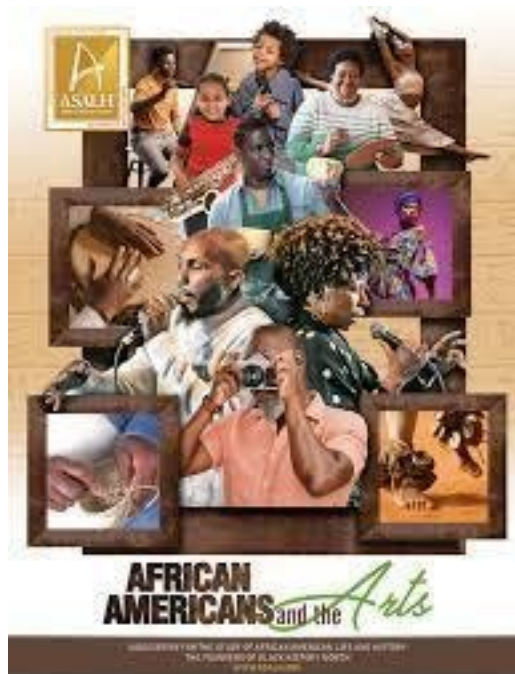


# Heritage/History Month Resources (Secondary)

Edition VI: Black History Month (February 2025)



The purpose of this document is to:

- Build cultural competency within the Bexley community.
- Provide resources to teachers and administrators to celebrate the histories, culture, and contributions of African Americans in the United States.
- Support all teachers and administrators with incorporating resources at the classroom and school building-level during Black History Month 2025.

Curated by the Culture Climate Committee

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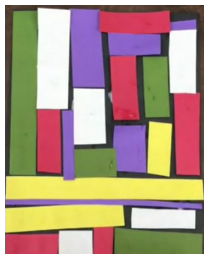
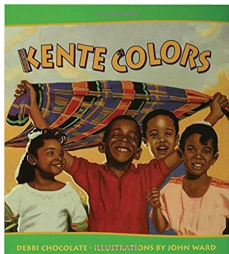
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**Please note:** BCSD board policies must be followed accordingly. Any topic that is likely to arouse both support and opposition is considered controversial. Therefore, careful analysis must be given prior to the use of these resources to determine the appropriateness of the content. All such discussions must be held within an environment that protects open-mindedness and scholarly inquiry. For more information regarding the Bexley Board Policy INB "Teaching About Controversial Issues" please click [HERE](#). The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in any text, website, or media in this document belong solely to the organizations, and do not necessarily reflect the views of BCSD.

## Teaching Black History

A premise of history is for the people of today to understand the events, circumstances, realities, human achievements, challenges, and struggles of the past as a means of opening the door for all to enter through into the future. Several notable figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois, George Washington Carver and many more have had a significant role in advancing an understanding of the Black community, its past and impacts upon African Americans. One person who stood out amongst this group of dignitaries was Carter G. Woodson.

As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all ethnicities on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first Black History Month! By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then American presidents have issued Black History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year. Each year since 1928, ASALH has designated the theme for Black History Week/Month beginning with ***Civilization: A World Achievement*** to this year's 2025 theme, ***African Americans and Labor***.

The importance and relevance of Black History Month remains today, even though the enslavement of human beings and Jim Crow are of the past. The marginalization of the Black community continues through the mass incarceration of Black males, the inequities of the nation's healthcare system, the inadequacies of resources in the nation's educational system, and in the current influx of those who want to reframe history into a narrative that reflects a singular, Eurocentric, epistemology.

An understanding of African American history is central to any effort to eliminate racism. Therefore, the teaching of Black history is not a one-off event that happens only in the month of February. When myths, stereotypes, and misperceptions such as “Black folks are lazy, dangerous, dishonest, ignorant, incapable of learning complex concepts, expect handouts, welfare recipients, or lack ambition”, are not countered by exposure to the historical

accomplishments, achievements, contributions and challenges of African Americans to our society; students will continue to believe these myths and stereotypes into their adulthood. **No other minority group came to the Americas involuntarily!** Africans were enslaved, their culture was denied, families broken up, could not be taught to read and write the English language, yet against such great turmoil, Black people contributed immensely to the development of American society.

By learning about the pragmatic economic reasons for the hundreds of years of mass enslavement of an entire population of people in Colonial America and the decades of Jim Crow laws, all students will begin to understand the American Caste system and the complex racial problems facing America today. All students benefit from an understanding of how the accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement have mitigated, but have not eliminated, prejudice and racial discrimination in American culture. All students benefit from a curriculum that enables students to view concepts, issues, events, and themes from the perspectives of diverse racial and cultural groups. The focus then becomes one of how our common U.S. culture and society formed from a complex synthesis and interaction of the diverse cultural elements that originated within the various cultures, ethnicities, languages, etc. of diverse groups of people that make up American society. Difficult discussions occur in a natural environment that encourages critical thinking and acceptance, as they are central to the entire curriculum, not just one week or unit. This type of learning allows students to have a “voice” and gain a sense of belonging.


“Understanding Black History helps to eliminate racism through education. Knowledge prevents the worst of the past from occurring again. Without knowledge, we cannot eradicate the attitudes and beliefs that have been passed down from generation to generation perpetuating racism and prejudice.” (Burrell and Walsh, 2001)

- [The Do's and Don'ts of Teaching Black History](#)
- [wosu.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/historically-black-colleges-and-universities-video/making-black-america-through-the-grapevine/?student=true&focus=true](https://wosu.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/historically-black-colleges-and-universities-video/making-black-america-through-the-grapevine/?student=true&focus=true)
- <https://centerracialjustice.org/resources/black-history-month-resource-guide-for-educators-and-families/>
- <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/knowning-past-opens-door-future-continuing-importance-black-history-month>
- <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/five-things-not-to-do-during-black-history-month>
- [Teaching White Students Black History](#)
- [The Important Political History of Black History Month: Education Week](#)
- [Pulitzer Center: Programs for K-12 Teachers and Students 1619 Project](#)
- [Black American History \(51 Videos\):](#)  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtNYJO8JWpXO2JP0ezqxsrJJ>
- <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/black-history-month-lessons-resources>
- <https://www.teachervision.com/holidays/black-history-month>
- <https://medium.com/waospi/teaching-resources-for-black-history-month-6dc42f87689f>

### Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

<https://teach.com/online-ed/hbcu-degrees/what-is-hbcu/>  
<https://uncf.org/programs/the-audacity-to-lead>  
<https://collegerealitycheck.com/best-hbcu-colleges/>

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs, offer valuable educational opportunities to a variety of students. These educational institutions create unique communities with an emphasis on culture and history. If you're considering a college or university for your




undergraduate or graduate studies, an HBCU might just be the right fit, but it's important to understand the details of these unique schools.

What are HBCUs? The history of historically Black colleges and universities begins in the 19th century. John Chavis became the first Black American on record to attend college when he was admitted to Washington and Lee University in 1799, but such an event was rare. For Black students, there were few to no opportunities to access a higher education. Both public and private institutes of higher education excluded Black students. HBCUs became schools established expressly to serve the educational needs of Black Americans.

The first HBCU was founded in 1837, by Quaker philanthropist Richard Humphreys, now known as Cheyney University in Pennsylvania. Its goal was to teach Black American students the skills they would need for employment. This school's establishment was a milestone for Black education, and additional schools followed. Black churches, supported by the American Missionary Association and Freedmen's Bureau, were responsible for establishing some of the first colleges for Black students. The second Morrill Act of 1890 further helped support the establishment of Black colleges by requiring states to offer land grants to establish schools for Black students who weren't allowed to attend other schools within the states. This act resulted in the foundation of many HBCUs. The Miner Normal School in Washington, D.C.; Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and Wilberforce in Ohio were all founded in the 1850s. From 1865 to 1900, HBCUs saw significant growth. The growth was greatest in 1867, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, when nine HBCUs were founded in a single year.

Today, HBCUs encompass a large variety of classifications, including public, private, denominational, liberal arts and land-grant universities. They range in size and enrollment, from fewer than 300 students to more than 11,000 students. By enrollment, North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro is the largest HBCU, with more than 12,000 students. Florida A&M University and Howard University are the next largest schools. Ohio is home to two HBCUs, Wilberforce University and Central State University. While a large school can certainly have an impressive legacy, all HBCUs have contributed to important and notable accomplishments and graduated well-known alumni. HBCUs have established an impressive legacy. HBCU alumni include many famous public figures:

- W.E.B. Du Bois, Fisk University
- Martin Luther King Jr., Morehouse College
- Thurgood Marshall, Howard University
- Oprah Winfrey, Tennessee State University
- Mo'Nique, Morgan State University
- Lionel Richie, Tuskegee University
- Spike Lee, Morehouse College
- Jennifer Hudson, Langston University
- Samuel L Jackson, Morehouse College
- Jeh Johnson, Morehouse College
- Sean "Diddy" Combs, Howard University
- DJ Envy, Hampton University
- Tom Joiner, Tuskegee University
- Keshia Knight Pulliam, Spelman College
- Shannon Sharpe, Savannah State University
- Wale, Bowie State University
- Yolanda Adams, Texas Southern University



And the list goes on and on, including individuals who are currently educators in the district: Dr. Stephen Lewis Sr., Leader of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Morehouse College; Nyesha Clayton, Montrose Elementary School Principal, Tennessee State University.

