

**Alexie, Sherman, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian***

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

**Alma Flor Ada, *I Love Saturdays y Domingos***

A bilingual girl recounts Saturdays spent with her Euro-American grandparents and Sundays with her Mexican-American Abuelito and Abuelita.

***My Name Is Maria Isabel***

When Maria Isabel Salazar Lopez starts her first day of class at a new school, the teacher dubs her "Mary Lopez" as there are already two other Marias in the class. This story thoughtfully explores the significance of heritage in one's sense of self. ages 7-9

**Bradby, Marie, *More than Anything Else***

Nine year old Booker T. Washington wants to learn to read 'more than anything else'. With full-color watercolor paintings by Chris K. Soentpiet, this inspiring story set in Malden, West Virginia, 1865. Ages 6 & up.

**Cline-Ransome, Lisa, *Words Set Me Free***

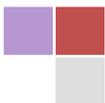
Biography of young Frederick Douglass based on his "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass." Using the first person, Douglass's arduous early life as the spurned son of his master, forced to live apart from his slave mother is described. Picture book; ages 5 to 9

**Cofer, Judith Ortiz, *Call Me Maria: A novel in letters, poems and prose***

A lyrical and gorgeously written surprise-of-a-novel of a young girl's journey to assimilate in America with her American-born father while leaving her mother behind in Puerto Rico. Chapter book, ages 8-14.

**Coggins, Patrick C., *Tuskegee Airmen Fighter Pilots***

This book honors the Tuskegee Airmen, known as the "Red Tails" who never lost escorted bombers. Read the personal account of a fighter pilot who overcame segregation in Europe and the United States.



**Curtis, Christopher, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham***

In the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan, there's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Byron gets to be too much trouble, they head south to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up. Although the Watson family is fictional, the story incorporates and centers on the historically factual 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, a critical catalyst of the American Civil Rights Movement which occurred soon after its successful Birmingham campaign. A film based on the book is available on DVD.

**Fradin, Judith Bloom, *Who Was Sacagawea?***

Sacagawea was only sixteen when she made one of the most remarkable journeys in American history, traveling 4500 miles by foot, canoe, and horse—all while carrying a baby on her back! Without her, the Lewis and Clark expedition might have failed. Through this engaging book, kids will understand the reasons that today, 200 years later, she is still remembered and immortalized on a golden dollar coin.

**Khan, Hena, *Amina's Voice***

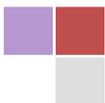
A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.  
Ages 8-12

**Lai, Thanhha, *Inside Out and Back Again***

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. A #1 *New York Times* bestseller, a Newbery Honor Book, and a winner of the National Book Award

**Lewis, John, *March Trilogy***

The inside story of the Civil Rights Movement through the eyes of one of its most iconic figures, Congressman John Lewis. #1 bestselling graphic novel. Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature.



**Obama, Barack, *Of Thee I Sing***

President Barack Obama's first children's book features inspirational stories for children about American pioneers. "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" is a tribute to 13 groundbreaking Americans. Written by Obama before he took office in January, 2009, The book celebrates an America "made up of people of every kind," each bringing their different gifts to the mix

**Parks, Rosa, *I Am Rosa Parks***

Written by the legendary Mrs. Parks, herself, this book will inspire children to let their life count. Grades 1-3.

**Pinckney, Andrea Davis, *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra***

Coretta Scott King Honor Book. Ages 8-12.

**Polacco, Patricia, *Pink and Say***

True story. Moving account of the author's ancestor who was wounded in the Civil War and rescued by a "colored" boy. A large-sized picture book.

**Reynolds, Jason and Kiely, Brendan, *All American Boys***

In this *New York Times* bestselling novel, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

**Reynolds, Jason, *Long Way Down***

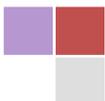
Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence

**Ryan, Pam Munoz, *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson***

Marian Anderson is best known for her historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, which drew an integrated crowd of 75,000 people in pre-Civil Rights America. While this momentous event showcased the uniqueness of her voice, the strength of her character, and the struggles of the times in which she lived.

**Schmidt, Gary, *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy***

No one in town will let Turner Buckminster forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. Despite his father's-and the town's-disapproval of their friendship, Turner spends time with Lizzie, and it opens up a whole new world to him. The two soon discover that the town elders, along with Turner's father, want to force the people to leave Lizzie's island so that their town can



start a lucrative tourist trade there. Turner gets caught up in a spiral of disasters that alter his life—but also lead him to new levels of acceptance and maturity. This sensitively written historical novel, based on the true story of a community's destruction, highlights a unique friendship during a time of change.

**Tarpley, Natasha Anastasia, *I Love My Hair!***

This whimsical, evocative story about a girl named Keyana encourages African-American children to feel good about their special hair and be proud of their heritage. A BlackBoard Children's Book of the Year.

**Taylor, Mildred, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect. YA

**Thomas, Angie, *The Hate U Give***

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

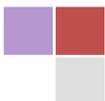
But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

**Walter, Mildred Pitts, *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World***

A contemporary story that includes history of Black cowboys. Ten year-old Justin's grandfather invites him to his ranch for the summer where he learns some unexpected lessons and soon realizes that anyone can do anything once they learn how. Ages 8-11

**Weatherford, Carole Boston, *Moses; When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom***

Story of Harriet Tubman. A Caldecott Honor Book as well as a Coretta Scott King Book.



**Whelan, Gloria, *Friend on Freedom River***

An underground railroad fictionalized account of escape to freedom across the Detroit River into Canada. Ages 7 & up.

**Woodson, Jacqueline, *Brown Girl Dreaming***

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. A President Obama "O" Book Club pick.

***If You Come Softly***, Jeremiah feels good inside his own skin. That is, when he's in his own Brooklyn neighborhood. But now he's going to be attending a fancy prep school in Manhattan, and black teenage boys don't exactly fit in there. So it's a surprise when he meets Ellie the first week of school. In one frozen moment their eyes lock, and after that they know they fit together--even though she's Jewish and he's black. Their worlds are so different, but to them that's not what matters. Too bad the rest of the world has to get in their way.

**20 Picture Books for 2020: Readings to Embrace Race, Provide Solace & Do Good**

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/20-picture-books-for-2020>

