

JOHN F. KENNEDY
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Framing History:
The Power of Pictures

An Annotated Bibliography of
New and Noteworthy Biographies for Young Readers

Compiled and Written by
Sasha Lauterbach

Prepared for

Framing History: The Power of Pictures
A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3-8 and School Librarians

November 2, 2022

Presented by the Department of Education and Public Programs at the John F. Kennedy
Presidential Library and Museum

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Introduction

This bibliography was prepared as a resource for the conference, *Framing History: The Power of Pictures: A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3-8 and School Librarians* at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, November 2, 2022.

The criteria for selecting books for the bibliography include:

- books that are biographies and that address the conference’s theme of exploring how illustrations can deepen children’s understanding of and interest in history.
- books published between 2020 – 2022;
- books that represent a cross-section of people important in American life and culture in the areas of social justice, the environment, the arts, and the sciences;
- books with appeal to children or young adults through the originality and excellence of the content, writing style, and the illustrations, format, and design;
- books that are useful and valuable for classroom learning and teaching, as well as independent reading.

In this bibliography are:

- annotated lists of books that represent the excellence and breadth of biographies written for children and that are relevant to the theme of the conference and are primarily focused on the people and history of the United States.
- recommended resources for finding books and other materials that relate to the theme of the conference.

Valuable supplements to this bibliography are the [bibliographies prepared for previous conferences](#). These bibliographies, and others, can be found on the JFK Library website:

- [Dignity and Justice for All: Stories of Protest, Resistance, and Change: An Annotated Bibliography of New and Noteworthy Books for Young Readers, Published 2018 – 2021](#)
- [Strength and Struggle in Challenging Times: New and Noteworthy Biographies for Young Readers, Published 2017 – 2019](#)
- [More bibliographies and resources:](#)

About the categories in this bibliography:

What is the difference between illustrated books and picture books?

In reality, these two categories often overlap. In this bibliography, the illustrated books have more extensive text with images that complement and enhance the text; these books are often intended for older readers. With the picture books, the images and text work together with equal importance, though the images often dominate the reading experience. According to the Caldecott Committee's terms and criteria, "a picture book for children, as distinguished from other books with illustrations, is one that essentially provides the child with a visual experience. A picture book has a collective unity of story-line, theme, or concept, developed through the series of pictures of which the book is comprised."

Why are there two picture-book lists?

An extraordinary number of superb picture-book biographies has been published in the past two years. In the first picture-book list, the books are annotated and include a representative cross-section of people important in American life and culture in the areas of social justice, the environment, the arts, and the sciences. All were chosen for the power and artistry of their text and images. Because of constraints of time and to limit the size of the bibliography, there is a second list of picture books, with briefer annotations, that presents additional excellent picture-book biographies. All fit the theme of the conference and are highly recommended.

A note about picture books and suggested grade levels:

There are many excellent nonfiction books and biographies now being published in picture book format – and they are wonderful for introducing topics and/or reading aloud to students of all ages. These books are often quite sophisticated and are valuable in using with older students because:

- reading books aloud to a group creates shared background knowledge and a common reference point for class discussions, and the illustrations convey important historical context and emotional truth;
- students can read more than one picture book on a topic and compare different approaches in presenting a social justice movement or a person's life and achievements;
- students are drawn to illustrations and images, and picture books offer examples of excellent artwork, design, and historical representation.
- when creating their own work, students can learn from picture books different techniques for selecting from a wealth of information, how to create a specific focus, how to engage readers, and how to use images.

Illustrated Biographies

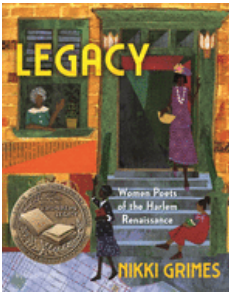


Dunlap, Julie. *I Begin with Spring: The Life and Seasons of Henry David Thoreau*. Illustrated by Megan Elizabeth Baratta.

Tilbury House Publishers, 2022. 96 pages.

Grades 3 and up. Illustrated with drawings and primary resources, as if in a personal journal, this book is an exploration of seasonal changes and also a visual story of Thoreau's life and times. As an inquisitive and observant child, Thoreau had an ability to use all his senses to connect with the plants, animals, and the flow of the seasons; his upbringing and the significant people he met had an impact on his life and writing. The text, illustrations, timelines highlighting Thoreau's observations, and

Thoreau's own words evoke a man with a deep respect for the beauty in nature, which could inspire readers to treat the earth and its inhabitants with kindness and care as well.



Grimes, Nikki. *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance*. Illustrated by African-American female illustrators.

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021. 144 pages.

Grades 7 and up. This book highlights the work of Black women poets of the Harlem Renaissance through poems written by Grimes and full-page, vibrant illustrations by a variety of artists, including Laura Freeman and Ekua Holmes. It begins with an explanation of the Harlem Renaissance and of Golden Shovel poems -- a poem, in its entirety or a line from the poem, is used to create a new poem. The juxtaposition of Grimes's poetry and the original works provide a compelling reflection on gender,

race, politics, and everyday life. The back matter includes brief biographies of the poets and artists. See also: Nikki Grimes' *One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance* (2017).



Lowe, Mifflin. *Forgotten Founders: Black Patriots, Women Soldiers, and Other Thinkers and Heroes Who Shaped Early America*. Illustrated by Wiliam Luong.

Bushel & Peck Books, 2022. 64 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. Focusing attention on the diversity that has always been part of the US, this book introduces readers to some of the significant people in the country's early days, including enslaved people, indentured servants, women, and Indigenous people. The introduction discusses the gaps between the ideals of the young country and the reality, and it also includes a condensed history of colonial America's

involvement in the Revolutionary War and a timeline of slavery in America. Each of the historical figures receives a two-page spread with the dates of their birth and death, ethnicity, gender, unique background, and the contributions they made, along with a full-color painted portrait. Sidebars include facts, questions, and primary source documents.

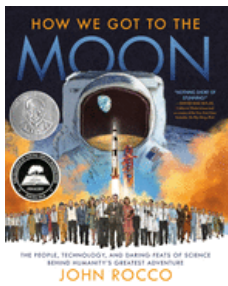


Reynolds, Jason. *Ain't Burned All the Bright*. Illustrated by Jason Griffin.

Atheneum Books, 2022. 384 pages.

Grades 7 and up. This book is in the form of a narrative poem written with few words and illustrated with hundreds of pages of multimedia images, as if in the pages of a personal journal. It portrays a Black family during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic -- the family's son tells of the very real confusion and fear of 2020 in two interwoven narratives: his family's experience with the pandemic, including his father's battle with COVID-19, and his reaction to the persistent violence and systemic racism on the news. The themes of breath and air run throughout, along with the weight of grief and fear and the comfort of love and family. The book ends with a conversation between

the author and illustrator about their collaborative process for creating this work during the pandemic. While not a nonfiction biography, this is a vivid imagining of people and their lives, as they cope with actual events.

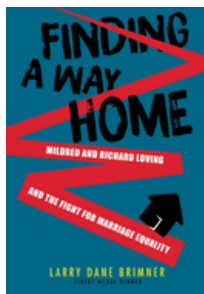


Rocco, John. How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure. Illustrated by the author.

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2020.

Grades 5 and up. This illustrated nonfiction book contains many short biographies of the people involved in the moon landing as it depicts each step of the scientific and engineering journey. The hand-drawn illustrations include portraits and technical drawings, and every page provides graphic features, including illustrations and text boxes. The stories of the people and their process are given as much weight as the many diagrams and engineering marvels. Several of the collage illustrations and individual profiles show the people of color and women who helped with the NASA program while acknowledging the overall lack of diversity and problems within both the time period and institution.

Biographies Illustrated with Photographs



Brimmer, Larry Dan. Finding a Way Home: Mildred and Richard Loving and the Fight for Marriage Equality.

Calkins Creek Books, 2020. 112 pages.

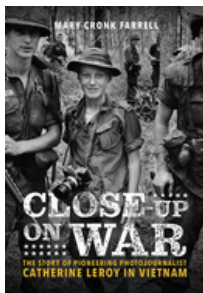
Grade 6 and up. When Mildred and Richard Loving were arrested, jailed, and exiled from their home simply because of their mixed-race marriage, they challenged the courts and the country in order to secure their civil rights. In one of the country's most prominent legal battles, *Loving v. Virginia*, the court struck down all state laws prohibiting mixed marriage. This book provides a detailed reconstruction of the case while showing the emotional journey towards marriage equality through primary sources and photography.



Clark, Zion and Hirsch, James S. Zion Unmatched.

Candlewick Press 2021, 32 pages.

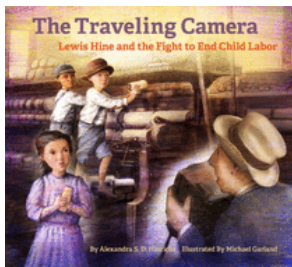
Grades 2 and up. Part memoir, part photo-essay, Zion Clark's story is inspirational. Born without legs due to a rare medical condition, African American Zion also faced abuse and neglect in the foster care system. At 17, he was adopted, and his adoptive mother encouraged him to succeed - he became a winning wrestler, even against nondisabled opponents, and a state champion in seated racing competitions. Now Zion wants to serve as a role model and help young people overcome adversity. The narrative includes an opening essay and quotes in large text from Zion himself, as well as motivational sayings from people in Zion's life; a brief overview of Zion's path by coauthor Hirsch recognizes the stigma often attached to both Zion's Blackness and disability. The large, dynamic, color photos of Zion in action are at the heart of the book.