There is an increased need for HBCUs today, thanks to the unique opportunities these schools provide. The Thurgood Marshall College Fund notes that [9% of Black college students attend HBCUs today](#). HBCUs award 22% of the bachelor's degrees earned by Black students. HBCUs also provide valuable STEM-focused education opportunities. [HBCU bachelor's degrees in STEM areas account for 20% of all STEM bachelor's degrees earned by Black graduates](#) according to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

Beyond education, HBCUs provide a diverse and inclusive student experience. These schools create an environment that is safe for all students, and they're known for providing excellent student support. HBCUs welcome a variety of students, the majority of HBCU students are first-generation, low to moderate income students. The Thurgood Marshall College Fund notes that more than 68% of HBCU students depend on Pell Grants while almost 13% of HBCU students depend on PLUS Loans to be able to afford their education. Attending an HBCU is more affordable than attending a traditional school. In fact, the UNCF reports that [attending an HBCU costs 28% less than it would cost to attend a similar non-HBCU school](#). A Gallup poll found that [HBCU graduates were more likely to be thriving in financial and social well-being than graduates of non-HBCU schools](#), making a bachelor's or HBCU graduate degree a promising investment.

HBCUs deliver a unique Black college experience. They strive to create supportive, engaging environments for students, staff, and the communities they serve. A person attending a HBCU will find themselves surrounded by students from many geographic locations, while experiencing the chance to learn from a variety of mentors and educators who are nurturing, understanding and are experts in their fields of study.

The student experience one will have at school will vary depending on the HBCU that they attend, but many of these schools provide rich, engaging academic and social experiences. Spelman College, located in Atlanta, Georgia is one of two all-female HBCUs, the other is Bennett College. Founded as Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary in 1881, [Spelman College](#) emerged from its origins in a church basement to become the top HBCU in the country. Some of the first students were formerly enslaved people learning basic life skills. The college has since produced such notable alumni as Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker and 1960 valedictorian Marian Wright Edelman, who founded the Children's Defense Fund. Next door to Spelman, are Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University, ranked 4th and 18th respectively amongst all HBCUs. [Morehouse College](#), also founded in the basement of a Baptist church in Augusta, Georgia, in 1867, later moved to Atlanta, is the only all-male HBCU in the country. Martin Luther King, Jr. graduated from the institution in 1948. Morehouse has also produced five [Rhodes scholars](#).

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes more than 102 HBCUs. These schools are primarily located in the southeast, but students can choose to attend HBCUs in Pennsylvania, Maryland or even the U.S. Virgin Islands. These schools offer an array of bachelor's degrees and master's degree programs, including online education options. With more than 100 HBCUs, when looking into the right HBCU, consider schools in a state or region you are interested in, ones that have a program you want to study and, of course, one that offers the degree you are seeking, be it a bachelor's, master's or another degree. Although HBCUs were originally established with the goal of educating Black students. Students of all races can enroll in these schools. In addition to the traditionally Black enrollment at HBCUs, many of these schools are actively promoting increased diversity. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in 2018, non-black



students accounted for 24% of the students enrolled at HBCUs. In 1976, non-Black students accounted for just 15% of students in HBCUs.

Many HBCUs also give students the chance to join historically Black sororities and fraternities. These Black Greek letter organizations began back in the early 1900s. The Greek organizations at traditionally white institutions excluded Black students from joining, so Black students started their own. Founded on the principle of service, these fraternities and sororities provide valuable opportunities to get involved in the HBCU Greek experience and to form strong bonds with one's peers. Clubs and organizations give students the chance to get involved and even explore leadership opportunities. HBCU homecoming events and commencement celebrations provide an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments while still being grounded in history.

HBCUs have faced many challenges. They've survived issues like limited funding, accreditation challenges and even the Jim Crow laws. However, these schools have endured and continue to offer education and opportunities today not only to Black students but to all students.

HBCUs by the numbers:

- 16% of all bachelor degrees awarded to African American graduates are from HBCUs
- 50% of HBCU college graduates go on to graduate or professional schools
- 20% of STEM bachelor's degrees earned by African Americans are awarded by HBCUs
- Tuitions at HBCUs are 28% lower than those at comparable schools
- HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion dollars in positive economic impact annually

## The Divine Nine

<https://www.nphchq.com/about/>

<https://www.yesprep.org/news/blog/featured/~board/blog/post/the-divine-nine-the-legacy-of-black-sororities-and-fraternities>

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/divine-nine-history-black-sororities-fraternities/>

In commemoration of Black History Month, another unique opportunity for African American college bound students is an understanding of the origins of Black fraternities and sororities. In the early 19th century, social Greek organizations, known as sororities and fraternities, began forming on college campuses across the United States to provide a sense of community and unique opportunities for students. These organizations were often highly exclusive and barred membership to students of certain genders or races, specifically Black students.

At the start of the 20th century, a small number of Black students came together from mainly Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to form their own sororities and fraternities. These organizations are known collectively as the **National Pan-Hellenic Council** or the **"Divine Nine"**. The NPHC was officially founded at Howard University on May 10, 1930, in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the NPHC is to foster cooperative actions of its members in dealing with matters of mutual concern. To this end, the NPHC promotes the well-being of its affiliate fraternities and sororities, facilitates the establishment and development of local councils of the NPHC and provides leadership training for its constituents. Each of the black fraternities and sororities that comprise the Divine Nine were established with unique core values but shared a common goal: to educate and uplift the Black community from racial inequities.

The original charter organizations of the Divine Nine were; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. founded 1908, Howard University; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. founded 1913, Howard University; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. founded 1920, Howard University; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. founded 1911, Indiana University; and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. founded 1911,



Howard University. In 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., founded 1906, Cornell University, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., founded 1914, Howard University, joined the council. In 1937 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., founded 1922, Butler University joined. Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. founded 1963, Morgan State University was the last to join the NPHC as its ninth (9th) affiliate member in 1997.




The fraternities and sororities that comprise the Divine Nine evolved during a period when African Americans were being denied essential rights and privileges afforded others. Racial isolation on predominantly white campuses and social barriers of class on all campuses created a need for African Americans to align themselves with other individuals sharing common goals and ideals. With the realization of such a need, the African American (Black) Greek-lettered organization movement took on the personae of a haven and outlet, which could foster brotherhood and sisterhood in the pursuit to bring about social change through the development of social programs that would create positive change for Blacks and the country. Today the need remains the same.

The primary purpose and focus of NPHC member organizations remains community awareness and action through educational, economic, and cultural service activities. Greek membership also goes beyond the collegiate experience. It is a lifetime commitment where the individual member is expected to align with a graduate/alumni chapter, following graduation from college, with the expectation that he/she will attend regular chapter meetings, regional conferences and national conventions, and take an active part in matters concerning and affecting the community in which he or she lives. Bexley educators who are members of a Divine Nine Fraternity or Sorority are, Dr. Stephen Lewis Sr. (Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc), Nyesha Clayton (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority), Brian Lowery (Omega Psi Phi Fraternity), Heath Goolsby (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity), Salvatrice Maldonado-Weston (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority).

## Kwanzaa

The celebration of **Kwanzaa** is a product of creative cultural synthesis. It represents both the cultural values and elements that are deeply rooted from all parts of the continent of Africa, as well as the values, traditions, and ceremonies, of people of African descent who reside in the U.S. Kwanzaa is a celebration that emulates cultural authenticity and values that are meaningful, principled, and reflective of a positive, productive life. **Kawaida**, the philosophy out of which Kwanzaa was created, serves to remind us that all we think and do should be based on tradition




and reason which are in turn rooted in practice. Tradition therefore becomes the grounding of the Kwanzaa celebration, or the cultural anchor that enables people of African descent to select, preserve, and build on the best of what Africans have achieved and produced, in the light of our knowledge and experiences. Kwanzaa provides the opportunity to reflect upon African cultural traditions as an African people; to prevent them from becoming stagnant or empty historical references. Instead, traditions within the African American community become and remain as enriched, lived experiences.

The roots of Kwanzaa are derived from ancient and ongoing continental African first-fruits or first-harvest celebrations. These celebrations are recorded in African history as far back as ancient Egypt and Nubia and appear in modern times in other classical African civilizations such as Ashantiland and Yorubaland. These first fruit celebrations were seen as relevant to building family, community, and culture. They focused on bonding, reaffirmation, restoration, remembrance, spirituality, and recommitment to ever higher levels of human life. Kwanzaa is a commemoration of the past, especially of the ancestors. To commemorate the past is also to commemorate the struggles and deeds of the people, to honor the narrative of their struggle to shape their world in their own image and interest. Kwanzaa emerges in the context of African American life but it is also a Pan-African one as well. For it draws from the cultures of various African peoples, and is celebrated by millions of Africans throughout the world African community.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, chair of the department of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach, in the midst of the Black Freedom Movement. He is the author of the authoritative book on the subject: *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture*. Kwanzaa was conceived and established to serve several functions. Dr. Karenga in a response to the general nature of the country, specifically the civil rights movement and the Black Movement which stressed the rescue and reconstruction of African history and culture, sought to frame the collective efforts of the Black community in the redefinition of Black people, their culture, and a restructuring of the goals and purpose of the struggle for liberation and a higher level of human life based on an Afrocentric worldview. The focus on restoration was evidenced in cultural practices such as renaming of oneself and one's children with African names, wearing the Natural or Afro hair style and African clothes, relearning African languages, especially Swahili, and reviving African life-cycle ceremonies such as naming, nationalization, rites of passage, weddings and funerals. The sixties were also a time when there was an emphasis on returning to the African continent, physically, culturally, and spiritually for cultural revitalization, to reestablish links and build ongoing mutually beneficial and reinforcing relationships. This was also a time when there was an attempt to recover and begin to live, even relive, African values in the family and community as a way to rebuild and reinforce family, community, and culture.

