

Works Cited

Andrews, Troy, et al. *Trombone Shorty*. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017.

"Who's that playing out there?" Bo Diddley asked the New Orleans crowd. It was a small child who'd been nicknamed "Trombone Shorty" because his trombone was twice as large as he was. Trombone Shorty was lifted in the air and carried through the audience until he reached the stage with Bo Diddley. He has been onstage ever since.

Braun, Eric. *Prince: The Man, the Symbol, the Music*. Lerner Publications, 2017.

Prince Rogers Nelson wrote his first song at age seven, and soon taught himself to play the piano, drums, and guitar. In the early 1980s, Prince wondered how to make his music—a mix of pop, funk, soul, and R&B—more appealing to an audience that loved more mainstream rock shows. He ended up making *Purple Rain*, the hit movie and soundtrack that turned him into a megastar.

Bryan, Ashley. *Spirituals*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Come, sing, and celebrate the power of the beloved songs "This Little Light of Mine," "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In," and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" through kaleidoscopic illustrations of color and cut paper.

Buckley, Gail Lumet. *American Patriots*. Random House International, 2003.

They fought on Lexington Green the first morning of the Revolution and survived the bitter cold winter at Valley Forge. They stormed San Juan Hill with Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders and manned an anti-aircraft gun at Pearl Harbor. They are the black Americans who fought, often in foreign lands, for freedoms that they did not enjoy at home.

Bunting, Eve, et al. *Smoky Night*. Clarion Books, 1999.

Smoky Night is a 1994 children's book by Eve Bunting. It tells the story of a Los Angeles riot and its aftermath through the eyes of a young boy named Daniel. The ongoing fires and looting force neighbors who previously disliked each other to work together to find their cats.

Carlson, Chuck. *Puck! Kirby Puckett, Baseball's Last Warrior*. Addax Pub. Group, 1997.

This is the story of Kirby Puckett and his remarkable journey from the projects of the south.

Celenza, Anna Harwell. *Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite*. Charlesbridge, 2018.

How Duke Ellington, Bill Strayhorn, Irving Townsend, and Slim Gaillard turned Tchaikovsky's famous ballet *The Nutcracker* into a jazz masterpiece.

Collier, Bryan. *Uptown*. H. Holt, 2003.

Uptown is a rich mix of flavors, colors, sounds, and cultures that come together to create a vibrant community like no other in the world. Seen through the eyes of one little boy who lives there, the details of life in Harlem are as joyous as a game of basketball on a summer's afternoon and as personal as a trip to the barbershop where old-timers reminisce.

Copeland, Misty, and Christopher Myers. *Firebird*. Putnam, 2014.

In her debut picture book, Misty Copeland tells the story of a young girl--every girl--whose confidence is fragile and who is questioning her own ability to reach the heights that Misty has reached. Misty encourages this young girl's faith in herself and shows her exactly how, through hard work and dedication, she too can become Firebird.

Draper, Sharon M. *Forged by Fire*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1997.

When Gerald was a child, he was fascinated by fire. But fire is dangerous and powerful, and tragedy strikes. His substance-addicted mother is taken from him. Then he loses the loving generosity of a favorite aunt, and a brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil secret makes his life miserable. The one bright light in Gerald's life is his little half-sister, Angel, whom he struggles to protect from her father, who is abusing her. Somehow Gerald manages to find success as a member of the Hazelwood Tigers basketball team, and Angel develops her talents as a dancer, despite the trouble that still haunts them. And Gerald learns, painfully, that young friends can die, and old enemies must be faced. In the end he must stand up to his stepfather alone in a blazing confrontation.

Feelings, Tom, et al. *Soul Looks Back in Wonder*. Puffin Books, 1999.

In this compelling collection of words and pictures, the voices of thirteen major poets, including Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Walter Dean Myers, rise in response to the dazzling vistas and emotionally vivid portraits of award-winning artist Tom Feelings. A unique and moving collaboration that celebrates the sustaining spirit of African creativity.