Farrell, Mary Cronk . Close-Up on War: The Story of Pioneering Photojournalist Catherine Leroy in Vietnam.

Amulet Books, 2022. 329 pages.

Grade 6 and up. Told through photographs, letters, and text, this is the story of French-born Catherine Leroy, one of the Vietnam War's few woman photographers, who documented some of the fiercest fighting in the 20-year conflict. Despite being told that women didn't belong in a "man's world," she became the only official photojournalist to parachute into combat with American soldiers. She was a recipient of the George Polk Award, one of the most prestigious awards in journalism.

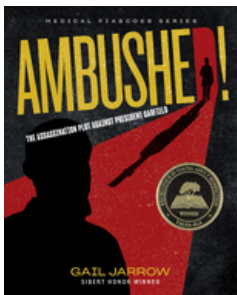


Hinrichs, Alexandra. *The Traveling Camera: Lewis Hine and the Fight to End Child Labor*. Illustrated by Michael Garland.

Getty Publications, 2021. 32 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. This picture-book biography, with evocative, painted illustrations, chronicles Lewis Hine's effort to end child labor in the US in the early 20th century through his work as a photographer for the National Child Labor Committee. He sparked reform by turning anonymous abused workers into children with names and histories. Hine's actual words are incorporated in the

free verse text, and more than 30 examples of Hine's actual work appear in a gallery at the end of the book. See also Russell Freedman's *Kids At Work* (1994).

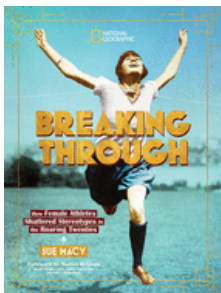


Jarrow, Gail. *Ambushed!: The Assassination Plot Against President Garfield*

Calkins Creek Books, 2021. 240 pages.

Grades 5 and up. James Garfield, the 20th president of the United States, was assassinated in July 1881, less than four months after he was elected president, but Garfield didn't actually die until 80 days later. This book is part group biography, part political thriller, part medical exposé: the author delves into the relationship between Garfield and his assassin Guiteau and relates the details of Garfield's slow and agonizing death, revealing tragic medical mistakes made in the aftermath of the

shooting assassination. Garfield's death resulted in the abolishment of the political spoils system and wider embrace of Joseph Lister's sanitary medical practices. Illustrated on every page with photographs and much more: primary source materials (diaries, letters, interviews) and full-page illustrations from newspapers and magazines. This is part of the author's *Medical Fiascoes* series, which examines the intersection of individuals, history, and medicine.



Macy, Sue. *Breaking Through: How Female Athletes Shattered Stereotypes in the Roaring Twenties*.

National Geographic Kids, 2020. 96 pages.

Grades 4 and up. The author offers a lively account of women in sports in the 1920s, and how their determination, talent, and defiance in the face of criticism promoted women's rights, redefined femininity, and changed the course of history. Each chapter begins with a spotlight of a single athlete whose story opens up a larger understanding of the decade. Archival photographs and news stories add further context, as do additional sidebars, timelines of other notable events from each year, and short "Trailblazer" biographies of accomplished women.

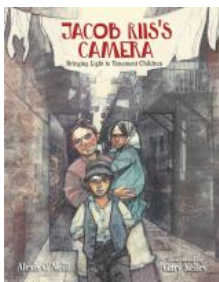


Nelson, Marilyn. *Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life*.

Christy Ottaviano Books-Little Brown and Hachette, 2022. 128 pages.

Grade 7 and up. This is a powerful biography in poems about Augusta Savage, the trailblazing artist and sculptor of the Harlem Renaissance. The poems, are divided by time periods, vary in form, style, and voice. Some evoke the pain of missed opportunities due to racism and economic setbacks; others celebrate her accomplishments and work as a mentor to other artists. Some poems are inspired by Savage's sculptures, detailing her artistic process, and even written in the shapes of the sculptures. Accompanying black-and-white photos of the sculptures and scenes from

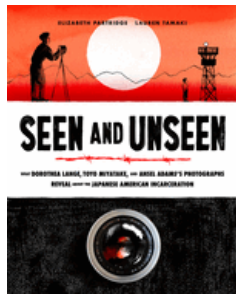
Savage's life provide both a visual context and showcase her talent. An afterword gives biographical information and explains allusions made in the poems.



O'Neill, Alexis. *Jacob Riis's Camera: Bringing Light to Tenement Children.* Illustrated by Gary Kelley.

New York: Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, 2020. 48 pages. Grades 2 – 5. This is a picture-book biography of Jacob Riis, who immigrated to the United States from Denmark in 1870. After he became a journalist, he photographed overcrowded NY tenement buildings and their residents in an effort to expose the unacceptable living conditions of many immigrants. His photographs inspired the people of New York to take action and change the lives of tenement children and their families. With powerful, evocative illustrations, examples of Riis' photos, an extensive

timeline, and author's notes. See also Michael Burgan's *Exposing Hidden Worlds: How Jacob Riis' Photos Became Tools for Social Reform*, 2018.

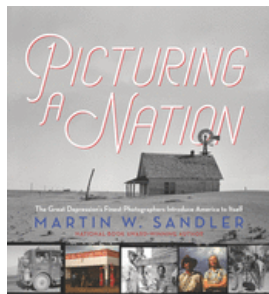


Partridge, Elizabeth. *Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal about the Japanese American Incarceration.* Illustrated by Tamaki, Lauren.

Chronicle Books, 2022. 132 pages.

Grades 5 and up. The focus of this book is on how three photographers documented the forced removal and imprisonment of Japanese Americans during WWII in one camp, Manzanar. Dorothea Lange's empathy and awareness of injustice are apparent, though many of her photos were impounded by the army. Photographer Toyo Miyatake, imprisoned in Manzanar, took candid shots of people as well as a

few photos of forbidden things. Ansel Adams wanted to show the prisoners as cheerful and resilient in preparation for their eventual release, and his work suggests an idealized view. The book's design incorporates black-and-white photographs, text, historical artifacts, and Tamaki's ink and watercolor illustrations. Extensive back matter includes brief biographies and essays on citizenship, civil liberties, the model minority myth, and the use of terminology to describe the camps. See also Martin Sandler's *Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II* (reissued in 2020).

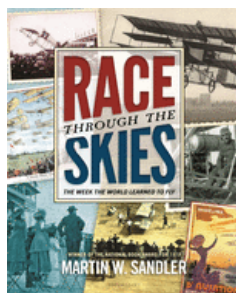


Sandler, Martin. *Picturing a Nation: The Great Depression's Finest Photographers Introduce America to Itself.*

Candlewick Press, 2021. 176 pages.

Grades 6 and up. Asked to document the work of the agents of the Farm Service Agency as they helped distressed farmers during the Great Depression, renowned photographers, including Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, and Gordon Parks, chose to tell the story of America itself. The selection of images reveals the diverse nature of Americans and their lives during the Depression, and the photos are captioned with information about the image, composition, and quotes from the

photographers. This is a great example of the power of visually documenting history. See also Sandler's *America Through the Lens: Photographers Who Changed the Nation* (2005).

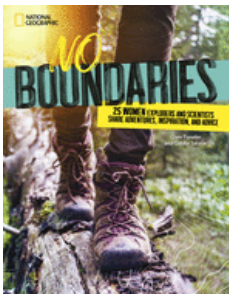


Sandler, Martin. *Race Through the Skies: The Week the World Learned to Fly.*

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020. 192 pages.

Grades 6 and up. This historical overview of aviation focuses on a weeklong air show in the fall of 1908 in Reims, France, after Wilbur Wright had traveled to Europe to promote aviation and brought aviation fever to the world. That summer, a group of champagne companies organized the first ever international air meet in Rheims, and this single week would change the course of aviation history. The public's introduction to flight is told through remarkable photographs, firsthand accounts,

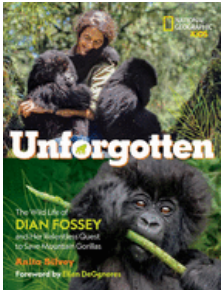
and lively narrative. Many historic aviation topics and individuals are also highlighted with period photos.



Salazar, Gabby and Fieseler, Clare. No Boundaries: 25 Women Explorers and Scientists Share Adventures, Inspiration, and Advice.

National Geographic, 2022. 160 pages.

Grades 4 and up. This anthology celebrates outstanding women scientists and explorers of diverse backgrounds, nationalities, and fields of study. Each profile is based on first-person interviews and comes with relatable advice for aspiring explorers and scientists. Stunning photography, dynamic design, maps, and fascinating general interest information about the animals, places, and practices add important context.



