

Try a Kid's Book! (# 1)

Just click the links to dive into history - to find out cool stuff about important African Americans in American history, and to find out lots of other things you might wish you'd known earlier.....but the good news is that it's never too late, with NOW being the perfect time to start!

The books are organized by age / grade, but in each separate age section, they do follow a sequential listing (in order of when they would've occurred in history), with some exceptions for more general sub-topics.

This section covers 1) slavery and 2) civil rights / social justice topics.

Slavery

The Undefeated <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evOokigNPQc> (:41) (an excerpt) All ages
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLCLX8xW11k> (3:34) (With a commanding dynamic, the artist reads the book!)

A great **introduction** to an overview of the history of African Americans, this beautiful book is not to be missed!

PreK -

An African American Alphabet: D is for Drinking Gourd Grades PreK - 4
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHa8emvlbuQ> (7:05)

Another excellent **introductory overview** to the history of African Americans in America!

(Note: the actual book contains info for adults, but this reader in the video reads the text geared to the children.)

Freedom in Congo Square PreK – Grade 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI2CpLsIOiY> (2:37) A book review – great intro to the book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH10eq3xeE> (3:00)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96-mvnCdhTI> (3:03) an animated rap about the origins of jazz, reference to Congo Square

Setting: Congo Square, New Orleans. Appropriate for the youngest children, the vivid colors and rhythm of the anticipatory, hopeful words draw the listeners into the era, as an **introduction** to the tragic time of slavery.

Harriet Tubman: My First Biography PreK – Grade 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir7ut1Bpeig> (3:40)

Excellent for the youngest students. A great intro to Harriet Tubman and to slavery.

Before She Was Harriet PreK – Grade 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_JZemL5SWI&list=PLQpH6m6XNooGTg5Illi7onYY6jmxS6g6&index=7&t=0s&app=desktop

(3:18)

A biography of Harriet Tubman.

Harriet and the Promised Land PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PL-hOsoUKxs> (6:11) (Skip to 2:24 to begin).

A biography of Harriet Tubman in rhyme.

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UCAuZFNyg4> (3:49)

Setting: SC. Enslaved people were forced to do all kinds of back breaking, soul-sucking, menial work. A few were given work that required skill, and the work of a potter was one of these. Still without choices or pay, but often beauty shone through, like these that remain of David Drake.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzV362LcaeU> (5:54) (For the adult, and also for older students). More info about the life and work of Dave, the potter. Very interesting!

*Follow the Drinking Gourd: An **Underground Railroad** Story* PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSQAYMQomC0> (7:59)

The reader sings the song, while explaining its meaning.

Underground <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXs0HDxTa4o> (2:06) PreK – Grade 3

Even though the words are few, and the length brief, this is a heart-stopping, riveting video presentation of an **escape** by enslaved people. Simple, but profound. Sensitive to the subject. Read in conjunction with **Harriet Tubman** stories.

Barefoot: Escape on the Underground Railroad PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtXhap1HY8M> (4:45) Similar to *Underground*, the listener travels a short distance with “Barefoot,” the unnamed, enslaved man, as he is hiding in order to escape slavery. A miraculous mass of mosquitoes and the noise of a deer lead his captors away from him, allowing him to breathe again, and to find a safe house, identified by a quilt hanging outside. (In actuality, many enslaved people did not escape, but some did. Hopeful, since each story about slavery, is told one person at a time.)

Show Way <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM3DesXftrQ> (12:09) PreK – Grade 3

The author, Jacqueline Woodson, reads her book about generations in her family. Accompanied by music, with the selections changing with each generation.

Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7XFTjOdOJl> (8:43)

“ The master had been good to Henry and his mother....” - the “good master” myth is dismantled in this story, as a real look at slavery is given through this true story. A sensitive, evocative reading that will engage listeners of every age, as they hang onto each word to see if freedom would ever be for Henry and for those he loved.

Juneteenth for Mazie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5AHtPxsuDQ> (5:10) PreK – Grade 3

What was / is Juneteenth? When finally, the date of freedom from slavery was celebrated in all of the southern states: **Juneteenth**. After the end of the Civil War, Union soldiers were able to give the news to enslaved people in TX. The event continues to be celebrated today.

All Different Now <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRIExoTfm3g> (2:50) PreK – Grade 3

Setting: the Civil War South, in TX. **Juneteenth**. A simple look at one simple principle: that life for enslaved people, in gaining official emancipation in the South, after the end of the war, would be different. (Life, in many cases, was not really ostensibly different at all, as the terror of Jim Crow laws and white supremacy oppression replaced the actual status of slavery. But for one day, at least, they could celebrate. The event is still celebrated today.)

Kindergarten -

Mumbet's Declaration of Independence K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nk40CGAd05g> (8:36)

Setting: The late 1700s, after the Revolutionary War. Mumbet's longing and quest for **freedom** became reality as **Mumbet** learned new truths at the house of her master during meetings about the Massachusetts constitution, and decided that she would have it, too. Advocating for herself and for her daughter, she determined to pursue a **legal trial**, enlisting the help of a sympathetic lawyer who not only helped her to pursue her dream, but who worked with her to make it come true.

Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton K – Grade 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFza2_8UjRA (2:59) (A book review by the author)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc-i-cnn8IE> (9:11) (An uninspired reading -- sorry! Only one available! -- of a book about the inspiring life of a man dedicated to his craft and determined to follow his path, but it *is* the entire story, and it's the only one available on YouTube).

Setting: NC in the 1800s. Enslaved until the age of 66, when he was freed following the end of the Civil War, Horton wrote poetry most of his life. Published when still enslaved.

Minty <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGoY3ShBAbI> (16:28) K – Grade 3

Biography of Harriet Tubman.

Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvuSK59gX-A> (8:58)

A biography of Harriet Tubman.

*Moses: When **Harriet Tubman** Led Her People to Freedom* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWtL98XLUgk> (17:39)

An African American librarian makes this story come to life! Exciting, expressive and authentic, she uses master storytelling methods to engage young listeners. A must-see.

Hope's Gift https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9B6g_nk66I (6:48) K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3JPcVwDbJU> (1:00) (A preview of the book for older students)

Setting: **Civil War**. With a promise of **freedom** in the hearts of many enslaved people, Hope's father's tender good bye to his family is witnessed before his escape to fight in the war. Their hope that President **Lincoln** would bring that freedom provided patience for them to "hang on," as the listener waits for that to be realized.

Words Set Me Free K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3WbLYLbe8M> (11:25)

A great introductory bio of **Frederick Douglass**, with an emphasis on the value of learning to read.

*So Tall Within: **Sojourner Truth's** Long Walk To Freedom* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC7xEnB3xgs> (11:55)

Setting: Pre- and post- Civil War. A lovely reading. With the story of Sojourner Truth's biography told in the context of hope and promise, the story gives a clear account of what slavery looked like. Sojourner Truth, a strong woman in a time when strength in women was not appreciated, she was an early voice for advocacy, enlisting the aid of the court system, winning the freedom of her son. Walking and talking against slavery, she met Abraham Lincoln, giving him her support. After the Civil War, her powerful voice and message stopped people (even traffic in the city!) - right in their tracks as she walked and talked, and then walked and talked, some more.

