



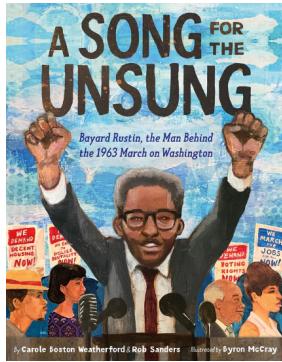
Jane Addams Peace Association

February is Black History Month. This month-long observance in the US and Canada is a chance to celebrate Black achievement and provide a fresh reminder to take stock of where systemic racism persists and give visibility to the people and organizations creating change.

During this month and throughout the year, the Jane Addams Peace Association honors and celebrates the history, heritage, and accomplishments of the Black community, both past and present. In this newsletter, we will be sharing our 2024 award winning and finalist books from members of the Black community that exemplify literary, visual and aesthetic excellence and invite dialogue, passionate response, purposeful reflection and deep questioning related to social justice themes.

Books to Read in Honor of Black History Month

Picture Books

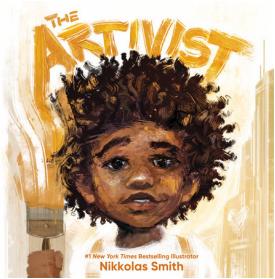


***A Song for the Unsung* by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders, illustrated by Byron McCray**

A Song for the Unsung introduces an unsung hero, Bayard Rustin, who made the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom possible. It was where Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28, 1963. As a follower of Gandhi, Bayard Rustin shared his knowledge about the principles of nonviolent protest with Dr. King.

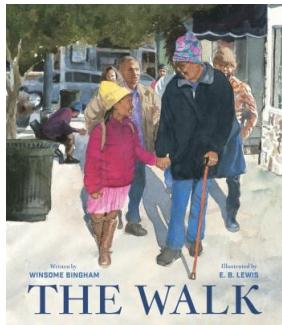
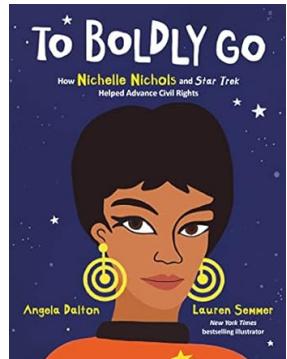
***The Artivist* by Nikkolas Smith**

The Artivist features a young artist who discovers how to use his creative abilities to bring awareness to his community about social issues. Tackling themes like home insecurity, voter suppression, and clean water accessibility, the young hero merges his identity as an artist with that of an activist, proudly adopting the title of "ARTIVIST."



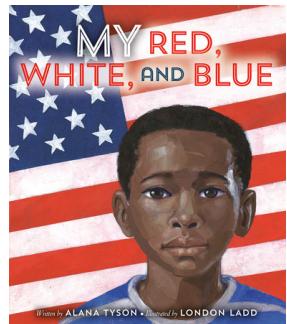
***To Boldly Go* by Angela Dalton, illustrated by Lauren Summer**

To Boldly Go tells the true story of Nichelle Nichols and how she used her platform on *Star Trek* to inspire and recruit a new generation of diverse astronauts and many others in the space and STEM fields.



***My Red White and Blue* by Alana Tyson, illustrated by London Ladd**

A powerful story about the mixture of pride and pain that one Black family finds in the American flag, and an invitation for each of us to choose how we relate to America, its history, and the flag that means so many things to so many people.

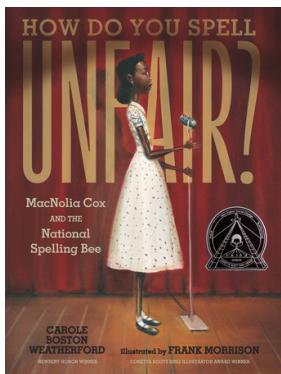


***That Flag* by Tameka Fryer Brown, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith**

That Flag is a perfect collaboration of words and illustration that, in the words of the author and illustrator, "foster transformative conversations that lead to change." Fryer Brown and Smith come together as a duo to shed light on the power of representations and symbols. Two best friends, across different cultures and races, are confronted by the differences in the symbolic representation of their cultures that deliver a relational divide.

***The Walk* by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by E. B. Lewis**

Granny and her granddaughter are going on a walk. But this is not just any walk. It's a walk that must not be missed; one that is more important than ever but has been made increasingly difficult for many to participate in. It's a walk that joins together a community; that lifts voices; that allows us to speak up, stand up, and say what's on our minds. It's a walk for hope.