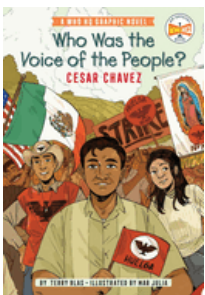
Silvey, Anita. Unforgotten: The Wild Life of Dian Fossey and Her Relentless Quest to Save Mountain Gorillas.

National Geographic Kids, 2021. 64 pages.

Grades 5 and up. This is the story of Dian Fossey, the researcher who dedicated her life to studying and defending the endangered gorillas of east Africa. The book begins with Fossey's childhood and explores the nontraditional path that led to her life's mission. Her 18 years in the mountains of Central Africa include stories of struggles and learning experiences, as well as heartwarming and entertaining anecdotes. The author details Fossey's significant contributions to science and also addresses her alcoholism, erratic behavior, health problems, conflicts with the Rwandan government, and her controversial murder. Illustrated with vivid photographs on every page. This is the third in a series written by the author about the women who studied endangered animals under the mentorship of Louis Leakey; see also *Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall* (2015) and *Undaunted: The Wild Life of Biruté Mary Galdikas and Her Fearless Quest to Save Orangutans* (2019).

Biographies in Graphic Format

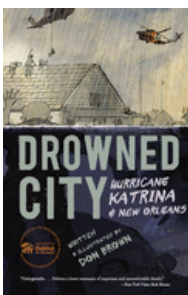
Please note: the books by Don Brown are not strictly biographies; they are works of history that provide many profiles of significant people.



Blas, Terry. Who Was the Voice of the People?: Cesar Chavez: A Who HQ Graphic Novel. Illustrated by Julia Mar.

Penguin Workshop, 2022. 64 pages.

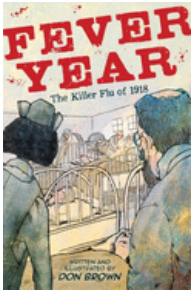
Grades 3-6. This is the story of Cesar Chavez's march with the National Farm Workers Association from Delano, California, to Sacramento to peacefully protest unfair wages and the working conditions of grape-farm workers. Attention is also given to the contributions of Delores Huerta and Roberto Bustos. The new *Who HQ Graphic Novels* series currently has nine titles with a different author and illustrator team for each subject, while following the same basic structure: dialogue-driven panel art with a short, written introduction and conclusion. Books in the series include biographies of Rosa Parks and Neil Armstrong.



Brown, Don. Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans.

Clarion Books, 2017. 96 pages.

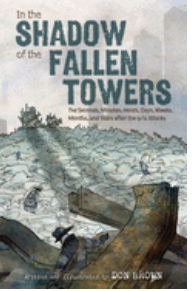
Grades 6 and up. Of special interest right now in 2022, this is the story of one of the most destructive and devastating natural disasters in American history. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. This book vividly captures the story of this historic storm and the accompanying selflessness, heroism, and courage of so many -- and also the incompetence, racism, and criminality of others.



Brown, Don. Fever Year: The Killer Flu of 1918.

Clarion Books, 2019. 96 pages.

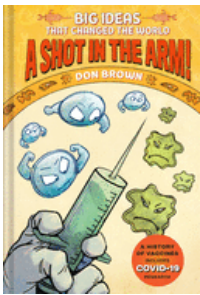
Grades 7 and up. This book explores one of the darkest and deadliest episodes in American history: the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918 - including the causes, effects, and lessons learned from this major epidemic. Brown follows the disease's lightning-fast spread, capturing its enormous effects on one third of humanity. What made the influenza of 1918 so exceptionally deadly and how modern science can help us understand this tragic episode are questions that are asked and answered.



Brown, Don. In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years After the 9/11 Attacks.

Clarion Books, 2021. 128 pages.

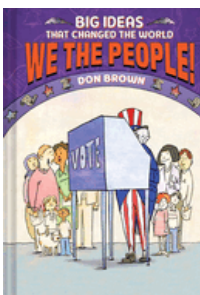
Grades 7 and up. In 2011, Brown published *America Is Under Attack* about the events of September 11. He has returned to the topic with a twenty-year perspective on the tragedy written for older readers. The book begins with the attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the immediate aftermath, with all the horror told in personal stories and historic details, but the story continues with the subsequent American attacks on Afghanistan and the Taliban, the clean-up of the site, and a new Freedom Tower being erected, as hope arises from the ashes.



Brown, Don. "A Shot in the Arm!"

Amulet Books, 2021. 144 pages.

Grades 4 – 7. This book is especially timely – it provides the history of vaccinations and the struggle to protect people from infectious disease. With the story narrated by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, an eighteenth-century British survivor of smallpox who was an early European proponent of inoculation, this book is an overview of the development of vaccination. Beginning with smallpox and concluding with an overview of the COVID-19 pandemic, the book traces the evolution of vaccines, examines many deadly diseases, and covers the science behind how our immune systems work and the major achievements of scientists. Brown also addresses the public and political response to vaccination throughout history, the anti-vaccination movement, and false claims about vaccines. Book 3 in the author's *Big Ideas that Changed the World* series.



Brown, Don. We the People!

Amulet Books, 2022. 128 pages.

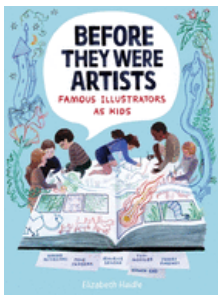
Grades Book 4 – 7. This is the history of the democratic ideal and its slow, difficult progress toward realization in the United States. As in his other Big Ideas books, Brown chose a historical figure to narrate the story – and here it is Abigail Adams who explains the fundamentals of democracy and explores how Athenian and Greek assemblies inspired our legislative and judiciary branches; how Enlightenment ideals of reason, toleration, and human progress shaped the founding fathers' thinking; how Mali's Manden Charter and England's Magna Carta influenced our Bill of Rights; and how the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy directly shaped the US Constitution. The racist compromises built into our Constitution and the subsequent failures and successes of US democracy are also addressed. Book 4 in the author's *Big Ideas That Changed the World* series.



Gill, Joel Christian. Robert Smalls: Tales of the Talented Tenth, No. 3

Chicago Review Press – Fulcrum, 2021. 128 pages.

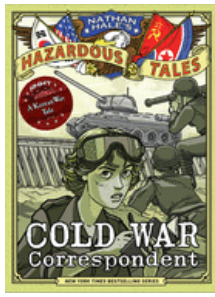
Grades 6 – 8. This is the story of Robert Smalls who pulled off one of the most daring escapes of the Civil War. An enslaved deckhand on a Confederate ship, he devised a plan to emancipate himself and 15 others, including his wife and children. The epilogue relates how he later became a member of the US House of Representatives and introduced legislation that led to the first free and compulsory public school system in the US. This is the latest in the graphic-format *Tales of the Talented Tenth* series by Gill, presenting little-known tales from African American history.



Haidle, Elizabeth. Before They Were Artists: Famous Illustrators as Kids.

Clarion, 2021. 64 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. This graphic-format anthology highlights the childhoods, careers, and personal lives of illustrators who played a role in the world of children's art - Wanda Gág, Tove Jansson, Hiyao Miyazaki, Yuyi Morales, Maurice Sendak, and Jerry Pinkney. The answers to Haidle's framing question: "What makes an illustrator?" reflect a love of creating, curiosity, attentiveness, and persistence. Lively illustrations and direct quotes are paired with anecdotes from the artists' early lives, showing the hard work, triumphs, failures, and inspiration that helped them create their successful careers. See also by the same author: *Before They Were Authors*, 2020.



Hale, Nathan. Cold War Correspondent (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #11): A Korean War Tale.

Harry N. Abrams, 2021. 128 pages.

Grades 5 – 8. In graphic format, this is the story of Korean War correspondent Marguerite Higgins (1920-1966), who risked her life in dangerous situations to provide eyewitness accounts of many of the major events of the war - until she was told that women didn't belong on the frontlines and the United States Army officially ordered her out of Korea. She appealed to General Douglas MacArthur, and he personally lifted the ban on female war correspondents. See also by the author: *Blades of Freedom*:

A Tale of Haiti, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase (2020) and *One Dead Spy: A Revolutionary War Tale*, (re-issued 2021), and his other books about events and people in American history.



Levy, Debbie. Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Journey to Justice. Illustrated by Whitney Gardner.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2019. 208 pages.

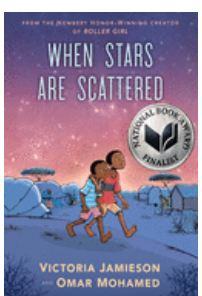
Grades 5 – 8. The author expands upon her picture-book biography, *I Dissent* (2016), in this graphic biography of the Supreme Court justice, showing how she evolved - as a student who persisted despite obstacles, as an advocate who resisted injustice, and a judge who revered the rule of law. A detailed epilogue charts Ginsburg's time on the Supreme Court, the personal and professional challenges she faced since her appointment, and the cultural impact she continues to have. Published before RBG's death.



Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin. Run: Book One. Illustrated by L. Fury and Nate Powell.

Abrams Comicarts, 2021. 160 pages.

