



## Children's J Biographies for Black History Month

### Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball by Jen Bryant – J B BAY

Though not as widely known as other basketball legends, Hall of Famer Elgin Baylor was one of the game's all-time greatest players--an innovative athlete, team player, and quiet force for change.

### She was the First!: The Trailblazing Life of Shirley Chisholm by Katheryn Russell-Brown – J B CHI

A picture biography of educator and politician Shirley Chisholm, who in 1968 was the first Black woman elected to Congress and in 1972 was the first Black candidate from a major political party (the Democratic Party) to run for the United States presidency.

### Birth of the Cool: How Jazz Great Miles Davis Found His Sound by Kathleen Cornell Berman – J B DAV

Explores the childhood and early career of the noted jazz trumpeter who gained fame performing at the first Newport Jazz Festival in 1955.

### Marley Dias Gets it Done: And So Can You! by Marley Dias – J B DIA

In this accessible "keep-it-real" guide, Marley explores activism, social justice, volunteerism, equity and inclusion, and using social media for good.

### Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon by Kelly Starling Lyons – J B FRE

"A biography of Philip Freelon, whose rich family history and deep understanding of Black culture brought him to the role of lead architect for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture"-- Provided by publisher.

### No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas by Tonya Bolden – J B GRO

"The life of Junius G. Groves, a sharecropper in Kansas who grew a modest potato farm into a potato kingdom."-- Provided by publisher.

### Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song by Gary Golio – J B HOL

Discover how two outsiders- Billie Holiday, a young Black woman raised in poverty, and Abel Meeropol, the son of Jewish immigrants- combined their talents to create a song that challenged racism and paved the way for the civil rights movement.

### Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton by Don Tate – J B HOR

North Carolina slave George Moses Horton taught himself to read and earned money to purchase his time though not his freedom. Horton became the first African American to be published in the South, protesting slavery in the form of verse.

### Lebron James (EPIC Athletes series) by Dan Wetzel – J B JAM

Whether you call him King James or simply LeBron, one thing is certain: LeBron James is THE face of the NBA. Filled with sports action and bold illustrations, this exciting biography tells the story of a living NBA legend.

### Counting the Stars by Lesa Cline-Ransome - J B JOH

"The story of Katherine Johnson, an African American mathematician whose work was critical to the first US space flight"-- Provided by publisher.

Mamie on the Mound: A Woman in Baseball's Negro Leagues by Leah Henderson – J B JOH

Mamie "Peanut" Johnson had one dream: to play professional baseball. She was a talented player, but wasn't welcome in the all-white Girls Pro Baseball League. Opportunity came her way in 1953 she signed to play ball with the Negro Leagues' Indianapolis Clowns, becoming the only professional female pitcher to play on a men's team.

Thurgood by Jonah Winter – J B MAR

"Before Rosa Parks, before Martin Luther King Jr., before the civil rights movement there was Thurgood, fighting for African Americans - and winning. Here is the powerful story of the trailblazer who proved that separate is not equal." --Provided by Publisher.

The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan: Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero by Joan DiCicco – J B MOR

"The biography of Garrett A. Morgan, an African American entrepreneur and prolific inventor, whose bravery saved lives at the Cleveland Waterworks Disaster in 1916. Includes timeline and author's sources." -- Provided by publisher.

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne by Lesa Cline-Ransome – J B PAY

An inspiring story of Ethel Payne, a groundbreaking African American journalist known as the First Lady of the Black Press.

Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford – J B SCH, e-book, e-audiobook

Traces legal clerk Arturo Schomburg's efforts to curate a collection of African books, letters, music, and art.

Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas by Gwendolyn Hooks – J B THO

"Biography of Vivien Thomas, an African American surgical technician who pioneered the procedure used to treat babies with a heart defect known as "blue baby syndrome." Includes author's note and author's sources"-- Provided by publisher.

Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner by Janice N. Harrington – J B TUR

Questions buzzed endlessly in Charles Henry Turner's mind. Fascinated by bugs and other animals, he wondered: Can spiders learn? How do ants find their way home? Can bugs see color? --from dust jacket.

Starstruck- The Cosmic Journey of Neil deGrasse Tyson by Kathleen Krull – J B TYS

"A picture-book biography on science superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson, the groundbreaking African American astrophysicist whose work has inspired a generation of young scientists and astronomers to reach for the stars!"-- Provided by publisher.

Take a Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee! by Andrea Loney – J B VAN

"A biography of James Van Der Zee, innovative and celebrated African American photographer of the Harlem Renaissance. Includes an afterword, photos, and author's sources"--Publisher.

Feed your Mind: A Story of August Wilson by Jennifer Bryant – J B WIL, e-book

August Wilson (1945-2005) was a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright who had a particular talent for capturing the authentic, everyday voice of Black Americans.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson – J B WOO, e-book

"The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South"-- Provided by publisher.