Sojourner Truth's Step Stomp Stride K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbAhvmyE2lw> (9:59)

This strong, big, bold, Black, beautiful girl ran – and “refused to stop until she saw hope,” accepting the gift of freedom from kind abolitionists. Once she tasted freedom, she began to discover new truths about it, and used her powerful, courageous voice to effect change. Hearing powerful men say that women were inferior to them, and that “men should be allowed to boss them” lit a fire under her, and she charged, strided and stomped right up that aisle to the front of the church where the men had been speaking. “**Ain’t I a woman,**” she yelled, blasting every false premise that the men had declared. “Down came both fists. Bam! Bam!” And then she was done: “...nothin’ more to say.” A strong, big, bold, Black, beautiful book!

The Bell Rang <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwbtrVy48qw> (4:00) K - Grade 3

Hard history. Historical fiction. A realistic story that includes the **escape** of Ben, big brother to our protagonist. The bell rang: each day, before sunrise, the day of each enslaved worker began. It was the same every day: the bell rang. Same time, same work, each day the same. The shroud of hopelessness of their situation is cut for our little girl with Ben’s gift before he goes, a doll. On Sundays, when there is no bell, they hope again. Singing, praying, and rejoicing together, they remember: “Ben made it.”

Video: African Drums <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dHzlPFUA1E> (:50) Grades K – up

(Based on *In The Time of The Drums*, which has no read-aloud video, but which contains an important element of the culture of enslaved persons, and should not be neglected.)

Song: “Follow the Drinking Gourd” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNyhQ7argU> (1:35)
Grades K – up

Song: “Roll, Jordan, Roll” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oFcFzJT7Tw> (1:55)
Grades K – up

Song: “Wade in the Water” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_euSS86dvE (3:10)
(No pictures, just text, but beautiful). Grades K – up

Words Set me Free <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3WbLYLbe8M> (13:33) Grades K – 4

Biography of Frederick Douglass, including his journey to freedom through learning to read.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atJrxxV4azg> (1:57) An animated rap about Douglass.

Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass K – Grade 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doPakvwllr8> (9:29) The story of Frederick during early childhood through adulthood. A story of possibilities.

Grades 1 -

Tick Tock Banneker's Clock Grades 1 - 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPyDraNQOgk> (11:11)

Setting: The late 1700s, near **Baltimore** – when **Washington** and **Jefferson** were alive. Banneker, unlike most African Americans in that era, was born free. A mathematician whose life intersected with the most well-known American historical figures, his work was integral to the building and planning of Washington, D.C. This book contains a biographical slice of Banneker's young adult life.

Song: A simple, biographical folk song about Frederick Douglass (Ballads of Black America)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzGW4lphSWM&fbclid=IwAR0w-WPfp488LKUXaW28qBLA3bxjo0QhIxsOYQ0QTSfEax6oEonWm_6qi7w&app=desktop (3:45)

Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History (“Stories for Change” series) Grades 1 - 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYp4n4DTn8U> (14:02)

Hard history: an excellent biography written in 2017.

A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass Grades 1 – 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oN-QgKsgyL4> (7:32)

Hard history: a simple, comprehensive biography.

“A Kid Explains **Frederick Douglass**” (Excellent YouTube bio, not a book)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl0gm8CHOI8> (5:12)

“**Frederick Douglass** for Kids” (An animated You Tube history hero presentation, recorded during Obama’s presidency)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtKY4bLUxCO> (4:03)

A Visit to **Frederick Douglass**’s grave: Rochester, NY – a virtual field trip, a walk through the cemetery to his grave. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO2h5k1GiW8> (1:41)

Sweet Clara and The Freedom Quilt Grades 1 - 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mbgenJxgJA> (12:14)

Underground Railroad, Canada, **escape** route map. When Clara heard these words, she wanted to help and knew she could use her seamstress skills to create a freedom quilt.

Grades 2 -

Phillis’s Big Test Grades 2 - 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2liCT3p6lXk&list=PLQpH6m6XNooGTg5lloi7onYY6jmxS6g6&index=6&t=0s&app=desktop>

Setting: Boston in the 1700s. The story of **Phillis Wheatley**, the enslaved teen girl poet.

A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent

Grades 2 – 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgbmMGVAIAE> (1:18) (a rap about James Armistead Lafayette)

(Teacher note: there is no youtube available of this book, but it's excellent, and his story is critically important to the ending of the **Revolutionary War**.)

*I Survived: **The Battle of Gettysburg*** Grades 2 – 6 (Civil War)

Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seqZAYTUY6c> (13:22)

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk81AtYoKQ8> (14:03)

Part 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pqvgirutaqk> (13:09)

Part 4 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwBvFiP4vEk> (11:57)

Part 5 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3Nzk8LC0sl> (13:38)

Part of the “I Survived” series, this is the story of Thomas and Birdie, enslaved children who found themselves in the middle of the **Civil War** – a horror which turned out differently than they could ever have imagined.

*The Freedom Ship of **Robert Smalls*** Grades 2 – 6 (Civil War)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6HrpYMmEys> (10:33)

Setting: South Carolina during the **Civil War**. The uncertain, life-starving plight of the enslaved - the cost of slavery vs. Freedom - is clear in this story about a great African American Civil War hero.

Brick by Brick <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kppzyts5Ct4> (15:22) Grades 2 – 6

A wonderful book about the building of the White House in Washington, D.C. (The book is really for PreK – Grade 3, but the author is reading the book and adding a lot of comments on a recording of a live zoom presentation.)

*The Amazing Age of **John Roy Lynch*** Grades 2 – 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp0rOi4dMJ8> (1:17) An inviting, sobering book review.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eFm3f6ZiTI> (18:37)

Setting: Mississippi, pre- and post- Civil War years. **Abraham Lincoln. Reconstruction. Hard history**; includes an illustration with a white man preparing to whip a Black man tied to a tree. (Not a photograph, so it's age appropriate, creating context and accuracy). After grabbing

opportunities to teach himself to read, and after a meteoric rise in prominence, Lynch was elected to the House of Representatives. But while John Roy Lynch was serving as a **Congressman** in Washington, D.C., life in his hometown area was rife with the evils that had plagued Black citizens during slavery. With rampant acts of violence and terror, and a determination by whites to succeed in crippling the newly freed Black citizens, voter suppression, burnings, beatings and murder were the norm. Lynch fought for civil rights during Reconstruction, later even becoming a historian to set the record straight to combat the inaccurate narrative of white supremacy that had reigned for so long.

Ellen's Broom <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFKRg9ZHorE> (8:57) Grades 2 - 3

Although set during **Reconstruction**, the tradition of “broom weddings” is explained in the story.

Grades 3 -

Elijah of Buxton Grades 3 – 7 (Chapter book; no video read-aloud available)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVCG3Qx5yf4> (preview only) (Note: the video begins with a graphic photograph of enslaved children, with chains around their necks, as they're about to be presented for sale. Please preview before using with your children. Discretion, discussion and judgment required.)