Kwanzaa is not a religious celebration, but a cultural one with an inherent spiritual quality as with all major African celebrations. Thus, peoples of all faiths can and do celebrate Kwanzaa, i.e. Muslims, Christians, Black Hebrews, Jews, Buddhists, Bahai, Hindus, and those who follow the ancient traditions of Maat, Yoruba, Ashanti, Dogon, etc. There are Seven Principles of Kwanzaa called the **Nguzo Saba** that are celebrated over seven days, from December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 1st. These principles are a self-conscious contribution to the communitarian character of Kwanzaa as a collective emphasis, and a positive composition of African culture. The first and foundational principle of the Nguzo Saba is **Umoja (Unity)** for without it all the other principles suffer. Unity is both a principle and practice of togetherness in all things. The second day of Kwanzaa is **Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)**. This reflects the desire of African people to define, defend, and develop themselves instead of allowing or encouraging others to do this for them. It calls for African Americans to recover and speak their own special cultural truth to the world and to make



their own unique contributions to the forward movement of human history. **Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)** is the third principle of Kwanzaa and happens on the third day of Kwanzaa. It represents a commitment to active and informed togetherness on matters of common interest. It reinforces that there is a need and obligation for African Americans as self-conscious and committed people to shape their future with their own minds and hands and to accept that we are collectively responsible for our failures and setbacks as well as our victories and achievements. **Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)** is the fourth principle and reflects a commitment to the practice of shared social wealth and the work necessary to achieve it. Also, a self-reliance in the building, strengthening, and controlling of the economics of the African American community. To harness resources and put them to the best use in the service of the community. To respect the dignity and obligation of work, its value, and to reject its exploitation and engage in it cooperatively for the common good of the community. **Nia (Purpose)**, is the next principle and it is a commitment to the collective vocation of building, developing, and defending communities, their culture and history in order to regain their historical relevance and greatness as a People that also adds to the good and beauty that is in the world. African Americans share in the great human legacy Africa has given the world; that Africa is the cradle, the location of the forefathers and foremothers of humankind. This identity serves as an overriding cultural purpose which at the center is to work in such a way that as a people, the collective vocation of building and expanding the community always had as its central motivation and meaning, the ancient teachings. **Kuumba (Creativity)** is the sixth principle of the Nguzo Saba. It reflects a commitment to being creative within the context of the national community vocation of restoring African Americans to their traditional greatness and thus investing in their communities to leave them more beneficial and beautiful than were inherited. Creativity is central to the human spirit, and human society; it leads to growth, restoration, and revitalization individually and collectively. The seventh principal and is always on the first day of the new year is **Imani (Faith)**. This principle reflects the profound and endearing belief in and commitment to, all that is of value to people of African descent as a family, community, people, and culture. Faith is required of us all in our capacity as humans to live righteously, self-correct, support, care for and be responsible for each other.

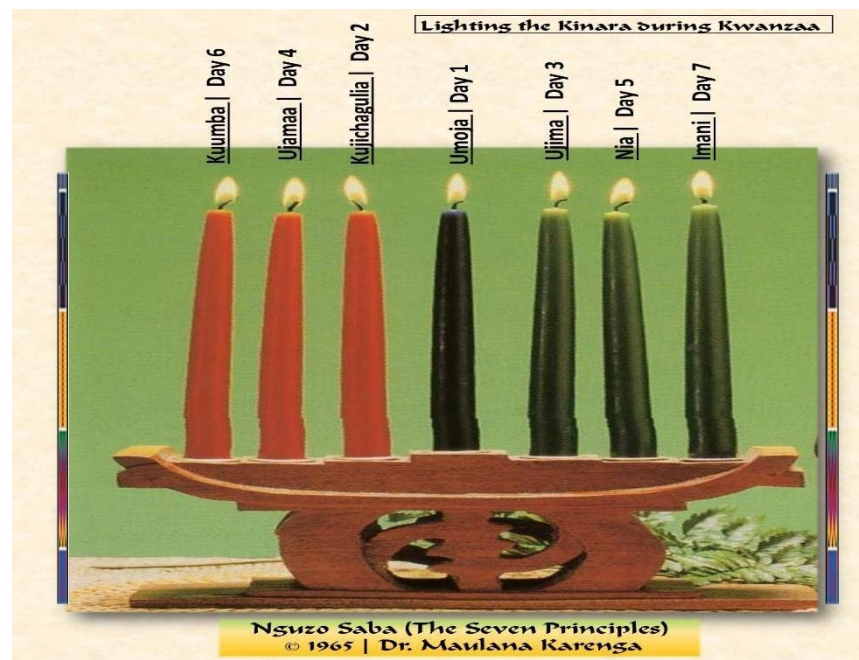
The principles of the Nguzo Saba are projected as the moral minimum set of African values that African Americans need to embrace in order to rebuild and strengthen family, community, and

culture and to become a self-conscious social force in the struggle to control their destiny and daily life.

The traditional symbols of a Kwanzaa Celebration include the **Mkeka or Mat**. The Mkeka serves as the base for which all remaining symbols are placed and it symbolizes African American ancestral traditions and history that serves as the foundation upon which the future is

built upon. Next is the **Kinara or Candle Holder** and it symbolizes the roots of African Americans and their connection with their continental African ancestors. The Kinara holds **7 candles**, the **Mishumaa Saba**, which represent the 7 principles of the Nguzo Saba and are placed with 1 black (center), 3 red (left), and 3 green (right) that are then lit in a daily sequence, beginning with the black candle. These colors represent black for the people, red for their struggle, and green for the future and hope that comes from their struggle.

Other symbols included in a Kwanzaa celebration include **Mazao or crops of fruits and vegetables**. They are symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor. Next is **Muhindi or corn** and it is symbolic of the children and the future which they embody. Then there is **Kikombe cha Umoja (The Unity Cup)** which is symbolic of the foundational principle of unity which makes all else possible. Lastly, there are **Zawadi or gifts**. These are symbolic of the labor and love of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children.



Kwanzaa serves as an act of cultural self-determination, a self-conscious statement of the cultural truths of being an African in a context in which African identity and culture had been devalued and denied. To honor the ancestors then is to honor one's heritage, roots, and lineage. Understanding one's lineage is key for it unites the community in a solidarity of past, present, and future generations. Celebrating Kwanzaa recognizes the beauty and good of the creation; and commitment and recommitment to preserve and protect it, to cherish it and leave it as a legacy and focus of care and responsibility for the next generation.

## History of “Soul Food”

Traditional dishes from every culture are meaningful to the customs, beliefs, and practices of each country, ethnic group, religion, and their global communities. “Soul Food” is a well-known cuisine native to the United States, traditionally prepared and eaten by African Americans. The style of cooking originated during American slavery. African enslaved people were primarily given the “leftovers” and “undesirable” cuts of meat from their plantation owners. In general, enslaved people were given a bag filled with rice, sweet potatoes or cornmeal, meat, a small amount of molasses, and no vegetables. Any vegetables had to be grown specifically by a family for their personal consumption.

After the era of slavery, many African Americans being poor could only afford off-cuts of meat and offal. Farming, hunting, and fishing provided fresh food and vegetables, such as fish, wild game, possum, rabbit, squirrel, and sometimes waterfowl. In other words, African Americans had to make do with the food choices they had to work with.

Soul food progressed from being known as a simple diet to having a cultural purpose during the Reconstruction Era (1865-1910). It became an important symbol at celebrations and gatherings at African American churches, when churchgoers would get together and enjoy soul food dishes after a long week of labor.

During the Great Migration, when many African Americans migrated North to avoid the impacts of the Jim Crow laws of the South, soul food dishes were influenced by other cultures. When southern Blacks came North they would adopt elements from the cultures in those communities. For example, macaroni was incorporated from Italian cuisine, fried rice from Chinese cuisine, and chili from Latin-American cuisine.

“Soul Food” as it is called today received this title during the 1960s with the rise of the civil rights and Black nationalist movements. During this era, African Americans were looking to reclaim their part of the American cultural identity. The term “soul” was used to describe all aspects of African American culture, such as “soul music,” or when African Americans referred to one another as “soul brother” or “soul sister.” The term “soul food” was first used by civil rights activist and poet Amiri Baraka and was used to describe the dishes African Americans had been cooking for years.

There are a variety of ingredients that are typically found in soul food dishes. They often consist of biscuits served with butter, jam, jelly, or gravy. Additional ingredients include: black-eyed peas, butter beans, catfish, chicken, chitterlings, chow-chow, collard greens, cornbread, fried fish, grits, ham hocks, hog maws, hot sauce, lima beans, macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, meatloaf, mustard greens, neckbones, pig’s feet, pork chops, red beans, ribs, rice, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, and yams to name a few. For centuries, soul food was cooked and seasoned with pork products, and fried dishes were usually cooked with hydrogenated vegetable oil (trans fat). Unfortunately, regular consumption of these ingredients without significant exercise or activity to work the calories off then contributed to disproportionately high obesity, hypertension, cardiac/circulatory problems, and/or diabetes within the African American community.

Soul food, a cuisine born out of adversity, resilience, and creativity is an important part of Black culture as it highlights and embraces the origins of Black people and brings families together. Its journey from humble beginnings to global recognition is a testament to its rich history, cultural significance, and sheer deliciousness. As we look to the future, by understanding our past, soul food will continue to evolve, adapt, and enchant, all while staying true to its roots.



## Daily Announcements

**Feb 1** - Happy Birthday Langston Hughes! He was born on February 1st 1902. Langston Hughes was an African American writer whose poems, columns, novels and plays made him a leading figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

**Feb 2** - Carter G. Woodson is known as “The Father of Black History Month” because he established ‘Negro History Week’ in February of 1926 to recognize African American achievements. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976. In his decree he stated, “In celebrating Black History Month, we can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area throughout our history.”

**Feb 3** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968. He was one of the most famous African American Civil Rights Movement leaders. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an inspiration to other leaders, such as Barack Obama who became the first Black United States President on January 20, 2009.

**Feb 4** - Happy Birthday Rosa Parks! Rosa Parks is credited for helping to spark the Civil Rights Movement when she refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man in Montgomery Alabama in 1955. Another little-known fact is that even though Rosa Parks is credited with being the first for this type of civil protest, a woman named Claudette Colvin was actually arrested 9 months prior for not giving up her seat to white passengers.

**Feb 5** - Ruby Bridges (born September 8, 1954) is an American civil rights activist. At only 6 years old, she was the first African American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school, William Frantz Elementary, in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1960.


**Feb 6** - Happy Birthday Bob Marley! Bob Marley was a Jamaican singer, musician and songwriter. He served as a world ambassador for reggae music and sold more than 20 million records throughout his career making him the first international superstar to emerge from the so-called “Third World”. In 1965, he released the song “One Love.” The lyrics mainly preach love and unity among the people of the world. In the song, Marley calls on all of us to put our differences aside and come together as one.

**Feb 7** - Thurgood Marshall was the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. As a young adult, he applied to his hometown law school at the University of Maryland but was denied entrance because of being Black. He later sued the school and won. And before he became a judge, he was a successful attorney who, most famously, won the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case, which ended school segregation.

**Feb 8** - Oprah Winfrey became the first black billionaire in the United States in 2001. She is best known for hosting her own internationally popular talk show from 1986 to 2011. From there she launched her own television network, OWN.

**Feb 9** - Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier when he became the first Black athlete to play Major League Baseball after joining the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Robinson didn't have it easy, often getting bottles and insults hurled his way. Despite the challenges of racism, he faced, he became Rookie of the Year, and in his second season, League MVP. The impact Robinson made on Major League Baseball is one that will be forever remembered. He opened the door for many others and will forever be honored for his contribution to the sport of baseball.





**Feb 10** - The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed by the United States House of Representatives on February 10th, 1964. It made it illegal for state or local governments or public facilities to deny access to anyone because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It also made any acts of discrimination subject to lawsuits.

**Feb 11** - Venus & Serena Williams are two professional American tennis players. Serena has won 23 Grand Slam single titles and several Olympic medals. Venus has a total of 49 career titles, out of which 7 are Grand Slam victories and four are Olympic Gold Medals. These siblings dominated the sport of tennis for many years, and they continue to inspire young athletes to be courageous and persevere.

**Feb 12** - The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is a civil rights organization established on February 12, 1909, to secure equality of rights for African Americans and eliminate discrimination.

**Feb 13** - Lonnie G. Johnson is a former Air Force and NASA engineer who invented the massively popular Super Soaker water gun, which has earned more than \$200 million in sales.

**Feb 14** - Happy Birthday Frederick Douglass! Throughout history, many important events in Black history have occurred in February. It was chosen as the month to celebrate Black History Month because the Black abolitionist and writer Frederick Douglass was born in this month, as well as Abraham Lincoln, who both played an important role in the shaping of American history.

**Feb 15** - While researching blood transfusions, Dr. Charles Richard Drew (1904-1950) realized that blood, like other liquids, could be preserved. His method, now known as blood banking, revolutionized medicine and changed the way doctors work in remote areas or during times of war. Dr. Drew organized the first large-scale blood bank in the United States.


**Feb 16** - On September 12, 1992, Mae C. Jemison became the first African American woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle Endeavor. During her eight-day mission, she worked with U.S. and Japanese researchers and was a co-investigator on a bone cell experiment.

**Feb 17** - Africa is not a country, it is a continent. Africa is the second largest continent in our world and located mainly in the Eastern hemisphere. Africa is made up of 54 different countries, 9 territories, over 1500 languages spoken, and more than 1.2 billion people live there.

**Feb 18** - Garrett Morgan blazed a trail for African American inventors with his patents, including those for a hair-straightening product, a breathing device (that was later used as the blueprint for the WWI gas mask), a revamped sewing machine, and an improved 3-position traffic signal in 1923.

**Feb 19** - Every student should be afforded the right to a higher education; however, this has not always been the case for African Americans due to discrimination and unequal and unfair laws. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, now there are 102 Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) across the United States with approximately 290,000 students (of all races and nationalities) enrolled.

**Feb 20** - George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and inventor who developed hundreds of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes and soybeans (although he didn't invent peanut butter, as people often claim). In 1894, Carver gained his Bachelor of Science degree and earned his Master of Science in bacterial botany and agriculture in 1896. Dr. Carver became the first black faculty member of Iowa College.



**Feb 21** - Happy Birthday John Lewis! John Lewis grew up in an era of racial segregation. Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., he joined the civil rights movement. Lewis was a Freedom Rider, spoke at the 1963 March on Washington, elected to Congress in 1986, and he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011. John Lewis continued to fight for people's rights until his death in July of 2020. One of his famous quotes in regard to social activism is "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

**Feb 22** - Simone Biles, an American gymnast, holds the record for the most World Championship medals. She has a total of 32 Olympic and world medals. Seven of those medals are Olympic; with four gold, one silver and two bronze.

**Feb 23** - Harriett Tubman was born a slave but later escaped to Philadelphia. She risked her life traveling at night helping hundreds of Southern slaves escape to the north and Canada through a network of safe people and safe houses called the Underground Railroad. In 1978, Harriet Tubman was the first African American woman to appear on a US Postage Stamp.

**Feb 24** - Octavia Butler was diagnosed with dyslexia as a child, however she didn't let this deter her from developing a love of books. Butler started creating her own stories early on, and she decided to make writing her life's work around the age of 10. Octavia E. Butler became the first science-fiction writer to receive the MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant in 1995.

**Feb 25** - Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong (1900-1971) was one of the most influential artists of all time. He transformed jazz into an art form, and his trumpet style is still imitated today. You may have heard two of his international hits, "Hello Dolly" and "What a Wonderful World," played in some of your favorite movies, commercials, or TV shows.

**Feb 26** - Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate family, culture and heritage, and is modeled after the first harvest celebrations in Africa. The seven days of the Kwanzaa celebration correspond with the seven principles of the Nguzo Saba: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Kwanzaa is rooted in African culture. However, people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds are welcomed to join in the celebration.

**Feb 27** - Madam C.J. Walker created specialized hair products for African American hair care and is recorded as the first female self-made millionaire in America in the Guinness Book of World Records.

**Feb 28** - Kobe Bryant was an American professional basketball player who entered the NBA directly from high school. He played his entire 20 season professional career with the Los Angeles Lakers. He was a 5-time NBA champion, 17-time NBA All-Star, and a 2-time Olympic gold medalist.

*When using the classroom resources, it is a teacher's responsibility to ensure direct connections to the learning standards as well as the quality of the lessons. These resources should be used as a starting point and teachers should use their professional expertise to create high quality learning experiences. When discussing any new or sensitive topic, there is the potential for some students to react with stereotypes or in disrespectful ways. It is therefore critical that educators carefully review the lesson/activity and assess students' maturity and readiness to engage prior to exploring the topic and to establish clear parameters with students that will ensure safe and constructive dialogue.*

## Bulletin Boards

**Tip:** Click on each [Title](#) to access printable materials to make bulletin boards for your school or classroom that are inspired by the ones below.

### [African American Inventors from A-Z](#)



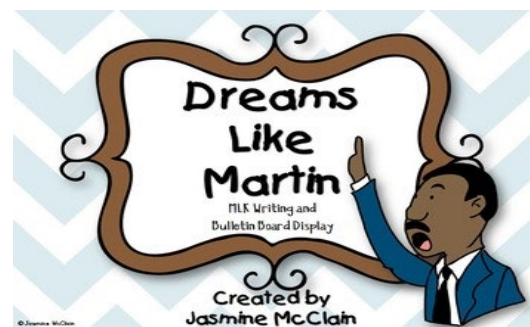
### [Civil Rights Freebie](#)



### [Black History Month Posters](#)



### [Dreams Like Martin](#)



### Additional Bulletin Board Resources:

- [African American Visionaries Poster](#)
- [Additional Periodic Table Template Sheets](#)
- [Black Classicists](#)

## The Arts – Performing

### Historical Articles

- [A New African American Identity: The Harlem Renaissance](#) (Smithsonian)
- [Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts](#) (Howard University)
- [A Look at Black Directors Who Changed Hollywood](#) (Los Angeles Film School)
- [A History of Black Costume Design in Film & Television](#)
- [Black Actors, Producers, Musicians, and Entertainers](#)
- [Black Theater](#)

## Middle & High

- [Article: 15 Black Fashion Designers You Should Know \(Teen Vogue\)](#)
- [Celebrating Black History Month: Broadway Milestone You Ought to Know](#)

## The Arts - Visual

### Middle & High

- [Black Artists:](#) Anti-Racist Art Teachers

**\*\*Note:** This resource is a large artist compilation. Please review before using with students.

- [Augusta Savage: Renaissance Woman](#) (New York Historical Society)
- [Painting the Epic Drama of the Great Migration: The Work of Jacob Lawrence](#)
- [Top 12 Famous Black Artists Who Achieved Greatness](#) (The Collector)
- [African American Artists in the Collection](#) (National Gallery of Art)
- [Google Arts & Culture: Explore Black History & Culture](#) **\*\*Featured Resource\*\***
- [28 Days of Black History: A virtual exhibition of 28 works that celebrate Black legacy in the U.S.](#)
- <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/index.html>
- [16 Black Artists to Know](#)
- [A Racial Reckoning for Art Museums](#)
- [Painting Protest: A History of Black Art As Activism](#)
- [A visual history of iconic Black hairstyles](#)
- [What if curators were teens? Museums try it](#)
- [Who Are the Artists Behind the New Obama Portraits?](#)
- [Jackie Ormes Was The First Black Woman Cartoonist](#)

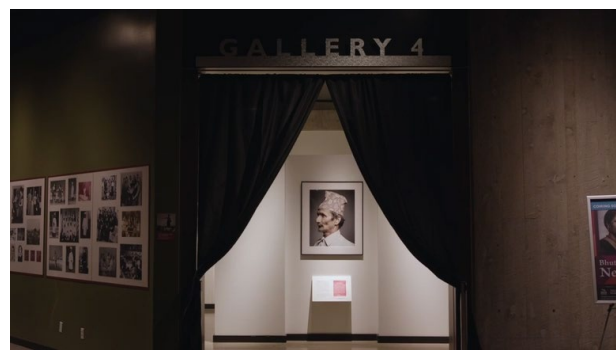
### Videos

**Tip:** Click on each [Title](#) to see artist spotlights.

[Titus Kaphar - Can Art Amend History? \(TED\)](#)



[Tariq Tarey - Bhutanese-Nepali Neighbors](#)





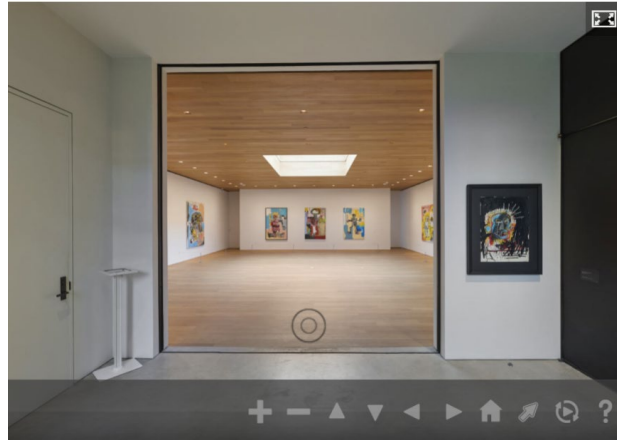
[Kehinde Wiley - A New Republic](#)



[Alice Beasley - Blood Line](#)



[Meet the Artist: Mickalene Thomas](#)   [Virtual Tour: Jean-Michel Basquiat Exhibition](#)



The “Other” Lost Generation of Black American Artists in Paris

**Tip:** Click the picture below to learn more



## Artist Spotlight

**Tip:** Click on each picture to see artist spotlights.

Kadir Nelson  
Painting



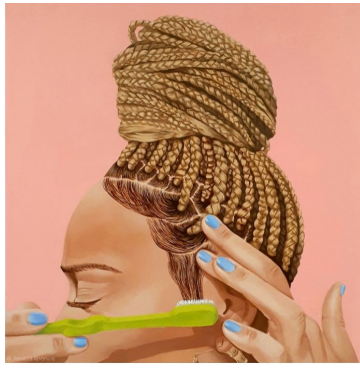
Kehinde Wiley  
Portraiture & Sculpture



Adia Millett  
Quilting



Jessica Spence  
Portraiture



Paul S. Briggs  
Ceramics & Sculpture



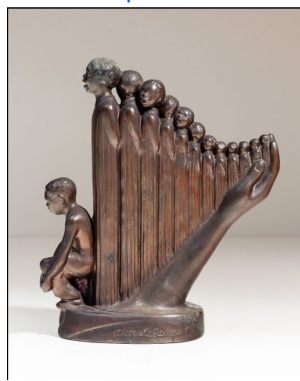
William H. Johnson  
Oils, Watercolors, Pen & Ink



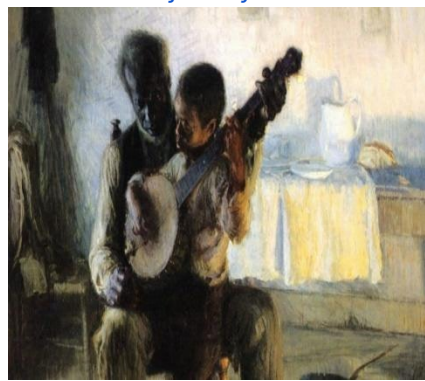
Nari Ward  
Installations



Augusta Savage  
Sculpture



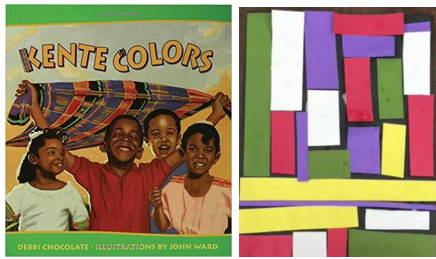
Henry Ossawa Tanner  
The Banjo Player 1893





## Art Projects

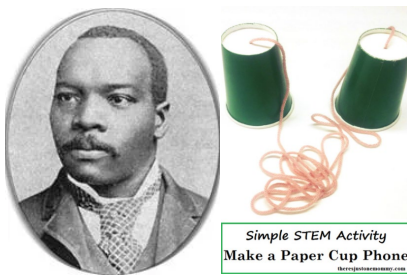
Kente Cloth - Kente Colors  
Debbi Chocolate



Colorful Abstract Art & Activity  
Alma Thomas



Telegraphony  
Granville T. Woods



Traffic Light  
Garrett Morgan



Spaceship  
Mae Jemison



Tennis Rackets  
Serena & Venus Williams



## ELA

### Middle & High

- [The African cartoonists drawing themselves into the story](#)
- Poetry Foundation: [Celebrating Black History Month](#) (collection of poems, articles, and podcasts)
- [Meet the Artist: An American Story by Kwame Alexander](#)
- [Struggles of Being Afro-Latino](#), [What Afro-Latinos Want You To Know](#), [Reflection of Afro Latino videos](#)
- [Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech as a work of literature](#) (9-12 lesson plan)
- [Leadership at the March on Washington through music & speeches](#) (MS & HS lesson plan)
- [The Classical Roots of White Supremacy](#) (Learning for Justice)

- [We Condone It By Our Silence: Confronting Classics' Complicity In White Supremacy](#) by Rebecca Futo Kennedy
- [National Committee for Latin and Greek Spotlights: New Work on Black Classicists](#) by Peggy W. Norris
- [Langston Hughes' Harlem](#) (6-12 lesson plan)
- [Maya Angelou & Resilience](#) (6-12 lesson plan)

## Family Consumer Sciences

- Articles
  - [African American Chefs You Should Know](#) (Smithsonian)
  - [13 Black-Owned Restaurants in Columbus](#) (2020)
  - [Black Owned Food & Beverage Locations in Columbus](#)
  - [How Enslaved Chefs Helped Shape American Cuisine](#) (Smithsonian)
  - [How Black Culinary Historians are Rewriting the History of American Food](#)
  - [The Origins of Soul Food](#)
  - [Soul Food History](#)
  - [Food from the soul: A history of African American culture and nutrition](#)
  - ["Soul Food" in America, a story](#)

**Tip:** Click the *title* to access the resources.  
[This 14-year-old opened a bakery](#)

[Taste of Nigeria - Google Arts & Culture](#)



**Tip:** For chef biographies and interviews, click the image below.



# Math

## K-12

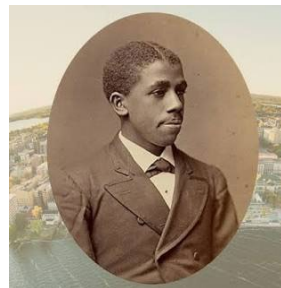
- [8 Famous Black Mathematicians and their Contributions](#)
- [Mathematically Gifted & Black: Accomplishments of Black Scholars in Mathematical Sciences](#)
- [3 Ways to Honor Black History Month in Your Classroom](#) (ESC Central Ohio)
- [The Most Highly Cited Black Mathematicians](#) (The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education)
- [11 Famous African American Mathematicians You Should Know About](#)
- [Influential Black Mathematicians](#)
- [Black Mathematicians](#)

## Mathematician & Engineer Spotlight

Benjamin Banneker  
[Mathematician and Astronomer](#)



Edward Bouchet  
[First African-American to Earn a Ph.D.](#)



Gladys West  
[US Navy Mathematician - Pioneer of GPS](#)



John Urschel  
[Former NFL Player - MIT Doctoral Student](#)



## Music

K-12

- Audio: [Songs, Sounds and Stories from the Georgia Sea Islands](#)
- Video: [Lift Every Voice and Sing](#)



## Secondary

- [Archives of African American Music and Culture](#)
- [Protest Songs: A Musical Introduction \(MS\)](#)
- [The Influence of Black Music on the Beatles](#)
- [Afrofuturism in Black Music](#)
- [9 Black Musicians that Changed the Industry](#)
- 

## Musician Spotlight



[Louis Armstrong](#)



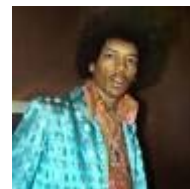
[Sam Cooke](#)



[James Brown](#)



[Etta James](#)



[Jimi Hendrix](#)



[Aretha Franklin](#)



[Stevie Wonder](#)



[Michael Jackson](#)



[Prince](#)



[Kirk Franklin](#)

## P.E.

- [Black Hockey History: A Timeline](#)
- Explore:
  - [Sports and the African American Civil Rights Movement \(Grades 3-8\)](#)
  - [Top Ten Famous Black Athletes in History](#)
  - [Black Athletes Who Paved the Way and Opened Doors](#)
  - [Ten Black Women Who Changed Sports Forever](#)
  - [9 Black Athletes Who Integrated Professional Sports](#)
  - [The Legacy of Black Athletes in U.S. Olympic & Paralympic History](#)



## Athlete Spotlight

Willie O'Ree  
*First Black NHL Player*



Wendell Scott  
*NASCAR Hall of Fame*



Gabby Douglas  
*Olympic Gold Medalist in Gymnastics*



Ibtihaj Muhammad  
*Olympic Medalist in Fencing*



Simone Manuel  
*Olympic Gold Medalist in Swimming*



CJ Stroud  
*NFL Rookie Quarterback*



## Science

### K-12

- [The Black Inventor: Online Museum](#)
- [Ten Black Scientist that Science Teachers Should Know About](#)
- [Learn More About these 38 Scientists for Black History Month](#)
- [34 highly influential African American scientists you may not know](#)
- [10 Black Scientists You Should Know](#)
- [Making History: African American Pioneers of Science](#) (National Geographic Kids)
- [9 Black History Month Science Activities & Experiments](#)
- [Jerry Lawson Video Game Inventor](#) (The Wise Channel)
- [Dr. Mae Jemison First Black Woman Astronaut](#) (The Wise Channel)
- [Periodic Table of Black History Month](#)

### Secondary

- Physics
  - [The Black Scientific Renaissance of the 1970s-90s: African American Scientists at Bell Laboratories](#) (Lesson Plan)
  - [African American Physicists](#) (Oral Histories)
  - [The Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers Collection](#) (PBS)
- [Victor Glover becomes 1st Black astronaut to arrive at space station for long-term stay](#) (MS)
- [Black students have talent for STEM careers but lack exposure, report finds](#)

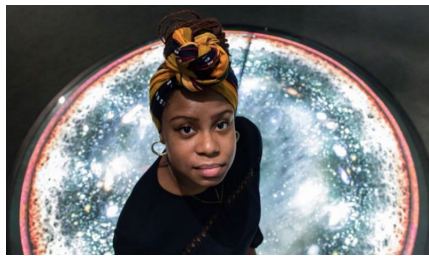
## Science Spotlight

**Tip:** Click on each picture below to introduce your students to scientists, researchers, and professors.

Malone Mukwende  
*Identifying conditions on darker skin*



Ashley Walker  
*Astrochemist Intern - NASA*



## Social Studies

### K-12

- [Black History Month](#) (National Council for the Social Studies)
- [Harriet Tubman Show Companion Activity Packet](#) (The Children's Theater of Cincinnati)
- [Help learners celebrate Black history with these videos, lessons, podcasts, and more.](#) (Common Sense Education)

### Secondary

- [Google Arts & Culture: Explore Black History & Culture](#) **\*\*Featured Resource\*\***
- [Black History Milestones: Timeline](#) (major milestones across Black history that have shaped the American experience)
- [Curation of Primary Sources](#) (Library of Congress, National Archives, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service)
- [Teaching with Historical Places: African American History Lessons](#) (National Park Service)

#### Middle School

- [Profiles of 24 Black abolitionists who fought against slavery](#)
- [Freedom on the Move: Database of fugitives from North American slavery](#)
- [Africa's Great Civilizations](#) (PBS Documentaries)

#### High School

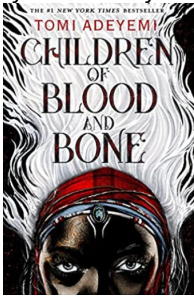


- [How the GI Bill's promise was denied to a million Black WWII Veterans](#)
- [The Battle for Desegregation in Hillsboro, OH](#)

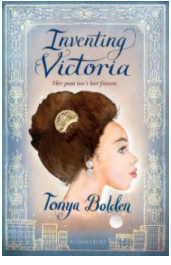


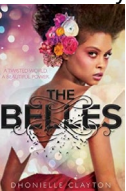
## World Language

- [Black Multilingual Historical Figures](#)
- [Black Americans Who Shaped Linguistic History](#)
- [The Immeasurable Contribution of African American English to World Language Use](#)
- [10 Things to Know About African American Language](#)
- [A Racial Awakening in France, Where Race is a Taboo Topic](#) (HS)
- [Why the future of French is African](#)
- [10 Famous Afro-Latinos to Celebrate During Black History](#)
- [Afro-Latino: A Deeply Rooted Identity among US Hispanics](#) (Pew Research)



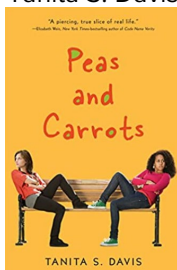
## Secondary Book Recommendations

<p>Legacy of Orisha series by Tomi Adeyemi</p> 	<p>Tomi Adeyemi conjures a stunning world of dark magic and danger in her West African-inspired Legacy of Orisha fantasy series. Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic before a ruthless king ordered all Maji killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope.</p> <p><b>Instant New York Times Bestseller, TIME Top 100 Fantasy Books of All Time, TIME 100: Most Influential People of 2020, New York Times Notable Children's Books of 2018, TIME Top 10 Best YA and Children's Books of 2018, NPR's Book Concierge 2018 Great Reads List, BuzzFeed's 24 Best YA Books of 2018, Bustle's Top 25 Best Young Adults Books of 2018, 2018 Kirkus Prize Finalist, YALSA William C. Morris YA Debut Award Finalist, Paste Magazine's 30 Best YA Novels of 2018, Newsweek's 61 Best Books from 2018, Boston Globe's Best Children's Books of 2018, Publishers Weekly Best YA Books of 2018, School Library Journal Best Books of 2018, 2019 YALSA Teen's Top Ten List</b></p>
<p>Between the Lines by Nikki Grimes</p> 	<p>Darrian dreams of writing for the New York Times. To hone his skills and learn more about the power of words, he enrolls in Mr. Ward's class, known for its open-mic poetry readings and boys vs. girls poetry slam. Everyone in class has something important to say, and in sharing their poetry, they learn that they all face challenges and have a story to tell—whether it's about health problems, aging out of foster care, being bullied for religious beliefs, or having to take on too much responsibility because of an addicted parent. As Darrian and his classmates get to know one another through poetry, they bond over the shared experiences and truth that emerge from their writing, despite their private struggles and outward differences.</p>
<p>Crossing Ebenezer Creek by Tonya Bolden</p> 	<p>When Mariah and her young brother Zeke are suddenly freed from slavery, they join Sherman's march through Georgia. Mariah wants to believe that the brutalities of slavery are behind them, but even as hope glimmers, there are many hardships yet to come. When she meets a free black named Caleb, Mariah dreams in a way she never dared . . . of a future worth living and the possibility of true love. But even hope comes at a cost, and as the difficult march continues toward the churning waters of Ebenezer Creek, Mariah's dreams are as vulnerable as ever.</p> <p>In this powerful exploration of a little-known tragedy perfect for fans of Ruta Sepetys, readers will never forget the souls of Ebenezer Creek.</p>
<p>Inventing Victoria by Tonya Bolden</p>	<p>In a searing historical novel, Tonya Bolden illuminates post-Reconstruction America in an intimate portrait of a determined young woman who dares to seize the opportunity of a lifetime.</p> <p>As a young black woman in 1880s Savannah, Essie's dreams are very much at odds with her reality. Ashamed of her beginnings, but unwilling to accept the path currently available to her, Essie is trapped between the life she has and the life she wants.</p> <p>Until she meets a lady named Dorcas Vashon, the richest and most cultured</p>

	<p>black woman she's ever encountered. When Dorcas makes Essie an offer she can't refuse, she becomes Victoria. Transformed by a fine wardrobe, a classic education and the rules of etiquette, Victoria is soon welcomed in the upper echelons of black society in Washington, DC. But when the life she desires is finally within her grasp, Victoria must decide how much of herself she is truly willing to surrender.</p>
<p>This is My America by Kim Johnson</p> 	<p>The Hate U Give meets Just Mercy in this unflinching yet uplifting first novel that explores the racist injustices in the American justice system.</p> <p>Every week, seventeen-year-old Tracy Beaumont writes letters to Innocence X, asking the organization to help her father, an innocent Black man on death row. After seven years, Tracy is running out of time--her dad has only 267 days left. Then the unthinkable happens. The police arrive in the night, and Tracy's older brother, Jamal, goes from being a bright, promising track star to a "thug" on the run, accused of killing a white girl. Determined to save her brother, Tracy investigates what really happened between Jamal and Angela down at the Pike. But will Tracy and her family survive the uncovering of the skeletons of their Texas town's racist history that still haunt the present?</p>
<p>Tyler Johnson Was Here by Jay Coles</p> 	<p>A young man searches for answers after the death of his brother at the hands of police in this striking debut novel, for readers of The Hate U Give.</p> <p>When Marvin Johnson's twin, Tyler, goes to a party, Marvin decides to tag along to keep an eye on his brother. But what starts as harmless fun turns into a shooting, followed by a police raid.</p> <p>The next day, Tyler has gone missing, and it's up to Marvin to find him. But when Tyler is found dead, a video leaked online tells an even more chilling story: Tyler has been shot and killed by a police officer. Terrified as his mother unravels and mourning a brother who is now a hashtag, Marvin must learn what justice and freedom really mean.</p> <p>Tyler Johnson Was Here is a powerful and moving portrait of youth and family that speaks to the serious issues of today--from gun control to the Black Lives Matter movement.</p>
<p>The Belles series by Dhonielle Clayton</p> 	<p>Camellia Beauregard is a Belle. In the opulent world of Orléans, Belles are revered, for they control Beauty, and Beauty is a commodity coveted above all else. In Orléans, the people are born gray, they are born damned, and only with the help of a Belle and her talents can they transform and be made beautiful.</p>
<p>The Good Luck Girls by Charlotte Nicole Davis</p>	<p>Sold to a "welcome house" as children and branded with cursed markings. Trapped in a life they would never have chosen. When Clementine accidentally murders a man, the girls risk a dangerous escape and harrowing journey to find freedom, justice, and revenge in a country that wants them to have none of those things.</p>



Peas and Carrots by  
Tanita S. Davis

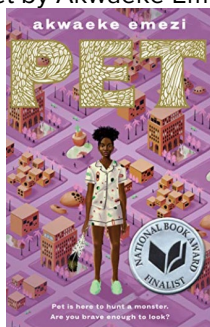


Dess knows that nothing good lasts. Disappointment is never far away, and that's a truth that Dess has learned to live with.

Dess's mother's most recent arrest is just the latest in a long line of disappointments, but this one lands her with her baby brother's foster family. Dess doesn't exactly fit in with the Carters. They're so happy, so comfortable, so normal, and Hope, their teenage daughter, is so hopelessly naïve. Dess and Hope couldn't be more unlike each other, but Austin loves them both like sisters. Over time their differences, insurmountable at first, fall away to reveal two girls who want the same thing: to belong.

Tanita S. Davis, a Coretta Scott King Honor winner, weaves a tale of two modern teenagers defying stereotypes and deciding for themselves what it means to be a family.

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi



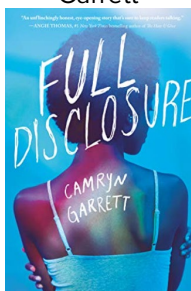
Pet is here to hunt a monster. Are you brave enough to look?

There are no monsters anymore, or so the children in Lucille are taught. Jam and her best friend, Redemption, have grown up with the lesson that the city is safe for everyone. But when Jam meets Pet, a creature who some might call monstrous but, in reality, is anything but, she must reconsider what she's been told. Pet has emerged from one of her mother's paintings to hunt a true monster--and the shadow of something grim lurks in Redemption's house. No one has encountered monsters in years, though, and Jam's quest to protect her best friend and uncover the truth is met with doubt and disbelief.

This award-winning novel from a rising-star author asks: What really makes a monster, and how do you save the world from something if no one will admit it exists?

**National Book Award Finalist, Stonewall Honor Book, Walter Dean Myers Honor Book**

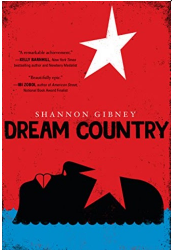

Full Disclosure by Camryn  
Garrett

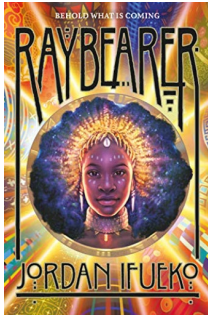


The uplifting story of an HIV-positive teen, falling in love and learning to live her truth.

Simone Garcia-Hampton is starting over at a new school, and this time things will be different. She's making real friends, making a name for herself as student director of Rent, and making a play for Miles, the guy who makes her melt every time he walks into a room. The last thing she wants is for word to get out that she's HIV-positive, because last time . . . well, last time things got ugly.

Keeping her viral load under control is easy, but keeping her diagnosis under wraps is not so simple. As Simone and Miles start going out for real--shy kisses escalating into much more--she feels an uneasiness that goes beyond butterflies. She knows she has to tell him that she's positive, especially if sex is a possibility, but she's terrified of how he'll react! And then she finds an anonymous note in her locker: I know you have HIV. You have until

	<p>Thanksgiving to stop hanging out with Miles. Or everyone else will know too.</p> <p>Simone's first instinct is to protect her secret at all costs, but as she gains a deeper understanding of the prejudice and fear in her community, she begins to wonder if the only way to rise above is to face the haters head-on. . . .</p>
<p>Dream Country by Shannon Gibney</p> 	<p>Dream Country begins in suburban Minneapolis at the moment when seventeen-year-old Kollie Flomo begins to crack under the strain of his life as a Liberian refugee. He's exhausted by being at once too black and not black enough for his African American peers and worn down by the expectations of his own Liberian family and community. When his frustration finally spills into violence and his parents send him back to Monrovia to reform school, the story shifts. Like Kollie, readers travel back to Liberia, but also back in time, to the early twentieth century and the point of view of Togar Somah, an eighteen-year-old indigenous Liberian on the run from government militias that would force him to work the plantations of the Congo people, descendants of the African American slaves who colonized Liberia almost a century earlier. When Togar's section draws to a shocking close, the novel jumps again, back to America in 1827, to the children of Yasmine Wright, who leave a Virginia plantation with their mother for Liberia, where they're promised freedom and a chance at self-determination by the American Colonization Society. The Wrights begin their section by fleeing the whip and by its close, they are then the ones who wield it. With each new section, the novel uncovers fresh hope and resonating heartbreak, all based on historical fact.</p> <p>In Dream Country, Shannon Gibney spins a riveting tale of the nightmarish spiral of death and exile connecting America and Africa, and of how one determined young dreamer tries to break free and gain control of her destiny.</p>
<p>The Black Kids by Christina Hammonds Reed</p> 	<p>This unforgettable coming-of-age debut novel explores issues of race, class, and violence through the eyes of a wealthy black teenager whose family gets caught in the vortex of the 1992 Rodney King Riots.</p> <p>Ashley Bennett and her friends are living the charmed life. It's the end of senior year and they're spending more time at the beach than in the classroom. They can already feel the sunny days and endless possibilities of summer.</p> <p>Everything changes one afternoon in April, when four LAPD officers are acquitted after beating a black man named Rodney King half to death. Suddenly, Ashley's not just one of the girls. She's one of the black kids.</p> <p>As violent protests engulf LA and the city burns, Ashley tries to continue on as if life were normal. Even as her self-destructive sister gets dangerously involved in the riots. Even as the model black family façade her wealthy and prominent parents have built starts to crumble. Even as her best friends help spread a rumor that could completely derail the future of her classmate and fellow black kid, LaShawn Johnson.</p> <p>With her world splintering around her, Ashley, along with the rest of LA, is left to question who is the us? And who is the them?</p> <p><b>New York Times Bestseller</b></p>
<p>Ray Bearer by Jordan Ifueko</p>	<p>Nothing is more important than loyalty. But what if you've sworn to protect the</p>



one you were born to destroy?

Tarisai has always longed for the warmth of a family. She was raised in isolation by a mysterious, often absent mother known only as The Lady. The Lady sends her to the capital of the global empire of Aritsar to compete with other children to be chosen as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11. If she's picked, she'll be joined with the other Council members through the Ray, a bond deeper than blood. That closeness is irresistible to Tarisai, who has always wanted to belong somewhere. But The Lady has other ideas, including a magical wish that Tarisai is compelled to obey: Kill the Crown Prince once she gains his trust. Tarisai won't stand by and become someone's pawn—but is she strong enough to choose a different path for herself? With extraordinary world-building and breathtaking prose, *Raybearer* is the story of loyalty, fate, and the lengths we're willing to go for the ones we love.

Dread Nation series  
by Justina Ireland



At once provocative, terrifying, and darkly subversive, *Dread Nation* is Justina Ireland's stunning vision of an America both foreign and familiar—a country on the brink, at the explosive crossroads where race, humanity, and survival meet.

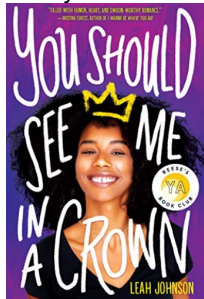
**New York Times Bestseller**

Let Me Hear a Rhyme by  
Tiffany D. Jackson



In this striking new novel by the critically acclaimed author of *Allegedly* and *Monday's Not Coming*, Tiffany D. Jackson tells the story of three Brooklyn teens who plot to turn their murdered friend into a major rap star by pretending he's still alive.

You Should See Me in a  
Crown by Leah Johnson






Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed midwestern town. But it's okay -- Liz has a plan that will get her out of Campbell, Indiana, forever: attend the uber-elite Pennington College, play in their world-famous orchestra, and become a doctor.

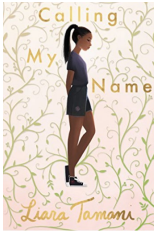
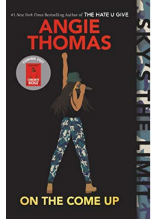
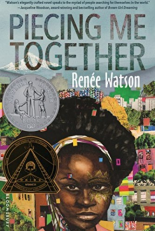
But when the financial aid she was counting on unexpectedly falls through, Liz's plans come crashing down . . . until she's reminded of her school's scholarship for prom king and queen. There's nothing Liz wants to do less than endure a gauntlet of social media trolls, catty competitors, and humiliating public events, but despite her devastating fear of the spotlight she's willing to do whatever it takes to get to Pennington.

The only thing that makes it halfway bearable is the new girl in school, Mack. She's smart, funny, and just as much of an outsider as Liz. But Mack is also in the running for queen. Will falling for the competition keep Liz from her dreams . . . or make them come true?



<p>How It Went Down by Kekla Magoon</p> 	<p>When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson dies from two gunshot wounds, his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white.</p> <p>In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up. Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth.</p> <p>Tariq's friends, family, and community struggle to make sense of the tragedy, and to cope with the hole left behind when a life is cut short. In their own words, they grapple for a way to say with certainty: This is how it went down.</p> <p><b>Coretta Scott King Honor Book</b></p>
<p>Slay by Brittney Morris</p> 	<p>By day, seventeen-year-old Kiera Johnson is an honors student, a math tutor, and one of the only Black kids at Jefferson Academy. But at home, she joins hundreds of thousands of Black gamers who duel worldwide as Nubian personas in the secret multiplayer online role-playing card game, SLAY. No one knows Kiera is the game developer, not her friends, her family, not even her boyfriend, Malcolm, who believes video games are partially responsible for the “downfall of the Black man.”</p> <p>But when a teen in Kansas City is murdered over a dispute in the SLAY world, news of the game reaches mainstream media, and SLAY is labeled a racist, exclusionist, violent hub for thugs and criminals. Even worse, an anonymous troll infiltrates the game, threatening to sue Kiera for “anti-white discrimination.”</p> <p>Driven to save the only world in which she can be herself, Kiera must preserve her secret identity and harness what it means to be unapologetically Black in a world intimidated by Blackness. But can she protect her game without losing herself in the process?</p>
<p>Akata Witch series by Nnedi Okorafor</p> 	<p>Affectionately dubbed "the Nigerian Harry Potter," Akata Witch weaves together a heart-pounding tale of magic, mystery, and finding one's place in the world.</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Sunny lives in Nigeria, but she was born American. Her features are African, but she's albino. She's a terrific athlete, but can't go out into the sun to play soccer. There seems to be no place where she fits in. And then she discovers something amazing—she is a "free agent" with latent magical power. Soon she's part of a quartet of magic students, studying the visible and invisible, learning to change reality. But will it be enough to help them when they are asked to catch a career criminal who knows magic too?</p>
<p>Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds</p> 	<p>Jason Reynolds' new novel Long Way Down is focused on a moment of decision. It happens in an elevator — teenaged Will is on his way to take revenge for the murder of his brother, but his plan is interrupted by a few visitors on the way down to the ground floor.</p> <p><b>A Newbery Honor Book, A Coretta Scott King Honor Book, A Printz Honor Book, A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature, Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award, An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction, Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner, An Entertainment</b></p>



	<b>Weekly Best YA Book, A Vulture Best YA Book, A BuzzFeed Best YA Book</b>
<p>Calling My Name by Liara Tamani</p> 	<p>Calling My Name is a striking, luminous, and literary exploration of family, spirituality, and self—ideal for readers of Jacqueline Woodson, Jandy Nelson, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Sandra Cisneros.</p> <p>This unforgettable novel tells a universal coming-of-age story about Taja Brown, a young African American girl growing up in Houston, Texas, and deftly and beautifully explores the universal struggles of growing up, battling family expectations, discovering a sense of self, and finding a unique voice and purpose.</p> <p>Told in fifty-three short, episodic, moving, and iridescent chapters, Calling My Name follows Taja on her journey from middle school to high school. Literary and noteworthy, this is a beauty of a novel that captures the multifaceted struggle of finding where you belong and why you matter.</p>
<p>One the Come Up by Angie Thomas</p> 	<p>Sixteen-year-old Bri wants to be one of the greatest rappers of all time. Or at least win her first battle. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died right before he hit big, Bri's got massive shoes to fill.</p> <p>But it's hard to get your come up when you're labeled a hoodlum at school, and your fridge at home is empty after your mom loses her job. So Bri pours her anger and frustration into her first song, which goes viral . . . for all the wrong reasons.</p> <p>Bri soon finds herself at the center of a controversy, portrayed by the media as more menace than MC. But with an eviction notice staring her family down, Bri doesn't just want to make it—she has to. Even if it means becoming the very thing the public has made her out to be.</p> <p>Insightful, unflinching, and full of heart, On the Come Up is an ode to hip hop from one of the most influential literary voices of a generation. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you; and about how, especially for young black people, freedom of speech isn't always free.</p> <p><b>#1 New York Times bestseller, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Honor Book</b></p>
<p>Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson</p> 	<p>Jade believes she must get out of her poor neighborhood if she's ever going to succeed. Her mother tells her to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. And Jade has: every day she rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities she doesn't really welcome, like an invitation to join Women to Women, a mentorship program for "at-risk" girls. Just because her mentor is black and graduated from the same high school doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix. Jade wants to speak, to create, to express her joys and sorrows, her pain and her hope. Maybe there are some things she could show other women about understanding the world and finding ways to be real, to make a difference.</p> <p><b>Newbery Honor Award Winner, Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner, New York Times Bestseller, NPR's Best Books of 2017, New York Public Library Best Teen Book of the Year, Chicago Public Library's Best Book, A School Library Journal Best Book, Kirkus Reviews' Best Teen Book, Josette</b></p>

	<b>Frank Award Winner</b>
<p>If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson</p> 	<p>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.</p>
<p>American Street by Ibi Zoboi</p> <p>IBI ZOBOI</p> 	<p>In this stunning debut novel, Pushcart-nominated author Ibi Zoboi draws on her own experience as a young Haitian immigrant, infusing this lyrical exploration of America with magical realism and vodou culture.</p> <p>On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie—a good life.</p> <p>But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit's west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own.</p> <p>Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?</p> <p>A New York Times Notable Book, Publishers Weekly Flying Start, Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, ALA Booklist Editors' Choice, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, Kirkus Best Book of the Year, BookPage Best YA Book of the Year</p>
<p>Black Enough: Stories of Being Young and Black by Ibi Zoboi</p> 	<p>Edited by National Book Award finalist Ibi Zoboi, and featuring some of the most acclaimed bestselling Black authors writing for teens today—Black Enough is an essential collection of captivating stories about what it's like to be young and Black in America. A selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List.</p>
<p>Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi</p> 	<p>From award-winning author Ibi Zoboi and prison reform activist Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated Five comes a powerful YA novel in verse about a boy who is wrongfully incarcerated. Perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds, Walter Dean Myers, and Elizabeth Acevedo.</p> <p><b>New York Times and USA Today bestseller, Goodreads Finalist for Best Teen Book of the Year, Time Magazine Best Book of the Year, Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year, School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, New York Public Library Best Book of the Year</b></p>

## February Events

### BHM Events Calendar

- [Celebrate Black History Month 2025](#) (Ohio History Connection)
- [How To Honor Black History Month in Columbus](#) (Experience Columbus)
- [Black History Festival Events in Columbus, Oh](#)
- National Pan Hellenic Council Teen Summit, February 1, 2024 East High School, 1500 East Broad St., Columbus 43205
- Black History Month 2025 Programs ([Ohio History Connection](#))
- [A Black History Month Special Program! Picturing Black History: Photographs and Stories that Changed the World!](#) (Gramercy Books) February 26, 2025
- Bexley Minority Parent Alliance (BMPA) [Virtual Informational & Networking Event](#) February 12, 2025 4-5:15pm; [Minority Teacher & Staff Reception](#), Bexley Public Library 2411 E Main St, Bexley, Ohio February 27 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Black History Month events [Columbus Metropolitan Libraries](#)
- [Black History Month Presentations](#) (Ohio Statehouse)
- [Black History Month Columbus](#)
- [Black History Month Pop-up Concert](#) featuring the Columbus Cultural Youth Orchestra, February 16, 2025 2:00–3:00 PM, Location: CMA
- [Black History Month Celebration: Honoring Black Labor through the Arts](#), Upper Arlington Public Library, February 15, 2025 2-4pm Tremont Library, 2800 Tremont Rd.
- [Toni Morrison Day Celebration](#) Bexley Public Library 2411 East Main St., Bexley Sunday February 16, 2025 1:30-4:45 pm
- [The Secret History of Black Punk: Raeghan Buchanan Author Visit](#) Bexley Public Library 2411 East Main St., Bexley Wednesday February 26, 2025 7-8 pm