



Easy Readers for Black History Month

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks by Suzanne Slade - E B BRO, e-book

A picture book biography of celebrated poet Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize.

Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins by Michelle Meadows – E B COL

Janet Collins wanted to be a ballerina in the 1930s and 40s and became the first African American prima ballerina in the Metropolitan Opera. This is the story of a remarkable pioneer.

Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl by Megan Reid – E B GIB

Althea Gibson was the quickest, tallest, most fearless athlete in 1940s Harlem. She wanted to play tennis against the best athletes in the world. and became the first Black person--man or woman--to win a trophy at Wimbledon.

Be A King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You by Carole Boston Weatherford – E B KIN

You can be a King. Stamp out hatred. Put your foot down and walk tall. March to your own conscience. Carole Weatherford's poetic text encapsulates the moments that readers today can create in their own lives. `

Meet Martin Luther King, Jr. by Johnny Ray Moore - E B KIN

An introduction to the life of the civil rights leader and clergyman.

Jake Makes a World: Jacob Lawrence, A Young Artist in Harlem by Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts – E B LAW

This books follows the creative adventures of the young Jacob Lawrence as he finds inspiration in the vibrant colors and characters of his community in Harlem.

Fancy Party Gowns: The Story of Fashion Designer Ann Cole Lowe by Deborah Blumenthal – E B LOW

As soon as Ann Cole Lowe could walk, her momma and grandma taught her to sew. This beautiful picture book shines the spotlight on a figure who proved that with hard work and passion, any obstacles can be overcome.

The Girl with a Mind for Math-The Story of Raye Montague by Julie Finley Mosca- E B MON

This is a rhyming-text picture book about Raye Montague. After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer.

If A Bus Could Talk: the story of Rosa Parks by Faith Ringgold - E B PAR

A biography of the African American woman and civil rights worker whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus led to a boycott which lasted more than a year in Montgomery, Alabama.

The United States v. Jackie Robinson by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen - E B ROB

Tells the true story of Jackie Robinson's battle against prejudice while serving in the military during World War II, covering his court-martial for refusing to move to the back of an integrated bus.

Before She Was Harriet: The Story of Harriet Tubman by Lesa Cline-Ransome – E B TUB

A biography of Harriet Tubman, written in verse. An evocative poem and opulent watercolors come together to honor a woman of humble origins whose courage and compassion make her larger than life.

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read by Rita Hubbard – E B WAL

“A picture book biography sharing the inspiring and incredible true story of the nation’s oldest student, Mary Walker, who learned to read at age 116” - Provided by publisher

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison - e-book

Based on her popular Instagram posts, debut author/illustrator Vashti Harrison shares the stories of 40 bold African American women who shaped history.

Child of the Civil Rights Movement by Paula Young Shelton - E 323.11 SHE

Paula Young Shelton shares her memories of the civil rights movement and her involvement in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery.

The 5 O’clock Band by Troy Andrews – E 788.9 AND

After letting his band down by missing rehearsal, Shorty has some serious questions about what it means to be a leader, so he hits the New Orleans streets to find some answers.

Swish! The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters by Suzanne Slade – E 796.32 SLA

"In this book you will find one-finger ball-spinning, rapid-fire mini-dribbling, and a ricochet head shot! You will find skilled athletes, expert players, and electrifying performers, all rolled into a team! You will find nonstop, give-it-all-you've-got, out-to-win-it, sky's-the-limit BASKETBALL!

My People by Langston Hughes – E 811 HUG

Sepia toned photographs by Charles R. Smith, Jr. accompany Langston Hughes' classic poem "My People" and celebrate the glory, beauty, and soul of the African American community.

The ABCs Of Black History by Rio Cortez E 973 COR

B is for Beautiful, Brave, and Bright! And for a Book that takes a Bold journey through the alphabet of Black history and culture.

Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford – E 976.33 WEA

This story chronicles slaves' duties each day and builds to the freedom of Sundays and the special experience of an afternoon spent in Congo Square.