A page turner of a story as Elijah's poor choices almost end in life-changing disaster. Elijah, born free, in a settlement in Canada, called Buxton, is historical fiction.

Grades 4 -

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan

Grades 4 - up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUEPNkM8uFI> (For the teacher – book trailer)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2RWWXB8Nlc> (For the teacher – an intro)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-wG8PUcAk> (32:06)

Although enslaved people were usually simple entries in plantation bookkeeping records, with only rudimentary info given (“field hand” - \$800, girl - \$100”), the author allows these 11 slaves to come to life, as each one tells his / her own stories. Powerful.

Grades 5 -

Chains

Grades 5 – 9

Historical fiction. Setting: The **Revolutionary War** era. 1st in an award-winning **trilogy**, the story is gripping, intense and revolutionary on many levels. Readers will not want to put it down, and listeners will not want to stop hearing what comes next. (Warning: students may not be happy, if copies of the next 2 books in the series, *Forge* and *Ashes*, are not available at the library!)

Chapters 1 – 5 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSsM7FS_J8s (49:22)

Chapters 6 – 13 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4evctAWRxE> (1:04:18)

Chapters 14 – 19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcC86BR1R0c> (38:24)

Chapters 18 – 20 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oEFay8TPeM> (26:48)

Chapters 21 – 24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hu5-SMQsoCY> (34:43)

Chapters 25 – 29 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAIHctxlwto> (36:03)

Chapters 30 – 35 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Yq32tRlqB8> (53:17)

Chapters 36 – 40 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzcMMgFSEa8> (52:26)

Chapters 41 – 45 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ja5pBK0Y3XY> (51:30)

Love Twelve Miles Long https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C902TCHr_zo (8:14) Grade 7

This is not a video of this book. The book is beautiful and is for younger readers. But the video gives the viewer an idea of how long 12 miles really are by following a group of young adults around NYC.

Frederick Douglass was taken from his mother when he was young, but she would walk the 12 mile distance between her and her son when she could. A great idea for a family outing / project.

Civil Rights and Social Justice

PreK

An African American Alphabet: D is for Drinking Gourd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHa8emvlbuQ> (7:05) Grades PreK - 4

Another excellent **introductory overview** to the history of African Americans in America! M is for the **March on Washington**. (Teacher note: the actual book contains info for the teacher, but this reader in the video reads the text geared to the children.)

A is for Activist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZldCCKDgvF4> (7:18) PreK – Grade 3

An animated narrator takes the listener through the book that is in rhyme. A timely read. Even the youngest listener will find the sounds of the words engaging, even if the meanings of many are not clear. An exciting introduction to new vocabulary words related to advocacy and participation in the creation of meaningful change.

These Hands https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhgE2t-m_9o (2:32) PreK – Grade 1

The grandfather is talking to his grandson, telling him what his hands could do. His reminiscences include playing the piano, throwing a ball, and protesting **Jim Crow practices** in the bread factory, advancing the civil rights there. A gentle story.

We March https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHzsJOck_YE (1:55) (PreK – Grade 2)

Read by a young child, with background music and excerpts from history (**Dr. MLK, Jr's** speech), this lovely book is simple, geared to very young audiences, but appropriate for many ages. A great introduction to the concept of civil rights activism, centered on the story of the **1963 March on Washington**, with broad application to current events.

More Than Anything Else <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlYOdG7lOew> (8:20)

PreK – Grade 3

Booker T. Washington, born a slave, but free after the end of the Civil War, his story sets the stage for civil rights. Celebrity actor, Malcolm Jamal Warner, reads to a small group of children, who are spellbound. A delight.

Overground Railroad <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOWL-1lCTFk> (6:47) PreK – Grade 3

A description of the trip north during the **Great Migration**, (1917 – 1970), from NC to NYC - includes the names of the train stops and also a mention of Frederick Douglass, who had traveled north before them, except that it was years earlier and without a train ticket. The **Jim Crow South** is vividly juxtaposed with the North in a look at the train car seating changes, as they travel closer to NYC.

Tar Beach <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9RKJleFdBU> (4:56) PreK – Grade 3

A gentle reading by the author. A little girl's dreams allude to the nightmares of life in the **1930s and 40s**, while focusing on her dream-like quotidian good.

Mae Among the Stars https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_mfdgyBqT8 PreK – Grade 3

Non fiction. Biography about **Dr. Mae Jemison**. After a discouraging comment by Mae's teacher, Mae's mother encouraged her to follow any dream she had, telling her to always say to herself, "If I can believe it,...anything is possible." Although born in Alabama during the **Jim Crow** era in the late 1950s, Mae did follow her dreams – from Stanford University, in CA, with a degree in chemical engineering, then to Cornell, becoming an M.D. After serving in the Peace Corps in Africa, she entered NASA and became the **first African American female astronaut**, traveling to space on the *Endeavor* in 1992. After capturing another first, that of being the first real astronaut to act in a Star Trek episode, she heads 2 foundations. Mae speaks 4 languages.

Child of the Civil Rights Movement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbfRAoO142g> (14:43) (music throughout– excellent. Note: message from the author at the start) PreK – Grade 3

Setting: **Jim Crow, Deep South**. This is the perfect choice for a book to introduce the history of the modern civil rights activism to children of all ages. "Uncle Martin" is **Dr. MLK, Jr.**, "uncle" of Paula, the narrator, daughter of Andrew Young, activist, pastor, confidante of MLK, Jr, and former congressman and mayor of Atlanta, GA.

The Story of Ruby Bridges <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8D4ldGY41s> PreK – Grade 3

Setting: New Orleans, LA, 1960. Dressed in her Sunday best, little 6 year old Ruby, walks to school. Ordered by the President of the United States, **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, federal marshals protected her as she walked through crowds of angry white people, who shouted at her, called her names, and refused to send their white children to school with her. This is the story of how she saw things.

Ruby Bridges Goes to School: my True Story PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTRTfwUQ4bl> (Sankofa) (4:08)

Setting: New Orleans, LA, **1960**. Ruby's story is set in the context of the civil rights period of history. Photographs with simple statements, bringing the history into easy focus.

Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U-cXxVUR48> (8:16) PreK – Grade 2

Setting: Washington, D.C., at the turn of the 20th century. A little girl who grew up singing and dancing won accolades when she was still quite young, and quickly became a hot attraction in white performance venues – at a time when **Jim Crow** laws were the law of the land, preventing African Americans from entering those same venues (when atrocities against people of color in America were the norm). Florence demanded equal treatment for her friends and family members, refusing to perform unless her demands were met. Introducing **jazz** to white audiences between the 2 World Wars (in 1921), and a part of the huge movement called the Harlem Renaissance, she continued her fight throughout her life, not only for equal rights, but for principles that were right, as she allowed **compassion**, kindness and faith to guide her everyday choices involving everyday people.

Jazz on a Saturday Night PreK – Grade 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCfz8ILr_Po (9:20) This is a short stage musical based on this book. Wonderful! A great intro to jazz!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iJcNlqW8q8> (3:39) (Skip ahead to 1:21. The reader reads the entire introductory page, which is not for the young child, but rather for the adult).