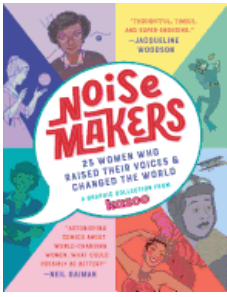
Grades 7 and up. This is the first installment in a follow-up series to the *March* trilogy. It traces Lewis' life and career after the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, when a schism develops between factions in favor of more direct action and Lewis' commitment to nonviolence. Of particular note is the focus on the limitations of the Voting Rights Act, which did not stop violence directed at Black people or end systemic racism - facts all too relevant to today's current events. This is the final work completed by Congressman Lewis before his death in July 2020.



Mohmed, Omar. When Stars Are Scattered. Illustrated by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy.

Dial Books, 2020. 264 pages.

Grades 4 – 8. This memoir in graphic format is based on co-author Omar Mohamed's experiences as an orphaned Somali refugee growing up in a Kenyan refugee camp. The focus is on the conflict between Omar's fierce protection of his younger brother, who has limited verbal communication, and the encouragement Omar receives to pursue his education. They eventually find themselves as teenagers poised for resettlement to America, but at the cost of abandoning the relationships they've developed at the camp. Back matter includes photographs and the two authors' notes.



Noisemakers: 25 Women Who Raised Their Voices & Changed the World - A Graphic Collection from Kazoo. Edited by Erin Bried.

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2020. 224 pages.

Grades 3–7. The creators of kids' magazine *Kazoo* present a diverse collection of 25 women (most, but not all, from the US) who changed the world, including scientists, journalists, activists, and artists. Each entry starts with a brief summary of the subject and a list of personality traits: readers are asked to identify all the things they may have in common with the women. There is a brief graphic story for each entry -- so the lives of 25 extraordinary women are seen through the eyes of 25 comic artists.

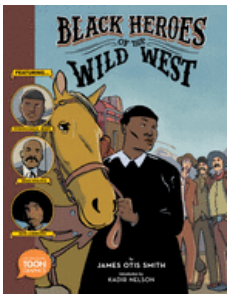


Ottaviani, Jim. Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier. Illustrated by Maris Wicks.

First Second, 2020. 176 pages.

Grades 4–7. Focusing on the space race through the eyes of the women who made it possible, this book is narrated by Mary Cleave, a former American astronaut, and it includes the voices of many trailblazers. The text and illustrations capture the women's passion, ambition, and expertise, as well as their indignation and fury at the sexism they faced. Inspirational, funny, and with scientific details about astronaut training and life and work aboard a space shuttle. The back matter includes an author's note

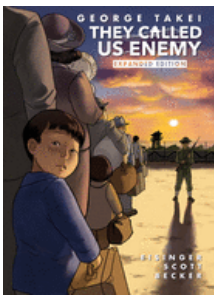
(addressing composite characters and invented dialogue), a bibliography, a how-this-book-was-made spread, and character vignettes.



Smith, James Otis. Black Heroes of the Wild West: Featuring Stagecoach Mary, Bass Reeves, and Bob Lemmons: A Toon Graphic.

Toon Graphics, 2020. 60 pages.

Grades 3–6. This book celebrates the extraordinary true-life stories of three Black heroes who stood up for their communities in the Old West. Born into slavery in Tennessee, Mary Fields became a coach driver who never missed a delivery. Bass Reeves, the first black Deputy US Marshal west of the Mississippi, brought thousands of outlaws to justice. Bob Lemmons worked with wild mustangs in Texas. Several pages of supplemental material, including photos, drawings, and maps, shed light on the histories of Black and Indigenous peoples during the Reconstruction era.

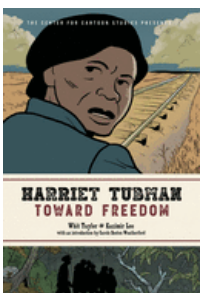


Takei, George; Eisinger, Justin; and Scott, Steven. They Called Us Enemy: Expanded Edition. Illustrated by Harmony Becker.

Top Shelf Productions, 2020. 224 pages.

Grades 7 and up. The 2019 graphic memoir from actor/author/activist George Takei has been reissued with sixteen pages of bonus content: a new afterword, a behind-the-scenes look at the process of researching, writing, drawing, and promoting the book, and with historical documents, scripts, sketches, and photos. George Takei is known for his role as Hikaru Sulu in the television series *Star Trek*, but Takei's story includes a childhood spent with his family imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps

during World War II and his becoming a leading figure in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ rights, and marriage equality.



Taylor, Whit. Harriet Tubman: Toward Freedom. Illustrated by Kazimir Lee. Introduction by Carole Boston Weatherford.

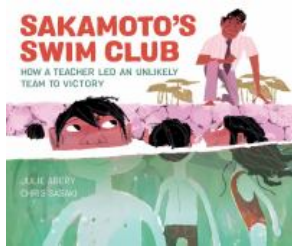
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021. 112 pages.

Grades 6 and up. Framed within reimagined encounters between abolitionist William Still and Harriet Tubman, this graphic novel focuses on Tubman's work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. The story dramatizes the rescue of her own brothers and the heart-wrenching decision to leave her parents behind, as well as Tubman's continual struggle with severe headaches and delusional spells related to a traumatic head injury. Carole Boston Weatherford's introduction provides historical context, and the back matter includes author remarks noting a handful of dramatic liberties that were taken.

the back matter includes author remarks noting a handful of dramatic liberties that were taken.

Picture Book Biographies, Part 1

Please see **About the Categories in this Bibliography (p. 2)** for explanatory notes about the two picture-book lists and for suggestions about using picture-book biographies with older students.



Abery, Julie. Sakamoto's Swim Club: How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory. Illustrated by Chris Sasaki.

Kids Can Press, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. When the children of workers on a 1930s Maui sugar plantation were chased away from playing in the nearby irrigation ditches, science teacher Soichi Sakamoto had an idea. He would take responsibility for the children and train them to swim. Using his science background, Sakamoto developed a strict practice regime for the kids, honing their skills and building their strength and

endurance. They formed a team and began to dominate events, first nationally and then internationally - until they made it all the way to Olympic gold.

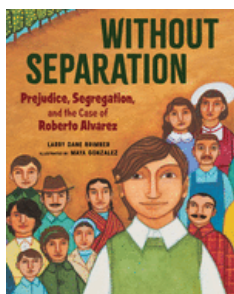


Bolden, Tonya. Going Places: Victor Hugo Green and His Glorious Book. Illustrated by Eric Velasquez.

Quill Tree Books, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. As a mail carrier, Victor Hugo Green traveled across New Jersey every day. But with Jim Crow laws enforcing segregation since the late 1800s, traveling as a Black person in the US could be stressful, even dangerous. So in the 1930s, Victor created a guide - The Negro Motorist Green-Book - compiling information on where to go and what places to avoid so that Black travelers could have a safe and pleasant time. While the Green Book started out small, over the years it became an expansive,

valuable resource for Black people throughout the country - all in the hopes that one day such a guide would no longer be needed. The back matter includes a timeline and further resources.

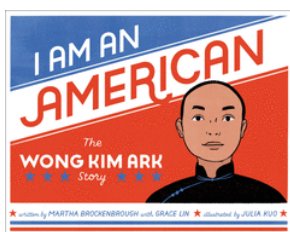


Brimner, Larry Dane. Without Separation: Prejudice, Segregation, and the Case of Roberto Alvarez. Illustrated by Maya Gonzalez.

Calkins Creek Books, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 3. This important yet little-known civil rights story focuses on Roberto Alvarez, a student whose 1931 court battle against racism and school segregation in Lemon Grove, California, is considered the first time an immigrant community used the courts to successfully fight injustice. Mexican American students were turned away from their school, where they had studied along with white children and told to attend a new one, just built for them. Roberto became the lead plaintiff in the case.

The judge ruled that the school board had no authority to establish a separate school for Mexicans and Mexican Americans, a ruling that became a precedent for the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. The back matter includes a more complete account in a lengthy author's note.



Brockenbrough, Martha and Grace Lin. I Am an American: The Wong Kim Ark Story. Illustrated by Julia Kuo.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. Wong Kim Ark challenged the Supreme Court for his right to be an American citizen. He was born in San Francisco in 1873, but the Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, hindered immigration and citizenship for Chinese people in the US. After visiting his family in China, Ark was detained and kept

from re-entering the country. He brought his case to the Supreme Court, and his victory guaranteed citizenship to all of those born in the U.S. Back matter features photos and a time line starting with 1849, when the first large group of Chinese immigrants began to settle in the US, to the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act.

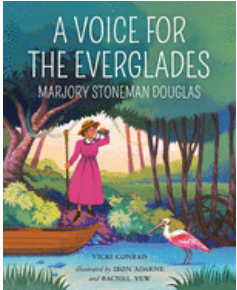


Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. Fighting for Yes!: The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann. Illustrated by Vivien Mildenerger.

Harry N. Abrams, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Because she used a wheelchair after contracting polio, Judy Heumann was told she could not attend public school; after she graduated from college, she was denied a teaching license. In the 1970s, an important disability rights law, Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, was waiting to be signed. Judy and other disability rights activists held a sit-in until Section 504 was signed into law.