Hammonds, Jas. *We Deserve Monuments*. Roaring Brook Press, 2022.

Seventeen-year-old Avery Anderson is convinced her senior year is ruined when she's uprooted from her life in DC and forced into the hostile home of her terminally ill grandmother, Mama Letty. The tension between Avery's mom and Mama Letty makes for a frosty arrival and unearths past drama they refuse to talk about. Every time Avery tries to look deeper, she's turned away, leaving her desperate to learn the secrets that split her family in two.

Hughes, Langston, and Bryan Collier. *I, Too, Am America*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012.

Langston Hughes was a courageous voice of his time, and his authentic call for equality still rings true today. Beautiful paintings from Barack Obama illustrator Bryan Collier accompany and reinvent the celebrated lines of the poem "I, Too," creating a breathtaking reminder to all Americans that we are united despite our differences.

Hughes, Langston. Union Square Kids, 2021.

Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes includes 26 of the poet's most influential pieces, including:

"Mother to Son"; "My People"; "Words Like Freedom"; "I, Too"; and "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"—Hughes's first published piece, which was originally released in June 1921. This collection is curated and annotated by Arnold Rampersad and David Roussel, two leading poetry experts. It also features gallery-quality art by Benny Andrews and a new foreword by Renée Watson, a Newbery Honor Award recipient and founder of the I, Too Arts Collective.

Igus, Toyomi, and Michele Wood. *I See the Rhythm*. Children's Book Press, an Imprint of Lee & Low Books, 2014.

This award-winning picture book invites children along to dance to the rhythm of swing at the Savoy in

Harlem, to rejoice to the rhythm of gospel from a church pew on a Sunday morning, and more. Each stunning spread—including art, poetic text, a description of the music style, and a timeline of selected historical events—encompasses the spirit of the times and the strength of the communities where the music was born.

Mathis, Sharon Bell, and George Ford. *Ray Charles*. Lee & Low Books, 2014.

Narrates the life of Ray Charles from his childhood, when he became blind and learned how to read and write music in Braille, to his extraordinary success as a jazz and blues musician.

McKissack, Pat, and Fredrick McKissack. *A Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porter*. Walker and Co., 1995.

A chronicle of the first black-controlled union, made up of Pullman porters, who after years of unfair labor practices staged a battle against a corporate giant resulting in a "David and Goliath" ending.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Bad Boy: A Memoir*. Amistad, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2020.

“In truth, everything in my life in 1951 that was personal and had value was white,” Walter Dean Myers later wrote in his memoir “Bad Boy.” It wasn’t until he reached adulthood and read “Sonny’s Blues,” by James Baldwin, a fellow Harlemiter, that he felt he had permission to offer the world a narrative with blackness at its core. By then, after a stint in the Army, he was writing seriously. In 1968, his picture-book manuscript for “Where Does the Day Go” won a contest for black writers by the Council on Interracial Books for Children. It was published the following year. Eventually he would write more than a hundred books for young people: lyrical picture books and gritty novels, poetry and short stories, history, biography, memoir, books that earned him nearly every major award child’s publishing had to offer.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Now Is Your Time!: The African-American Struggle for Freedom*. Harper Trophy, 1991.

Since they were first brought as captives to Virginia, the people who would become African Americans have struggled for freedom. Thousands fought for the rights of all Americans during the Revolutionary War, and for their own rights during the Civil War. Here is African American history, told through the stories of the people whose experiences have shaped and continue to shape the America in which we live.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Young Landlords*. Penguin Group (USA), 2007.

If you were looking for a real ghetto dump, you couldn't beat The Stratford Arms. There was Askia Ben Kenobi throwing karate chops upstairs, Petey Darden making booze downstairs, and Mrs. Brown grieving for Jack Johnson, who'd died for the third time in a month--and not a rent payer in the bunch. Still, when Paul Williams and the Action Group got the Arms for one dollar, they thought they had it made. But when their friend Chris was arrested for stealing stereos and Dean's dog started biting fire hydrants and Gloria started kissing, being a landlord turned out to be a lot more work than being a kid. The setting takes place in Harlem, New York at the Joint, it is a wrecked up old, abandoned building and it keeps getting worse with Askia Ben Kenobi around.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis, and Brian Pinkney. *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America*. Jump at the Sun Books, 2012.