A description in rhyme, capturing the heart of the need in the difficult times of **Jim Crow**, for a place where tired workers could “still hold the glow” and “feel the beat in [their] feet.”

Charlie Parker Played Be Bop PreK – Grade 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWPe_o7avac (2:24) A delightful jazzy presentation of the book!

Mister and Lady Day: Billie Holiday and the Dog Who Loved Her PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0U7Q2lZkyA> (5:27) This is not an exciting reading of this book, which is a shame. It's included b/c of the heritage of Billie Holiday in civil rights history. Hounded by one particular FBI leader in the 1950s b/c of his hatred of 2 things: drug users and

African Americans, Billie's life was cut short, as she fought to make the multi-layered message of abuse public. Her signature song (not appropriate for young children, reserved for high school students), "Strange Fruit," is about lynching. She sang it everywhere, and when she did, she insisted on "rules" - complete silence, and a blackened room with a single light shining on her as she sang the plaintive tune with the cutting words of facts.

A Voice Named Aretha <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7810Lo4YxYg> (14:44)

PreK – Grade 3

Setting: Detroit, Michigan. Civil Rights era. "The Queen of Soul" grew up in a home where civil rights leaders and prominent figures in the music industry gathered. **Dr. MLK, Jr.** went often. Divorce and death of a parent are themes that shaped the music of the "young girl with the old soul." With the ability to copy any music she heard almost instantly, she became a powerhouse, becoming the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. That same power advanced the civil rights cause, the place of women in society, as well as in her personal life with her steady business acumen guaranteeing payment in an industry where integrity and fairness were often not the norm. "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" was not only her most well-known song, but was the theme that seemed to have the power to move mountains, and "even a president."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FOUqQt3Kg0> (2:29) "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

Nina: Jazz Legend and Civil Rights Activist Nina Simone PreK – Grade 3

Begun with a lullaby excerpt that had been sung by Nina Simone, and continued as a bedtime story, the book is non-fiction, based on Simone's life experiences. A powerful voice in civil rights activism, her voice was loud, even in childhood. With a theme of affirmation, the book has an ethereal quality about it, lulling the listener in.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIXCDme0vJM> (8:18)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4kGc8bp7LY> (6:55) (A fun intro to this Nina Simone song, a video, with a teen's commentary - "Feeling Good")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTGiKYqk0gY> (2:51) (Another Nina Simone song - "Young, Gifted and Black")

Swing Sisters: The Story of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-xvflYyrhY> (8:40)

Setting: the **1930 and 40s. Jim Crow.** During WWII, the Sweethearts traveled across the ocean to play for the soldiers. Fighting danger and prejudice as an all-woman band, they were pioneers in the music industry, bringing hope to all who heard them.

Armond Fletcher, local African American **Chestertown** resident, tells a story of one of the most thrilling memories of his mother, of the day when she had waited patiently for the Swing Sisters to get off the bus that was bringing them to **Sumner Hall** for a performance.

Freedom Summer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rTxAWqHmUs> (6:09) PreK – Grade 3

Setting: Summer 1964, Mississippi. A view of the **Jim Crow South**, through one realistic incident: the town-sanctioned closing and destruction of a public swimming pool in the heat of the summer – in order to avoid compliance with integration guidelines. (Similarly, when the Freedom Riders were scheduled to come to **Chestertown** that same year, Stam’s Drug Store removed its stools so that customers of color would not be able to be seated. Through the eyes of 2 boys, one white and one Black.

Equality’s Call: The Story of Voting PreK – up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxOTcSKAny4> (8:31)

An exposition on **voting**, presented in verse, this book covers a LOT. There are *key words** that should be explained, along with an overview by the teacher, so that it makes sense to younger listeners. But even without that, the video has value, since the reader’s excitement and passion for the topic comes through. (From 1:21 to 2:50, the reader goes through the entire introductory page, which will be way too much for many of the youngest readers. So if this part can be skipped, it would be better for them. Or you can give it a shot and see what happens!) A valuable asset to the virtual library, the read-aloud can be visited and re-visited, with more gained with each time around. Note: Just as the pledge of allegiance is memorized, (big words and all!!), this book can be shared in the same way. Just presenting a couple of words each day might be a good way to tackle it with your child until you’ve repeated and repeated, with one reading each day + 2 new words each day, to the end.

**Key words*: equality, ratification, amendment, voting, citizens, founders, consent, declared, governed, election, representation, nation, granted, state, gender, race, wealth, property, polls, rolls, democracy, enfranchised, enslavement, abolition, suffrage, overdue, war, franchise, law, denial, omitted, permitted, muffle, suffragists, oppression, suppression, legislation, extend, protect, journey, tended, debt, owe, honor.

Freedom on the Menu <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECLs7qzkhf0> (8:59) PreK – Grade 3

Setting: **1960, Greensboro, NC.** (A tie-in story with **Dr. MLK, Jr.** History and to social activism). The true story, told from the perspective of an elementary aged, African American girl, who watched, first-hand, how change was made. All she'd wanted was a banana split, but having known privation and humiliation herself, she certainly understood that she was watching something bigger than ice cream unfold in front of her eyes.

I, Too, Am America <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZDbBGKpUw8> (1:25) PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKJob48kwoM> (:30 – a super short intro, appropriate for children – Begin with this video, then show the above book link.)

Setting: The **Pullman Porter era** (post Civil War – 1960s). Although this short, simple Langston Hughes poem focuses on the traditional role of African Americans in the RRs, his theme of hope and equality carries into contemporary times. (A tie-in story for **transportation** and **Rosa Parks**, with Parks's parallels drawn in the links below in the background section).

Background: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOgATGaTSrM> (2:24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yoYSkoCp5M> (5:09)

Coretta Scott <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZXkhdUI9ig> (6:52) PreK – Grade 4

With a quiet music background, the overall effect of the reading is soothing, as this non-fictional account of a slice of the history of African Americans is presented through this brief biography of Coretta Scott King, wife of Dr. MLK, Jr. Making reference to several historical events, the book is best used as a follow-up to others, rather than as an introduction.

Trombone Shorty PreK – Grade 3

https://www.google.com/search?q=trombone+shorty+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_en_US890US890&oq=trombone+shorty+&aqs=chrome.3.69i59j69i57j69i59j35i39j0l2j46j69i60.8706j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=wBNEX8HmH52pytMPi-GdkA021

Setting: **New Orleans.** Meet this **contemporary** (b. 1986) musician through this delightful reading. With music samples in the background, Actress Angela Bassett lends authenticity to this modern story that has roots birthed during earlier times, giving challenges, hope and inspiration to each hearer. (Even though this musician didn't live through Jim Crow or the 60s Civil Rights history, his music did. It is included for that reason.)

Ella: Queen of Jazz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf0vYVeFDDQ> (1:03) PreK – Grade 3

Music only. Text is not read. But the video is simple, and a great, brief introductory peek into Ella Fitzgerald and jazz.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Gt-Lj7fekK> (3:49) A sampling of scat, (**scat singing** is vocal improvisation with wordless syllables, combining improvised melodies, motifs and rhythmic patterns using the voice as an instrument, not unlike a trumpet or saxophone). made famous by Ella and others, is delightfully presented in this animated intro.

