

2012 Black History Month Recommended Reading



This recommended reading list, in celebration of Florida's Black History Month, highlights African-American literature. This list provides an excellent source of suggested books for children of all ages. Just Read, Florida! makes reading a priority in Florida's public schools and among the community groups and volunteer organizations that support them. For more information, please visit [Just Read, Florida!](http://JustReadFlorida.com)

Elementary (Grades 4-5)

- *Romare Bearden: Collage of Memories*, Jan Greenberg
- *Against All Odds: Artist Dean Mitchell's Story*, Betty R. James
- *Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman*, Nikki Grimes
- *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*, Anne Rockwell
- *I Have Heard of a Land*, Joyce Carol Thomas
- *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *The Hunterman and the Crocodile*, Baba Waguè Diakité
- *The Singing Man*, Angela Shelf Medearis
- *Meet Danitra Brown*, Nikki Grimes
- *Soul Looks Back in Wonder*, Phyllis Fogelman
- *The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth*, David A. Anderson
- *Night on the Neighborhood Street*, Eloise Greenfield
- *The Road to Memphis*, Mildred Taylor
- *Aida*, Leontyne Price
- *Nathaniel Talking*, Eloise Greenfield
- *Mirandy and Brother Wind*, Patricia McKissack
- *Under the Sunday Tree*, Eloise Greenfield
- *Storm in the Night*, Mary Stolz
- *Maritcha*, Tonya Bolden
- *Ellington Was Not a Street*, Ntozake Shange & Kadir Nelson
- *The Bat Boy and His Violin*, Gavin Curtis
- *The Great Migration: An American Story*, Jacob Lawrence
- *Harlem*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Circle of Gold*, Candy Dawson Boyd
- *A Little Love*, Virginia Hamilton
- *The Strange New Feeling*, Julius Lester
- *Rainbow Jordan*, Alice Childress
- *Skates of Uncle Richard*, Carol Fenner
- *Something on My Mind*, Nikki Grimes
- *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*, R. Gregory Christie
- *Fly High!: The Story of Bessie Coleman*, Louise Borden & Mary Kay Kroeger

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- *The Legend of Buddy Bush*, Sheila P. Moses
- *Days of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*, Julius Lester
- *Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl*, Tonya Bolden
- *Dark Sons*, Nikki Grimes
- *The Road to Paris*, Nikki Grimes
- *Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story*, Ben Carson
- *Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States*, Patricia C. and Frederick L. McKissack
- *Locomotion*, Jacqueline Woodson
- *The Battle of Jericho*, Sharon Draper
- *The Red Rose Box*, Brenda Woods
- *The Land*, Mildred Taylor
- *Miracle's Boys*, Jacqueline Woodson
- *Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*, Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Francie*, Karen English
- *Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African American Whalers*, Patricia C. & Frederick L. McKissack
- *Now is Your Time: The African American Struggle for Freedom*, Walter Dean Myers
- *The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Coretta Scott King
- *Forged by Fire*, Sharon M. Draper
- *Breaking Ground, Breaking Silence: The Story of New York's African Burial Ground*, Joyce Hansen and Gary McGowan
- *I See the Rhythm*, Toyomi Igus
- *The Other Side: Shorter Poems*, Angela Johnson
- *Toning the Sweep*, Angela Johnson
- *Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts*, Patricia C. and Frederick L. McKissack
- *Soujourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?*, Patricia C. and Frederick L. McKissack
- *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*, Mildred Pitts Walter
- *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*, Mildred D. Taylor
- *Childtimes: A Three-Generation Memoir*, Eloise Greenfield and Lessie Jones Little
- *Andrew Young: Young Man With a Mission*, James Haskins
- *The Way a Door Closes*, Hope Anita Smith
- *The Skin I'm In*, Sharon Flake
- *Another Way to Dance*, Martha Southgate
- *Elijah of Buxton*, Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali*, Charles R. Smith, Jr.
- *We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Kadir Nelson
- *Keeping the Night Watch*, Hope Anita Smith
- *Maizon at Blue Hill*, Jacqueline Woodson
- *My People*, Langston Hughes, illustrated by Charles R. Smith, Jr.
- *1001 Things People Should Know about African American History*, Jeffrey C. Steward
- *To Be a Slave*, Julius Lester
- *Chains*, Laurie Halse Anderson
- *A Friendship for Today*, Patricia C. McKissack

