

Happy Black History Month 2026: We Have A Donor Match!

This month only, double your gift today to fund author visits in February to honor Black authors and stories!



JANE ADDAMS PEACE ASSOCIATION

FEB 01, 2026

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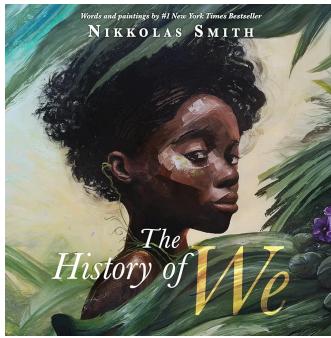
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In celebration of Black History Month, we honor the extraordinary resilience of Black pioneers who transformed experiences of hatred and systemic oppression into legacies of triumph and progress and those who tell their stories. Below is a list of 2026 honoree books, finalist books, and winner books that celebrate Black histories and imagines their futures. Thanks to a generous donor match, all donations made in February will be doubled to help support our work in bringing Black authors and stories to schools with marginalized populations.

For a complete list of Jane Addams awarded books that center Black voices, click [here](#)

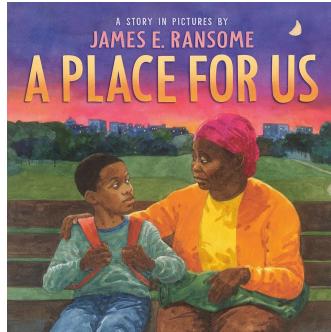


Picture Books



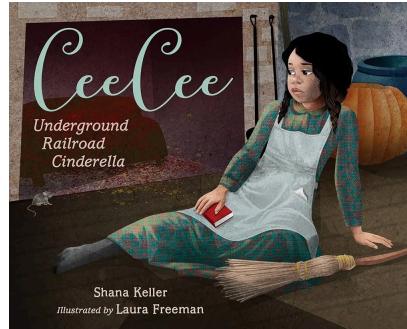
The History of We. Written and illustrated by Nikkolas Smith. (2026 Winner)

The History of We takes readers on the journey of a lifetime and of a people: interconnected by the truths that make us “we”. This book centers the celebration of humanity, particularly those of African origin and is brought to life by Smith’s artistic prowess.



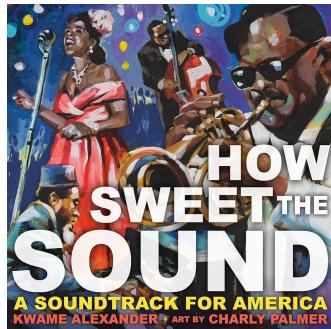
A Place for Us: A Story in Pictures. Written and illustrated by James Ransome. (2026 Honor)

A Place for Us: A Story in Pictures is an amazing, wordless picture book that invites readers to spend a one day journey with an unhoused mother and son. This story shows the boundless love of a family who find home in their hearts and in the shared spaces.



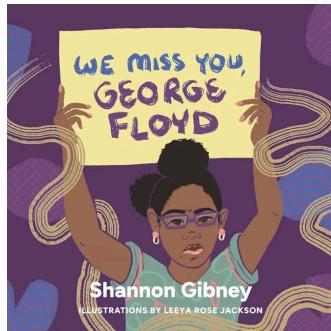
[CeeCee: Underground Railroad Cinderella](#). Shana Keller, illustrated by Laura Freeman. (2026 Finalist)

CeeCee: Underground Railroad Cinderella tells the story of a fictional enslaved girl on Maryland plantation who finds rescue and empowerment through the help of a caring cook.



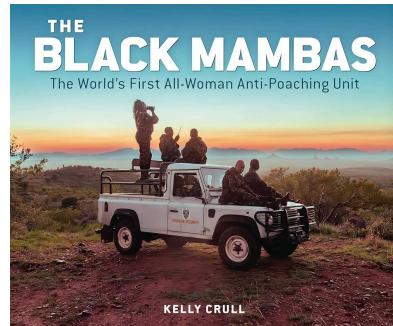
[How Sweet the Sound](#). Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Charly Palmer. (2026 Finalist)

Vibrant illustrations comprise this picture book centered around Black musical history, from Miles Davis to Kendrick Lamar.



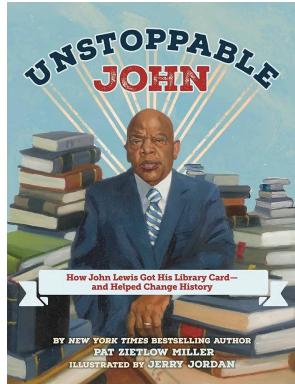
[We Miss You, George Floyd.](#) Shannon Gibney, illustrated by Leeya Rose Jackson. (2026 Finalist)

When a young girl in Minneapolis hears about George Floyd's murder, she finds healing through the resistance art displayed at George Floyd Square.