Kindergarten –

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/freedom-riders> K – 3

Story for an adult to read to students about the **Freedom Riders**.

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/storycorps-registering-to-vote> (1:49)

K – high school

Excellent video recording of one woman’s experience with the **voting laws** in the South during Jim Crow.

Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa Grades K – 3

Biography of singer-activist, Ella Fitzgerald. Intro to **jazz and scat**. Ella sang in **Chestertown** at Sumner Hall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qgonblpalo> (1:08) (An intro to this book – a preview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MIJitg3Zs8> (19:46) (This is the entire reading, but the intro reading is better).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbL9vr4Q2LU> (6:35) (Ella singing scat!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZ1gSLGnwqA> (9:05) (An Ella song - “Cry Me a River” - A love song, but the sound is a great example of the sound of jazz.)

Each Kindness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Var5X3uuYwE> (5:41) Grades K – 3

Setting: Anywhere. A heartbreaking, poignant story about the meanness of children towards their classmate, the new kid, who is “different” (due to her poverty). Set in this civil rights

anthology of literature for children, the theme of kindness dovetails perfectly, paving the way for other similar truths about perceived differences.

White Socks Only <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRuOdTqxBPU> (9:55) Grades K – 3

Setting: Mississippi: the **Jim Crow South**. Historic fiction. Beautifully told, this story of unity, justice and hope allows the youngest students to face hard truth.

Preaching to the Chickens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTFpsQyRfGs> (10:16)

Grades K-3 Setting: Alabama. **John Lewis's** childhood, focused mainly on his spiritual upbringing.

Teacher note: One of the main figures in the Civil Rights movement in the 60s, he led the march for voting rights on Bloody Sunday over the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma. Beaten numerous times, and arrested over 40 times, the work of social justice was, and is still, not easy.

A Sweet Smell of Roses <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLmECaBSNoY> (4:18) Grades K – 3

Setting: Civil Rights era. Innocent and unaware of danger, 2 young girls slip out of their house to join a **march** with **Dr. MLK, Jr.**, giving a glimpse into their simplistic view of the event. Sets the stage for the listener for more in-depth study.

The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgdRkkYsml8> (13:46) K – Grade 4

Setting: 1963, Birmingham Alabama. A true story of 9 year old Audrey Faye Hendricks, whose involvement with **Dr. MLK, Jr.** in the **Birmingham Children's March**, landed her in jail!

The Quickest Kid in Clarksville <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmsM76Ss4ZA> (5:36)

K – Grade 3

Setting: 1960, a parade honoring African American **Wilma Rudolph**, the first U.S. woman to win 3 gold medals at the same Olympics. A story of competitive grade school girls whose **competitions** evolve into cooperation as they honor their hero together, giving clear evidence of how higher choices are the best ones.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYQXYVwa4YE> (2:52) For the adult and older students – an excellent short bio, giving more inspirational info about Wilma Rudolph.

Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Runner K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSIPYPCi254> (12:08)

A tiny, energetic, determined little girl, Wilma overcame polio and an inability to walk, becoming the first Black woman to win 3 Olympic gold medals. A hero on the track and off, she spoke up against segregation, making history in her small town, as well as in the world. A delightful reading, complete with music and sound effects. The story captures the breathtaking drama of Wilma's 3 winning track races, as well as the collective excitement of the nation, with the National Anthem playing in the background. A story championing dedication, courage and integrity.

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4o5Mj4DsVQ> (9:23)

Setting: 1990s – 2000s: “The greatest story in tennis.” Scraping and sweeping broken-glass-strewn tennis courts, and dodging bullets near those courts during their earliest years, with their parents training and cheering them on, the girls crashed and catapulted through tennis norms and records to become the world's # 1 and # 2 in the sport. Traditionally a white sport, “long-legged, brown-skinned, beaded cornrowed sisters stood out in a sea of white tennis attire,” and racist fans didn't know quite what to do with them. Powerful and passionate, they were a force to be reckoned with, and the white world had to figure it out, as the sport was changed forever.

The Bat Boy and His Violin K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKPWwoainuw> (10:23)

Setting: 1940s, **Negro Baseball League. Segregation.** Reginald's father's life revolves around baseball, his dream for his son as well. But young Reginald is already an accomplished violinist, and has his own dreams. His father insists Reginald help out at the games by being a bat boy, but it doesn't go well – until Reginald begins playing his violin – and they are all changed.

I Have a Dream, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. K - up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf6osaOmH5c> (9:39) (There are annoying puppets in the beginning, but the pictures are clearly visible and the reader an excellent reader and teacher).

Setting: Washington, D.C., **1963, March on Washington**. Highlights of the text of the speech, Kadir Nelson's illustrations bring the historic words to life. A youtube video introduction to the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKud-sNk6Ds> (1:16)

If You're Going to a March <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHwuv0fZloM> (6:20) K - up

Setting: contemporary. A practical guide to participation as a young social activist: making signs, taking water, etc, bringing **current events** down to the level of young children.

Rocket Says Look Up! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMyxCH_y2MY (5:31) Grades K – 2.

Setting: contemporary. In this read-aloud, the book is introduced by a child, and read by her mom. The story is about a little girl, named Rocket, and her dreams of thinking big, made possible by **civil rights pioneers** who have gone before her.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OofJFHSPAts> (3:00) Grades K – 2

(A kid-friendly book review by the author and illustrator)

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon K – Grade 3 (No YouTube video read-aloud)

A biography, which introduces the reader to Phil's struggle in school, as he was trying to learn to read. His supportive family members encourage him to explore other academic gifts, previously hidden by his early failures. Phil forms ideas about his world, learning about Jim Crow in the South through stories by his father, a businessman whose travel took him there. He sees heroes in his everyday world, as he takes in civil rights events while growing up, watching Dr. MLK, Jr on TV, even as his own dad is there in Washington at the March. He learns to dream, as his personal world expands in high school and college, as success is achieved. His deep commitment to integrity is his hallmark, taking only jobs that had meaning and value, that would elevate others. He was the perfect choice to be on the team to plan the National African American Museum in Washington, D.C.

Human Computer: Mary Jackson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQITbi30DaY> (3:41)

Grades K – 3

Segregation tries to keep a talented woman down, but Mary pushes through it, securing her place at NASA and in America's space history.

Talkin' About Bessie (not available as a read-aloud on youtube) A story in short poems. K – 3

Brave Bessie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ec3Wo9tdBU> (7:10) Biography.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDProFrAcgI> (An animated biography of **Bessie Coleman**, the first African American woman **pilot** during the **Jim Crow** era).

Wind Flyers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLSgImCR0qY> (3:17) K – Grade 3

An introduction to the **Tuskegee Airmen**, African American airmen of World War II. With beautiful illustrations, children are introduced to these brave fighters of civil rights freedoms through their fight for their country.

