character can't communicate in words, the book forgoes them too. But while the reader experiences the main character's isolation, he also shares his ultimate joy.

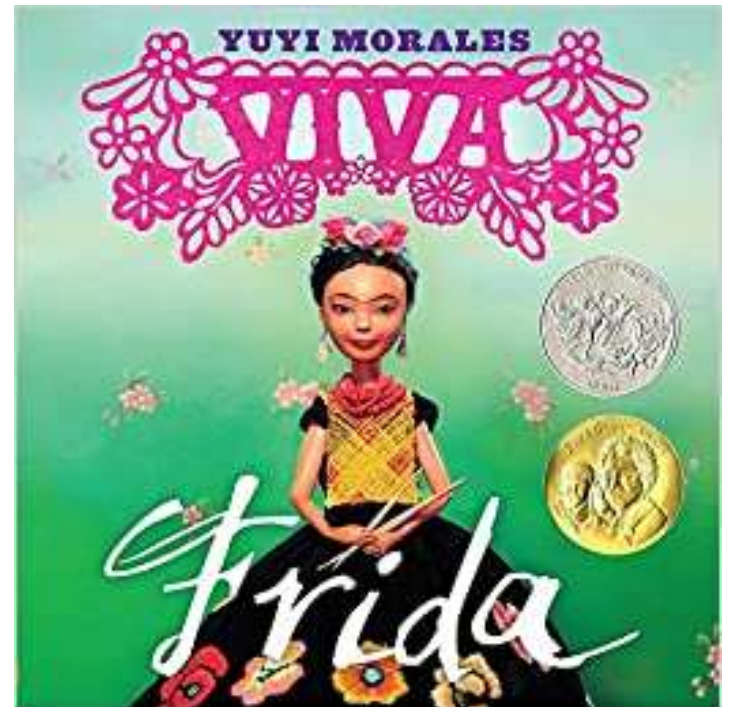
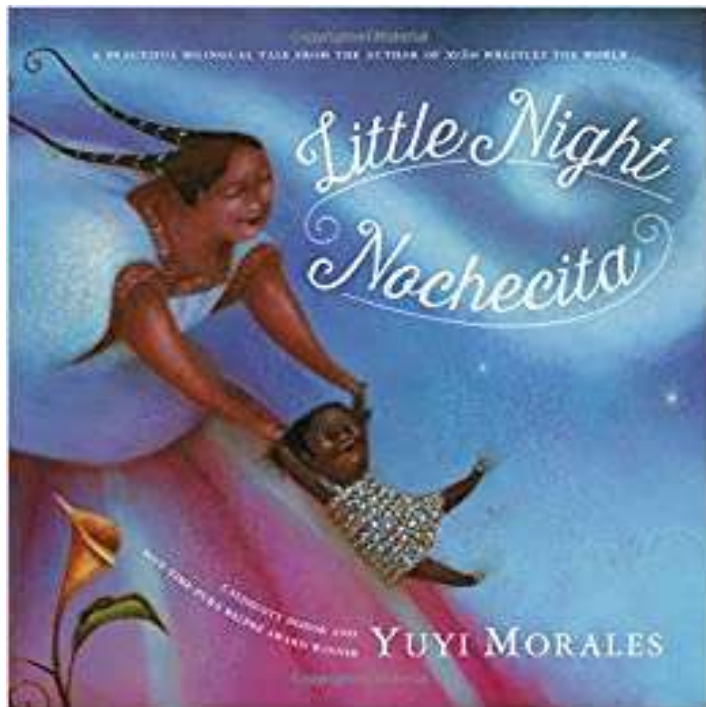
Latinx

