

Annotated Bibliography of African-American Children's Literature
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Easy Readers and Picture Books

Adler, David A. A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr. New York: Holiday House, Inc., 1989.

This is a picture book with a brief summary of the life experiences of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson's Friend. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1976.

Having eagerly anticipated the new neighbors, a boy is disappointed to get a whole family of girls.

_____. Some of the Days of Everett Anderson. Illustrated by Evaline Ness. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1970.

This is a collection of nine poems about a boy who likes to play in the rain, is not afraid of the dark, and sometimes feels lonely.

Dayrell, Elphinstone. Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky: An African Folktale. Illustrated by Blair Lent. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1968.

An African folktale tells how the sun and water once lived on earth as friends, but because the sun failed to build his house large enough, he and his wife, the moon, were driven into the sky when the water came to visit them.

Feelings, Muriel and Tom Feelings. Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. New York: Dial Press, 1974.

This book presents a word with English translation for each of the twenty-four letters in the Swahili alphabet. A brief explanation of each word introduces an East African custom.

Giles, Lucille H. Color Me Brown. Chicago: Johnson Publishers, 1976.

This is a delightful children's storybook with pictures to color. It contains short poems about famous African Americans and is recommended for very young children.

Goldberg, Whoopi. Alice. Illustrated by John Rocco. New York: Bantam Books, 1992.

Alice and her two friends (one of whom is an invisible rabbit) have an adventure-filled trip to 4444 44th Street to collect a prize she hopes will bring her wealth, fame, and lots of friends.

Grifalconi, Ann. City Rhythms. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1965.

This is a story about life and its rhythms in a big city as seen through the eyes of young Jimmy Davis, an African-American boy.

_____. Osa's Pride. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1989.

Osa's grandmother tells her a tale about the sin of pride and helps Osa gain a better perspective on what things are important.

Hairell, Juanita. Jamaica Tag Along. Illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Boston: Houghton, 1989.

This children's picture book is about a little girl who wants to play with her older brother, but he does not want to be bothered with her.

Hamilton, Virginia. The Time Ago Tales of Jahdu. Illustrated by Nonny Hogrogian. New York: Macmillan, 1969.

Mama Luka of Harlem had told Lee Edward many stories about Jahdu, including a heavy story and a story full of mischief, but not until the cool and fresh story does Jahdu assume even a temporary identity.

Palmer, Candida. Snow Storm Before Christmas. New York: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1965.

Two young African-American boys who have gone Christmas shopping struggle to get home in a snowstorm.

Juvenile Fiction

Arnott, Kathleen. African Myths and Legends. New York: Henry Z. Walck, Inc., 1962.

This compilation of thirty-four tales of African folklore contains tales of humans, animals, and super-humans, as well as stories of sadness, happiness, good and evil. This is a great book to use when explaining the idea of folklore or myth to children.

Bernstein, Margery and Kobrin, Janet. The First Morning: An African Myth. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976.

This story recounts the African myth of how light first reached the Earth with the help of some tiny creatures. An excellent story for young children and the stimulation of the imagination

Bodeen-Stuve, Stephanie. Elizabeth's Doll. Illustrated by Christy Hale. New York: Lee & Low Book Inc., 1988.

When a young Tanzanian girl gets a new baby brother, she finds a rock, which she names Eva, and makes it baby doll.

Bontemps, Arna Wendell. Chariot in the Sky, a Story of the Jubilee Singers. Illustrated by Cyrus Leroy Baldridge. Philadelphia: Winston, 1951.

This is the story of a group of African-American singers who reach London by singing Negro spirituals, where they sing for kings and queens.

Brodsky, Mimi. The House at 12 Rose Street. London: Abelard-Schuman, 1966.

This is the story of an African-American family who moves into a white neighborhood.

Bryan, Ashley. Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American Poetry. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997.

This work gives a poem for each letter of the alphabet that describes an aspect of the black experience. This work is not as good as Muriel Feelings' book that uses the same idea.

Burchardt, Nellie. Project Cat. New York: Franklin Watts, 1966.

A cat is found by kids in a city housing project. Pets are not allowed in their project so they work to change the rule before the cat has her kittens. Although it is an older book, it is a sweet story of the success that comes with hard work and working together for a common good.

Carlson, Natalie. The Empty Schoolhouse. Illustrated by John Kaufmann. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1965.

This book tells the story of two little African-American girls during the days of desegregation in the South and the adversities they had to overcome.

Chamber, Veronica. Amistad Rising. Illustrated by Paul Lee. San Diego: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1998.

This is a fictional account of the 1839 revolt of Africans aboard the slave ship Amistad and the subsequent legal case argued before the Supreme Court in 1841 by former president John Quincy Adams.

Childress, Alice. A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich. New York: Coward, 1973.

A thirteen-year-old boy from Harlem deals with a heroine addiction. Relatives and friends express their opinions about his addiction.

"Chisiya". Afrikan Lullaby: Folktales from Zimbabwe. London: Karia Press, 1986.

This is a collection of African Folktales, sayings of wisdom and a quiz. The folktales are culturally awakening, and the quiz helps children apply some of what they learned to actual school lessons.

Clifton, Lucille. Everett Anderson's Friend. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976.

This is a story about a young African American boy who eagerly anticipates the arrival of his new neighbors, only to be disappointed to get a whole family of girls

Coleman, Evelyn. The Footwarmer and The Crow. Illustrated by Daniel Mentor. New York: Macmillan, 1994.

This is the folktale of a slave who volunteers to be his master's footwarmer to help gain his own freedom. A reader can learn valuable lessons from this story.

_____. White Socks Only. Illustrated by Tyrone Geter. Morton Grove, IL: A. Whitman & Co., 1996.

This tells the story of a little black girl who unwittingly makes a difference in the turbulent times of segregation. This wonderful story of innocence and community should be in every elementary classroom.

Courlander, Harold. The Cow-Tail Switch. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1947.

This is a collection of West African stories based on folklore.

Crane, Louise. Ms. Africa: Profiles of Modern African Women. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1973.

These are brief biographies of thirteen African women. The book emphasizes their achievements and their chosen careers.

Dayrell, Elphinstone. Why The Sun and The Moon Live in The Sky. Illustrated by Blair Lent. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1968.

The story of how the sun came to live in the sky is told, as it might have been in Africa, with African tribesmen dressed to represent the elements and the creatures of the sea.

Dionne, Wanda. A Yank Among Us. Austin, Texas: Eakin Press, 1997.

This chapter book for older children tells the story of an African-American adolescent who served as a cabin boy in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. This book is recommended for students interested in adventure during the Civil War times.

Dobler, Lavinia and Toppin, Edgon. Pioneers and Patriots. Illustrated by Colleen Browning. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1965.

This book chronicles the lives of six African-Americans of the Revolutionary Era.

Dunbar, Paul. Little Brown Baby. New York: Dodd, 1940. Illustrated by Erick Berry.

This is a collection of twenty-five poems about things Paul Dunbar noticed throughout his childhood.

Ets, Marie Hall and Tarry, Ellen. My Dog Rinty. New York: Viking Press, 1966.

This is the tale of a little boy, David, who lives in Harlem, and his adventure with his dog Rinty. This book teaches "good behavior."

Falwell, Cathryn. Word Wizard. New York: Clarion Books, 1998.

Using her magical spoon to make new words by changing letters around, Anna and a lost boy go on a series of adventures.

Feelings, Tom and Eloise Greenfield. Day Dreamers. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. New York: Dial Books, 1981.