*A Computer Called Katherine: How **Katherine Johnson** Helped Put America on the Moon*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jmOT3jrdBs> (7:44) K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKxgieXQ82w> (2:06) Grade 3 (an excellent short bio)

Setting: NASA in the 1950s and 60s. (See notes below). An exciting look at not only how math trajectories can make a difference, but how by simply speaking up, refusing to remain complicit in silence, other kinds of changes can be made in **human rights** trajectories.

Mahalia Jackson: Walking With Kings and Queens <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-ct5mEWs-I> (5:07) K – Grade 3

A lovely reading. Mahalia sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, during the March on Washington, when **Dr. MLK, Jr.** Gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.

*She Loved Baseball: The **Effa Manley** Story* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dO6Wg4G6Xmc> (10:32)

Negro League Baseball players gained a place in history, at the Baseball Hall of Fame, because of Effa’s love of the sport and her letter writing campaign. A former baseball team owner and aficionado, she also made baseball history, becoming the first woman to also be inducted.

Sing a Song: How Lift Every Voice and Sing Inspired Generations K – Grade 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3IT35G4Z_g (7:06)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngFDy52eCZY> (4:31) A riveting performance by a men's acapella group.

The book presents the history of the song, known as the "African American National Anthem," which was first sung as part of a birthday celebration for Abraham Lincoln. The story takes the reader through history and the **civil rights** heritage held within the stanzas of the song. A beautiful reading of a beautiful book.

Grades 1 -

Counting on Katherine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXtTMCBpXRg> (7:20) Grades 1 - 3

Setting: NASA in the 1950s and 60s. With patience and perseverance, waiting out delays due to **segregation and racism**, **Katherine Johnson** became one of the African American human "computers" at **NASA** in the 1950s – 60s. Her intellect and acumen catapulted her to a position of hero as she saved the Apollo 13 space mission when the now-famous statement came in from space, "Houston, we have a problem." Correcting that problem - of a space explosion, affecting the path of the space shuttle, and threatening the lives of the astronauts onboard - Katherine responded to the critical challenge. It was her quick thinking and logical, thorough, complicated math calculations that saved the day in America's space history, and the lives of the astronauts onboard. She died in Feb, 2020.

Hidden Figures: Young Readers Edition <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRaNQ6jgcVY>

(12:47) Grades 1 – up Setting: 1940s – 1960s. **NASA**. Hear the stories of 4 African American women at NASA, grinding and gritting their paths from **segregation** and Jim Crow mindsets to acclaimed places in American history.

Song: *Oh, Freedom* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veiJLhXdown8> (3:04) Grades 1 – up

The backdrop for this powerful song is a **series of iconic scenes** from the Civil Rights era.

*I, **Matthew Henson**: Polar Explorer* Grades 1 – 3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fniVum_Szd8 (1:07) a brief animated intro to Henson and Peary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atJrxxV4azg> (1:58) an animated rap focused on Henson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqUTxkjULoc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNJCl3EtTtE> (2:50)

There is no YouTube read-aloud for this book, but a brief sketch about Henson appears in *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*.

(Note: a message to teachers about *28 Days* is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4NN8zIWILk>)

Martin's Big Words <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWT9H3aV1o> (5:03) Grades 1 – 4

An excellent overview of **Dr. MLK, Jr.** - of his life, his dreams and his works.

Lillian's Right to Vote <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geQYBF2ir0E> (12:51) Grades 1 – 4

Setting: Alabama. Contemporary. A beautiful story of an old woman climbing slowly up a steep hill, which turns out to be a “hill of history.” An overview of Lillian’s ancestors, which is an overview of history, from slavery till today. Packed with a punch and with lots of facts, listeners hear the names of notables: **Dr. MLK, Jr., John Lewis, LBJ**, with the story ending in success, as Lillian’s gnarled hand pushes the voting lever: victory at last.

Election Day <https://www.amazon.com/Election-Day-Rookie-Read-About-Holidays/dp/0516274880> (This is not a read-aloud. It is a companion book to the one above, about **voting**.) PreK – Grade 2

Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra Grades 1 – 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu-NwGOfQyw> (10:09)

Setting: At the very end of the 1800s, Duke was born. NYC. Honky-tonks, the *umpty dump* sound, the Cotton Club, Carnegie Hall, “cutting the rug”: big words of the era. Read by a gentle-sounding African American man, a Birmingham City Councilor-pastor, the listener learns how civil rights were tackled through the sweet, honeyed “Black, Brown, and Beige” color sounds of smooth jazz, rockin’ ragtime and sassy swing by The Duke.

Note: <https://www.npr.org/2019/02/22/697075534/a-sprawling-blueprint-for-protest-music-courtesy-of-the-jazz-duke>

Let the Children March <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoBPKwjiDL8> (6:39) Grades 1 - 4

Setting: 1963, Birmingham, Alabama, the **Birmingham Children's March**. A good, age-appropriate look at the **Jim Crow South** that ties into **Dr. MLK, Jr** history, as Dr. King said that the children "were not too young to want [their] freedom: Let the children march. They will lead the way." Dressed in their Sunday best, but unarmed against the powerful water hoses that knocked them down and shoved them into the dirt, they were dragged into the paddy wagon that would take them to jail – with so many stuffed into the cells that there was no more room for other children willing to fight. A story of courage and strength, giving hope that one voice and one stand – even by one child – can make a difference in the world.

Back of the Bus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXUxkiwEqHs> (5:36) Grades 1 - 3

Setting: Montgomery, AL, 1955. Historic fiction. A young Black boy plays with his marble on the bus, as **Rosa Parks** enters the story by returning his rolling marble back to him. It turns out to be the day when Rosa Parks makes her stand by staying in her seat, with "lightnin' storm eyes," and the young boy catches a glimpse of purpose, courage and hope.

Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America Grades 1 - 6

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqMDwttq_dl (4:08)

Setting: Washington, D.C. 1930s – 1990s. Biography. Born in KS, traveling to Minnesota, with a stop in Chicago, a challenge by an employer takes him to the nation's capital. Fighting **racism, segregation and inequality** through his camera lens, Parks's story is compelling. Drawing a parallel between a classic piece of iconic art, *American Gothic*, <https://www.artic.edu/artworks/6565/american-gothic>, (painted in the 1930s by Grant Woods, a white artist), Gordon gives a riveting contrast to the working poor, as he captures Ella Watson, a cleaning lady, on film: <https://collections.artsmia.org/art/100557/american-gothic-washington-d-c-gordon-parks>. An inspiring story, Gordon's life and work give hope to young readers, and a hero to look up to.

Show Way <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r8Rtu2PLJ0> (12:09) Grades 1 - 6

The author, Jacqueline Woodson, reads her book about the generations in her own family. Accompanied by music, with the selections changing with each generation. From slavery, past Civil Rights, to today. Beautiful. Absolutely beautiful.

New Shoes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-1bKQcM15U> (6:50) (The reading is just “ok,” but the story is wonderful.) Grades 1 - 4

Setting: the 1960s, in an unnamed place, but it could’ve been **Chestertown** b/c local African Americans remember these same circumstances. A beautiful, honest piece of historic fiction about a 7 year old girl’s experience during the **Jim Crow era**. We watch as her humiliation drives her to a higher place of compassion for others, as she shares with her friends a practical way to rise above their unfair, unequal circumstances.

The Other Side <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C80HdoDkHxY&t=77s> (5:53) Grades 1 – 4

A beautiful story about **segregation**, and about how friendship sometimes crosses over “to the other side.”

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAg34W4bfxQ> (16:33) Grades 1 - 4

Setting: 1947, California – a true, 1st person story of 3rd grader, Sylvia, from Mexico. As Southern Black children were targeted for abuse by their neighbors, Brown children in the country were also facing **fight for equality**. Accused of being dirty, stupid and inferior to the Caucasian race, a few brave families risked all they had to fight the falsehoods governing the school system through the **systemic racism** shown to them in their everyday lives. The court decision that gave the Mendez children the right to attend the “white” school came just 7 years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, paving the way for all children in the country to be treated the same.

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down Grades 1 - 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO5mkbaY0AQ> (10:49)

Teacher Background: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgIMTkmzBck> (6:42) An excellent intro to the teacher.

Setting: **1960, Greensboro, NC**. (Another excellent story about the **sit-ins**).

Grades 2 -

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone Grades 2 - 3

https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&sxsrf=ALeKk01YdpWcyBC4fkFs_bx0TpiijlHB7Zg%3A1598295904724&ei=YA9EX8jrK6uwytMPwImCmAY&q=little+melba+and+her+big+trombone+read+aloud+youtube&oq=little+melba+and+her+big+trombone+read+aloud+youtube&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAzIFCCEQqwl6BwgiEOoCECc6BAgjECc6BQguEJECogsILhCxAXD_HARCjAjoFCAAQsQM6CAguELEDEIMBOgQIABBDOgclLhAUEIcCOgQILhBDOgclLhCxAXBDOgclLhAnEJMCOggILhCxAXCRAjoiCC4QxwEQrwE6BQguELEDogILljoCCAA6BggAEBYQHjoFCCEQoAE6BwghEAoQoAFQ0pkBWNbsAWDt7gFoAXAAeACAAdEBiAHpJ5IBBzMzLjE4LiGYAQcGqAQGqAQdnd3Mt_d2l6sAEKwAEB&scient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEWjlm5adxLTrAhUrmHIEHcCEAGMQ4dUDCAw&uact=5#kpvalbx=_gA9EX9qmF8-JytMPi5mCkAc22

Setting: Kansas City, 1930s – 70s. The Jim Crow South.

A star musician and student, her mother gave her blessing for Melba to explore jazz. She took off while still in her teens, and didn't stop – even when things got tough – till she'd visited spots all over the world! She played with the top names of the industry, and came out on top herself.

Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968 Grades 2 - 5

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrbGrqynB_g (25:36)

Setting: 1968, Memphis, TN. 9-year-old Lorraine tells the true story of how “freedom is never free” - about her daddy's job, demands for decent pay and safe conditions, and how it all related to **Dr. MLK, Jr's assassination** in her city, the day after he gave a speech titled “I've Been to the Mountaintop.” For older elementary students.

Martin & Mahalia: His Words / Her Song Grades 2 - 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aofEnz4v7I> (10:19)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odHgG1rA4M8> (2:55) an exciting video of Mahalia singing while on the stage with **Dr. MLK, Jr.** Children will “get the feel” for the energy of the movement.

Setting: The South & Washington, D.C., 1950s –60s, the civil rights era. Tie-in story with Rosa Parks. A narrative montage of the era.

Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker (no read aloud available)

Jazz Age Josephine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fURIME9mm2s> (7:15) Grades 2 - 5

Josephine Baker had a rough start, but after she got fed up with Jim Crow and blackface, she danced and sang her way to Paris, finally feeling free. A story in rhyme.

Song: “Ain’t Let Nobody Turn Me Around” (Scenes from Civil Rights era on video) Grades 2 - 7
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sieDJNW66sY> (3:10)

*The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of **Raye Montague*** Grades 2 – 5

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwBBrC_b8Ww (8:28)

Setting: 1940s in the segregated **Jim Crow South**, Arkansas. Biography about a little Black girl whose dreams seemed out of reach at first, but encouraged by her mom, she kept going until she made naval history.

*The Amazing Age of **John Roy Lynch*** Grades 2 – 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp0rOi4dMJ8> (1:17) An inviting, sobering book review.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eFm3f6ZITl> (18:37)

Setting: Mississippi, pre- and post- Civil War years. **Abraham Lincoln. Reconstruction. Hard history**; includes an illustration with a white man preparing to whip a Black man tied to a tree. (Not a photograph, so it’s age appropriate, creating context and accuracy). After grabbing opportunities to teach himself to read, and after a meteoric rise in prominence, Lynch was elected to the House of Representatives. But while John Roy Lynch was serving as a **Congressman** in Washington, D.C., life in his hometown area was rife with the evils that had plagued Black citizens during slavery. With rampant acts of violence and terror, and a determination by whites to succeed in crippling the newly freed Black citizens, voter suppression, burnings, beatings and murder were the norm. Lynch fought for civil rights during Reconstruction, later even becoming a historian to set the record straight to combat the inaccurate narrative of white supremacy that had reigned for so long.

Grades 3 -

Ida B. Wells / Let The Truth Be Told <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tChQK-Fx90c> (12:53)
Grades 3 – 6

Setting: Mississippi, Post Civil War – early 1900s. Born a slave, Ida B. Wells was one of the most important, powerful African American figures in history. A teacher, activist, writer, and political candidate for the American senate during the Jim Crow era, and friend to **Frederick Douglass**, she was small in stature, but loud in her voice, speaking out about unfair treatment towards Black men, (especially through **lynching***), and she was mighty in accomplishments. (* Teacher note: There is a local group of activists which is working to bring racial reconciliation to **Chestertown** through the erecting of a lynching memorial).

*Little Leaders: **Bold Women in Black History*** Grades 3 - 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JskSORRi1bA> (2:09)

An engaging book review shared by a high school aged African American female – to encourage students to visit the public library to check out the book. Contains an overview of 40 Black women in history. Exciting!

We Are The Ship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us6l_ECf4zo (11:00) Grades 3 – 7

“First Inning” (Chapter 1)

Using different voices for different ball players, an African American master reader reads the story of **Negro League Baseball** in the era of **Jim Crow**. An exciting story that will keep listeners of every age on the edges of their seats. Even if you never had any interest at all in baseball, you’ll ask yourself wondering why you waited so long to hear this story.

“Second Inning” (Chapter 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9R-WFPkUkg> (9:05)

“Third Inning” (Chapter 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtROdq1o37Q> (10:30)

“Fourth Inning” (Chapter 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtG8O0EqsEY> (11:29)

“Fifth Inning” (Chapter 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDIIM2fgEYs> (13:30)

“Sixth Inning” (Chapter 6) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JT-6W9mKI2c> (6:35)

“Seventh Inning” (Chapter 7) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWJ_HrCmxcc (9:40)

“Eighth Inning” (Chapter 8) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42wzVV0qz3w> (6:10)

“Ninth Inning” (Chapter 9) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_7o2bU9qIlg (13:50)

(This is the chapter about Jackie Robinson).

*The Watsons Go to **Birmingham*** – 1963 (a chapter book) Chapter 1 Grades 3 - 8

https://www.google.com/search?q=the+watsons+go+to+birmingham+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&oq=the+watsons+go+to+birmingham+read+aloud+youtube&ags=cchrome..69i57j0l3j69i64l2.8789j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx= KCc4X4 pN62p5wLKzp QCA21 (14:49)

Setting: Birmingham, AL, 1963. Historic fiction. Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award and also a Newberry Honor Book. Read aloud by a child, the reader may be the age of 10 year old Kenny. At the outset of the book, the family is living in Flint, MI, but they're headed south. "...a warmly memorable evocation of an African-American family." - Horn Book Magazine

One Crazy Summer (an award-winning chapter book, 1st in a trilogy about 3 sisters)

Grades 3-7

Setting: CA, **1968**

Students can order the other 2 books in the series from the library: P.S. Be Eleven and One Crazy in Alabama, all by Rita Williams-Garcia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkaZhialt0o> (14:26) Chapter 1 (There's a short lesson before the actual reading, but it's not long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os4xhifL5Lw> (19:41) Chapters 2-3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= FGfri8QDqM> (32:46) Chapters 4-7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3e70hPL80MY> (22:40) Chapters 8-10

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLYi6W_6CyQ (36:48) Chapters 11-14

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=El5owuzXUGY> (32:48) Chapters 15-18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQDw6e4Xys4> (24:12) Chapters 19-21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJW3SvJm5nE> (22:28) Chapters 22-24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSgruxeURJQ> (34:18) Chapter 25-28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFa2HUekK1U> (7:56) Chapter 29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kxPun5VQrl> (31:30) Chapter 30-33

Grades 4 -

Finding Langston (1st book in a trilogy) Grades 4 - 7

Chapter 1 + part of Chapter 2 -

https://www.google.com/search?q=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&oq=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.10381j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvallbx=bhJX5S1EYqzytMP7KyDsAY23 - A fantastic reading by actor Dion Graham.

Unfortunately, it's only a tease, since the listener will want to grab the book asap, to finish reading the story!! A wonderful introduction to the book, a lovely story and winner of the Coretta Scott King Award.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson Grades 4 – 7

An award-winning book about Bandit, aka, Shirley, an Asian immigrant who struggles to fit into an unwelcoming, uncertain, unfamiliar, and unsettling set of circumstances. Her love of **Jackie Robinson** brings joy and hope.

“January” (Chapter One) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeAltgp5PDw> (31:34)

“February” (Chapter Two) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-TMt4f2gsk> (22:34)

“March” “April” (Chapters 3 – 4) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC_zPanAnQ8 (32:05)

“May” (Chapter 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waQKKI4hi9c> (17:33)

“June” “July” (Chapters 6 – 7) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJIDlxzKagY> (21:01)

“August” (Chapter 8) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTus0wMD_4 (13:44)

“September” (Chapter 9, part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMFH0AVZAtA> (6:37)

“September” (Chapter 9, part 2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C_h9AWRi3s (8:38)

“September” (Chapter 9, part 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbglFcZOkt0> (11:59)

“October” (Chapter 10) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY6eESFisrA> (5:49)

“November” (Chapter 11) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMtSJc-hKil> (6:20)

“December” (Chapter 12, part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX2fU5PsPvk> (7:47)

“December” (Chapter 12, part 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0cT1wrfQ3g> (8:06)

Paul Robeson <https://www.amazon.com/Paul-Robeson-Eloise-Greenfield/dp/1600602622>

(There is no read-aloud. The above link contains info about the book).

Grades 4 – up

https://www.leeandlow.com/books/paul-roberson/teachers_guide

(Below are youtube links about Robeson – both well done).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQbA6ZtT7oE> (1:31)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNgutuM82rM> (6:44) Brings Robeson's history into contemporary context.

*Lift as You Climb: The Story of **Ella Baker*** Grades 4 - 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5WfdjTb5rs> (16:58)

Setting: NC. The **Jim Crow South**. Grassroots movements – from the bottom to the top: “What do you hope to accomplish?” Ella’s question of all of her peers involved in social activism was the same. Her method of levelling the playing field by involving those at the bottom of social rungs, as well as those at the top, was groundbreaking. Sharecroppers without choices, to preachers and physicians with many, were members of the same teams, in order to work together to accomplish change. She told them to lift as they climbed, (sit-ins, Freedom Rides), and so they did, accomplishing much, but leaving plenty more to do, as we continue to ask today: “What do we hope to accomplish?”

*Voice of Freedom: **Fannie Lou Hamer** / The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTDGar-Zw8U> (2:45) Grades 4 – 7 This is a book talk, to pique the interest of students who'd like to check the book out of their local library.

Grades 5 -

Finding Langston (1st book in a trilogy) Grades 5 - 7

Chapter 1 + part of Chapter 2 -

https://www.google.com/search?q=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&oq=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.10381j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_bhJX5S1EYqzytMP7KyDsAY23 - A fantastic reading by actor Dion Graham.

Unfortunately, it's only a tease, since the listener will want to grab the book asap, to finish reading the story!! A wonderful introduction to the book, a lovely story and winner of the Coretta Scott King Award.

Bud, Not Buddy (a chapter book) Grades 5 – 7

Setting: Michigan, 1930s **The Great Depression**. An award-winning classic. A story of courage, perseverance and hope.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3XAwXob1bo> (11:19) Chapter 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24qAMj42ix4> (17:04) Chapter 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1t1LDQPEu5g> (11:33) Chapter 3
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-ZM65OwVg8> (5:50) Chapter 4
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZvPNYCOXbo> (11:19) Chapter 5
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xnf3HgNoMOg> (10:02) Chapter 6
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcmUNir2LVg> (8:52) Chapter 7
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oazJ3Mw8Li0> (19:52) Chapter 8 - Part 1
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lqsWHBFdvM> (17:52) Chapter 8 – Part 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaslzeQUs78> (10:29) Chapter 9
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK4r1T-C6ms> (14:09) Chapter 10
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf3Z3xiUIMM> (27:01) Chapter 11
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjoKKYVklpY> (24:06) Chapter 12
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7ZJ_xMnTNE (13:51) Chapter 13
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG5Te_S9SX8 (18:43) Chapter 14
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBm6C0lpEpc> (11:09) Chapter 15
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lj-Ar-qW5M> (17:17) Chapter 16
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujgDJNOT4S4> (7:31) Chapter 17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhceJuNI8k> (12:04) Chapter 18
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WxqQfAwnzl> (28:07) Chapter 19
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7apCQ70_XkA (5:46) Afterword

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom (a chapter book – a review only, so students can check out book from the library) Grades 5 - 9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU_Ss81hIH0 (2:12)

Please visit Sumner Hall, and ask to see the Children's Library collection! You're welcome to explore and enjoy the books while visiting on-site. (It is not a lending library; the themed book boxes are reserved for use by local educators.)

Copies to take home can be acquired through the Kent County Public Library. Please visit <http://www.kentcountylibrary.org/> to check out books and to receive more information.