Monica Brown



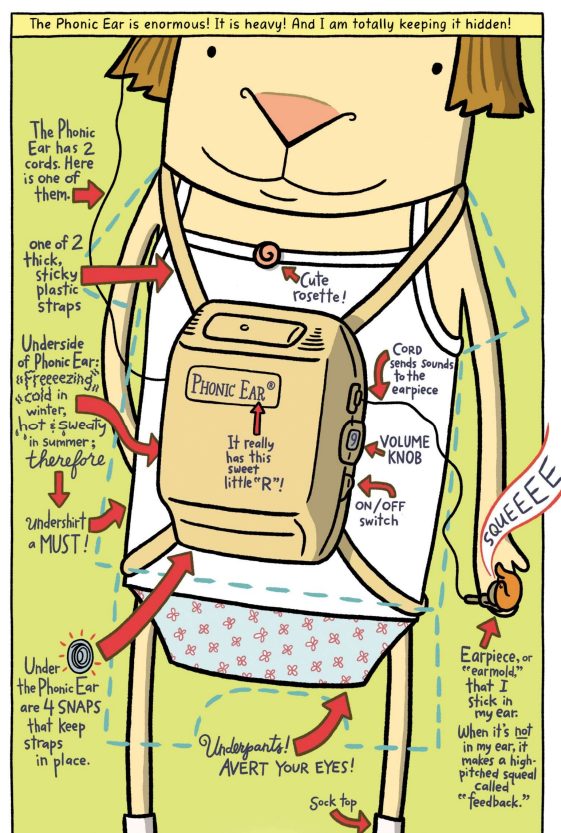
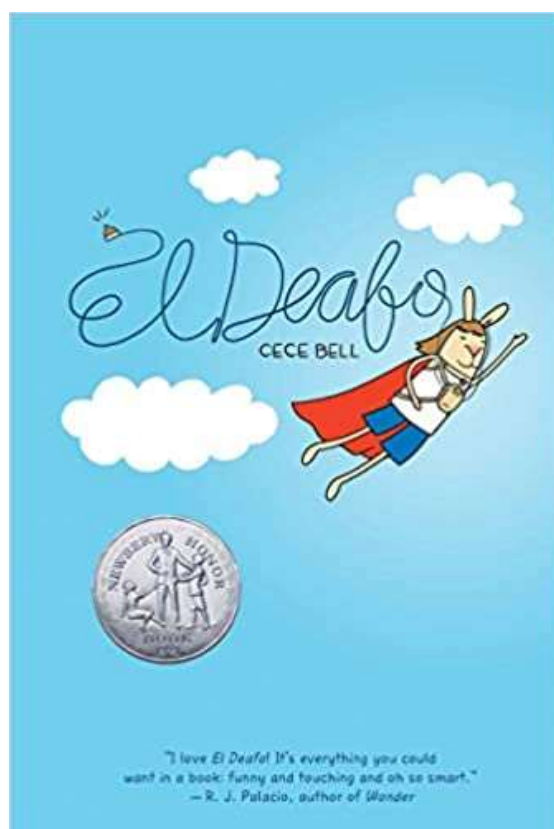
Latinx

Yuyi Morales

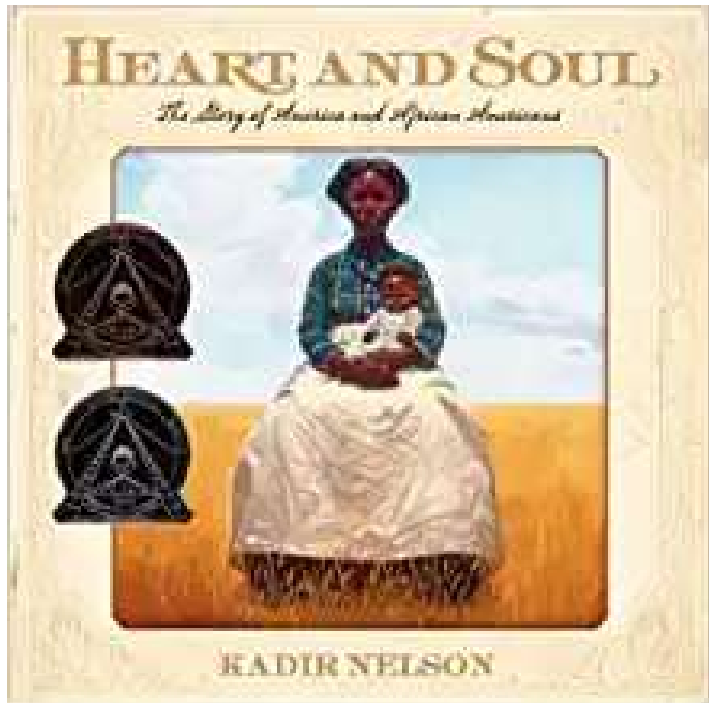


Disabilities

El Deafo by Cece Bell



Middle School Non-Fiction



The story of America and African Americans is a story of hope and inspiration and unwavering courage. In *Heart and Soul*, Kadir Nelson's stirring paintings and words grace 100-plus pages of a gorgeous picture book—a beautiful gift for readers of all ages, a treasure to share across generations at home or in the classroom.