This book tells what daydreams are about, and when daydreams happen. It contains beautiful artwork by black children.

_____. My Soul Looks Back in Wonder. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. New York: Dial Books, 1993.

This book contains artwork and poems that portray the creativity, strength, and beauty of the African-American heritage.

Fife, Dale. Who's in Charge of Lincoln. New York: Coward McCann, Inc., 1965.

This is a children's storybook about a little African-American boy who, while left unattended, finds a lot of money, and goes on an adventure to find the owner.

Fox, Paula. How Many Miles to Babylon? New York: David White & Co., 1967.

A boy living with his three aunts gets caught in a bad crowd while searching for his mom.

Frank, Andrew. The Birth of Black America. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1996.

A juvenile book about the history of Black America and its beginning, this account starts with life in Africa. It takes one through the history of slavery and gives details of how life in America was for the slaves. It is recommended for students with an interest in slavery and history.

Giovanni, Nikki. Knoxville, Tennessee. Illustrated by Larry John. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1994.

This story describes a little girl's joy during the summer she spent with her family in Knoxville.

_____. Spin a Soft Black Song. New York: Hill & Wang, 1985.

This book is a collection of African-American children's poetry. It already seems a little dated because of pictures and language used.

Graham, Lorenz. Whose Town. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Co., 1969.

An African-American family's hopes for a peaceful existence in North Town are shattered when their teen-age son becomes involved with the police after being attacked by a gang and the town erupts into riot and disorder.

_____. North Town. New York: Thomas Y Crowell, 1965.

This is the story of an African -American family who lived in the South and moved to the North to escape the violence, bigotry, and hatred.

Greene, Bette. Phillip Hall Likes Me. I Reckon Maybe. New York: Dial Press, 1975.

This is the story of a young African-American girl, who lives in the country, as she begins to come of age. This book is best for older primary or middle school girls.

Greenfield, Eloise. Daydreamers. New York: Dial Book for Young Readers, 1981.

The inner feelings of children are captured in the spare and rich text of this work. This book is a sensitive portrayal of African-American boys and girls.

_____. Nathaniel Talking. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. New York: Black Butterfly Children's Books, 1988.

This book is a series of excerpts from the life of a young black boy named, Nathaniel--his songs, ideas and memories. This is a nice look through a child's eyes.

_____. Me and Neesie. New York: Crowell, 1975. Illustrated by Moneta Barnett.

Janell has an invisible friend named Neesie. This story tells about what happened when her Aunt Bea came to visit Janell's home.

_____. Night on Neighborhood Street. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1991.

This collection of poems explores the sights and sounds of a black neighborhood.

Griffin, Judith Berry. Phoebe and the General. Illustrated by Margot Tomes. New York: Coward, 1977.

Phoebe, a young slave girl, has a chance to save the life of General George Washington.

Grimes, Nikki and Tom Feelings. Something on My Mind. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. New York: Dial Press, 1972.

A young black boy's feelings are told through poems. Tom Feelings' illustrations are wonderful.

_____. Jazmin's Notebook. New York: Dial Books, 1998.

Jazmin, an African-American teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life.

Hamilton, Virginia. The House of Dies Drear. Illustrated by Eros Keith. New York: Macmillan, 1968.

Thomas Small and his family move from the mountains of North Carolina to Ohio to live in a supposedly haunted house.

_____. M.C. Higgins the Great. New York: Macmillan, 1974.

This is the story of Mayo Cornelius (M.C.) Higgins and his life on Sarah's Mountain in the hills by the Ohio River.

_____. The Bells of Christmas. Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1980.

Twelve-year-old Jason tells about the Christmas his family spent in 1890's Springfield, Ohio.

_____. Cousins. New York: Philomel Books, 1990.

When Cammy is worried about her grandmother dying, another relative unexpectedly dies.

_____. Jaguarundi. New York: Blue Sky Press, 1995.

In this story of jungle life, Rundi and Coati journey north for a safe place to live.

_____. Many Thousand Gone: African Americans From Slavery To Freedom. Illustrated by Leo and Dianne Dillon. New York: Knopf, 1993.

In this book, slaves take a journey to freedom via the Underground Railroad.

_____. The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. New York: Knopf, 1985.

This is a book of folktales of animals, fantasy, and the desire for freedom.

_____. The Planet of Junior Brown. New York: Macmillan, 1971.

Already a leader in New York's underground world of homeless children, Buddy Clark takes on the responsibility of protecting the overweight, emotionally disturbed friend with whom he has been playing hooky from eighth grade all semester.

Hansen, Joyce. I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl. New York: Scholastic, 1997.

Twelve-year-old Patsy keeps a diary of the ripe but confusing time following the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to former slaves.

_____. Which Way Freedom. New York: Avon Books, 1986.

A young boy named Obi escapes from slavery during the Civil War, joins a black Union regiment, and soon becomes involved in the bloody fighting at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Hanson, Regina. The Face at the Window. New York: Clarion Books, 1997.

This book details a little girl's experience dealing with the mysterious myth of an old woman.

Hayes, Florence. Skid. Illustrated by Elton C. Fax. Eau Claire, WI: E. M. Hale and Co., 1948.

Skid, a young African-American boy living in the segregated South, moves to the North with his parents and is enrolled in a white school. The story details his adjustment to the situation.

Holdridge, Betty. Island Boy. Illustrated with original lithographs by Paul Lantz. New York: Holiday House, 1942.

This is the story of a young black boy named Jacket who lives on the island of Nassau. He is shipwrecked and must learn to provide for himself until rescue comes.

Jackson, Jesse. Anchor Man. Illustrated by Doris Spiegel. New York: Harper and Row, 1947.

This is the story of Charley Moss, who had been the only black student at an all-white suburban high school, and how he helps his community adjust to integration.

_____. Call Me Charley. Illustrated by Doris Spiegel. New York: Harper and Row, 1945.

This is the story of Charley Moss, a young black boy who must learn to adapt when he is enrolled in a formerly all-white school.

_____. Charley Starts from Scratch. New York: Harper and Row, 1958.

This is the story of Charley Moss who dreams of college and trying out for the Olympics as a runner.

Johnson, Delores. Now Let Me Fly: The Story of a Slave Family. New York: Macmillan Books, 1993.

This is a fictionalized account of the life of Minna, kidnapped as a girl in Africa and her hard life as a slave in the South. A good book for students, it gives them a basic idea of slavery through the life of the character, Minna.

Johnston, Tony. The Wagon. Illustrated by James E. Ramsome. New York: Tambourine, 1996.

This is a fictional story written about a young African-American boy and his life as a slave.

Jordan, June. New Life: New Room. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. New York: Crowell, 1975.

This is the story of three children who move into their room and decorate it while their mother is having a baby in the hospital.

Joseph, Lynn. An Island Christmas. Illustrated by Catherine Stock. New York: Clarion Books, 1991.

Rosie's preparations for Christmas on the island of Trinidad include picking red petals for sorrel drink, mixing up black current cake, and singing along with the parang band.

Keats, Ezra Jack. The Snowy Day. New York: Viking. 1962.

A child is having fun in the snow, experimenting with making tracks, angels, and snowmen, when he discovers the snowball he saved has melted.

_____. Jennie's Hat. New York: Harper Trophy, 1966.

Jennie gets a hat for a present and is disappointed that it's not a large beautiful hat, but with the help of the birds she gets one.

_____. Whistle for Willie. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1964.

Peter wanted to learn to whistle so his dog, Willie, could hear him, but he could not. Finally, he learns to whistle.

