



# NATIONAL BLACK HOME EDUCATORS CURATED LIST OF THEMED TITLES FOR CHILDREN

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## HISTORY

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# AMERICAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

## **Leave it To Abigail!**

By Barb Rosenstock

This book for ages 4-8 tells the incredible story of First Lady Abigail Adams. Independent, educated, and vocal, Abigail advocated for the unheard, and her beliefs still ring true today.

## **Dear Benjamin Banneker**

By Andrea Davis Pinkney

Introduction to Benjamin Banneker for ages 6-9, his science, his politics, his morals, and his extraordinary correspondence with Thomas Jefferson.

## **Who Was Sojourner Truth?**

By Yona Zeldis McDonough

Almost 100 years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat, Sojourner Truth was mistreated by a streetcar conductor. She took him to court--and won! In this easy-to-read biography for ages 8-12, Yona Zeldis McDonough continues to share that remarkable story.

## **The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution**

By William Cooper Nell

William Cooper Nell, a nineteenth century abolitionist, wished to reexamine our understanding of this famous war and highlight to the world the black soldiers who fought and died for the cause of American Independence. Good for highschoolers.

# PIONEERS AND COWBOYS

## **Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Ridin' Cowboy**

By Andrea Davis Pinkney

The true sweat-and-dirt tale of the feisty cowboy-child who became the most famous black rodeo performer who ever lived. Includes a note about the history of the black West and a bibliography, perfect for 4-8 year olds.

## **Journey Home: Passage to Womanhood**

By Tony Eubanks

Journey Home is the story of Tamara Woodson, who lives in the American West in the 1880s. She is smart and sassy, and has a mind of her own. Like many black families of that era following slavery, her family traveled west and founded their own town. Tamara Woodson is at a turning point in her life. She begins a journey of self-discovery that reveals important connections to her ancestral past. Prompted by her ambitions and experiences, she prepares herself for an uncertain future. Ages 8-12.

## **My Name Is America: The Journal Of Joshua Loper, A Black Cowboy**

By Walter Dean Myers

In 1871 Joshua Loper, a sixteen-year-old black cowboy, records in his journal his experiences while making his first cattle drive under an unsympathetic trail boss, in an addition to a best-selling series composed by a Newbery Honor-winning author.

## **The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West**

By William H. Leckie

The first book of its kind to recognize the importance of African American units in the conquest of the West. Now, in a newly revised edition, the authors have expanded the original research to explore more deeply the lives of buffalo soldiers in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments. Recommended for highschoolers.

# CIVIL WAR

## **A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass**

By David D. Alder

Born into slavery on a Maryland plantation, Frederick Douglass grew up to have a way with words. A tireless advocate to end slavery, Douglass urged slaves to escape and revolt. This accessible biography for children examines Douglass's amazing life with easy-to-understand facts and details, alongside elegant illustrations, great for children ages 4-8.

## **Susie King Taylor: Destined to Be Free**

By Denise Jordan

Susie King Taylor is known for being the first Black nurse during the American Civil War. Beyond just her aptitude in nursing the wounded of the 1st South Carolina Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Taylor was the first Black woman to self-publish her memoirs. Great for ages 9-12.

## **Silent Thunder: A Civil War Story**

By Andrea Davis Pinkney

For eleven-year-old Summer and her older brother Rosco, their secret dreams seem far out of reach. Both are slaves on a Virginia plantation in the year 1862. More than anything, Summer wants to learn to read and write. Rosco is eager to join the Union Army so that he can fight for the cause that would allow all people to be free. Good for ages 10-14.

## **Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers**

By Richard S. Newman

Freedom's Prophet is a long-overdue biography of Richard Allen, founder of the first major African American church and the leading black activist of the early American republic. A tireless minister, abolitionist, and reformer, Allen inaugurated some of the most important institutions in African American history. Good for highschoolers.

# PROGRESSIVE ERA

## **All Aboard!: Elijah McCoy's Steam Engine**

By Monica Kulling

The incredible true story of Elijah McCoy, the son of escaped slaves, he studied to become a mechanical engineer. He learned everything there was to know about engines - how to design them and how to build them. Undaunted and defying the odds he went on to invent a means of oiling the engine while the train was running, changing the face of travel around the world. Great for early readers, 4-8 years old.

## **Sweet Dreams, Sarah**

By Vivian Kirkfield

Sarah E. Goode was one of the first African-American women to get a US patent. Working in her furniture store, she recognized a need for a multi-use bed and through hard work, ingenuity, and determination, invented her unique cupboard bed. She built more than a piece of furniture. She built a life far away from slavery, a life where her sweet dreams could come true. For ages 7-11.

