

Favorite Books for Black History Month From Reading Rockets Located in Our Libraries.

The following are some of our favorite books for Black History Month (and anytime!). Some describe our different histories while others show the joys and challenges that are shared by children of all colors as they learn and grow. All are recommended reading with kids ages 0-9. These books are located in our school libraries.



A Chair for My Mother
By: Vera Williams
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader

After a fire destroys their home and possessions, Rosa, her mother, and her grandmother save their money to buy a big comfortable chair. Suffused with warmth and tenderness, *A Chair for My Mother* celebrates family love and determination. A Caldecott Honor book..



Amazing Grace
By: Mary Hoffman
Illustrated by: Caroline Binch
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader

Grace loves to act, but one day some kids tell her she can't play the part of Peter Pan because of the way she looks. Grace's grandmother helps this young girl realize that with effort anything can be achieved. An inspiring and heartwarming story.



Bigmama's

By: Donald Crews

Age Level: 3-6

Reading Level: Beginning Reader

Every year the narrator and his family take a trip down to Cottondale, Florida, to visit his grandmother, Bigmama. This autobiographical story recalls the joys of summer and the contrast between the author's life in the city and Bigmama's lush, rural home. While the illustrations suggest it was a period of segregation, this thought never overpowers the carefree summer celebration.



I Am Rosa Parks

By: Rosa Parks & James Haskins

Illustrated by: Wil Clay

Age Level: 6-9

Reading Level: Independent Reader

The famous civil rights activist Rosa Parks has simplified her autobiography for young readers in this Puffin Easy to Read book. She describes how she was arrested for not giving up her bus seat and shows that her personal role was part of a wider political struggle.



Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By: Doreen Rappaport

Illustrated by: Bryan Collier

Age Level: 6-9

Reading Level: Beginning Reader

Martin Luther King Jr. grew up fascinated by big words. He would later go on to use these words to inspire a nation and call people to action. In this award-winning book, powerful portraits of King show how he used words, not weapons, to fight injustice.



Something Beautiful

By: Sharon Wyeth

Illustrated by: Chris K. Soentpiet

Age Level: 3-6

Reading Level: Beginning Reader

A young girl learns to find beauty in her sometimes gritty urban neighborhood, showing how the way one sees makes a difference that affects others. Luminous watercolors detail the child, her neighborhood, and suggest what she sees around her.



Stories Huey Tells

By: Ann Cameron

Illustrated by: Roberta Smith

Age Level: 6-9

Reading Level: Beginning Reader

These five short and funny stories show the mischief that Huey gets into in daily adventures with his annoying older brother Julian. The stories are filled with fun and warmth.



Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt

By: Deborah Hopkinson
Illustrated by: James Ransome
Age Level: 6-9
Reading Level: Independent Reader

Clara is born into slavery but learns an important skill when she becomes a seamstress. Her quilting ability allows Clara to put together directions to escape north to freedom when she overhears a conversation about a route to Canada.



The Gold Cadillac
By: Mildred Taylor
Illustrated by: Michael Hays
Age Level: 9-12
Reading Level: Independent Reader

Set in the 1950s, this book by Mildred Taylor is frank in its portrayal of racism. Lois and Wilma are proud when their father buys a brand new gold Cadillac. Only their mother won't ride in it. On a trip from their home in Ohio to Mississippi, there are no admiring glances only suspicion directed toward the black man driving such a fancy car. For the first time, Lois knows what it's like to feel scared because of her skin color.