Heart and Soul is about the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would dare bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination, and triumphs.

Lexile Measure : 1050L

Grade Level : 1 - 5

Paperback : 112 pages

ISBN-10 : 0061730793

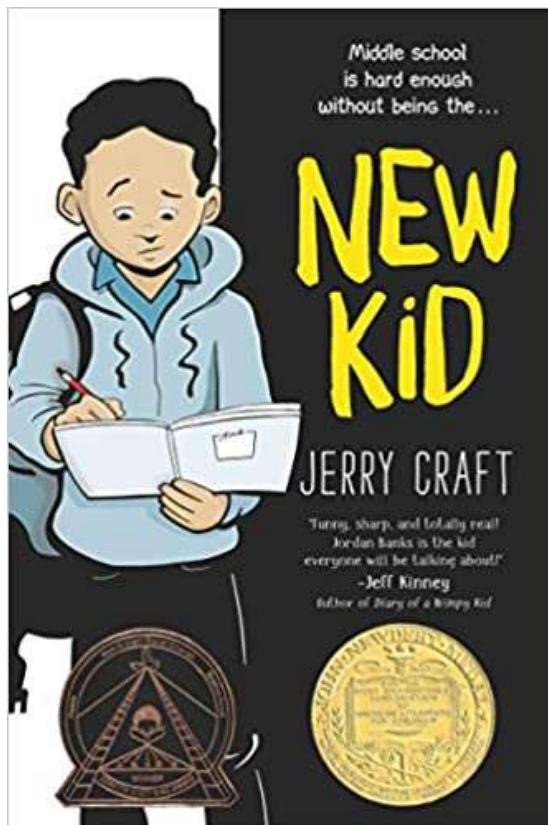
ISBN-13 : 978-0061730795

Publisher : Balzer + Bray; Illustrated Edition (December 23, 2013)

Reading level : 6 - 10 years

Language: : English

Middle School is Hard Enough



Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature!

New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.

Lexile Measure : GN320L

Grade Level : 3 - 7

Paperback : 256 pages

ISBN-10 : 0062691198

ISBN-13 : 978-0062691194

Publisher : Quill Tree Books; Illustrated - Unabridged Edition (February 5, 2019)

Reading level : 8 - 12 years

Language: : English

Middle School Watch Us Rise

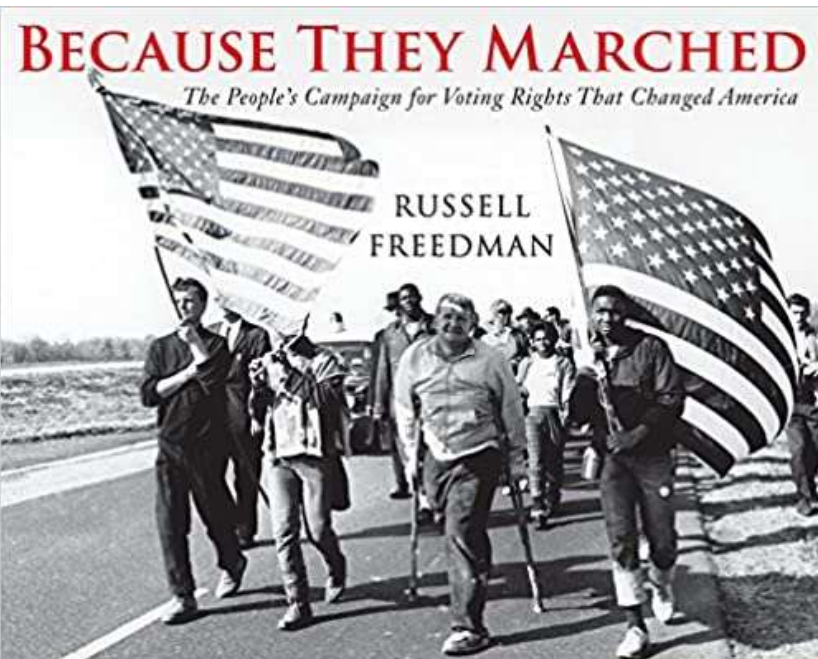


Jasmine and Chelsea are best friends on a mission--they're sick of the way women are treated even at their progressive NYC high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post their work online--poems, essays, videos of Chelsea performing her poetry, and Jasmine's response to the racial microaggressions she experiences--and soon they go viral. But with such positive support, the club is also targeted by trolls. When things escalate in real life, the principal shuts the club down. Not willing to be silenced, Jasmine and Chelsea will risk everything for their voices--and those of other young women--to be heard.