## **The Groundbreaking, Chance-Taking Life of George Washington Carver and Science and Invention in America: Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee, Black Americans Struggle Up from Slavery, American Inventors Then and Now, and Much, Much More**

By Cheryl Harness

The multitalented hand of Cheryl Harness creates another winning combination of history, biography, and illustration: the inspiring story of a man who rose from slavery to worldwide fame as America's Plant Doctor. Great for 8-12 year olds.

## **George Washington Carver: In His Own Words**

By Gary R. Kremer

This annotated selection of his letters and other writings from the collections at the Tuskegee Institute and the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri, reveals the forces that shaped his creative genius—including the influence of persistent racism. His letters also show us Carver's deep love for his fellow man. For highschoolers.

## WORLD WAR I & II

### **Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot**

By Margot Theis Raven

A True Story of the Berlin Airlift and the Candy that Dropped from the Sky. This is the true story of a seven-year-old girl named Mercedes who lived in West Berlin during the Airlift and of the American who came to be known as the Chocolate Pilot. For ages 6-9.

### **Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen?**

By Sherri L. Smith

During World War II, black Americans were fighting for their country and for freedom in Europe, yet they had to endure a totally segregated military in the United States. This book, good for ages 8-12, details thrilling flight missions and the grueling training sessions the Tuskegee Airmen underwent, it also shines a light on the lives of these brave men who helped pave the way for the integration of the US armed forces.

### **The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend**

By Sharon Robinson.

Based on the true story of a boy in Brooklyn who became neighbors and friends with his hero, Jackie Robinson. For ages 9-12.

### **Sisters in Arms: A Novel of the Daring Black Women Who Served During World War II**

By Kaia Alderson

Grace Steele and Eliza Jones may be from completely different backgrounds, but when it comes to the army, specifically the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), they are both starting from the same level. Not only will they be among the first class of female officers the army has even seen, they are also the first Black women allowed to serve. Based on the true story of the 6888th Postal Battalion (the Six Triple Eight), Sisters in Arms explores the untold story of what life was like for the only all-Black, female U.S. battalion to be deployed overseas during World War II.

# CIVIL RIGHTS

## **Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race**

By Margot Lee Shetterly

In this beautifully illustrated picture book edition, we explore the story of four female African American mathematicians at NASA, known as "colored computers," and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career. For ages 4-8.

## **The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.: A Biography Book for New Readers**

By Christine Platt

Martin Luther King Jr became one of the most important civil rights leaders in America by fighting for equality for black people. Before he made history with his powerful speeches and peaceful protests, Martin was a dedicated, smart kid who loved to learn. He challenged racism and overcame hardships to follow his passion and do the right thing. Great for 6 to 8 year-olds.

## **Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories**

By Ellen S. Levine

In this inspiring collection of true stories, thirty African-Americans who were children or teenagers in the 1950s and 1960s talk about what it was like for them to fight segregation in the South-to sit in an all-white restaurant and demand to be served, to refuse to give up a seat at the front of the bus, to be among the first to integrate the public schools, and to face violence, arrest, and even death for the cause of freedom. For ages 10 to 14.

## **Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March**

By Lynda Blackmon Lowery

Straightforward and inspiring, this beautifully illustrated memoir brings readers into the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. For highschool-age.

## MODERN ERA

### **Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters**

By Barack Obama

In this poignant letter to his daughters, Barack Obama has written a moving tribute to thirteen groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation. From the artistry of Georgia O'Keeffe, to the courage of Jackie Robinson, to the patriotism of George Washington, Obama sees the traits of these heroes within his own children, and within all of America's children. Ages 4-8

### **Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra**

By Andrea Pinkney

This picture-book biography, great for ages 6-8, presents an overview of Ellington's magical career from his early days as a pianist in a New York honky-tonks to his triumph as a composer and orchestra leader. Brightly colored scratchboard paintings help tell the story of the musical icon.

### **Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library**

By Carole Boston Weatherford

Amid the scholars, poets, authors, and artists of the Harlem Renaissance stood an Afro-Puerto Rican named Arturo Schomburg. This law clerk's life's passion was to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora and bring to light the achievements of people of African descent through the ages. At the New York City Public Library he created and curated a collection that was the cornerstone of a new Negro Division. A century later, his groundbreaking collection, known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, has become a beacon to scholars all over the world. For ages 8-12.

### **Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me**

By Condoleezza Rice

Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Parents and Me is a fascinating and inspirational story for young people, adapted from Condoleezza Rice's adult sensation *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family*. Includes a 16-page photo insert. Recommended for highschool students.