Lerner, Marguerite Rush. Red Man, White Man, African Chief. Illustrated by George Overlie. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner, 1961.

This book is about color of skin, and how it should not matter what color your skin is.

Lester, Julius. The Knee-High Man and Other Tales. New York: Dial Press, 1972.

This is a collection of six folk tales including, "Mr. Rabbit and Mr. Bear."

_____. Sam and the Tiger. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Dial Book, 1996.

This book relates what happens when a little boy named Sam matches wits with several tigers that want to eat him.

Lipoyte, Robert. The Contender. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1967.

A Harlem high school dropout escapes from a gang of punks into a boxing gym, where he learns that being a contender is hard and often discouraging work, but that you don't know anything until you try.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. The Hundred Penny Box. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon New York: Viking Press, 1975.

This story depicts family life concerning Michael and his great-great-aunt.

_____. Listen For the Fig Tree. New York: Viking Press, 1974.

A young blind girl celebrates Kwanza for the first time.

McCusker, Paul. Freedom Run. Illustrated by Paul McCusker. Colorado: Focus on the Family Publishing, 1996.

This is a story about two African-American boys who use The Imagination Station to travel back in time to the Pre-Civil War South, where they plan to carry out their promise to help two slaves escape through the Underground Railroad

McGovern, Ann. Black is Beautiful. New York: Four Winds Press, 1969.

This is a sweet book with pictures of things that are black, including people, reiterating that black is beautiful.

Means, Florence. Reach for a Star. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1957.

This is a fictional story about a young African-American girl who is going to college and the problems she has there.

Miles, Miska. Mississippi Possum. Illustrated by John Schoenherr. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1965.

This children's book is about a little possum that is afraid of everything, loses his home to the rising Mississippi River, and is tamed by a little African-American girl.

Mitchell, Margaree. Uncle Jed's Barbershop. Illustrated by James Ransome. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1993.

This children's storybook is about an African-American barber who finally gets his own shop.

Molarsky, Osmond. Song of the Smoggy Stars. Illustrated by George Ford. New York: Henry Z. Walck, Inc., 1972.

An African-American youth, who after experiencing clear mountain air, is inspired to write a song to aid in the fight against air pollution.

Mollel, Tolava. Big Boy. Illustrated by E.B. Lewis. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1995.

This is the story of a little African-American boy who has many obstacles to overcome while growing up in Africa.

Murray, Michele. Nellie Cameron. Illustrated Leonora E. Prince. New York: The Seabury Press, 1974.

This book tells the story of a nine-year old African-American girl raised in a Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

Myers, Walter Dean. Fallen Angels. New York: Scholastic, 1988.

This is the story of the Vietnam War as experienced by a seventeen-year-old boy named Richie Perry who enlisted in the Army after high school.

_____. The Glory Field. New York: Scholastic, 1994.

A small plot of land in South Carolina is the source of the 251-year history of an African-American boy and his descendants.

_____. The Outside Shot. New York: Dell Publisher, 1987.

A boy from Harlem plays basketball in college and learns of the corruption in basketball.

_____. Slam! New York: Scholastic Press, 1996.

Slam Harris is a talented basketball player who hopes to use his talent to get out of the inner city but that changes.

Nolen, Eleanor Weakley. A Job for Jeremiah. Illustrated by Iris Beatty Johnson. New York: Oxford University Press 1940.

As a young African-American boy being raised on a plantation in the South, Jeremiah learns to deal with discrimination and prejudice.

Palmer, Candida. Snow Storm before Christmas. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1965.

This is the story of two little African-American boys who did their Christmas shopping and were caught in the snow before getting home.

_____. A Ride on High. Philadelphia: Lippincott Co., 1966.

This is the story of the many adventures of a little African-American boy in the big city. This book is recommended for students interested in fictional adventure.

Pilkey, Dav. The Paperboy. New York: Orchard Books, 1996.

This is the story of an African-American boy who has the job of being a paperboy.

Pinkney, Gloria Jean. Back Home. Illustrated by Jerry Pickney. New York: Dial Books, 1992.

This is the story of eight year old Ernestine who returns to visit family on the North Carolina farm where she was born. With beautiful watercolor illustrations, this book is highly recommended.

Polacco, Patricia. Chicken Sunday. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books, 1992.

To thank Miss Eula for her wonderful Sunday chicken dinners, three children sell decorated eggs to buy her a beautiful Easter hat.

_____. Just Plan Fancy. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books, 1990.

Naomi, a young African-American girl, lives in an Amish community. She finds an egg that is special and protects it until it hatches.

_____. Pink and Say. New York: Philomel Books, 1994.

In this story, Say Curtis recounts his meeting with Pinkus Aylu, a black soldier during the Civil War, and their capture by the southern troops.

Prather, Ray. New Neighbors. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1975.

When he moves to a new neighborhood with seemingly unfriendly children, Ricky hits upon a way of making friends.

Ringgold, Faith. Tar Beach. Illustrated by Faith Ringgold. New York: Crown, 1991.

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family.

Roberts, Bruce. A Week in Robert's World. London: Crowell-Collier Press, 1969.

This is the chronicle of one week in the life of Robert, a seven-year-old African-American boy living in North Carolina.

Robinet, Harriet Gillem. Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.

Born with a withered leg and hand, Pascal, who is about 12 years old, joins other former slaves in search of a farm and freedom. This is a good book for older readers.

Saccone, Vivian Rich. ABC's of What is Black. Nashville: Scythe Publishing, 1995.

This picture book teaches the alphabet by using the phrase "Black is..." followed by a letter of the alphabet and a word beginning with that letter describing a positive thing.

Serwadda, W. Moses. Songs and Stories From Uganda. New York: Crowell, 1974.

This is a collection of thirteen songs and stories about Ugandan folklore.

Shackleford, Jane D. The Child's Story of the Negro. Washington, D.C.: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1956.

This is a chapter book for older children containing valuable teaching aids for African-American history. It contains many short stories and folk tales, and is recommended for information in teaching African-American history.

Shotwell, Louisa. Roosevelt Grady. Cleveland: World Publishing, 1963.

This is the story of a Black migrant worker family's survival through the son's eyes.

Sisulu, Elinor Batezat. The Day GoGo Went to Vote: South Africa April 1994. Illustrated by Sharon Wilson. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1996.

Thembi and her great-grandmother, who has not left the house in years, go together to vote on the momentous day when black South Africans are allowed to vote for the first time. This book uses vibrant, touching illustrations.

Step toe, John. Creativity. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York: Clarion Books, 1997.

Charles helps Hector, a student who has just moved from Puerto Rico, adjust to his new life.

_____. Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale. Illustrated by John Steptoe. New York: Harper, 1967.

Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.

Steptoe, Javaha. In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African American Celebrating Fathers. Illustrated by Javaha Steptoe. New York: Lee and Low, 1997.

This is a collection of poems celebrating African-American fathers.

Sterg, William. Doctor Desoto Goes to Africa. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

Doctor Desoto, a dentist, makes a trip to Africa to help an elephant with a toothache. This is a good book for a classroom collection.

Stolz, Mary. A Wonderful Terrible Time. New York: Harper & Row Publishing, 1967.

This is the story of two Black girls living in a city neighborhood, their inseparable friendship, and a big surprise. This work is an older one, but it is still a nice story.

Stowe, Harriet Beecher. Uncle Tom's Cabin. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1952.

This is the well-known story of Simon Legree, 'Lil Eva, Miss Ophelia, Eliza and Uncle Tom. This work was a call to action, in its time, against slavery and bondage.