[The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit.](#) Kelly Crull. (2026 Finalist)

The Black Mambas follows a woman-led anti-poaching group in South Africa who work to protect the population of white rhinos, black rhinos, and ground pangolins from extinction.



[Unstoppable John: How John Lewis Got His Library Card—and Helped Change History.](#) Pa Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Jerry Jordan. (2026 Finalist)

When John Lewis wanted a library card in 1956, he couldn't get one because libraries were only for white people. This incredible book tells the story of how John Lewis spent a lifetime advocating for equality for Black people.

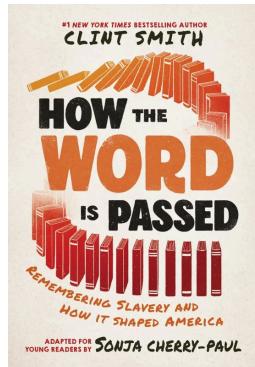


Chapter Books



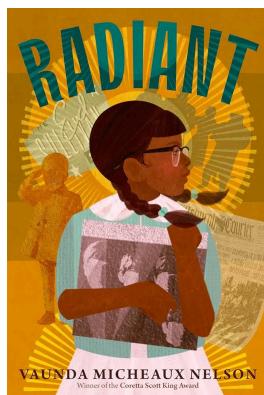
[The Incredibly Human Henson Blayne](#). Derrick Barnes. (2026 Honor)

The Incredibly Human Henson Blayze is a powerful and compelling novel that insists peace and justice begin with honoring each person's dignity and humanity. Inspired by the author's conversations with children about gender identity, self-expression, and acceptance, the story unfolds in the richly imagined Mississippi town of Great Mountain, where Southern folklore and magical realism deepen young readers' engagement with justice, tradition, and community memory.



[How The Word Is Passed: A Reckoning of the History of Slavery Across America](#). Clint Smith, adapted for young readers by Sonja Cherry-Paul. (2026 Honor)

How the Word Is Passed explores how the United States both remembers and avoids ¹ history of slavery, racism, and resistance. In visits to plantations, memorials, prison and schools, Cherry-Paul reveals that history is shaped by power, silence, and choice.



[Radiant](#). Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. (2026 Finalist)

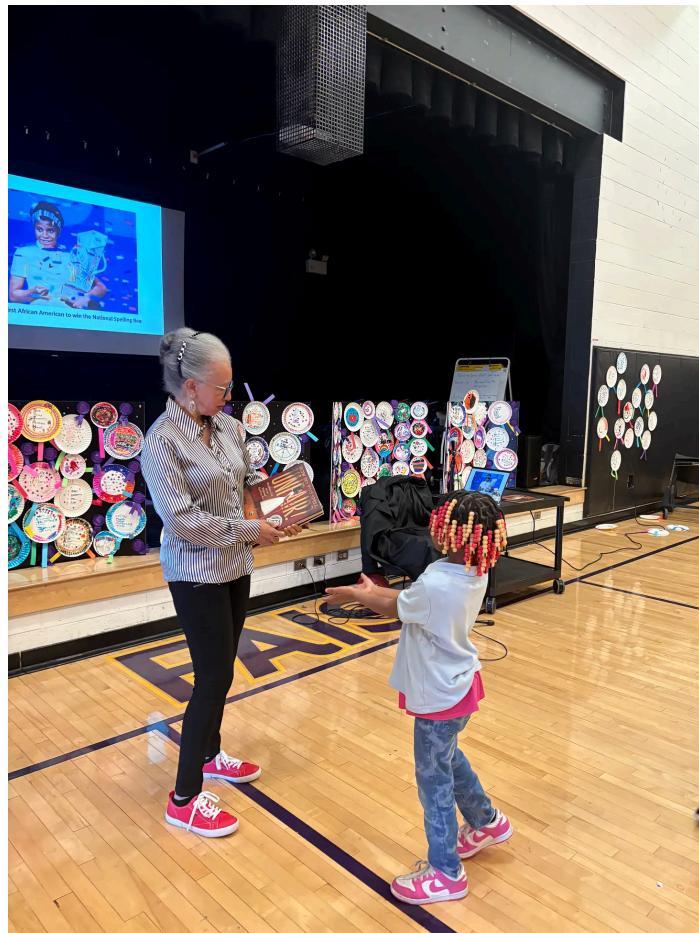
Radiant is a novel written in verse about a young girl named Cooper whose mother works for the family of a boy who bullies Cooper at school. She also must find her voice as a Black girl in a predominantly white community in the 1960s when Black people were treated as less than equal.



[Creaky Acres: A Graphic Novel](#). Calista Brill and Nilah Magruder. (2026 Finalist)

In this stunning graphic novel, Nora is a young horseback rider who must find her voice as a leader at a new barn called Creaky Acres in a new school where she is the only Black kid in class.

Support Our Work



Author Carole Boston Weatherford with a student

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 to deepen understanding of peace and justice for children and their adults through reflection, dialogue, and social action.

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