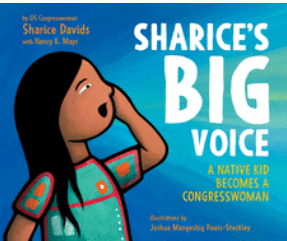
This law, the foundation for the Americans with Disabilities Act, was established thanks in large part to the ongoing work of Heumann and her community. The back matter includes a personal reflection from Heumann herself and an extensive author’s note, which provides more information about disability rights.



Conrad, Vicki. A Voice for the Everglades: Marjory Stoneman Douglas Illustrated by Ibon Adarne and Rachel Yew.

Albert Whitman & Company, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. Through her writing and activism, Marjorie Stoneham Douglas became the voice of the Everglades. Her work led to the conservation of this extraordinary eco-system that supports an astonishing variety of wildlife and to the creation of the national park. In addition to information about Douglas’ life and work, this book explores in text and images, the flora and fauna of the Everglades.

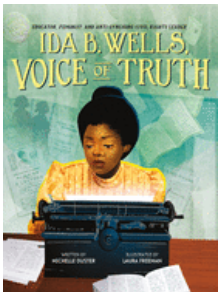


Dauids, Sharice with Nancy Mays. Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman. Illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley.

HarperCollins, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 4. This autobiography tells the of story of Sharice Davids, of the Ho-Chunk nation, who was one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the first LGBTQ congressperson to represent Kansas. The book traces her youth, early career, and current legislative service, examining how she

came to champion constituents marginalized in areas of health care, education, and civil rights.



Duster, Michelle. Ida B. Wells, Voice of Truth: Educator, Feminist, and Anti-Lynching Civil Rights Leader. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.

Henry Holt & Company, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This biography of Ida B. Wells was written by her great-granddaughter, Michelle Duster. Wells was an educator, journalist, feminist, businesswoman, newspaper owner, public speaker, suffragist, civil rights activist, women's club leader, and cofounder of the NAACP. She was committed to publicizing the tragic injustices and racism of Jim Crow America, and she spoke out against racial discrimination and lynching and for gender equality at the cost of her livelihood and personal safety.



Fountain, Carrie. The Poem Forest: Poet W. S. Merwin and the Palm Tree Forest He Grew from Scratch. Illustrated by Chris Turnham.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. Pulitzer Prize winner and Poet Laureate of 2010, William Stanley Merwin was both a poet and a dedicated conservationist. Leaving his life in the city, he created a home on Maui on a plot of land that was considered a wasteland. Planting one palm tree nearly every day to help heal the earth, Merwin and his wife planted thousands of palms, including endangered species, creating a forest that eventually became the Merwin Conservancy. The back matter includes an

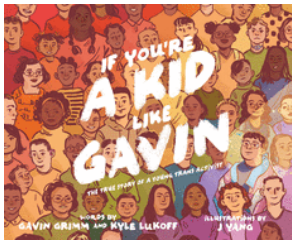
informative author’s note and a poem by Merwin.



Friddell, Claudia. To the Front!: Clara Barton Braves the Battle of Antietam. Illustrated by Christopher Cyr.

Calkins Creek Books, 2022. 40 pages.

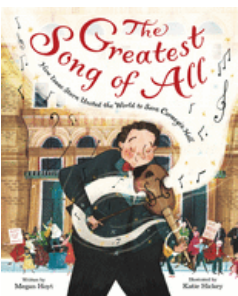
Grades 2 – 5. In a powerful tribute to Civil War nurse Clara Barton and her heroic efforts during the Battle of Antietam, this book recounts her life journey to becoming one of the country's greatest humanitarians and the founder of the American Red Cross. An extended afterword includes photos, quotations, and adds biographical details that highlight Barton's long friendship with Frederick Douglass and her fervent support for both women's suffrage and equal pay.



Grimm, Gavin and Kyle Lukoff. If You're a Kid Like Gavin. Illustrated by J Yang.

Katherine Tegen Books, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. A story of courage and resiliency, this book is based on the author's experiences as an out transgender boy. After his school discriminated against him, the young activist fought for his civil rights by speaking out to the community, on the news, and in a successful court case brought by the ACLU.



Hoyt, Megan. The Greatest Song of All: How Isaac Stern United the World to Save Carnegie Hall. Illustrated by Katie Hickey.

Quill Tree Books, 2022. 40 pages

Grades 2 – 5. Carnegie Hall opened in 1891 and became a place where diverse people could join together, perform, and be entertained. Violinist Isaac Stern, the son of Jewish immigrants who fled to America to escape the Holocaust, had his dream of performing on Carnegie Hall's legendary stage come true many times over. In 1960, when the hall was slated for demolition, Stern shifted gears to become a community organizer, fundraiser, and political power broker, working to save the building and ultimately making it a National Historic Landmark. The back matter includes photos

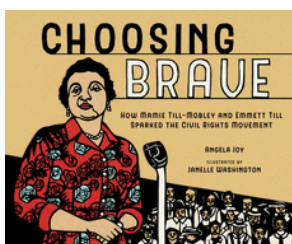
and more detail, plus a time line, and the full text of Stern's original petition.



Jagger, Louisa and Shari Becker. Sprouting Wings: The True Story of James Herman Banning, the First African American Pilot to Fly Across the United States. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 5. Despite the challenges and prejudices that stood in his way and his severely limited finances, Banning, along with Black mechanic Thomas Cox Allen, became the first African American to fly the 3,300 miles from Los Angeles to New York, stopping in towns that would welcome Black aeronauts. This biography includes scenes from his childhood, the years he spent teaching others to fly, and his historic triumph. The back matter includes a detailed author's note with additional information.



Joy, Angela. Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement. Illustrated by Janelle Washington.

Roaring Book Press, 2022. 64 pages.

Grades 3 and up. Mamie Till-Mobley was the mother of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy who was brutally murdered while visiting the South in 1955. His death became a rallying point for the civil rights movement, and it was his mother who was the catalyst for bringing his name to the forefront of history. Told in free verse, this is the story of how she channeled her grief over her son's

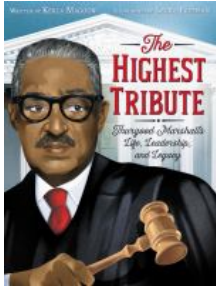
brutal death into a call to action for social justice and advocacy. The back matter includes author and illustrator notes and a timeline.



King, Heidi Tyline. Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist Mavynee Betsch. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes.

G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2021. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. This biography tells the story of MaVynee Betsch, an African American opera singer, environmentalist and activist. During the 1930s in Jim Crow-era Jacksonville, Florida, where most beaches were for whites only, her grandfather bought some shoreline property and turned it into American Beach, a resort open to everyone. In 1977, when she discovered that the property was being taken over by developers, Betsch saved the beach and devoted her fortune and the rest of her life to environmental activism. American Beach is now a historical landmark.



Magoon, Kekla. The Highest Tribute: Thurgood Marshall's Life, Leadership, and Legacy. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.

New York: Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2021. 40 pages.

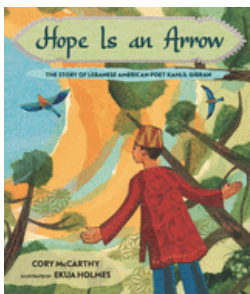
Grades 2 – 6. A portrait of the first Black justice on the Supreme Court, this picture-book biography covers Thurgood Marshall's upbringing in segregated Baltimore, his achievements with the NAACP, and his contributions to landmark equality rulings. Also included is information about his family life and interactions with colleagues and two US presidents. With a timeline of Marshall's life, and extensive notes about his major court cases.



Marinov, Isabelle. The Boy Whose Head Was Filled with Stars: A Life of Edwin Hubble. Illustrated by Deborah Macero.

Enchanted Lion Books, 2021. 52 pages.

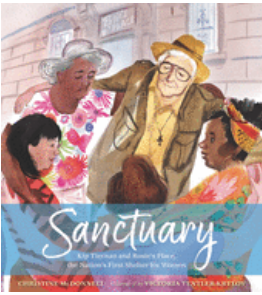
Grades 2 – 5. This biography of astronomer Edwin Hubble is a tribute to his life's work and the joys of staying curious – Hubble's insatiable curiosity led to groundbreaking discoveries about the cosmos in the early 20th century. The book begins with Hubble's obsession with the sky throughout his Missouri childhood, his first career as a teacher and basketball coach, then his transition into astronomy. The portion of the book about his discovery that the Andromeda Nebula is a separate galaxy gives credit where it's due, paying tribute to Henrietta Swan Leavitt, an astronomer whose work came before Hubble's. The back matter provides more details on Hubble's discoveries.



McCarthy, Cory. Hope Is an Arrow: The Story of Lebanese-American Poet Khalil Gibran. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Before Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931) became the one of the world's best-selling poets, he was an immigrant child from Lebanon with a secret hope to bring people together despite their many differences. This biography begins with the writer's childhood in Lebanon. Religious conflict leads to his family's move to Boston, where his talent as an artist is first noticed; he returns to Lebanon to study and to begin his work as a poet. Lines and stanzas from *The Prophet* are included throughout, as the book highlights the moments and episodes of Gibran's life that seem to have influenced his work. Extensive source notes provide additional information about Gibran's life and work.



McDonnell, Christine. Sanctuary: Kip Tiernan and Rosie's Place, the Nation's First Shelter for Women. Illustrated by Victoria Tentler-Krylov. Candlewick Press, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Growing up during the Great Depression, Tiernan would feed the men who came to the door asking for help. As she grew older and continued to serve food to hungry people, she noticed that, huddled at the back of serving lines, were women dressed as men. At the time, it was believed that there were no women experiencing homelessness. Tiernan decided to open the first shelter for women--a shelter with no questions asked, no required chores, just good meals and warm beds. An accomplished social activist, she took on the city of Boston in her quest to open Rosie's Place, the nation's first shelter for women. Back matter includes more information about Kip Tiernan and about the Great Depression.



Nolen, Jerdine. On Her Wings: The Story of Toni Morrison. Illustrated by James E. Ransome.

Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2022. 48 pages.

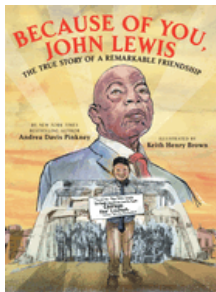
Grades 2 – 5. Born Chloe Ardelia Wofford in Ohio, Toni Morrison grew up listening to myths, legends, and stories from the Bible: she loved hearing the music and power of the words. She worked at her town library as a teenager and was an editor for a New York publisher as an adult. When Morrison began to write her own stories, she knew she wanted to write about her people - Black people. In 1993, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. The back matter includes further reading on Toni Morrison's life and work.



Pimental, Annette Bay. Pura's Cuentos: How Pura Belpré Reshaped Libraries with Her Stories. Illustrated by Magaly Morales.

Harry N. Abrams, 2021. 40 pages.

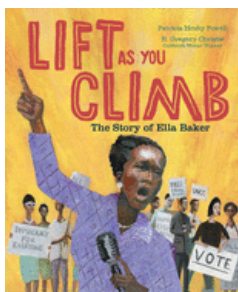
Pura Belpré (1899-1982), was the first Puerto Rican librarian in New York City and the first librarian there to offer bilingual story times. "Pura Belpre always knew that many stories worth telling aren't in books" is the repeated message in this fictional biography, as Belpré breaks the rules of story time by telling unpublished stories from her homeland of Puerto Rico. Eventually she published these stories and devoted herself to community outreach beyond the library walls.



Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Because of You, John Lewis. Illustrated by Keith Henry Brown.

Scholastic Press, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. When young Tybre Faw learns about Congressman John Lewis and his heroic march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in the fight for the right to vote, Tybre is determined to meet him. His two grandmothers take him on the seven-hour drive to Selma, Alabama, where Lewis invites Tybre to join him in the annual memorial walk across the Bridge – the beginning of an amazing friendship. The true story of a boy with a dream is woven together with the story of a real-life hero - who himself had a life-altering friendship with Martin Luther King Jr. when he was young.

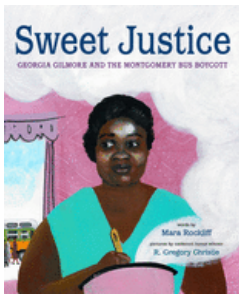


Powell, Patricia Hruby. Lift as You Climb: The Story of Ella Baker. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.

Margaret K. McElderry Book, 2020. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 6. Ella Baker was born in 1903 and grew up on her grandparents' North Carolina farm, where they'd once been enslaved. She learned to listen to others, to help people in need, and to "lift as you climb". After college, Baker worked for the NAACP and SCLC. She became a significant figure in the civil rights movement, challenging its leaders on occasion, speaking up for women within the movement, focusing on issues such as voting rights, and always listening at the grassroots level.

She helped plan the Freedom Rides, and she advised and befriended many young activists throughout her career.

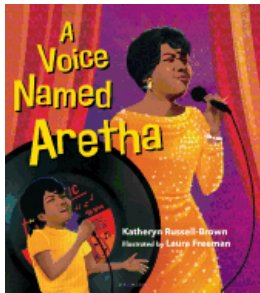


Rockliff, Mara. Sweet Justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.

Random House Studio, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 4. After Rosa Parks' arrest on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, local women helped to organize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s bus boycott. To raise money for ride-sharing and other expenses, Georgia Gilmore made and sold food. After Dr. King was arrested, Gilmore testified in court about the bus system's discriminatory practices. She lost her job, but Dr. King gave her money that enabled her to cook in her home, supporting herself and the boycott. The author's note points to Gilmore's place in history as one of many "courageous and persistent individuals" who made

up the era's civil rights movement.

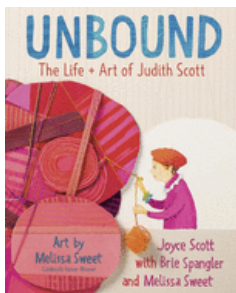


Russell-Brown, Kathryn. A Voice Named Aretha. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.

Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2020. 40 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Aretha Franklin learned early on that she could ease her own pain and help others with music. Included in this biography are the highlights of Franklin's life from her childhood, when she was devastated by her parents' broken marriage and mother's death, to the 1960s, when she insisted on playing only integrated venues, to her breakthrough with Atlantic Records, producing one hit after another, and on to her charitable and civil rights work. The back matter

includes photographs, more information about Aretha's life, and a list of her songs.

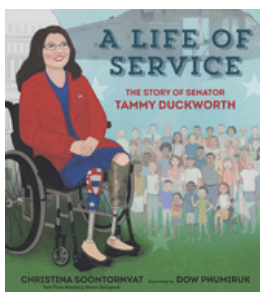


Scott, Joyce with Brie Spangler and Melissa Sweet. Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2021, 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This is the story of twin sisters Joyce and Judy, who are inseparable, until Joyce goes to school and Judy can't because she has Down syndrome. As an adult, Joyce becomes Judy's legal guardian and brings her home to live with her and her family. Joyce enrolls Judy in an art program that is designed to help her express herself. Over the next sixteen years, until her death from heart failure, Judy creates vibrant art from threads, strings, and found objects, receiving recognition and also

demonstrating how the Creative Growth Art Center's pioneering approach to unlocking the talents and expression of people with developmental needs can be a model for education. Written by her sister and with many illustrations patterned after Judy Scott's own artwork. An author's note, a timeline of Judith Scott's life, and photographs of her artwork.

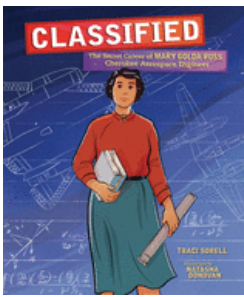


Soontornvat, Christina. A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth. Illustrated by Dow Phumiruk.

Candlewick Press, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. Tammy Duckworth is the first Thai American woman elected to Congress and the first woman with a disability to serve in the House and Senate. Born in Bangkok, Duckworth grew up traveling all over Southeast Asia, where her father worked for the United Nations. After moving to Hawaii, Duckworth studied hard, excelled at sports, and joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in college. An accomplished helicopter pilot, she

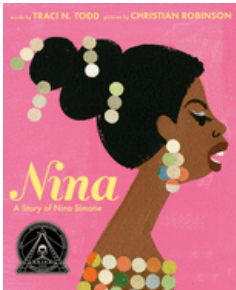
served in Iraq, where she was injured and lost both legs. Because of her devotion to the service of her country, she turned to politics after her recovery, becoming a US representative in 2012 and a senator in 2016. The back matter includes a timeline and suggestions for further reading.



Sorell, Traci. *Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer*. Illustrated by Natasha Donovan.

Millbrook Press, 2021. 32 pages.

Grades 2 – 5. This is a biography of Mary Golda Ross (1908-2008), a member of the Cherokee Nation, who excelled in math from an early age. She became a high school teacher and, embracing Cherokee values, encouraged her students to take advantage of available educational opportunities. In 1942, she took a job at Lockheed Aircraft Company as a mathematical research assistant, and, in 1950, she became their first female engineer. The company recognized her potential and assigned her to work on top-secret projects related to government space and weapons programs. The author, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation, shares her personal perspective about Ross in an author's note. An annotated timeline and an explanation of "Four Cherokee Values" are included.



Todd, Traci N. *Nina: A Story of Nina Simone*. Illustrated by Christian Robinson.

G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2021. 56 pages.

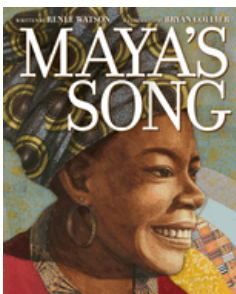
Grades 3 – 6. This is the story of African American musician and civil rights activist Nina Simone, whose music gave voice to the struggle for racial equality during the Civil Rights Movement. As a child, Simone learned jazz basics from her musician father. She eventually attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, and she later sang at Carnegie Hall. Although Simone's personal experience with racism began when she was a child, the singer didn't actively join the movement for racial justice until 1963, following the murder of Black civil rights leader Medgar Evers and the bombing of a Black church in Birmingham that killed four girls. Simone's newfound outspokenness earned her fierce white backlash - so "Nina sang louder... sang the whole story of Black America for everyone to hear."



Todd, Traci N. *Stacey Abrams and the Fight to Vote*. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.

HarperCollins, 2022. 40 pages.

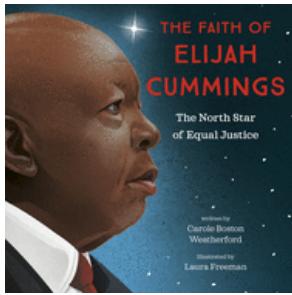
Grades 2 – 5. In this biography, voting rights advocates from the past - Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Septima Clark, and Fannie Lou Hamer - speak to one another about Abrams as they reflect on the barriers that national and state governments have systematically erected to prevent specific populations from voting. Abrams' parents taught their children to take care of one another and took them to the polls every election to show them that voting was how to take care of your community. The book traces her political accomplishments and her determination despite disappointments. While the text focuses on the Black vote, the back matter describes many other groups that have been excluded from voting throughout American history.



Watson, Renée. *Maya's Song*. Illustrated by Bryan Collier.

HarperCollins, 2022. 48 pages.

Grades 3 – 8. This biography, written in free-verse poetry, begins with Angelou's birth in 1928 and concludes with her delivering a poem at Bill Clinton's 1993 inauguration. An understanding of Angelou is provided through her childhood experiences, excerpts of her writing, her adult accomplishments as singer poet, and author, and her friendships (with, for example, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X). The book emphasizes how Angelou used her talents for civil rights and social justice and how her words have uplifted and inspired generations.



Weatherford, Carole Boston. The Faith of Elijah Cummings: The North Star of Equal Justice. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.

Random House Studio, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 3 -5. In this biography, each two-page spread includes a quotation from the Congressman that supports the text and gives readers insights into his personal life and those who influenced him. The narrative and illustrations work together to communicate Cummings's commitment to his faith, public service, and civil rights. When he was young, it was too crowded at home to study – there were seven children in a four-room house – so Cummings went to the public library after school, where the librarians would stay after work to tutor him. He went on to become an attorney, congressman, and civil rights leader. Cummings died in 2019, and the back matter includes excerpts from eulogies delivered by Nancy Pelosi and from the Congressional Black Caucus.



Yang, Kelly. Yes We Will: Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country. Illustrated by fifteen Asian and Asian American artists.

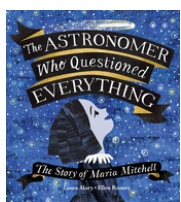
Dial Books, 2022. 40 pages.

Grades 1 – 5. This book profiles eighteen Asian Americans and provides a history lesson about the 200 years of accomplishments and contributions of Asian Americans, starting with the Chinese immigrants who helped build the first transcontinental railroad. Each spread provides a sentence that explains a featured person's achievements, illustrated by a different Asian American illustrator. Kamala Harris, basketball great Jeremy Lin, architect I. M. Pei, astronaut Franklin Chang-Díaz, activist Fred Korematsu, cellist Yo-Yo M, author Jenny Han, and Peter Tsai, inventor of the N95 mask, are among the people profiled. The back matter includes extended biographies of all the featured subjects.

Picture-Book Biographies, Part 2

More Recommended Picture-Book Biographies

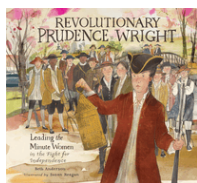
Please see **About the Categories in this Bibliography (p. 2)** for explanatory notes about the two picture-book lists and for suggestions about using picture-book biographies with older students.



Alary, Laura (Author); Rooney, Ellen (Illustrator)

The Astronomer Who Questioned Everything: The Story of Maria Mitchell

This picture book biography tells the extraordinary story of pioneering astronomer Maria Mitchell. Publisher: Kids Can Press



Anderson, Beth (Author); Reagan, Susan (Illustrator)

Revolutionary Prudence Wright: Leading the Minute Women in the Fight for Independence

Here is the first-ever picture book about female Revolutionary War activist Prudence Wright, who rallied the first and only group of minute women to fight the British, changing history in the process. Publisher: Calkins Creek Books



Baptiste, Tracey (Author); Engel, Tonya (Illustrator)

Because Claudette

A picture book biography about Claudette Colvin, the teen whose activism launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Publisher: Dial Books



Bland Smith, Emma (Author); Ely, Jenn (Illustrator)

The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story

When prisoner Elliott Michener began tending the gardens at Alcatraz, his thoughts of escape were replaced with new skills and a sense of dignity. Back matter discusses the history of Alcatraz and the US prison system today. Publisher: Charlesbridge



Bryant, Jen (Author); Nakamura, Toshiki (Illustrator)

Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight: Patsy Takemoto Mink and the Fight for Title IX

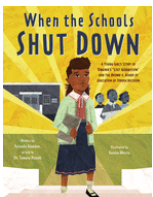
Patsy Mink went to law school, ran for a seat in the United States Congress, and helped create Title IX, the law that requires federally funded schools to treat boys and girls equally. Publisher: Quill Tree Books



Fleming, Candace (Author); Cordell, Matt (Illustrator)

What Isabella Wanted: Isabella Stewart Gardner Builds a Museum

The true story of Isabella Stewart Gardner's mission to turn her home into a unique art museum. Publisher: Neal Porter Books



Gladden, Yolanda (Author); Morris, Keisha (Illustrator); Pizzoli Tamara (Author)

When the Schools Shut Down: A Young Girl's Story of Virginia's Lost Generation and the Brown V. Board of Education of Topeka Decision

An autobiographical book about a young African American girl who lived during the shutdown of public schools in Farmville, Virginia, following the landmark civil rights case Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka. Publisher: HarperCollins



Harvey, Jeanne Walker (Author); Wise, Loveis (Illustrator)

Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas

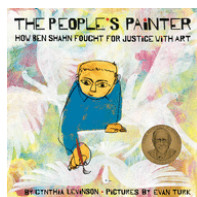
A picture-book biography of painter and teacher Alma Thomas, discussing her childhood, teaching career, and activism. Publisher: HarperCollins



Johnson, Katherine (Author); Hylick, Joylette (Author); Moore, Katherine (Author); Barlow, Charnelle (Illustrator)

One Step Further: My Story of Math, the Moon, and a Lifelong Mission

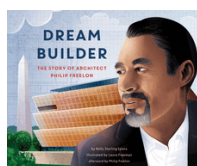
NASA computer scientist Katherine Johnson and her two daughters tell the story of how she overcame racial barriers to play an integral role during the American space program's early days. Publisher: National Geographic Kids



Levinson, Cynthia (Author); Turk, Evan (Illustrator)

The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art

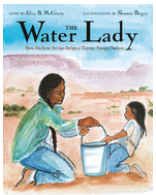
This moving and timely portrait, honors an artist, immigrant, and activist whose work still resonates today: a true painter for the people. Publisher: Abrams Books for Young Readers



Lyons, Kelly (Author); Freeman, Laura (Illustrator)

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon

The achievements of award-winning architect Philip Freelon (1953-2019), the architect for the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. are detailed and celebrated. Publisher: Lee & Low Books



McGinty, Alice B (Author); Begay, Shonto (Illustrator)

The Water Lady: How Darlene Arviso Helps a Thirsty Navajo Nation

Cody is worried when his family on a New Mexico Navajo reservation runs out of water, but Darlene Arviso, called "The Water Lady," is on the way with her tanker truck.

Publisher: Anne Schwartz Books

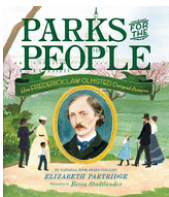


The Stuff Between the Stars: How Vera Rubin Discovered Most of the Universe

Nickel, Sandra (Author); Sicuro, Aimée (Illustrator)

Vera Rubin was one of the astronomers who discovered and named dark matter, the thing that keeps the universe hanging together. She made groundbreaking and ... significant discoveries that scientists have only recently been able to really appreciate. Publisher:

Abrams Books for Young Readers

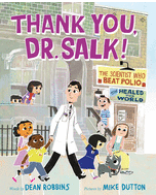


Partridge, Elizabeth (Author); Stadlander, Becca (Illustrator)

Parks for the People: How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America

Presents the life of the American journalist and landscape designer, discussing his early love of nature, his winning award for the design of Central Park, his humanitarian work on Civil War camps, and his numerous other designs in urban areas around the country.

Publisher: Viking Books for Young Readers



Robbins, Dean (Author); Dutton, Mike (Illustrator)

Thank You, Dr. Salk!: The Scientist Who Beat Polio and Healed the World

A nonfiction picture book about Jonas Salk and the invention of the polio vaccine.

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux



Russell-Brown, Katheryn (Author); Velasquez, Eric (Illustrator)

She Was the First!: The Trailblazing Life of Shirley Chisholm

A picture book biography of the dynamic twentieth-century educator, activist, and politician Shirley Chisholm. Publisher: Lee & Low Books



Sanders, Rob (Author); Kalda, Sam (Illustrator)

The Mother of a Movement: Jeanne Manford--Ally, Activist, and Co-Founder of Pflag

The story of Jeanne Manford, the founder of PFLAG. When her son was beaten for handing out pro-gay leaflets, Manford wrote a powerful letter to the New York Post. While marching in the June 1972 Gay Rights parade, she had the idea to form a group to help

parents and families of LGBTQ+ people. Publisher: Magination Press



Schofield-Morrison, Connie (Author); Zunon, Elizabeth (Illustrator)

Stitch by Stitch: Elizabeth Hobbs Keckly Sews Her Way to Freedom

A talented seamstress, born enslaved in 1818, bought freedom for herself and her son.

Publisher: Holiday House



Schwartz, Ella (Author); Phumiruk, Dow (Illustrator)

Her Name Was Mary Katharine: The Only Woman Whose Name Is on the Declaration of Independence

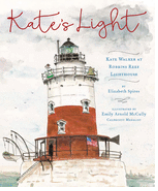
The story of the only woman whose name appears on the Declaration of Independence: she was a printer, postmaster, and patriot whose choices played a significant role in American history. Publisher: Christy Ottaviano Books-Little Brown



Slade, Suzanne (Author); Comport, Sally W (Illustrator)

Blast Off!: How Mary Sherman Morgan Fueled America Into Space

Chronicles the life of the first female rocket scientist who, chosen to create the fuel to launch a rocket carrying America's first satellite, broke gender barriers, and overcame many challenges to succeed. Publisher: Calkins Creek Books



Spires, Elizabeth (Author); McCully, Emily Arnold (Illustrator)

Kate's Light: Kate Walker at Robbins Reef Lighthouse

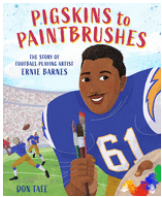
A biography of Kate Walker, one of the first women on the Eastern seaboard to be put in charge of an offshore lighthouse. Publisher: Margaret Ferguson Books



Stanley, Diane (Author); Hartland, Jessie (Illustrator)

Alice Waters Cooks Up a Food Revolution

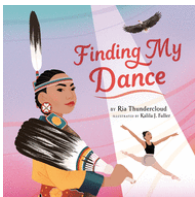
The story of pioneering chef Alice Waters who changed the way America eats and kickstarted the organic food movement. Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books



Tate, Don (Author/Illustrator)

Pigskins to Paintbrushes: The Story of Football-Playing Artist Ernie Barnes

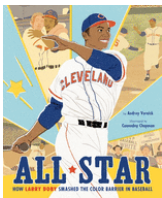
Barnes became famous as both a professional athlete and as an artist whose paintings reflected his love of the sport and the beauty and grace of people. Publisher: Harry N. Abrams



Thundercloud, Ria (Author); Fuller, Kalila J (Illustrator)

Finding My Dance

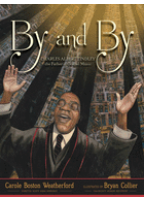
Professional Indigenous dancer Ria Thundercloud tells the true story of her path to dance and how it helped her take pride in her Native American heritage. Publisher: Penguin Workshop



Vernick, Audrey (Author); Chapman, Cannaday (Illustrator)

All Star: How Larry Doby Smashed the Color Barrier in Baseball

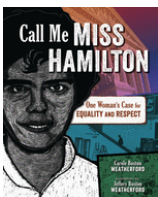
The remarkable story of Larry Doby, the first Black baseball player in the American League. Publisher: Clarion Books



Weatherford, Carole Boston (Author); Collier, Bryan (Illustrator)

By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music

When most African Americans were still enslaved, Charles Tindley was born free. He became a founding father of American gospel music whose hymn was the basis for the Civil Rights anthem We Shall Overcome. Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers



Weatherford, Carole Boston (Author); Weatherford, Jeffery Boston (Illustrator)

Call Me Miss Hamilton: One Woman's Case for Equality and Respect

The true story of Civil Rights activist Mary Hamilton, who took her fight for respect all the way to the US Supreme Court--and won. Publisher: Millbrook Press



Williams, Alicia D (Author); Alcántara, Jacqueline (Illustrator)
Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston
This book illuminates the rich natural-world and cultural experiences that shaped her education and career as a storyteller. Publisher: Atheneum Books



Yolen, Jane (Author); Minor, Wendell (Illustrator)
The Leather Apron Club: Benjamin Franklin, His Son Billy & America's First Circulating Library
A celebration of libraries. When Billy accompanies his father, Benjamin Franklin to the Leather Apron Club, he decides to do more with his education and life. The Club was the first successful lending library in the United States--it also exists to this day as the Library Company of Philadelphia. Publisher: Charlesbridge Publishing

Resources for Selecting Children’s Literature about Social Justice

Professional Journals

Although paid subscriptions are needed to access all the material in these journals, many articles and book lists are available on the websites without a subscription.

Book Links: a quarterly supplement to *BookList*, a publication of the American Library Association, provides reviews of recommended children's books; articles tied to national standards on using books in the classroom; strategies and information for library media specialist/ teacher collaboration: <https://www.booklistonline.com/booklinks>

Horn Book Magazine: features articles, book reviews, and other information related to children's and young adult literature: <http://www.hbook.com>

School Library Journal: serves librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries. It provides reviews of materials to create quality collections for children and young adults: <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com>

Learning for Justice Magazine: published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, provides educators with free educational materials and lists of resources that promote respect for differences and diversity in the classroom and beyond. (Previously known as Teaching Tolerance): <https://www.learningforjustice.org/>

Online Resources

American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL): established in 2006 by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo; provides critical analysis of Indigenous peoples in children's and young adult books. Dr. Jean Mendoza is a co-editor at AICL: <https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

Anti-Defamation League Books Matter: Children’s Literature: provides lists and reviews that focus on materials that foster respect and inspire actions on behalf of social justice: <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature>

CBC Diversity Initiative: part of the Children’s Book Council’s commitment to promoting diverse voices in literature for young people. The CBC is the nonprofit association of children’s book publishers in North America dedicated to supporting the industry and promoting children’s books and reading: <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/>
<https://www.cbcdiversity.com>

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center), School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: provides book lists of recommended books on a wide range of topics, including social justice. *CCBC Choices* is a best-of-the-year list created annually: <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/>

Database of Award-Winning Children's Literature: has over 8,400 records from 99 awards across six English-speaking countries: <http://www.dawcl.com>

Embrace Race: a multiracial community of parents, teachers, experts, and other caring adults who support each other to meet the challenges that race poses to children, families, and communities. Includes tips for educators, and book lists: <https://www.embracerace.org>

Kirkus Reviews: provides reviews of books, lists of recommended book lists, and news of upcoming books: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/>

Notable Trade Books for Young People: provides annotated lists of books that were evaluated and selected by the Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for Social Studies in cooperation with the Children's Book Council:
<https://www.socialstudies.org/notable-trade-books>

Primary Source: works to advance global and cultural learning in schools by collaborating with teachers and schools to offer professional development courses and resources:
<https://www.primarysource.org/>

Social Justice Books: a program of Teaching for Change, provides an annotated list of the best multicultural and social justice children's books and the *Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books*: <https://socialjusticebooks.org>

WNDB (We Need Diverse Books): advocates essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people. The website includes links to book lists on many other websites: <https://diversebooks.org/>

Children's Book Awards

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is the world's largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. The website provides links to their own awards and those of many other organizations and groups:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia>

Amelia Bloomer List: the committee of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association compiles a booklist of excellent books with significant feminist content: <http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/amelia-bloomer-book-list>

American Indian Youth Literature Award: given by the American Indian Library Association, this award honors the best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians:
<https://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award>

Americás Award: sponsored by the National Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP), and given in recognition of U.S. works of literature for children published in English or Spanish that authentically portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States: <http://www.claspprograms.org/americasaward>

Arab-American Book Awards: sponsored by the Arab American National Museum, the awards honor books written by and about Arab Americans:
<https://arabamericanmuseum.org/book-awards/>

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature: given by the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, these awards honor books about Asian/Pacific Americans and their heritage, based on literary and artistic merit: <http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/literature-awards>

Batchelder Award: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded to an American publisher for a children's book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward>

Carter Woodson Award: given by the National Council for the Social Studies to the most distinguished social science books that depict ethnicity in the United States sensitively and accurately: <https://www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson>

Coretta Scott King Award: presented annually by the American Library Association to a Black author and a Black illustrator whose works encourage world unity and peace and serve as an inspiration to young people: <http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/ckbookawards>

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards: presented by the Jane Addams Peace Association, and given to the children's books that promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting literary and artistic standards for excellence: <http://www.janeaddamspeace.org>

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children: given by the National Council of Teachers of English to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children: <https://ncte.org/awards/orbis-pictus-award-nonfiction-for-children/>

Pura Belpré Award: given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to a Latinx writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience for children and youth:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal>

Rainbow Book List: created by the Rainbow Book List Committee of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table of the American Library Association, this annual list highlights books for children with significant gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning content: <https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks>

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal: presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and awarded annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in the United States:
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal>

Sydney Taylor Book Award: presented by the Association of Jewish Libraries, an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), in recognition of books for children and teens that exemplify high literary standards while authentically portraying the Jewish experience:
https://jewishlibraries.org/Sydney_Taylor_Book_Award