These two dynamic, creative young women stand up and speak out in a novel that features their compelling art and poetry along with powerful personal journeys that will inspire readers and budding poets, feminists, and activists.

- Hardcover** : 368 pages
- ISBN-10** : 154760008X
- ISBN-13** : 978-1547600083
- Lexile Measure** : HL800L
- Publisher** : Bloomsbury YA (February 12, 2019)
- Grade Level** : 7 - 9
- Language** : English
- Reading level** : 13 - 17 years

Middle School Non-Fiction



Lexile Measure : 1160

Grade Level : 5 - 9

Paperback : 96 pages

Publisher : Holiday House; Illustrated Edition (January 30, 2016)

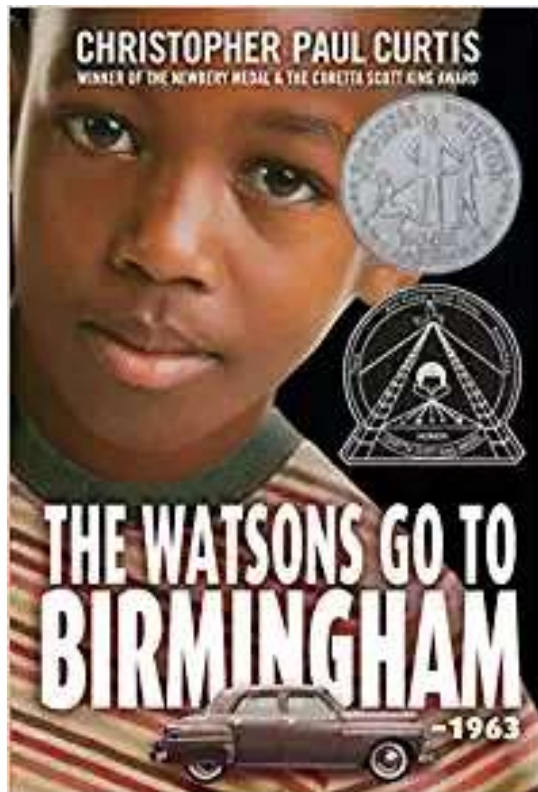
Reading level : 10 and up

Language: : English

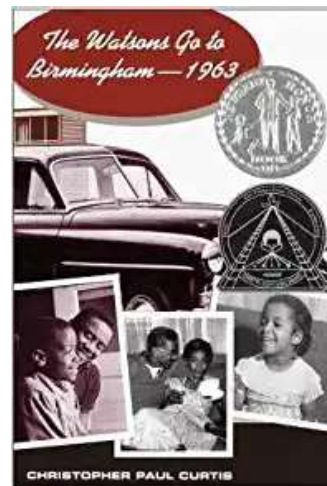
In the early 1960s, tensions in the segregated South intensified. Tired of reprisals for attempting to register to vote, Selma's black community began to protest. In January 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a voting rights march and was attacked by a segregationist. In February, the shooting of an unarmed demonstrator by an Alabama state trooper inspired a march from Selma to the state capital. The event got off to a horrific start on March 7 as law officers brutally attacked peaceful demonstrators. But when vivid footage and photographs of the violence was broadcast throughout the world, the incident attracted widespread outrage and spurred demonstrators to complete the march at any cost.

Illustrated with more than forty archival photographs, this is an essential chronicle of events every American should know..

