

# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

Our favorite books to instill pride and enhance education

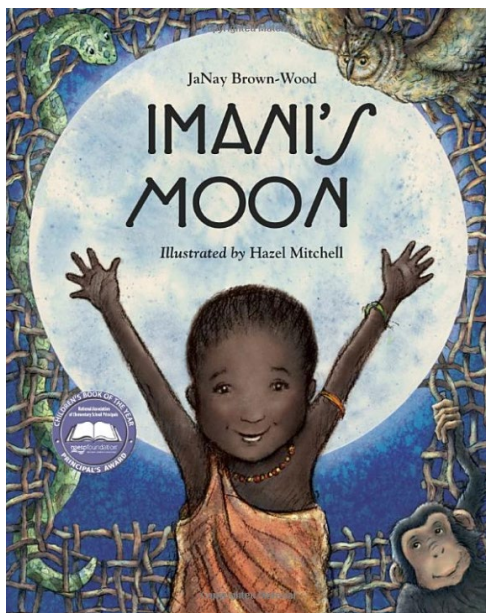


The success and journeys of African-American trailblazers should be celebrated all year long. In Black History Month, we hope that shining a light on those who have championed equity and equality will help us all take space to grow, learn, and mirror empathy. Please enjoy these books, both well-known and others personally recommended by those on our staff.

## DO YOU HAVE BOOKS YOU WISH TO DONATE?

Please consider getting in touch with Atlantic Street Center to coordinate a book drop-off. We have a partnership with the 23<sup>rd</sup> & Jackson Starbucks; they have a community library. Help us rotate new books in each month with your donations. [Reach out here.](#)

## Children's Books



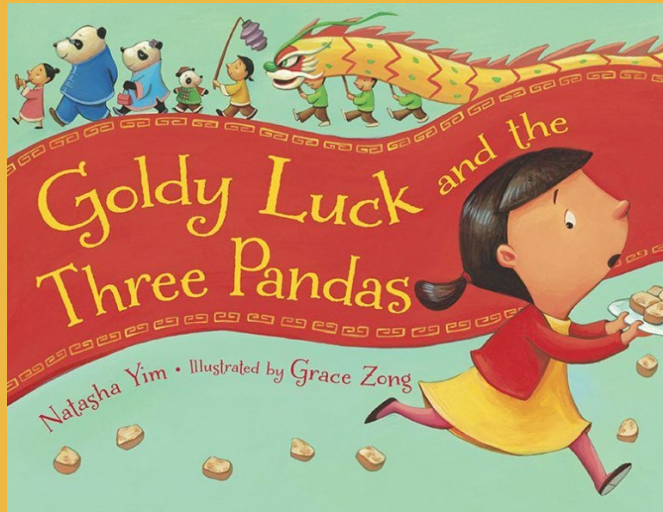
### Children > Picture Book

## Imani's Moon

by Janay Brown-Wood | Illustrated by Hazel Mitchell

Reviewers say their children beg to be read this book over and over again! Imani goes through a personal journey in her village where she is the smallest member. She is told so often by her peers that she is just so small, she has a hard time believing in herself. This changes as she listens to her mother tell her the traditional Maasai stories about overcoming personal obstacles.

[Buy It On Amazon](#)

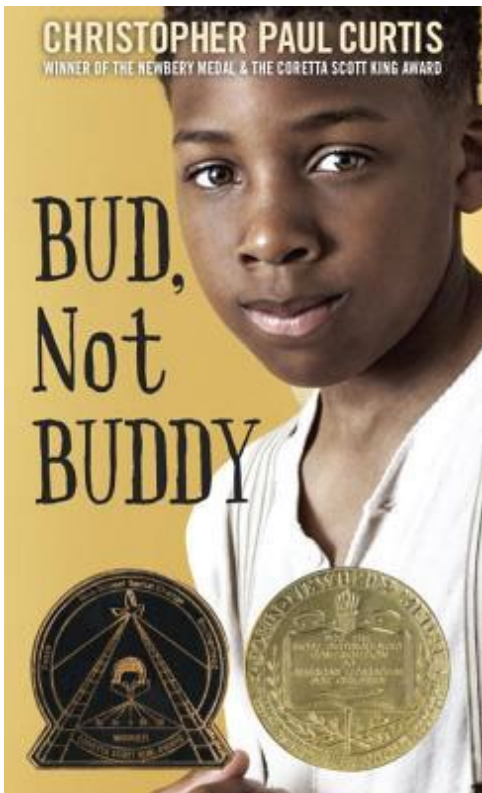


Children > Picture Book  
**Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas**

by Natasha Yim | Illustrated by Grace Zong

For Chinese New Year, Goldy Luck's mother wants her to take turnip cakes to the neighbors. When Goldy realizes they aren't home, hilarity ensues as she explores their house. A fresh take on an old tale, Goldy exemplifies what it means to take personal responsibility while still having adventures of her own.

[Buy It On Amazon](#)

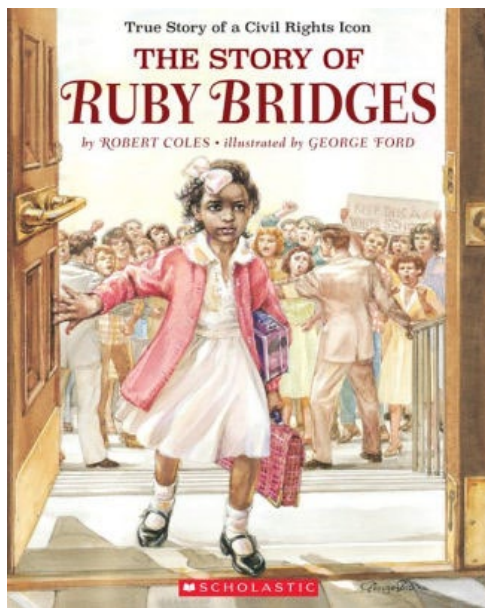


Children > Historical Fiction  
**Bud, Not Buddy**

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Young readers are taken on a journey through America during the Great Depression. We follow Bud and his special suitcase through Michigan as he meets labor organizers, train hops, and maneuvers combative and racist police forces all while trying to find a father he has yet to meet.

[Buy It On Amazon](#)



Children > History

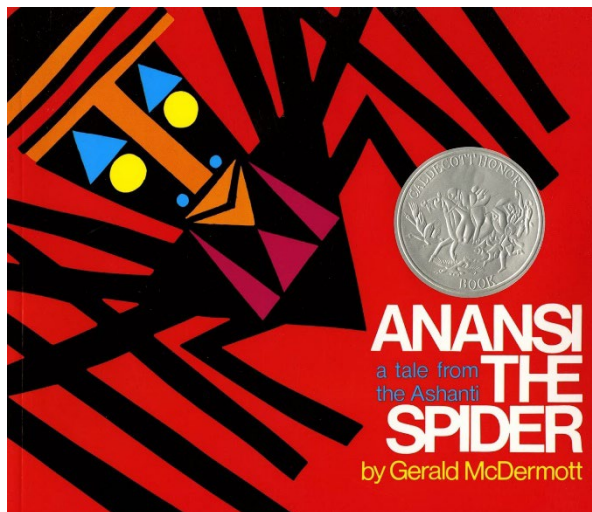
## **The Story of Ruby Bridges**

by Robert Coles | Illustrated by George Ford

Continue telling the very real story of Ruby Bridges who bravely faces angry mobs every day as she must attend an all-white elementary school in 1960.

This particular edition is the 50th anniversary with an updated afterword.

**[Buy It On Amazon](#)**



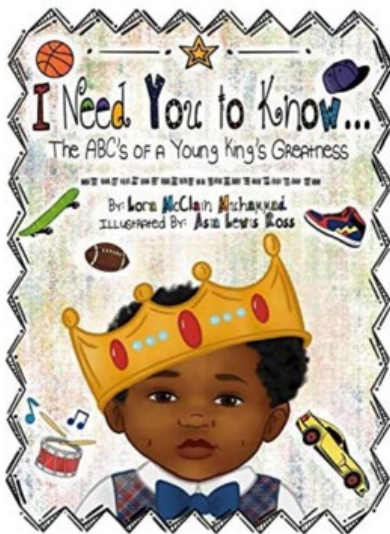
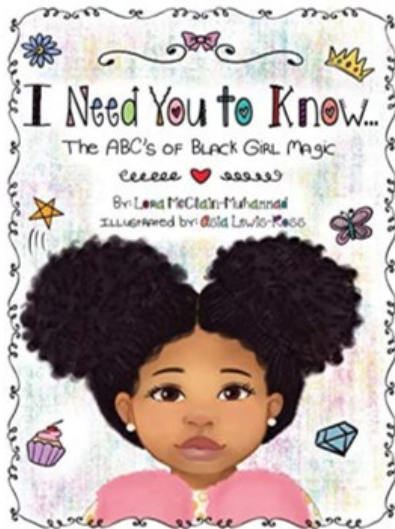
Children > Fiction

## **Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti**

by Gerald McDermott

Adapting this popular folktale, McDermott merges the old with the new, combining bold, rich color with traditional African design motifs and authentic Ashanti language rhythms. Anyone will enjoy Anansi's adventures as both mischief-maker and wise spider that triumphs over bigger animals.

**[Buy It On Amazon](#)**



Children > Picture Book

## **I Need You to Know The ABC's of Black Girl Magic/A Young King's Greatness**

by Lora McClain-Muhammad | Illustrated by Asia Lewis-Ross

Both of these coloring books are filled with different words of encouragement and depict various forms of representation including hair texture to skin complexion. Author McClain-Muhammad and illustrator Lewis-Ross take the time to make each page fun and enriching for anyone with a crayon.

**[Buy ABC's of Black Girl Magic on Amazon](#)**

**[Buy ABC's of a Young King's Greatness on Amazon](#)**

### **Additional Children's Books as Recommended by Our Staff**

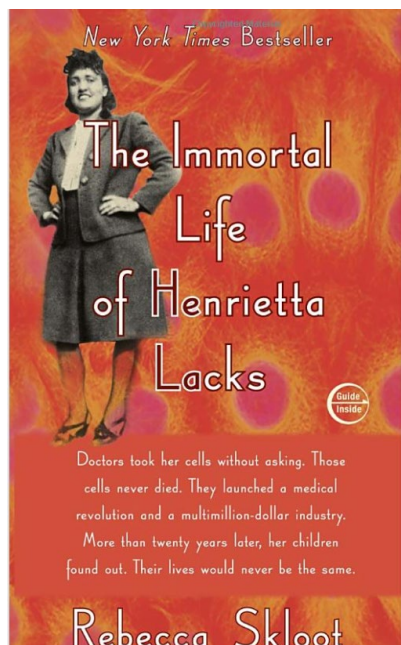
**Hey, Little Brown Girl** by CiCi Caver | This book is filled with colorful, positive illustrations and affirmations written to uplift and inspire brown little girls everywhere. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**Shades of Black** by Sandra L. Pinkney, Photographs by Myles C. Pickney | Using simple poetic language and stunning photographs, Sandra and Myles Pinkney have created a remarkable book of affirmation for African-American children. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**Hair Like Me** by Sandra Burris | This book and its illustrations tell the true story of an African-American mother-daughter journey to discover the true meaning of princess hair. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**African-American Children's Stories** | Compiled by various authors, these old stories bring to life the many animals, people, and fables from African-American culture. [Buy on Amazon](#)

## Books for Adults and All Ages



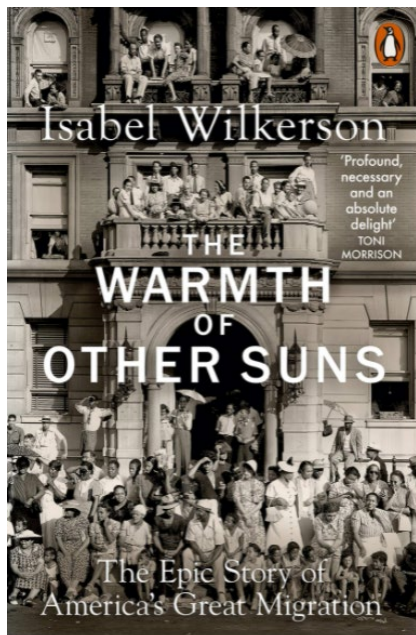
Adults > History

### **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**

by Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors. Her cells were taken without her knowledge and they became vital in the development of the polio vaccine, uncovering secrets of cancer, and more within the world of science. Buried in an unmarked grave, Henrietta has a remarkable story that needs to be shared.

[Buy It On Amazon](#)



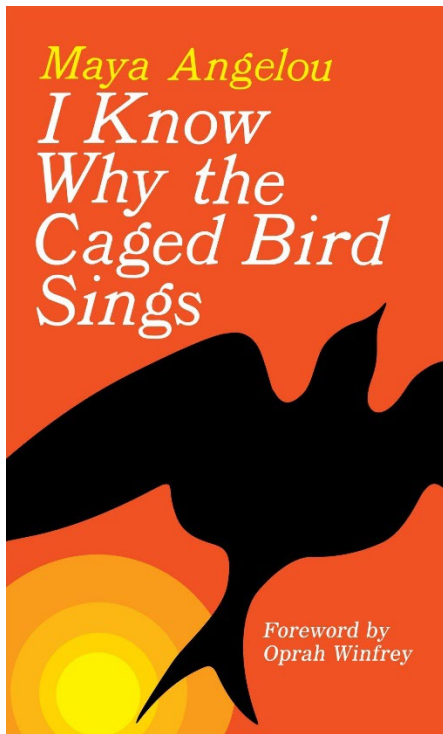
Adults > History

### **The Warmth of Other Suns**

by Isabel Wilkerson

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson interviewed thousands of people, and read over countless records and data to tell the true stories of African Americans in the early 20th Century. She recounts the very harrowing journeys of some of the 6 million African American people who left America's South for other regions in the country. She expertly lays out their travels, hardships, successes, and life lessons.

[Buy It On Amazon](#)



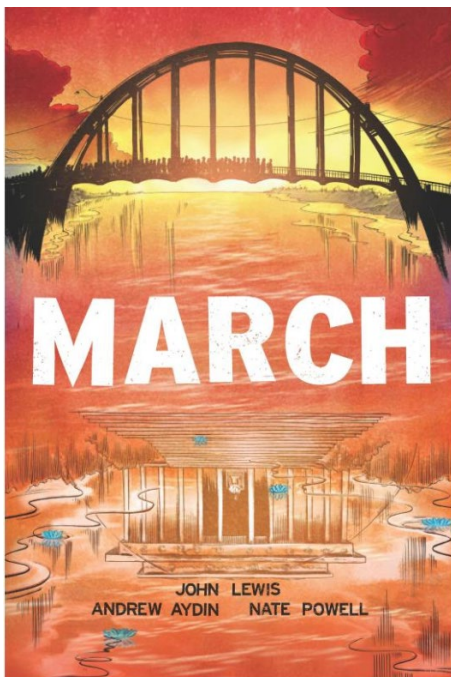
Adults > Memoir

## **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**

by Maya Angelou

There is a reason this book is a major classic. Get to know Ms. Angelou's debut autobiographical work as she chronicles her time as a child. She and her brother are moved to a small, rural Southern town to live with their conservative grandmother. Ms. Angelou gracefully depicts the harrowing realities of prejudice, racism, and personal struggles she and her brother encounter on a daily basis.

**[Buy It On Amazon](#)**



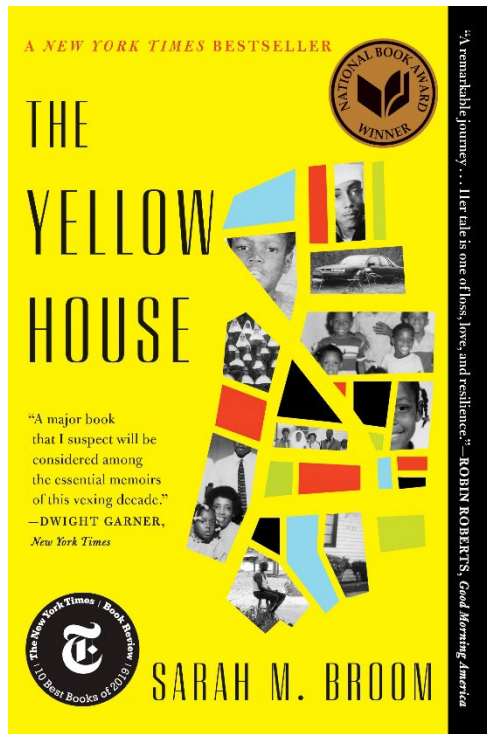
Graphic Novel

## **MARCH**

by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin | Illustrated by Nate Powell

Co-written by the late Congressman John Lewis, the graphic novels follow Lewis's journey as a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. Amazon reviewers exclaim the book is great for any age - the trilogy has 4.9 stars on the platform - but they do mention a warning of violence is stated at the beginning of the book. As with many stories during this period, it is an honest look at our country that needs to be told.

**[Buy All Three Books on Amazon](#)**



Adults > Memoir

## The Yellow House

by Sarah M. Brook

Follow Ms. Broom's family through multiple generations within one house. Their neighborhood – an abandoned part of town in New Orleans – is bolstered up solely by the people that live there that come in and out of Broom's life. We see memorable events and how they unfold specifically through eyes of that house, including white flight and eventually Hurricane Katrina.

[Buy It On Amazon](#)

### Additional Books as Recommended by Our Staff

**Black Imagination** curated by **Natasha Marin** | This anthology and art comes from multiple voices in the Black community to cover what it means to witness, heal, and define one's origin story. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**All About Love** by **bell hooks** | bell hooks makes her mark in the literary world by creating a new way to look at love to help us instill care, compassion and strength at home, in school, and workplaces. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**The Body Is Not An Apology** by **Sonya Renee Taylor** | In this book, Taylor helps us reconnect with ourselves and our bodies. This read gives people a path towards self-acceptance as well as resources and tools to confront racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**Black Voices: An Anthology of Afro-American Literature** edited by **Abraham Chapman** | This book features poetry, fiction, and autobiographical writings from some of the greatest African-American writers including Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, and Langston Hughes. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**W.E.B. DuBois: 1868-1919, Biography of a Race** by **David Levering Lewis** | This highly rated biography depicts DuBois's early years as a philosopher and then as a founder of the NAACP and architect of the American Civil Rights Movement. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**One Drop by Bliss Broyard** | This is the memoir of Broyard as she learns from her father on his death bed that he is Black and has been “passing” in New York’s elite for decades. Broyard narrates her own adventure to make sense of her father’s choices while traveling the country to meet previously unknown relatives. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas** | A #1 New York Times Bestseller, The Hate U Give is a novel that follows teenager Starr Carter who lives in a poor neighborhood but also attends an elite prep school in the suburbs. After the police murder her childhood best friend – an unarmed Black teenaged boy – Starr is caught between two very different worlds. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America’s Black Cities by Andre M. Perry** | Scholar and journalist Perry takes readers on a tour of several US cities to showcase just how Black communities are undervalued and pushed down due to white supremacy. He also gives the reader fresh new perspectives on just how valuable and enriching these communities are. [Buy on Amazon](#)

**My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies** by Resmaa Menakem | This New York Time’s Bestseller focuses on how we all carry racial trauma and how to find the beginnings to understand and heal from it from both an individual mindset as well as generational. [Buy on Amazon](#)