High School (Grades 9-12)

- *Copper Sun*, Sharon Draper
- *The Magnificent Twelve: Florida's Black Junior Colleges*, Walter L. Smith, Ph.D.
- *Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem*, Marilyn Nelson
- *Carver: A Life in Poems*, Marilyn Nelson
- *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Mississippi Challenge*, Mildred Pitts Walter
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Freedom Movement*, Lillie Patters
- *We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Led to Success*, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt and Sharon Draper
- *Fallen Angels*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave*, Virginia Hamilton
- *Trouble's Child*, Mildred Pitts Walter
- *The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl*, Virginia Hamilton
- *Lena Horne*, James Haskins
- *The Middle Passage: White Ships Black Cargo*, Tom Feelings
- *This Life*, Sidney Poitier
- *Don't Explain: A Song of Billie Holiday*, Alexis De Veaux
- *The Young Landlords*, Walter Dean Myers
- *James Van Der Zee: The Picture Takin' Man*, James Haskins
- *Let the Lion Eat Straw*, Ellease Southerland
- *Cornrows*, Camille Yarborough
- *Benjamin Banneker*, Lillie Patterson
- *Barbara Jordan*, James Haskins
- *Darkness Before Dawn*, Sharon Draper
- *Coretta Scott King*, Lillie Patterson
- *The Story of Stevie Wonder*, James Haskins
- *Portia: The Life of Portia Washington Pittman, the Daughter of Booker T. Washington*, Ruth Ann Stewart
- *The Legend of Africana*, Dorothy Robinson
- *I Never Had It Made: the Autobiography of Jackie Robinson, as told*, Alfred Duckett
- *My Chill Wind*, Janet McDonald
- *Lou in the Limelight*, Kristin Hunter
- *Movin' Up*, Berry Gordy
- *Marvin and Tige*, Frankcina Glass
- *Black Troubador: Langston Hughes*, Charlemae Rollins
- *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace*, Lillie Patterson
- *Monster*, Walter Dean Myers
- *The First Part Last*, Angela Johnson
- *Just Another Hero*, Sharon M. Draper
- *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*, Toni Morrison
- *Becoming Billie Holiday*, Carole Boston Weatherford
- *A Wreath For Emmett Till*, Marilyn Nelson
- *The Freedom Business*, Marilyn Nelson
- *Street Love*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Harlem Hustle*, Janet McDonald
- *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing - Traitor to the Nation*, M. T. Anderson
- *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves - Deputy U.S. Marshal*, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
- *Mare's War*, Tanita S. Davis
- *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, Langston Hughes and E. B. Lewis
- *Giants: The Parallel lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*, John Stauffer

Additional materials can be found at these sites:

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/index.html>

<http://www.floridablackhistory.com/index.cfm>

http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/newsletters/newsletterbuckets/iten/893341-444/from_the_trenches.html.csp

http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/newsletters/newsletterbuckets/iten/893347-444/graphic_novels_bring_black_history.html.csp

http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/newsletters/newsletterbuckets/iten/893353-444/soaring_with_the_red_tails.html.csp

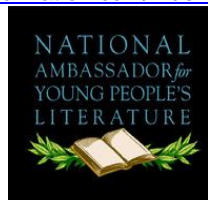
<http://www.redtails2012.com/>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/africanamericanheritage/index.htm>

www.lexile.com/fab



<http://www.educationnation.com/index.cfm?objectid=18FEB796-4370-11E1-B607000C296BA163>



“READING IS NOT OPTIONAL”

— Walter Dean Myers