Middle School Historical Fiction

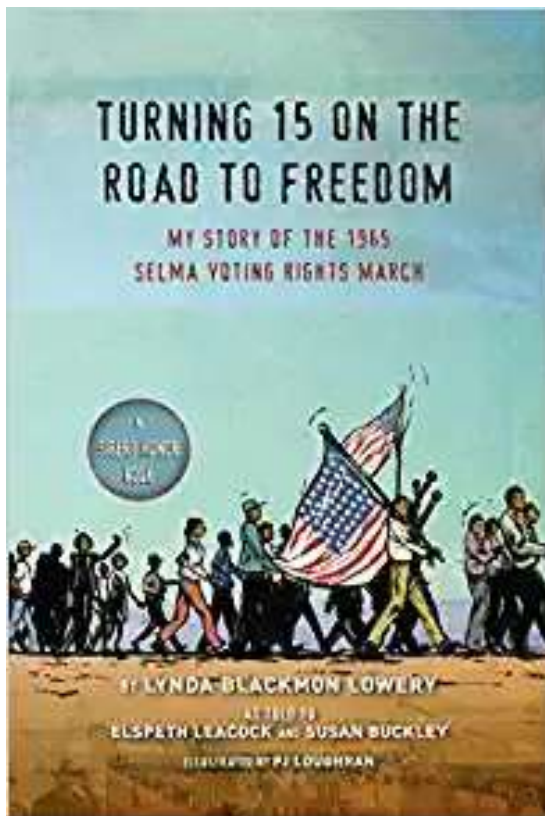


When the Watson family—ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron—sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in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



Grade Level : 3 - 7
Lexile Measure : 920L
Paperback : 210 pages
ISBN-10 : 9780440414124
ISBN-13 : 978-0440414124
Publisher : Yearling (September 8, 1997)
Reading level : 8 - 12 years
Language: : English

Middle School Non-Fiction



As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history.

Straightforward and inspiring, this beautifully illustrated memoir brings readers into the middle of the Civil Rights Movement, complementing Common Core classroom learning and bringing history alive for young readers.

Lexile Measure : 780L

Grade Level : 7 - 9

Paperback : 144 pages

ISBN-10 : 0147512166

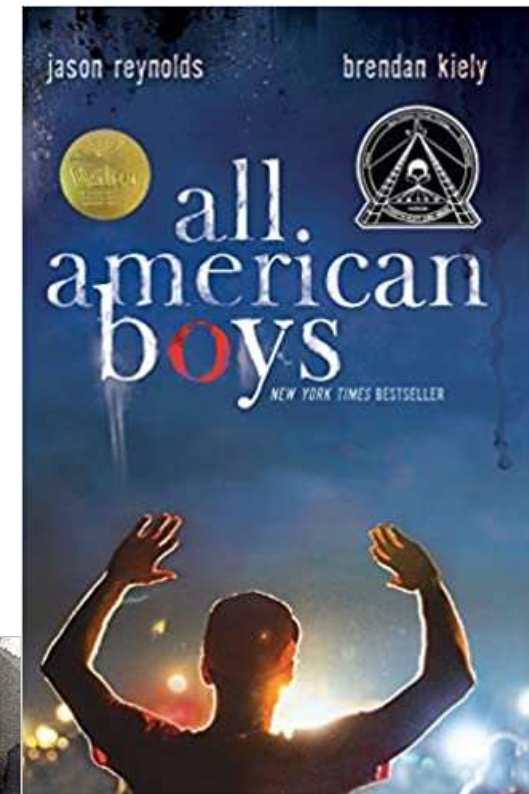
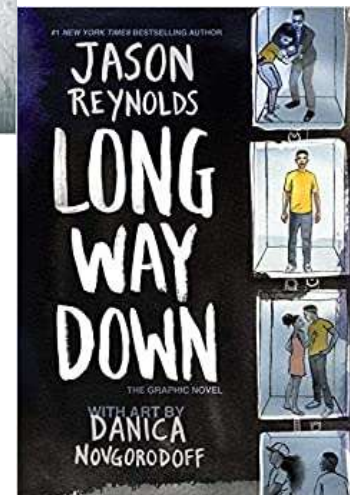
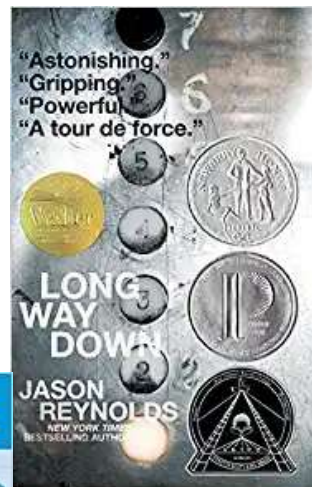
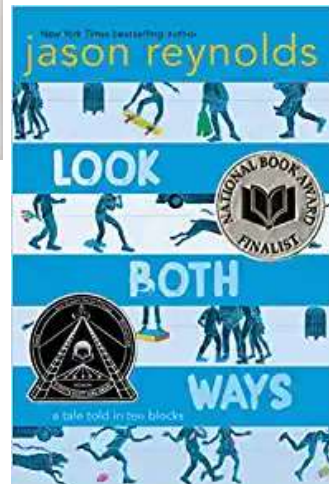
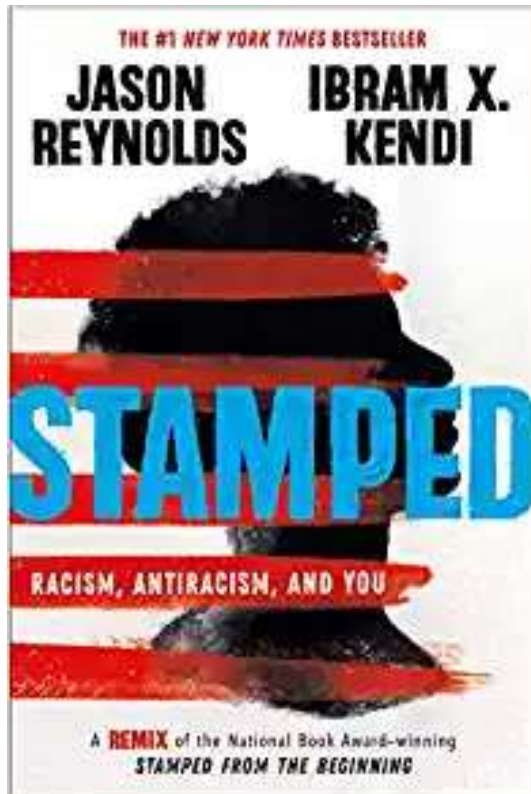
ISBN-13 : 978-0147512161