Street, James. The Biscuit Eater. Illustrated by James Howell. New York: The Dial Press, 1941.

This story follows the lives of a little African-American boy and a little White boy in the South, who had a very good friendship, even though they were of different color.

Switzer-Clarke, Eileen. Blossom, A Girl's Adventures in Revolutionary Rockland. New York: The Historical Society of Rockland, 1988.

When sold in the 1770's to a farmer whose daughter is nine, Blossom provides her help in an encounter with British soldiers.

Taylor, Mildred. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Bantam, 1978.

Facing a year of night riders and burnings, Cassie and her family continue their struggle to keep their land and hold onto what rightfully belongs to them, despite the difficult battles they must continue to endure.

Wagner, Jane. J.T. Illustrated by Gordon Parks Jr. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1969.

This book tells the story of an African-American boy who finds a stray cat and later becomes very attached to it.

Wahl, Jan. The Singing Geese. Illustrated by Sterling Brown. New York: Lodestar Books, 1998.

Sam Bombel shoots a goose and brings it home for his wife to cook for dinner, but, when it is set on the table, the other geese come to reclaim it.

Weik, Mary Hayes. The Jazz Man. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. New York: Atheneum, 1968.

Zeke, a nine-year-old boy with a lame leg, lives five flights up in a house in Harlem and amuses himself by looking out the windows. When the Jazz Man with his wonderful music moves into a room across the court, Zeke's life takes on new meaning--until trouble comes in the form of near abandonment.

Whiting, Helen Adele. Negro Folk Tales. Illustrated by Lois Mailou Jones. Washington, DC: Associated Publishers, 1938.

This is a collection of African-American folk tales written for elementary age children.

Williams, Shirley. Working Cotton. Illustrated by Carole Byard. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1992.

This is the story of a little African-American girl who was raised in a time when she had to work in a cotton field.

Williams, Vera B. A Chair For My Mother. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1982.

This is a delightful story about a little African-American girl and her family. It is an inspirational story of how they overcome the hardship of losing their possessions in a fire, and the many experiences they have rebuilding their lives. This story is recommended for young readers.

Yarbrough, Camille. Cornrows. New York. Coward, 1979.

This interesting story gives the history behind cornrows. It states that cornrows were a symbol of courage in ancient times in Africa.

Juvenile Nonfiction

Aaseng, Nathan. The O.J. Simpson Trial. New York: Walker & Company, 1996.

In this book, Aaseng uses examples from the Simpson case to explain all facets of the legal process. The use of the Simpson case provides a good "hook" angle for young readers who may actually remember the case.

Acheson, Patricia. The Supreme Court: America's Judicial Heritage. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1966.

The role of the Supreme Court in American history (equal justice under the law, Dred Scott, war and reconstruction, etc.) is examined in this work. This is a very interesting view of our judiciary system and history.

Adair, Gene. George Washington Carver. New York: Thomas Crowell Company, 1975.

This is a biography of a great African-American whose scientific research revolutionized the economy of the South.

Adoff, Arnold. All the Colors of the Race. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1982.

A collection of poems written by various poets, this work expresses the happiness behind the African-American culture.

Adoff, Arnold, ed. Black Out Loud: An Anthology of Modern Poems by Black Americans. Drawings by Alvin Hollingsworth. New York: Macmillan, 1970.

This is a collection of poetry by twentieth-century black Americans expressing what it is like to be Black in the United States. Capsule biographies of the poets are included.

Aldred, Lisa. Thurgood Marshall: Supreme Court Justice. New York: Chelsea House Publishers. 1990.

Aldred's book examines the life and times of the first African-American man to be appointed an Associate Justice of the highest court in the country. This is a very thorough study of Marshall's life, with many pictures.

Banks, Cherry and James Banks. March Toward Freedom--A History of Black Americans. Belmont: Fearon Publishing, 1974.

This is a look at the history of Black Americans covering pre-slavery in the U.S. to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's and 1970's. This is a good reference book, but has a little different perspective than more recent books on the topic.

Barry, James. The Berlin Olympics, 1936: Black American Athletes Counter Nazi Propaganda. New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1975.

This work discusses the background and significance of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. The effect of the black American's wins on Hitler's theories of Arian supremacy is emphasized. This very interesting look at the subject is not outdated and is a good source for research.

Bernheim, Mare and Evelyne. African Success Story: The Ivory Coast. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1960.

An account of the Ivory Coast's first President, this work details the history of the Coast as a colony, its people's hopes for the future, and the outside world's affects on its society and politics.

Bernotas, Bob. Amiri Baraka. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This is the life story of the Black poet, playwright, and political activist (formerly Leroi Jones), who was a leading member of the 'Beat Generation.'

Biemiller, Ruth. Dance: The Story of Katherine Dunham. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Co., 1969.

This is the life story of African-American dancer and choreographer Katherine Dunham, founder of the Dunham Dance Company.

Bishop, Jack. Ralph Ellison. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1988.

This is a biography of Ralph Ellison, who wrote on the Black culture and experience in American society in his book, Invisible Man.

Bisson, Terry. Nat Turner. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This is an account of the life story of the slave and preacher who, believing that God wanted him to free the slaves, led a major revolt in 1831.

Blue, Rose and Corinne Waden. Barbara Jordan: Politician. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1992.

The life and times of the south's first African-American U.S. Congresswoman are detailed in this biographical work. All older readers, (especially females) should read this inspiring story of a courageous woman.

_____. Whoopi Goldberg: Entertainer. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1995.

This biography of the successful African-American performer details her movies, television appearances, career as a stand-up comedienne, and outspoken social commentary.

Bontemps, Arna. Famous Negro Athletes. New York: Dodd, Mead, and Co., 1964.

This is a collection of stories recounting the lives of Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Leroy (Satchell) Paige, Willie Mays, Jesse Owens, Wilt Chamberlain, Jim Brown, and Althea Gibson.

_____. Frederick Douglass: Slave-Fighter-Freeman. Illustrated By Harper Johnson. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959.

This is an account of the life of the runaway slave who devoted his life to the abolition of slavery and the fight for black rights.

_____. The Story of George Washington Carver. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1954.

This is a biography about George Washington Carver, including his success in agriculture and as a college professor.

Brooks, Gwendolyn. Bronzeville Boys and Girls. New York: Harper and Row, 1956.

A collection of poems for and about children, these poems are about children who live in the Bronzeville's all over the world.

Brown, Kevin. Romare Bearden. New York: Chelsea House, 1995.

This is a biography of Romare Bearden, an accomplished historian, teacher, author, curator and founder of the Cinque Gallery in New York City.

Brown, Warren. Colin Powell. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.

This work examines the life and career of the first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, focusing on his role during the Persian Gulf War.

Bundles, Alelia. Madam C. J. Walker: Entrepreneur. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This is a biography of the Black businesswoman whose inventions of facial creams and other cosmetics led to great financial success; it also touches on the social and political causes.

Burden, Shirley. I Wonder Why. New York: Doubleday, 1963.

This book tells a story about segregation in the United States.

Burton, Hester. Time of Trial. Cleveland, OH: World Publishing, 1964.

This work chronicles the history of African-Americans during the Civil Rights Movement and their struggle for equality.

Casselle, Sister Corene. "...Country of the Black People". Chicago: Third World Press, 1975.

This book examines the early days of Blacks in Africa and their many empires. This work is very basic in its information and presentation.

Century, Douglas. Toni Morrison: Author. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1994.

This is a biography of the novelist who was only the eighth American writer to win the Nobel Prize in literature. Morrison is the author of Beloved, Sula, The Bluest Eye, Jazz, and other texts.

Clayton, Ed. Martin Luther King: The Peaceful Warrior. Illustrated by David Hodges. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1964.

This is the story of the life of the Georgia minister who believed in nonviolent protest to gain equal rights.

Clinton, Catherine. Scholastic Encyclopedia of the Civil War. New York: Scholastic, 1999.

A compilation, this work traces the course of the Civil War year by year. It uses profiles of important people, eyewitness accounts, art, etc. This book would be very helpful in upper grade book reports on the Civil War, its issues and figures.

Cobourn, R. Thomas. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This is an account of the life story of the professional basketball player.

Coombs, Karen Mueller. Jackie Robinson: Baseball's Civil Rights Legend. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 1997.

This work explores the life and career of the baseball player, from his childhood in Pasadena, California, through his struggles with prejudice and discrimination, to his success as the first African-American major league baseball player.

Crane, Louise. Ms. Africa: Profiles of Modern African Women. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1973.

This book contains brief biographies of thirteen African women. It emphasizes their achievements and their chosen careers.

Davis, Burke. Black Heroes of the American Revolution. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1976.

This is a collection of historical battles and the bravery of selected African-American soldiers during the American Revolution. It gives detailed accounts of the contributions of Agrippa Hull, James Forten, Crispus Attucks, and others. This book is recommended for students interested in history and American Revolutionary War.

Diagram Group. Peoples of Africa: Peoples of North Africa. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1997.

Information on the regions of North Africa--climate, history, distribution of peoples, etc., is presented in this informative book. It contains very nice charts and pictures to convey information, ideas, etc.

Diamond, Arthur. Paul Cuffe: Merchant and Abolitionist. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This is a biography of the seaman and merchant who encouraged other Blacks to colonize Sierra Leone and was responsible for a Massachusetts law giving Blacks the right to vote.

_____. Prince Hall: Social Reformer. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.

This work is a summary of the life and career of one of the great Black social reformers.

Dolan, Sean. Bob Marley. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 1997.

This work traces the life of the Jamaican musician who helped popularize reggae before his untimely death.

_____. James Beckwourth. New York: Chelsea House, 1992.

This is an examination of the life and career of James Beckwourth, a hunter, trapper, and trader in the 19th century.

_____. Magic Johnson. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1993.

This is the story of the life of Magic Johnson, a famous African-American basketball star. This book is recommended for older children with an interest in sports

_____. Michael Jordan. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1994.

This work is a partial biography following the career of basketball great, Michael Jordan, from birth to 1993.

Durham, Philip and Everette L. Jones. The Adventures of the Negro Cowboys. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1965.

This chapter book, written for older children, contains many accounts of life on the western range for African-American cowboys in the days after the Civil War. The details are interesting, even though it is an older publication.

Eaton, Jeanette. Trumpeter's Tale: The Story of Young Louis Armstrong. Illustrated by Elton C. Fax. New York: William Morrow and Co., 1955.

This is the story of the early life of the famous jazz trumpeter.

Edwards, Lillie J. Denmark Vesey. New York: Chelsea House, 1990.

This is a biography of Denmark Vesey whose planned slave revolt in 1822 caused South Carolina to pass severe laws restricting the education, movement and occupation of free African-Americans.

Ehrlich, Scott. Paul Robeson: Singer and Actor. New York: Chelsea Publishers, 1988.

This is the life story of the African-American man who became both a famous singer and a controversial figure in world politics.

Einstein, Charles. Willie Mays: Coast to Coast Giant. New York: G.P. Putnam and Sons, 1963.

This work traces the life of the great African-American baseball player.

Feelings, Tom and Nikki Grimes. Something on My Mind. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. New York: Dial Press, 1978.

This is a collection of poems expressing the hopes, fears, joys, and sorrows of growing up.

Felton, Howard. Edward Rose: Negro Trail Blazer. New York: Dodd, Mead, and Co., 1967.

This is the story of Edward Rose, a guide of the Early West, who historical chronicles show was present at most of the major events that expanded the American frontier in the early 1800's.

_____. John Henry and His Hammer. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1961.

This story is about the life of the famous African-American folk hero, John Henry, and is based on what working men of his time did. This book is recommended for all ages.

Fenderson, Lewis H. Thurgood Marshall: Fighter for Justice. Illustrated by Dave Hodges. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1969.

This is the life story of the lawyer who, in 1967, became the first African-American Justice appointed to the Supreme Court.

Frank, Andrew K. The Birth of Black America: The Age of Discovery and the Slave Trade. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1996.

This is the history of early exploration in the Americas and Africa, and an examination of the slave trade that followed.

Frankl, Ron. Charlie Parker. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1993.

This book examines the life and times of the noted jazz musician.

_____. Duke Ellington. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This work chronicles the life of the internationally-acclaimed jazz musician, from the Harlem Renaissance through his later years.

_____. Miles Davis. New York: Chelsea House, 1996.

This is an account of the life of the noted jazz trumpeter who got his start with Charlie Parker's quintet and gained fame performing at the first Newport Jazz Festival in 1955.

Gentry, Tony. Alice Walker: Author. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1993.

This is an examination of the life and works of the author of The Color Purple and other works which focus on the lives of Black women.

_____. Dizzy Gillespie. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This work is a biography of the African-American musician and "ambassador of jazz" who introduced the world to "bebop."

_____. Jesse Owens. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

This is the life story of the track and field star who won three gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympic Games.

Gilman, Michael. Matthew Henson. New York: Chelsea House, 1988.

This is a biography of Matthew Henson, the African-American explorer who accompanied Robert Perry on an expedition to the North Pole.

Goldentyer, Debra. Street Violence. Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1998.

This work discusses gangs as a major source of violence in cities and the consequences and dangers of being in a gang.

Graham, Shirley. Booker T. Washington. New York: Julian Messner, 1969.

This is the story of a slave who, at age twenty-two, was commissioned to start a college for African-Americans in Alabama, which became Tuskegee Institute.

_____. Childtimes: A Three-Generation Memoir. New York: Crowell, 1979.

These are the childhood memories of three generations of African-American women- grandmother, mother, and daughter- who grew up between the 1880's and the 1950's.

Gutman, Bill. Sha'quille O'Neal. New York: Pocket Books, 1998.

This juvenile biography is about one of the country's greatest basketball players. This book is recommended for those with an interest in sports.

Hacker, Carlotta. Great African Americans in History. New York: Crabtree Publishing, 1997.

This is a collection of biographical sketches of many influential African-Americans including George Washington Carver, Matthew Henson, Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth.

Halasa, Malu. Mary McLeod Bethune. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This biography traces the life and achievements of the Black educator who fought bigotry and racial injustice. She sought equality for Blacks in the areas of education and political rights.

_____. Elijah Muhammad. New York: Chelsea House Books, 1990.

This book is a biography of a leader of the Black Muslim Movement, which combined religious beliefs with strong social protest.

Hano, Arnold. Willie Mays. New York: Grosset and Dunlap Publishers, 1970.

This is an account of the life of the great African-American Hall of Fame baseball player.

Hardy, James Earl. Spike Lee: Filmmaker. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1996.

This book provides an overview of the life and works of the African-American filmmaker and the contributions his movies have made to our culture.

Harrington, Geri. Jackie Joyner Kersee. Illustrated by Geri Harrington. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1996.

This work examines the life achievements of track star Jackie Joyner- Kersee, an Olympic medallist in track and field.

Haskins, Jim. Black Stars. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998.

This informative book, written for older children, contains profiles of skilled African-Americans who have beaten the odds and succeeded in business, beginning with slavery through modern days. It is recommended for older students interested in careers.

_____. African American Military Heroes. New York: J. Wiley & Sons, 1998.

This work consists of profiles of several African-Americans who were famous soldiers in the United States Armed Forces.

_____. Andrew Young, Man with a Mission. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., 1979.

This is an account of the life of Andrew Young, a prominent African-American politician who served as the Ambassador to the United Nations during the Carter Administration.

_____. Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement. New York: Hyperion Books, 1997.

This is a biography of Bayard Rustin, an organizer during the Civil Rights Movement. Rustin is said to have been a strong influence on Martin Luther King.

_____. Power to the People. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997.

This work chronicles the history of the Black Panther Party. The Black Panthers were a radical political party founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in 1966.

_____. Bob McAdoo, Superstar. New York: Lothrop, Lee, and Shepherd, Co., 1978.

This is the life story of the basketball player, from childhood to superstardom as leading scorer for the New York Knicks.

Hauser, Pierre. Great Ambitions. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This is a comprehensive juvenile book about life for African-Americans in the post-Civil War days. It is a detailed account of the years between 1896-1909. This book is recommended for students interested in history.

Henry, Christopher. Forever Free: From the Emancipation Proclamation to the Civil Rights Bill of 1875. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This book is an account of the black peoples' movement from bondage to freedom. This work examines the barriers that had to be overcome. It is a great research tool for older students.

Herbert, Solomon and George H. Hill. Bill Cosby: Entertainer. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1992.

This is an examination of the life and show business career of African-American comedian Bill Cosby and his contributions to black colleges.

Hirsch, Carl. The Riddle of Racism. New York: Viking Press, 1972.

This book covers the history of research on race. It shows how the research both influenced and was influenced by the political and social significance of race in the United States.

Holland, John. The Way It Is. New York: Harcourt, Brace, & World, Inc., 1969.

This true account of a general-assignment reporter contains a collection of pictures and text from a boy's school that helps disprove myths about ghetto kids. Interestingly written and documented, this book is recommended for all ages.

Hacker, Carlotta. Great African Americans in History. New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 1997.

This is a collection of short histories of famous African-Americans.

Holway, John B. Josh Gibson. New York: Chelsea House, 1995.

This is the story of the Negro Baseball League star.

Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas. The African American Family Album. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

This book chronicles the history of the African people being transformed into African-Americans.

Hopkins, Lee. On Our Way. Illustrated by David Parks. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.

This is a children's book of poems written by African-Americans.

Hudson, Wade. Pass It On. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1993.

This is an illustrated collection of poetry by such African-American Poets as Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, and Lucille Clifton.

Hughes, Langston. Don't You Turn Back: Poems. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. New York: Knopf, 1969.

Here is a collection of forty-five of Langston Hughes' poems that speak about black people and mankind.

_____. The Dream Keeper and Other Poems. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1932.

This is a collection of sixty-six poems for children, all written by Langston Hughes.

_____. Famous Negro Music Makers. New York: Dodd, Mead, and Co., 1955.

This work consists of the life stories of famous black musicians written for young people.

_____. The First Book of Africa. New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1960.

This book covers history, kingdoms, life, etc., in Africa. What is supposed to be current in this book is outdated, but the historical information included is good.

_____. The First Book of Jazz. Pictures by Cliff Roberts; music selected by David Martin. New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1955.

This is a collection of stories and songs from famous jazz musicians.

Hull, Mary. Struggle and Love: From the Gary Convention to the Present (1972-). Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

This book discusses the efforts of African-Americans to achieve equality in education, employment, politics, and other areas, from the 1970s into the 1990s.

_____. Rosa Parks. New York: Chelsea House, 1994.

This is a biography of the Black woman who refused to give up her bus seat in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. This action led to a bus boycott which assisted in galvanizing the Civil Rights Movement.

Igus, Toyomi. I See the Rhythm. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 1998.

This work gives us a look at the history of African-American music through the eyes of an artist. There are also songs from the last 500 years included in this work. This is a great book for a "music station" in a primary grade classroom.

Jakoubek, Robert. Jack Johnson. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

This is an account of the life of the African-American who won the heavyweight championship boxing title in 1908.

_____. Jesse Jackson: Civil Rights Leader and Politician. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This biography of the civil rights activist and reverend details his run for President and his organization, PUSH.

_____. Martin Luther King, Jr. Illustrated by Robert Jakoubet. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

An examination the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., this work details his achievements fighting for African-American equal rights.

_____. Joe Louis. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

This is the story of the boxing great, describing his youth in a Detroit ghetto, his rise to heavyweight champion and major sports hero, and his role in destroying the myth of racial inferiority.

Jordan, June. Fannie Lou Hamer. Illustrated by Albert Williams. New York: Crowell, 1972.

This is a biography of one of the first Black organizers of voter registration in Mississippi.

_____. The Voice of the Children. New York: Holt, 1970.

This is a book of poems written by twenty African-American children.

_____. Who Looks At Me. New York: Crowell, 1969.

This book depicts the life and ideas of African-Americans through reproductions of paintings.

Joseph, Lynn. Ella Fitzgerald. New York: Chelsea House, 1988.

The life of Ella Fitzgerald, whose unique vocals helped her maintain a highly successful singing career for more than 50 years, is examined in this biography written for older children.

_____. Billie Holiday. New York: Chelsea House, 1990.

The life of Billie Holiday, whose breathtaking vocals made her one of America's most widely admired jazz singers, is chronicled in this biography.

Jones, Mallory. So Many Dreams. Chicago: Children's Press, 1970.

This is the inspirational story of Mallory Jones, an African-American man who rose from poverty to become one of the first black owners of a McDonald's restaurant franchise.

King, Martin Luther. I Have A Dream. New York: Scholastic Press, 1997.

This book, covering the ideas of King for equal rights for all Americans, is his own account of his dream.

King, Wilma. Toward the Promise Land. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This is a comprehensive book containing the history of African-American milestones between 1851-1861. It includes many details of the hardships encountered by slaves and freed slaves. This book is recommended for older juveniles with an interest in history.

Klein, Larry. Jim Brown. The Running Back. New York: Putnam, 1965.

This work chronicles the life of Jim Brown, from childhood to his success in the National Football League.

Kliment, Bud. Billie Holiday: Singer. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

This work covers Holiday's life from Harlem to the Big Bands, and it also chronicles her troubles with heroin addiction.

_____. Count Basie. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.

This work examines the life and career of a famous twentieth-century jazz musician.

_____. Ella Fitzgerald. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This is the story of the famous African-American jazz singer, best known for singing in a style called "scat."

Klots, Steve. Richard Allen. Illustrated by Steve Klots. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990.

This biography details the life and achievements of religious leader and social activist Richard Allen.

_____. Carl Lewis. Illustrated by Steve Klots. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This biography gives details about the life of champion athlete and Olympic gold medallist Carl Lewis.

Krass, Peter. Sojourner Truth. Illustrated by Peter Krass. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This biography recounts the details of Sojourner Truth's fight against slavery and the obstacles that she had to overcome to accomplish what she did.

Koslow, Philip. Songhay: The Empire Builders. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1995.

The history of the ancient Songhay Empire in Western Africa, their wars, people, commerce, learning, and government is covered in this book. It contains very interesting information and would make a good report source for students in 4th grade or higher.

_____. Senegambia: Land of the Lion. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1997.

This work is a review of the natural resources and culture in Senegambia.

Latchem, Colin. Looking at Nigeria. London: A & C Black, 1975.

This book is a child's introduction to the history, people, geography, industries and schools of the most populous African country. Some of the information in this book is very outdated, making it a poor source for anything but history.

Lawler, Mary. Marcus Garvey: Black Nationalist Leader. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1988.

This is a biography about the leader of the "Back to Africa" movement, which helped to establish a central homeland for Blacks.

Lawrence, Jacob. The Great Migration: An American Story. New York: The Museum of Modern Art/ The Phillips Collection/Harper Collins, 1993.

This is the story of Blacks who migrated from the South to the North around the time of W.W.II. Their struggles as they search for work and homes in the northern industrial areas are depicted through beautiful paintings from The Phillips collection.

Levine, Alan. The Rights of Students. New York: Sunrise Books, Inc., 1973.

This book by the American Civil Liberties Union outlines peoples' rights dealing with education, personal appearance, due process, discrimination, tracking, and classification. Many of these laws have been altered since this book was written.

Levine, Israel. The Many Faces of Slavery. Illustrated by Israel Levine. New York: Julian Messner, 1975.

This book explains the history of slavery, and what people had to overcome during slavery.

Macht, Norman L. and Mary Hull. The History of Slavery. Lucent Books, 1997.

This book examines the practice of slavery as it existed in early Mediterranean civilizations, during the Middle Ages, in Africa, and among Indians in the America's in the United States.

_____. Clarence Thomas: Supreme Court Justice. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This is a biography about the second African-American Supreme Court Justice, his success as Chairman of the EEOC, and the Senate Hearings that nearly ruined him.

Marzollo, Jean. Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King. New York: Scholastic, 1993.

This is an inspirational book written for young or older juveniles. It is written in a way that will help the process of unfinished grief in the assassination of Dr. King. It is intended to convey the central message of his leadership. This book is recommended for all ages.

Meltzer, Milton. Slavery I: From the Rise of Western Civilization to the Renaissance. Chicago, Illinois: Cowles Book Company, Inc., 1971.

This review of the African-American experience takes readers through suffering and freedom.

_____. Time of Trial, Time of Hope. New York: Zenith Books, 1996.

This is a comprehensive chapter book for older juveniles. It is a historical account of African-Americans in America from 1911-1941. This book is recommended for students interested in history.

Meyers, Elizabeth P. Mary Cassatt: A Portrait. Chicago: Reilly & Lee Books, 1971.

This easy-to read juvenile biography about the life of Mary Cassatt, an African-American artist, contains many photographs.

Myers, Walter Dean. Amistad: A Long Road to Freedom. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1998.

In 1839, the slave ship "Amistad" set sail on a short voyage from one end of Cuba to the other. During the journey, the illegally enslaved Africans revolted and seized control of the ship. Hoping to sail back to Africa, the passengers wound up in America where they were put on trial.

_____. Angel to Angel: A Mother's Gift of Love. New York: HarperCollins, 1998.

This is a collection of poems about the African-American mother-child relationship.

_____. Glorious Angels: A Celebration of Children. New York: HarperCollins, 1995.

This is a collection of pictures and poems written by children of different nationalities.

_____. Now Is Your Time: The African-American Struggle For Freedom. New York: HarperCollins, 1991.

This history of the struggle for equality begins with the capture of slaves in 1691.

_____. Toussaint L 'Ouverture: The Fight for Haiti's Freedom. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996.

This is a picture book depicting the liberation of Haiti in 1804.

McKissack, Patricia and Fredrick. Jesse Owens Olympic Star. Illustrated by Michael David Biegel. New Jersey: Enslow Publishers, 1992.

This biography of the life of the African-American track star, Jesse Owens, describes the life of the sharecroppers' son who became an Olympic legend and challenged Hitler's dream of Aryan superiority.

Montgomery, Elizabeth. William C. Handy-Father of the Blues. Champaign: Garrard Publishing, 1968.

This biography for younger readers is about the Black jazz musician. It's an older book, but it is still applicable to the topic.

Moore, Carmen. Somebody's Angel Child: The Story of Bessie Smith. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1969.

This is a history of the life of the African-American singer who flourished in the twenties and was known as "Queen" of the blues.

Nardo, Don. Braving the New World, 1619-1784: From the Arrival of the Enslaved Africans to the End of the American Revolution. New York: Chelsea House, 1995.

A historical account of the milestones of African-American history, this work is a great resource for older students.

Nicholson, Lois P. Michael Jackson. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1994.

This is the life story of the African-American rock legend.

_____. Oprah Winfrey: Entertainer. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1994.

This biography covers Winfrey's life, from her childhood on a pig farm to her television show, movies, and charity work.

Norman, Winifred Latimer and Lily Patterson. Lewis Latimer. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1994.

This work discusses the inventor's career, life, and times.

Palmer, Leslie. Lena Horne. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This is the story of the African-American singer and actress's life and accomplishments.

Parks, Rosa and Jim Haskins. I am Rosa Parks. Pictures by Wil Clay. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1997.

This is an autobiography of the African-American woman whose acts of civil disobedience led to the 1956 Supreme Court order to desegregate buses in Montgomery, Alabama. This book explains what she did and why.

Patrick, Diane. The New York Public Library: Amazing African American History. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998.

This is a comprehensive reference book for juveniles of all ages. It contains many interesting documented facts about African-American history. Answers to many questions can be found in this amazing book that was compiled from the New York Library. It is recommended for all ages with interests in African-American history.

Patterson, Floyd. Victory Over Myself. New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1962.

This is the life story of the African-American boxing legend.

Paulson, Timothy. Days of Sorrow: Years of Glory, 1831 - 1850. New York: Chelsea House, 1994.

This story follows the struggle of African-Americans as they searched for freedom. The book covers the period from 1831 to 1850.

Petry, Ann. Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1955.

This is the story of Harriet Tubman, an escaped slave who became a conductor on the Underground Railroad before and during the Civil War.

_____. Tituba of Salem Village. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1964.

This is the story of Tituba, a slave who was accused of being a witch in Salem village.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and his Orchestra. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1998.

This is a brief recounting of the career of this jazz musician and composer who, along with his orchestra, created music that was beyond category.

Preston, Katherine. Scott Joplin. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This work traces the life of the well-known ragtime pianist and composer who wrote over 500 pieces of music, including a ballet and two operas.

Price, Christine. Made In West Africa. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1975.

This work discusses the influence of African customs, history and geography on West African art. It includes masks, dress, textiles, jewelry, pottery, etc.

Reef, Catherine. Buffalo Soldiers. New York: Holt & Co., 1993.

This work recounts the deeds of the 9th and 10th cavalry, comprised of African-American soldiers, who kept the peace on the western frontier, fought in the Spanish-American War, and pursued outlaw Poncho Villa through Mexico. This excellent book covers a group of soldiers who are not well-known and have never received their due.

Rennert, Richard Scott. Baseball Great: Henry Aaron. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1993.

This is an account of Hank Aaron's climb to the top in baseball, from his move to the major league from the Negro leagues, through his breaking of Babe Ruth's homerun record. His life today is also covered. This is a good account of the impact he made on racial perception.

Robinson, Louie, Jr. Arthur Ashe: Tennis Champion. New York: Doubleday, 1967.

This is an older biography of Ashe detailing his fight against discrimination on and off the tennis court. It is an older book and does not address the AIDS issue.

Robinson, Jackie and Alfred Duckett. Breakthrough to the Big League: The Story of Jackie Robinson. New York: Harper and Row, 1965.

This is the autobiography of the baseball star who was the first Black player to be accepted by a major league team.

Rosset, Lisa. James Baldwin. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This is an account of the life of the African-American author noted for his books on racial conflict in the United States.

Rouchaleau, Jane. James Weldon Johnson. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This is a biography of the author, civil rights leader, and co-founder of the NAACP, who blazed a trail for racial equality and human rights through his songs, poems, speeches, and other writings.

Rummel, Jack. Malcolm X. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This is a biography of the Black Muslim who became a leader of a movement to unite people throughout the world.

Russell, Sharman Apt. Frederick Douglas: Abolitionist Editor. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This biography on one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement details his fight to end slavery, well before the Civil War, and his advisement to President Lincoln. Incorporation of this book would bring more African-Americans into American history.

Sarnoff, Jane. What? A Riddle Book. New York: Scribner, 1974.

This book contains over five hundred riddles covering areas such as politics, science and philosophy.

Schroeder, Alan. Booker T. Washington. Illustrated by Alan Schroeder. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

During the late 19th and 20th centuries, Booker T. Washington lifted himself up from slavery to become an important black leader in America. This book details his struggle.

_____. Josephine Baker. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This is an account of the African-American singer and dancer who achieved fame in Paris in the 1920's and was awarded the French Legion of Honor for her work during World War II.

_____. Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Dial Books, 1996.

This is the story of young Harriet Tubman, whose childhood name was Minty, and her dream of escaping slavery on the Brodas Plantation in the late 1820s.

Scott, Richard. Jackie Robinson. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1987.

This is a juvenile biography of Jackie Robinson, a famous African American baseball player. This book is recommended for students interested in sports.

Shapiro, Miles. Maya Angelou. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1994.

This is an account that traces the life and achievements of the Black American novelist who wrote the autobiographical novel, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

Shapiro, Milton J. Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers. New York: Julian Messner, 1966.

This book is about the baseball legend, Jackie Robinson, and his many experiences with his team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. It is written in chapter book format and is suitable for older juveniles with an interest in sports.

Shirley, David. Satchel Paige. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1993.

This book describes the life and times of the Hall of Fame pitcher who gained widespread recognition in the Negro Leagues before becoming the first African-American pitcher in the American League.

Sill, Jr., Harold D. Misbehavin' with Fats. Illustrated by Mike Eagle. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1978.

This story recounts the life and music of Fats Waller as seen through the eyes of a young boy.

Simpson, Janice Claire. Andrew Young: A Matter of Choice. St. Paul: EMC Corp., 1978.

This is a story on the life of the African-American Congressman who was appointed ambassador to the United Nations in 1977.

Sklansky, Jeff. James Farmer. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.

This is an account that examines the life and career of the Black activist.

Stafford, Mark. W.E.B. Du Bois. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This work follows the life and achievements of the scholar and activist, W.E.B. Du Bois.

Sterling, Dorothy. Forever Free. Illustrated by Ernest Crichlow. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Co., 1963.

This work describes the events leading up to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation that freed over four million slaves in the United States.

Stevens, Leonard. Equal!: The Case of Integration vs. Jim Crow. New York: Coward, McCann & Geohogan, Inc., 1976.

This work traces the history of the Jim Crow laws, and examines the most important decisions concerning them from 1896-1976. This is a good discussion of "separate but equal," and there is good information on Plessy vs. Ferguson, and Brown vs. the Board of Education.

Stone, Eddie. Jesse Jackson. Los Angeles, CA: Holloway House, 1984.

This is a biography on the life of Jesse Jackson, one of the most prominent African-American political figures in the United States.

Sullivan, Otha Richard. African American Inventors. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1998.

This work profiles the lives of twenty-five African-American inventors who made significant scientific contributions from the eighteenth century to modern times.

Tanenhaus, Sam. Louis Armstrong. New York: Chelsea House, 1989.

This is the biography of the famous trumpeter who was one of the first great improvisers in jazz history.

Tasker, Mary. Jimmy and His Family. Bethesda, MD: Association for the Case of Children's Health, 1992.

This educational publication is an effort to inform young juveniles about AIDS. It is about a little African American boy who was born with the disease and is told from his perspective. Highly recommended for all ages with an interest in AIDS and helping children understand the disease.

Terkel, Studs. Giants of Jazz. Illustrated by Robert Galster. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1957.

This book tells us about some of the greatest African-American jazz musicians and singers to ever be in the entertainment business.

Thomas, Joyce. I Have Heard of a Land. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. New York: Harper, 1998.

In the late 1880s, thousands of pioneers, many former slaves, raced to the Oklahoma Territory to stake their claim. This is their story.

Thompson, Cliff. Charles Chesnutt: Author. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.

This is the biography of America's first published African-American author, and it details his fifty years battling for racial equality.

Tolbert-Rouchaleau, Jane. James Weldon Johnson. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1988.

This biography tells the story of a man who expanded the size and power of the NAACP in the 1920's, wrote for a prominent Black newspaper, and penned a moving novel.

Towne, Peter. George Washington Carver. Illustrated by Eliza Moon. New York: Thomas Crowell Company, 1975.

This is a simple biography of the African-American scientist famed for his revolutionary agricultural research.

Turner, Glennette Tilley. Lewis Howard Latimer. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Silver Burdette Press, 1990.

This the story of the African-American inventor who, among other contributions, invented an inexpensive method for manufacturing carbon filaments for electric light bulbs.

Urban, Joan. Richard Wright. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1989.

This work traces the life and achievements of the African-American novelist.

Weisbrot, Robert. Father Divine: Religious Leader. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.

This work examines the life and career of the Black religious leader who founded the Peace Mission Movement, which worked to end poverty, racial discrimination and war. He did much to provide for the poor during the depression.

Weissberg, Ted. Arthur Ashe: Tennis Great. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This work presents the life of the important African -American athlete who helped break racial barriers, on and off the tennis court.

Westman, Paul. Andrew Young, Champion of the Poor. Minneapolis: Dillon Press, 1983.

This is a profile of the life of the Black leader who was in the forefront of the civil and human rights movements in the United States. He served as ambassador to the United Nations during the Carter Administration.

Wilburn, Deborah. Eddie Murphy: Entertainer. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 1993.

This book examines the professional and personal life of the well-known African-American comedian.

Wilder, Josh. Julius Erving. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995.

This is an older biography about the life of basketball superstar, Julius Erving. It contains photographs, and is recommended for students interested in sports.

Williams, Joe. Enterprise. Chicago: Children's Press, 1970.

An African-American man recounts the experiences that led to his purchase and operation of a laundry-dry cleaning business.

Witcover, Paul. Zora Neale Hurston: Author. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1991.

This is an interesting biography of the African-American writer, known for her novels and collections of folklore.

Woodsen, Carter. Negro Makers of History. Washington, D.C.: Associated Publishers, 1958.

This book focuses on African-Americans who have been prominent contributors to the history of the United States.

Wormser, Richard. The Black Mustang. New York: William Morrow and Co., 1971.

This is a chapter book, written for older children, about an African-American cowboy in the period after the Civil War. It is recommended for students interested in American history.

Young, Andrew. Black Champions of the Gridiron. New York: Hartcourt, Brace & World, 1969.

This is a collection of biographies of some of the most famous African-Americans who played for the National Football League.