Hand in Hand presents the stories of ten men from different eras in American history, organized chronologically to provide a scope from slavery to the modern day. The stories are accessible, fully drawn narratives offering the subjects' childhood influences, the time and place in which they lived, their accomplishments and motivations, and the legacies they left for future generations as links in the "freedom chain."

Publishing, Saddleback Educational. *Michael Jackson Graphic Biography*. Saddleback

Educational Publishing, Inc., 2011.

Graphic biographies teach about historical figures: those who lead us into new territory; pursued scientific discoveries; battled injustice and prejudice; and broke down creative and artistic barriers. These biographies offer a variety of rich primary and secondary source material to support teaching to the standards.

Ringgold, Faith. *Tar Beach*. Dragonfly Books, 1996.

Cassie Louise Lightfoot has a dream: to be free to go wherever she wants for the rest of her life. One night, up on "tar beach," the rooftop of her family's Harlem apartment building, her dreams come true. The stars lift her up, and she flies over the city, claiming the buildings and the city as her own. As Cassie learns, anyone can fly. "All you need is somewhere to go you can't get to any other way. The next thing you know, you're flying among the stars."

Ryan, Pam, and Brian Ill Selznick. *When Marian Sang*. Scholastic Press, 2002.

Ryan's text tells the story of Anderson's childhood in south Philadelphia, where her supportive church family fostered her early confidence in her gift, and of her later life navigating the roadblocks of racial prejudice she encountered at every stage of her career.

Shange, Ntozake. *Ellington Was Not a Street*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

A close-knit group of Black innovators formed their own community in the early to mid-twentieth century. These men of vision lived at a time when the color of their skin dictated where they could live, what schools they could attend, and even where they could sit on a bus or in a movie theater.

Teller, William. *Juneteenth: This Day Was Made for You and Me*.

The day that changed it all for those in bondage on Galveston Island had begun as a Monday like any other. But once the proclamation of General Order No. 3 came, June 19th, 1865, was forever transformed into a jubilee day, one all freedom-loving people continue to celebrate throughout America. "Juneteenth: This Day Was Made for You and Me" chronicles the history of that Texas proclamation along with a remembrance of the cost paid by so many to expand liberty's reach throughout the land. As decades' long champions of Juneteenth themselves say, "Juneteenth is [for] everyone."

Watson, Renée. *Piecing Me Together*. Bloomsbury, 2018.

Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some *opportunities* she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix.

Weatherford, Carole Boston, and Frank Morrison. *R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2020.

Aretha Franklin was born to sing. The daughter of a pastor and a gospel singer, her musical talent was clear from her earliest days in her father's Detroit church where her soaring voice spanned more than three octaves. Her string of hit songs earned her the title "the Queen of Soul," multiple Grammy Awards, and a place in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. But Aretha didn't just raise her voice in song, she also spoke out against injustice and fought for civil rights.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Before the Ever After*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2022.

For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans.

But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that--but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Miracle's Boys*. Puffin Books, 2010.

For Lafayette and his brothers, the challenges of growing up in New York City are compounded by the facts that they've lost their parents and it's up to eldest brother Ty'ree to support the boys, and middle brother Charlie has just returned home from a correctional facility. Lafayette loves his brothers and would do anything if they could face the world as a team. But even though Ty'ree cares, he's just so busy with work and responsibility. And Charlie's changed so much that his former affection for his little brother has turned to open hostility. Now, as Lafayette approaches 13, he needs the guidance and answers only his brothers can give him. The events of one dramatic weekend force the boys to make the choice to be there for each other--to really see each other--or to give in to the pain and problems of every day.