Publisher : Speak; Reprint Edition (December 27, 2016)

Reading level : 12 and up

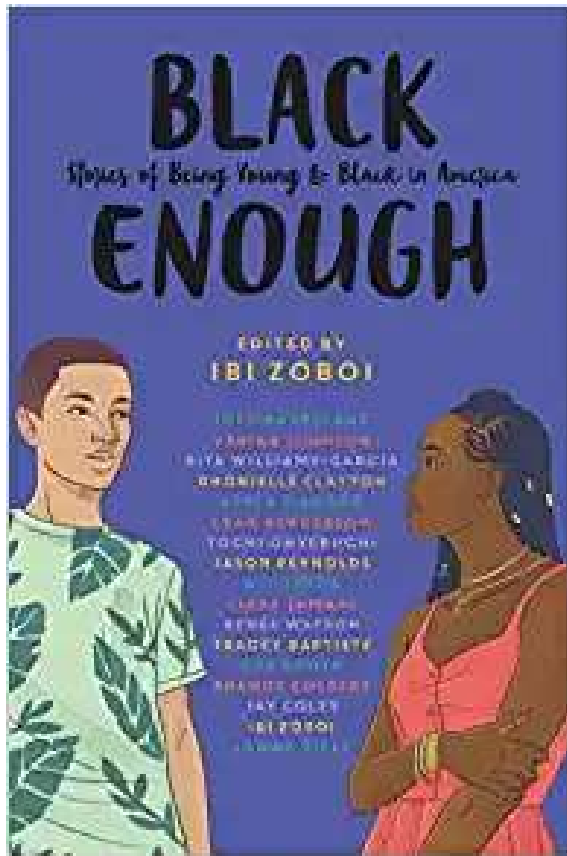
Language : English

Young Adult Jason Reynolds



Young Adult

Tales of Being Young & Black in America



Edited by National Book Award finalist Ibi Zoboi, and featuring some of the most acclaimed bestselling Black authors writing for teens today—Black Enough is an essential collection of captivating stories about what it’s like to be young and Black in America. A selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List.