***A Hero Like Me* by Angela Joy and Jen Reid, illustrated by Liere Salaberria**

A Hero Like Me is inspired by the events of 7 June 2020, when a statue of seventeenth-century slave trader Edward Colston was pulled down and thrown into Bristol Harbour during an anti-racism protest. Co-author Jen Reid was one of the protesters that day, and despite being afraid of heights, she spontaneously climbed onto the empty plinth and raised her fist high above her head – a moment that was captured on camera and shared around the world.



***Something, Someday* by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Christian Robinson**

Sometimes the world feels broken. And problems seem too big to fix. But somehow, we all have the power to make a difference. With a little faith, and maybe the help of a friend, together we can find beauty and create change.

***How Do You Spell Unfair?: MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison**

MacNolia Cox was the first African American child to win a spot as a finalist in the national spelling contest. The author highlights her spirit and focus as well as her love of words.

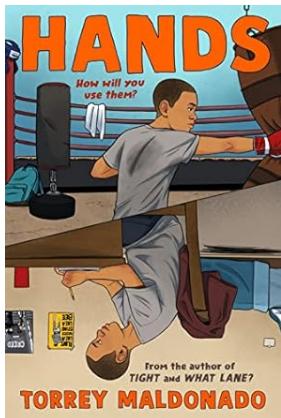


***Justice Ketanji* by Denise Lewis Patrick, illustrated by Kim Holt**

Ketanji Brown Jackson knew from the very beginning that "You can do anything. You can be anything." Driven by those powerful words and her parents' love, Ketanji refused to let naysayers stop her from rising to the top. Her perseverance and her wits led her to become the first Black woman U.S. District Judge and eventually the first Black female Supreme Court Justice.

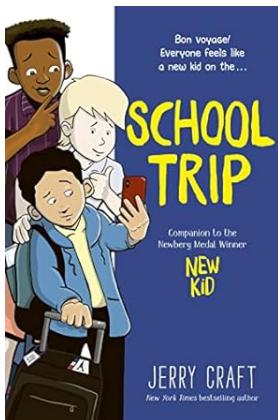
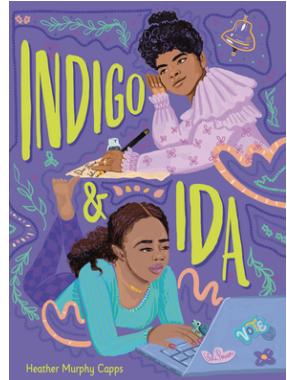


Chapter Books



***Indigo and Ida* by Heather Murphy Capps**

Eight grader Indigo breaks an important story, exposing an unfair school policy; she's suddenly popular for the first time. Then Indigo notices that the school's disciplinary policies seem to be enforced especially harshly with students of color, like her. Meanwhile, Indigo stumbles upon a book by Black journalist and activist Ida B. Wells—with private letters written by Ida tucked inside. As she reads about Ida's lifelong battle against racism, Indigo realizes she must choose between keeping quiet and fighting for justice.



***Hands* by Torrey Maldonado**

Trev would do anything to protect his mom and sisters, especially from his stepdad. Rather than live scared, Trev takes matters into his own hands, literally. He starts learning to box to handle his stepdad. Ultimately, Trev knows his future is in his hands, and his hands are his own, and he has to choose how to use them.

***School Trip* by Jerry Craft**

This story has Jordan and his friends going on a trip to Paris, while Jordan mulls over whether he will go to the art school next year or stay at his current school with his friends. As in the other books about Jordan (such as *New Kid*), the author takes on the topics of friendship, racism, and learning about a different culture.



A very special thanks to Teaching Books for making their invaluable database of children's literature and related sources available to everyone.

You Can Find Our Winning and Honor Books Here

Community Highlight

Source of Knowledge Bookstore



Since 1992 Source of Knowledge, located at 867 Broad Street, has been serving the community of Newark, NJ. What began as a bookstore has evolved into a gathering place that centers Black art, Black literature, culture, and community. Owner Dexter George and his team "create space for young people to discover themselves amongst the shelves, for students to dig deeper into Radical Black thought and for local Newark artists to gather in community and love."

[Check Out Their Website!](#)

Support Our Work!



The Jane Addams Peace Association perpetuates the spirit of activist and pacifist Jane Addams, her love for children and humanity, her commitment to freedom and democracy, and her devotion to the cause of world peace.

Your donation to the Jane Addams Peace Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is tax-deductible and helps us support authors, illustrators, parents, teachers, and librarians as they “deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.”

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