

BLACK BOOKS MATTER

Many of the books in this list are written by Black authors and/or include main characters who are Black. Many of these books can serve as a starting place for children and families to learn about race, racism, prejudice, discrimination, and inequity to help understand our history and current events. It is never too early to start important conversations around race, the Black Lives Matter movement, and racial injustice.

Last updated: June 2020

PICTURE BOOKS

The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander
The Case for Loving by Selina Alko
Dancing in the Wings by Debbie Allen
Trombone Shorty by Troy Andrews
Preaching to the Chickens by Jabari Asim
Fifty Cents and a Dream by Jabari Asim
Granddaddy's Turn by Michael S. Bandy
Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes
I am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes
Knock Knock by Daniel Beaty
Not Norman by Kelly Bennett
Soccer Fence by Phil Bildner
The Legend of the Valentine by Katherine Grace Bond
Brown Boy Joy by Dr. Thomishia Booker
My Cold Plum Lemon Pie... by Tameka Fryer Brown
Imani's Wood by Janay Brown-Wood
ABC of African American Poetry by Ashley Bryan
Freedom Over Me by Ashley Bryan
I am Enough by Grace Byers
My Hair is a Garden by Cozbi A. Cabrera
Something Happened in our Town by Marianne Celano
All Because you Matter by Tami Charles
Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry
The New Small Person by Lauren Child
Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson
Freedom's School by Lesa Cline-Ransome
When Harriet Met Sojourner by Catherine Clinton
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
Our Children Can Soar by Michelle Cook
Full, Full, Full of Love by Trish Cooke
Max and the Tag Along Moon by Floyd Cooper
Firebird by Misty Copeland
Swing Sisters by Karen Dean
Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña
Yours for Justice by Philip Dray
Enough! 20 Protesters Who... by Emily Easton
We March by Shane W. Evans
K is for Kwanzaa by Juwanda G. Ford
Rosa by Nikki Giovanni
The First Step by Susan E. Goodman
Son of Promise, Child of Hope by Nikki Grimes
Chasing Freedom by Nikki Grimes
Talkin' Bout Bessie by Nikki Grimes
Welcome Precious by Nikki Grimes
Dreaming Up by Christy Hale
The People Could Fly by Virginia Hamilton
Little Leaders by Vashti Harrison
Little Legends by Vashti Harrison
Not my Idea by Anastasia Higginbotham
When the Beat was Born by Laban Carrick Hill
Dave the Potter by Laban Carrick Hill

An Angel Just Like Me by Mary Hoffman
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
Boundless Grace by Mary Hoffman
Steamboat School by Deborah Hopkinson
I, Too, Am America by Langston Hughes
That is my Dream by Langston Hughes
Daddy Calls me Man by Angela Johnson
Wind Flyers by Angela Johnson
A Sweet Smell of Roses by Angela Johnson
Baby Blessings by Deloris Jordan
A Letter to Amy by Ezra Jack Keats
Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats
Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi
I Have a Dream by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
The Big Bed by Bunmi Laditan
Let's Talk about Race by Julius Lester
Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine
The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson
We Shall Overcome by Debbie Levy
Take a Picture of Me... by Andrea J. Loney
Jada Jones by Kelly Starling Lyons
Hands Up! by Breanna J. McDaniel
Miami Jackson by Patricia McKissack
Don't Touch my Hair by Sharee Miller
Saturday by Oge Mora
Blue Sky, White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus
The Wedding Portrait by Innosanto Nagara
A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara
Mama Miti by Donna Jo Napoli
He's Got the Whole World... by Kadir Nelson
We are the Ship by Kadir Nelson
Heart and Soul by Kadir Nelson
Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson
Don't Call me Grandma by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Bad News for Outlaws by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
The Book Itch by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o
Of Thee I Sing by Barack Obama
The Field by Baptiste Paul
Hey Black Child by Useni Eugene Perkins
Sit-In: How Four Friends... by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Boycott Blues by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Step-Stomp Stride by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Let it Shine by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco
Josephine: The Dazzling Life by Patricia Hruby Powell
Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Alexander Ramsey
Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
If a Bus Could Talk by Faith Ringgold
You Matter by Christian Robinson
Under the Same Sun by Sharon Robinson
Only Passing Through by Anne Rockwell
M is for Melanin by Tiffany Rose
When Marian Sang by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Malcolm Little by Ilyasah Shabazz
We Troubled the Waters by Ntozake Shange
Child of the Civil Rights... by Paula Young Shelton
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
This is the Dream by Diane Z. Shore
Brick by Brick by Charles R. Smith, Jr.
Radiant Child by Javaka Steptoe
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
I Love my Hair! by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley
Poet: The Remarkable Story... by Don Tate
It Jes' Happened by Don Tate
The Blacker the Berry by Joyce Carol Thomas
My Name is Truth by Ann Turner
Desmond and the Very Mean Word by Desmond Tutu
A Storm Called Katrina by Myron Uhlberg
Love Will See You Through by Angela Farris Watkins
Harlem's Little Blackbird by Renée Watson
I, Matthew Henson by Carole Boston Weatherford
Schomburg: The Man... by Carole Boston Weatherford
Gordon Parks: How the... by Carole Boston Weatherford
Dear Mr. Rosenwald by Carole Boston Weatherford
Before John was a Jazz... by Carole Boston Weatherford
Freedom on the Menu by Carole Boston Weatherford
Freedom in Congo... by Carole Boston Weatherford
Moses by Carole Boston Weatherford
Freedom Summer by Deborah Wiles
Lillian's Right to Vote by Jonah Winter
The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson
Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson
Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth

MIDDLE GRADE

Roots and Blues by Arnold Adoff
The Playbook by Kwame Alexander
The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste
Pathfinders by Tonya Bolden
Through my Eyes by Ruby Bridges
Woke: A Young Poet's... by Mahogany L. Browne
Jefferson's Sons by Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker
Hurricane Child by Kheryn Callendar
Like Vanessa by Tami Charles
So Done by Paula Chase
Dough Boys by Paula Chase
The Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert
Passenger on the Pearl by Winifred Conkling
New Kid by Jerry Craft
The Mighty Miss Malone by Christopher Paul Curtis
The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
The Watsons Go to... by Christopher Paul Curtis
Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper
Blended by Sharon Draper
It All Comes Down to This by Karen English
One Crazy Summer by Rita Garcia
Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar Giles
A Strong Right Arm by Michelle Y. Green
Planet Middle School by Nikki Grimes
Jazmin's Notebook by Nikki Grimes
Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes
We Rise, We Resist, We Raise... by Wade Hudson
A Sky Full of Stars by Linda Williams Jackson
Now Let me Fly by Dolores Johnson
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson
The Boy who Harnessed... by William Kamkwamba
If You Lived When There was... by Anne Kamma
Robert Smalls: The Boat Thief by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
The Crossover by Alexander Kwame
Day of Tears by Julius Lester
From Slave Ship to Freedom Road by Julius Lester
The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine
We've Got a Job by Cynthia Levinson
For Black Girls like Me by Mariama J. Lockington
The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon
What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado
From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks
Tristan Strong Punches a Hole ... by Kwame Mbalia
A Picture of Freedom by Patricia C. McKissack
Never Forgotten by Patricia C. McKissack

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore
Harlem: A Poem by Walter Dean Myers
Harlem Summer by Walter Dean Myers
The Journal of Biddy Owens by Walter Dean Myers
The Journal of Joshua Loper by Walter Dean Myers
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
How High the Moon by Karyn Parsons
Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen
A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramée
Ghost by Jason Reynolds
As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds
Patine by Jason Reynolds
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Sugar by Jewell Parker Rhodes
The Hero Two Doors Down by Sharon Robinson
Brown V. Board of Education by Susan Goldman Rubin
Glory Be by Augusta Scattergood
Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly
The Way a Door Closes by Hope Anita Smith
Twelve Rounds to Glory by Charles R. Smith Jr.
Clean Getaway by Nic Stone
Celeste's Harlem Renaissance by Eleanora Tate
Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
Let the Circle be Unbroken by Mildred D. Taylor
The Road to Memphis by Mildred D. Taylor
The Land by Mildred D. Taylor
Some Places More than Others by Renée Watson
Voice of Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford
Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams
Clayton Byrd Goes... by Rita Williams-Garcia
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
P.S. Be Eleven by Rita Williams-Garcia
Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia
President of the Whole Fifth Grade by Sherri Winston
Locomotion by Jaqueline Woodson
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Feathers by Jaqueline Woodson
My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi

TEEN

Becoming Kareem by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
Seeds of America Trilogy by Laurie Halse Anderson
Sugar Changed the World by Marc Aronson
Saving Savannah by Tonya Bolden
The Moves Make the Man by Bruce Brooks
Black Girl Unlimited by Echo Brown
Tyler Johnson was Here by Jay Coles
Getting Away With Murder by Chris Crowe
Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper
Say Her Name by Zatta Elliot
The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake
Not so Pure and Simple by Lamar Giles
Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
Making Our Way Home by Blair Imani
Monday's Not Coming by Tiffany D. Jackson
Let me Hear a Rhyme by Tiffany D. Jackson
This Book is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell
You Should See me in a Crown by Leah Johnson
I'm Not Dying with You Tonight by Kimberly Jones
March by John Lewis
Turning 15 on the Road to... by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
The Rock and the River by Kekla Magoon
How it Went Down by Kekla Magoon
Light it Up by Kekla Magoon
I am Alfonso Jones by Tony Medina
Slay by Brittney Morris
A Song Below Water by Bethany C. Morrow
The Cruisers by Walter Dean Myers
The Dream Bearers by Walter Dean Myers
The Glory Field by Walter Dean Myers
A Wreath for Emmitt Till by Marilyn Nelson
Anger is a Gift by Mark Oshiro
Who Put This Song On? by Morgan Parker
Sarny by Gary Paulsen
Loving VS Virginia by Patricia Hruby Powell
Miles Morales Spider-Man by Jason Reynolds
The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds
Stamped by Jason Reynolds
After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay
X: a novel by Ilyasah Sabazz
The Rose that Grew from Concrete by Tupac Shakur
The Port Chicago 50 by Steve Sheinkin
Just Mercy: Adapted for YA by Bryan Stevenson
Dear Martin by Nic Stone
Jackpot by Nic Stone
Calling my Name by Liara Tamani
All the Days Past, All the Days... by Mildred D. Taylor

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
On the Come Up by Angie Thomas
Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas
Piecing me Together by Renée Watson
Harbor Me by Jaqueline Woodson
Black Enough by Ibi Zoboi
Pride by Ibi Zoboi