★ “Each entry is deftly woven and full of such complex humanity that teens will identify with and see some of their own struggles in these characters... This collection presents the beauty of black humanity in all its many forms.” (School Library Journal (starred review))

★ “The stories, all worth savoring, share a celebratory outlook on black teenagers fully and courageously embracing life.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

Grade Level : 8 - 9

Item Weight : 10.9 ounces

Paperback : 416 pages

ISBN-10 : 0062698737

ISBN-13 : 978-0062698735

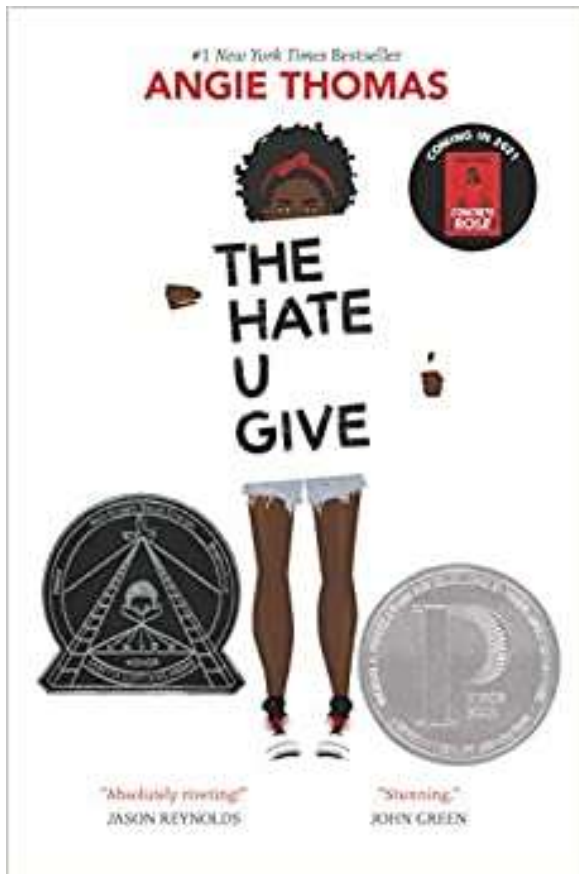
Reading level : 13 - 17 years

Publisher : Balzer + Bray; Reprint Edition (January 7, 2020)

Language : English

Young Adult

The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas



Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

Lexile Measure : HL590L

Grade Level : 9 - 12

Hardcover : 464 pages

ISBN-10 : 0062498533

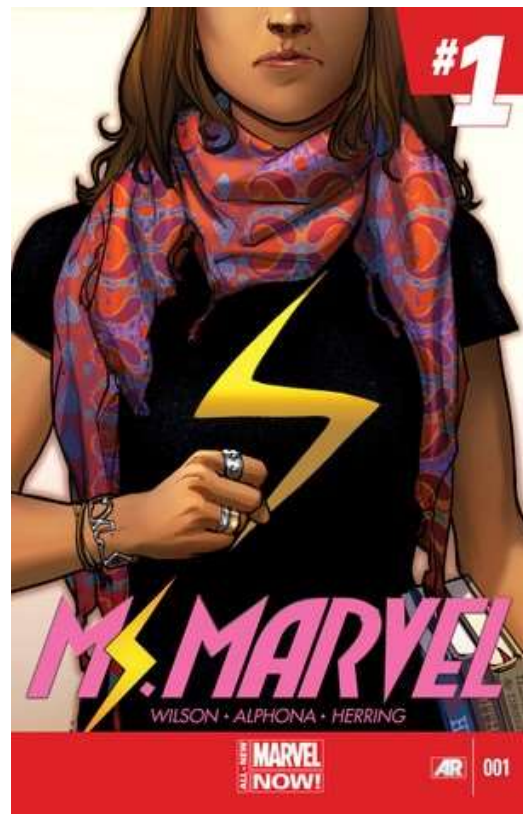
ISBN-13 : 978-0062498533

Publisher : Balzer + Bray; 1st Edition (February 28, 2017)

Reading level : 14 - 17 years

Language: : English

Changes in publishing using Marvel Comics as examples



Changes in publishing using Marvel Comics as examples



References

Will be available on the Friends of Lanpher Memorial Library Website in a few weeks.

<http://friendsoflanphermemorial.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsoflanphermemoriallibrary>