

# *Lucy Robbins Welles* LIBRARY

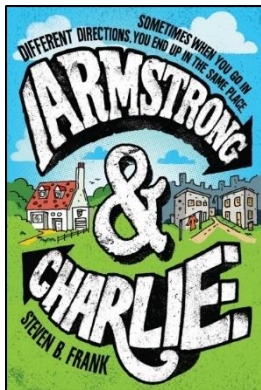
## CHILDREN'S BOOKSLIST

### Black History

Books for Grades 3 – 6

Learn about Black history all year long with these books about the events, culture, hardships, triumphs and daily lives of Black Americans.

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### Armstrong & Charlie

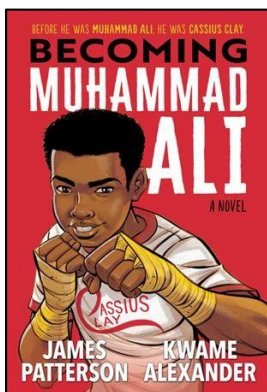
by Steven B. Frank

Middle Grade Novel (2017)  
J Frank

During the pilot year at a Los Angeles school system integration program, two sixth grade boys, one black, one white, become best friends as they learn to cope with everything from first crushes and playground politics to the loss of loved ones and racial prejudice in

the 1970s.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**



### Becoming Muhammad Ali

by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander;  
illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

Middle Grade Novel (2020)  
J Patterson

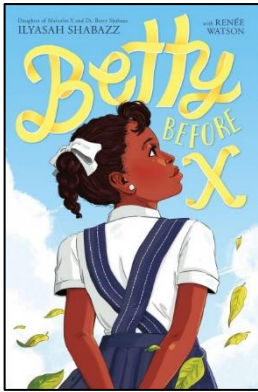
Before he became the legend, Muhammad Ali, young Cassius Clay learned history and card tricks from his grandfather, hid report cards from his parents, and biked around Louisville with his pals.

But when his bike is stolen, Cassius decides there's something else he wants: to be able to fend off bullies by becoming a boxer.

*Also available as an OverDrive Audiobook.*

**Suggested for ages 8-12**





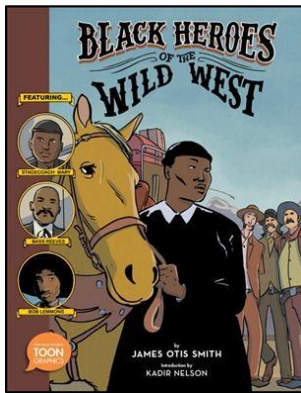
## Betty Before X

by Ilyasah Shabazz, with Renée Watson

Middle Grade Novel (2019)  
J Shabazz

Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.  
*Also available as a Hoopla E-Audiobook.*

**Suggested for ages 10-14**



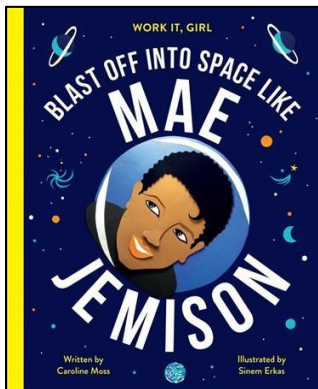
## Black Heroes of the Wild West

by James Otis Smith, introduction by Kadir Nelson

Nonfiction Graphic Novel (2020)  
J978 Smith

Celebrate the extraordinary true tales of three black historical figures in the Old West: Mary "Stagecoach" Fields, a cardplaying coach driver; Bass Reeves, the first black Deputy US Marshall west of the Mississippi; and Bob Lemmons, a cowboy famous for his ability to tame mustangs.

**Suggested for ages 9-12**



## Blast Off into Space Like Mae Jemisin

by Caroline Moss; illustrated by Sinem Erkas

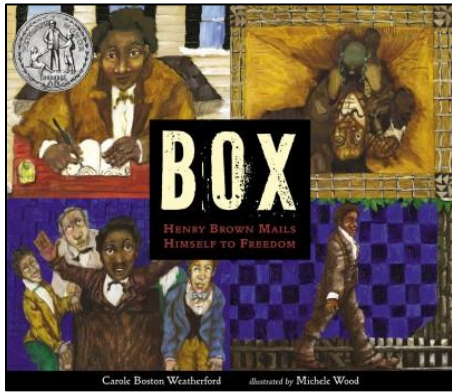
Picture Book Biography (2020)  
JB Jemisin

When Mae Jemisin was a little girl, she loved science, dancing, and dinosaurs. She watched the Apollo moon landings and wondered why none of the astronauts were women and she just didn't buy the answers she was given... Discover how Mae

Jemisin became the first African American woman in space in this true story of her life.

**Suggested for ages 8-12**





## Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom

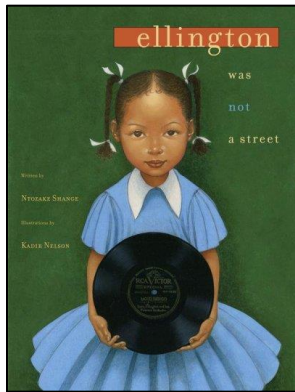
by Carole Boston Weatherford;  
illustrated by Michele Wood

Picture Book Biography (2020)  
JB Brown

Henry Brown wrote that long before he came to be known as Box, he entered the world a slave. He was put to work as a child and passed down from one generation to the next as property. When he was an adult, his wife and children were sold away from him out of spite. Henry Brown watched as his family left bound in chains, headed to the deeper South. And he planned his escape.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Video.*

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## Ellington Was Not a Street

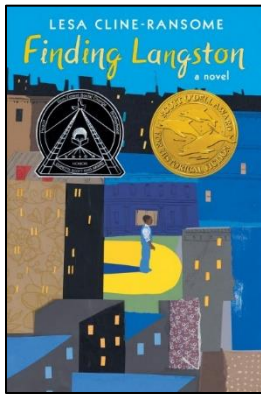
by Ntozake Shange; illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Poetry Picture Book (2004)  
J811.54 Shange

In a reflective tribute to the African American community of old, noted poet Ntozake Shange recalls her childhood home and the close-knit group of innovators who often gathered there. These men of vision, in the face of this tremendous adversity, not only demonstrated the importance of Black culture in America, but also helped issue in a movement that changed the world.

**Suggested for ages 8-14**





## Finding Langston

by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Middle Grade Novel (2018)

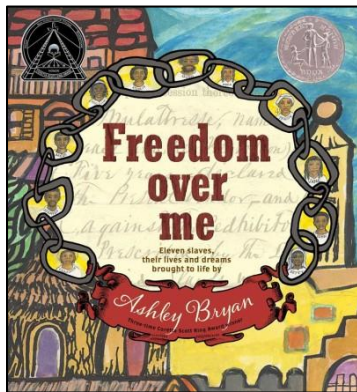
J Cline-Ransome

In 1946, and eleven-year-old Langston and his father move from Alabama to Chicago, seeking a fresh start after the death of Langston's mother. It is a hard move for Langston. He's lonely and homesick, and the boys at school bully him for being a country boy.

But one day he ventures into a branch of the Chicago Public Library and discovers the poetry of Langston Hughes, setting him on the path to healing and self-discovery.

*Also available as an Audiobook on CD.*

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life

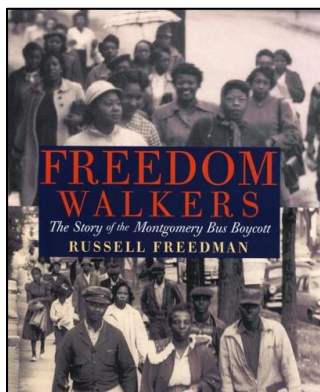
by Ashley Bryan

Poetry Picture Book (2016)

J811 Bryan

Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, Ashley Bryan offers a moving and powerful book that contrasts the monetary value of a slave with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

by Russell Freedman

Nonfiction Book (2006)

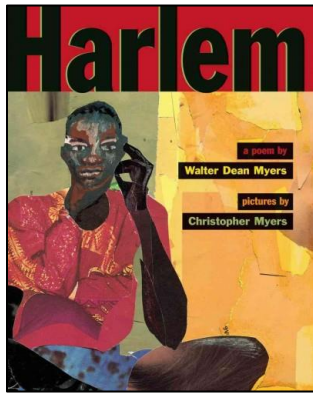
J323.1 Freedman

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and give up her seat to a white man. This refusal to give up her dignity sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, a yearlong struggle, and a major victory in the civil rights movement.

**Suggested for ages 9-14**







## Harlem

by Walter Dean Myers; illustrated by Christopher Myers

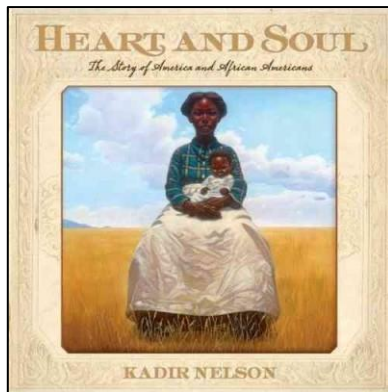
Poetry Picture Book (1997)

J811.54 Myers

In *Harlem*, author Walter Dean Myers and his son, artist Christopher Myers, combine their talents to share the remarkable sights, sounds and textures of a community and a way of life that has touched and shaped the lives of generations

of Americans.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**



## Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans

by Kadir Nelson

Nonfiction Picture Book (2011)

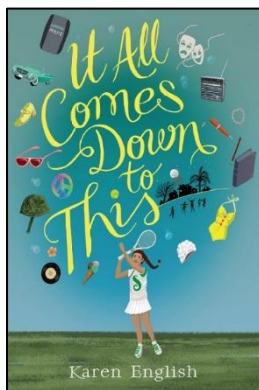
J973.04 Nelson

In *Heart and Soul*, Kadir Nelson presents an introduction to African American history, from colonial days through to the election of President Obama. Kadir Nelson uses

dramatic oil paintings and a narrative voice that recalls the oral tradition to tell a true story of hope and inspiration and unwavering courage.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Audiobook.*

**Suggested for ages 9-14**



## It All Comes Down to This

by Karen English

Middle Grade Novel (2017)

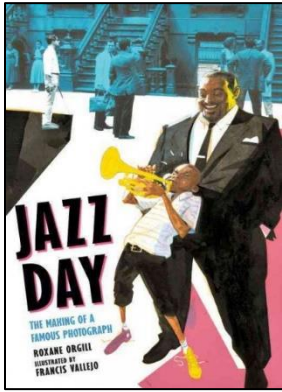
J English

In the summer of 1965, Sophie's family becomes the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life and her own place in it are a lot more complicated than they had

seemed.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**





## Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph

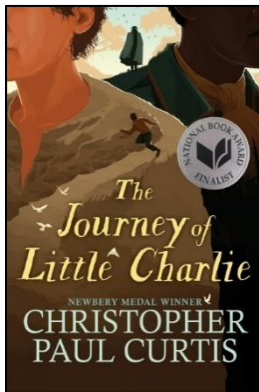
by Roxane Orgill; illustrated by Francis Vallejo

Poetry Picture Book (2016)  
CH Book-DVD Orgill

When *Esquire* magazine planned an issue to salute the American jazz scene in 1958, graphic designer Art Kane pitched a crazy idea: how about gathering a group of beloved jazz musicians and photographing them? He didn't own a good camera, didn't know if any musicians would show up, and insisted on setting up the shoot in front of a Harlem brownstone. Could he pull it off? Playful verse and glorious artwork capture an iconic moment for American jazz.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Video & DVD.*

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## The Journey of Little Charlie

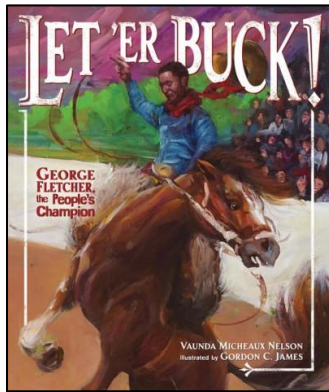
by Christopher Paul Curtis

Middle Grade Novel (2018)  
J Curtis

When Little Charlie's father is killed and leaves the family in debt, he agrees to accompany the fearsome plantation overseer north in pursuit of people who have stolen from him. Cap'n Buck tells Little Charlie that his father's debt will be cleared when the fugitives are captured, which seems like a good deal until Little Charlie comes face-to-face with the people he is chasing.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**





## Let 'Er Buck! : George Fletcher, the People's Champion

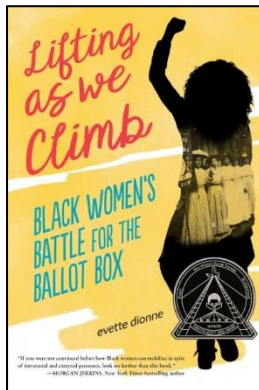
by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson;  
illustrated by Gordon C. James

Picture Book Biography (2019)  
JB Fletcher

In 1911, three men were in the final round of the famed Pendleton Round-Up. One was white, one was Indian, and one was black. When the judges declared the white man the winner, the audience was outraged. They named black cowboy George Fletcher the “people’s champion” and took up a collection, ultimately giving Fletcher far more than the value of the prize that went to the official winner. This rollicking true tale of a cowboy’s epic rodeo ride will delight readers young and old.

*Also available as an OverDrive Ebook.*

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## Lifting as We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box

by Evette Dionne

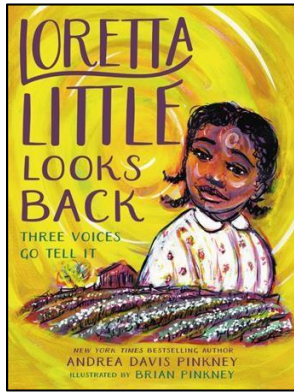
Nonfiction Book (2020)  
J324.6 Dionne

For African American women, the fight for the right to vote was only one battle. An eye-opening book that tells the important, overlooked story of black women as a force in the suffrage movement – when fellow suffragists did not accept them as equal partners in the struggle.

*Also available as an OverDrive Ebook.*

**Suggested for ages 10-14**





## Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It

by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Middle Grade Novel (2020)  
J Pinkney

Loretta, Roly, and Aggie B., members of the Little family, each present the vivid story of their young lives, spanning three generations. Their separate stories – beginning in a cotton field in 1927 and ending at the presidential election of 1968 – come together to create one unforgettable journey.

**Suggested for ages 9-14**



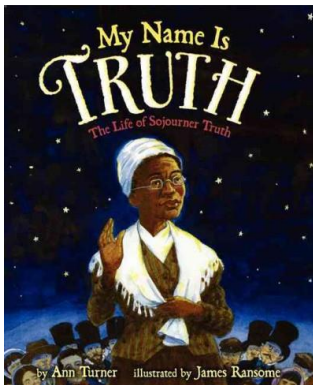
## Midnight Without a Moon

by Linda Williams Jackson

Middle Grade Novel (2017)  
J Jackson

Rose Lee Carter, a thirteen-year-old African American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are unjustly acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**



## My Name is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth

by Ann Turner; illustrated by James Ransome

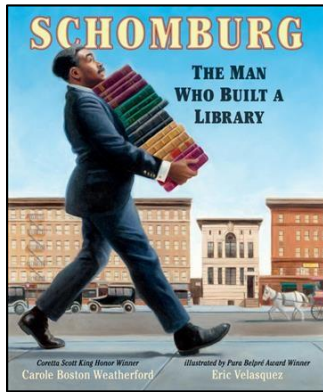
Picture Book Biography (2015)  
JB Truth

The remarkable true story of how former slave Isabella Baumfree transformed herself into the preacher and orator Sojourner Truth, an iconic figure of the abolitionist and women's rights movements.

**Suggested for ages 8-12**







## Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library

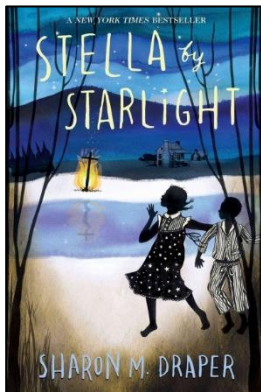
by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Eric Velasquez

Picture Book Biography (2017)  
JB Schomburg

Arturo Schomburg's passion: to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora. His goal: to bring to light the achievements of people of African descent through the ages. But when his collection became so big it began to overflow his house (and his wife threatened to mutiny), he turned to the New York Public Library for help. A century later, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has become a beacon to scholars all over the world.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Video.*

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## Stella by Starlight

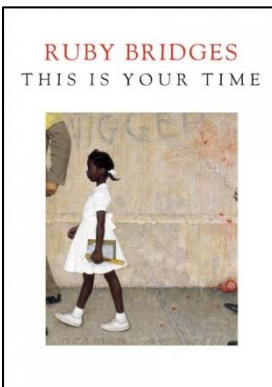
by Sharon M. Draper

Middle Grade Novel (2015)  
J Draper

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Audiobook & Audiobook on CD*

**Suggested for ages 9-13**



## This Is Your Time

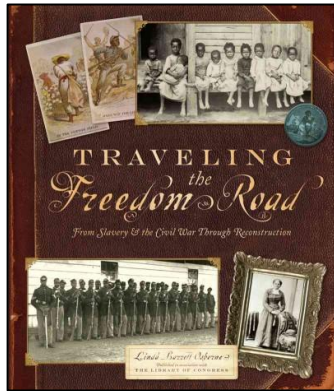
by Ruby Bridges

Nonfiction Book (2020)  
J379.2 Bridges

Civil rights activist Ruby Bridges – who, at the age of six, was the first African American to integrate an all-white elementary school in New Orleans – shares her story through text and historical photographs, offering a powerful call to action.

**Suggested for ages 9-14**





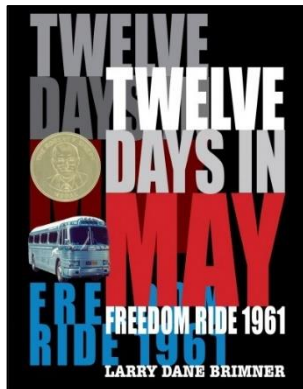
## Traveling the Freedom Road: From Slavery & the Civil War Through Reconstruction

by Linda Barrett Osborne;  
in association with the Library of Congress

Nonfiction Book (2019)  
J973.7 Osborne

Told through unforgettable first-person accounts from slave narratives, journals, diaries and other sources, this book is an overview of the antebellum South, the Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1800-1877. The perspectives of children and adults who lived through this time and witnessed its significant events are provided alongside photographs, engravings, news clippings, and other archival material.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**



## Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961

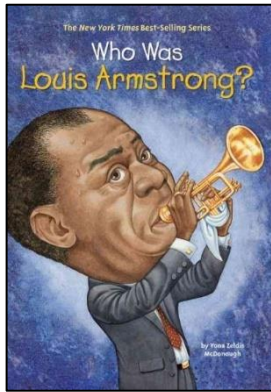
by Larry Dane Brimner

Nonfiction Book (2017)  
J323.11 Brimner

For twelve history-making days in May 1961, thirteen black and white civil rights activists, also known as the Freedom Riders, traveled by bus into the South to draw attention to the unconstitutional segregation still taking place. Despite their peaceful protests, the Freedom Riders were met with increasing violence the further south they traveled.

**Suggested for ages 10-14**





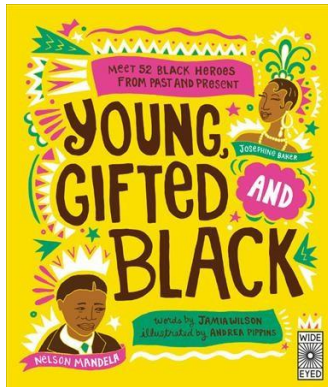
## Who was Louis Armstrong?

by Yona Zeldis McDonough; illustrated by John O'Brien

Biography (2004)  
JB Armstrong

If not for a stint in reform school, young Louis Armstrong might never have become a musician. It was a teacher at the Colored Waifs Home who gave him a cornet, promoted him to band leaders, and saw talent in the tough kid from the even tougher New Orleans neighborhood called Storyville. But it was Louis Armstrong's own passion and genius that pushed jazz into new and exciting realms with his amazing, improvisational trumpet playing.

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



## Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present

by Jamia Wilson; illustrated by Andrea Pippins

Picture Book Biography (2018)  
Collective Biography J920 Wilson

Meet 52 icons of color from the past and present in this celebration of inspirational achievement – a collection of stories about changemakers to encourage, inspire, and empower the next generation of changemakers.

**Suggested for ages 8-12**



*Lucy Robbins Welles*  
**LIBRARY**

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