

Book Celebrations



For the month of June, we pay homage to the perseverance of our LGBTQ+ friends. Along with their stories, we also bring our reading recommendations to honor Juneteenth, African American Music Appreciation Month, and PTSD Awareness.

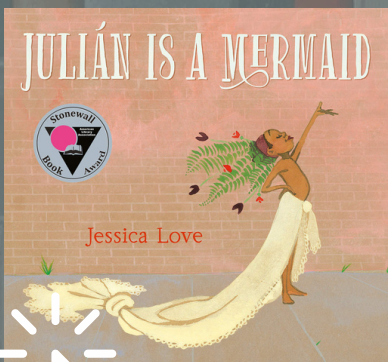


BOOKS FOR KIDS

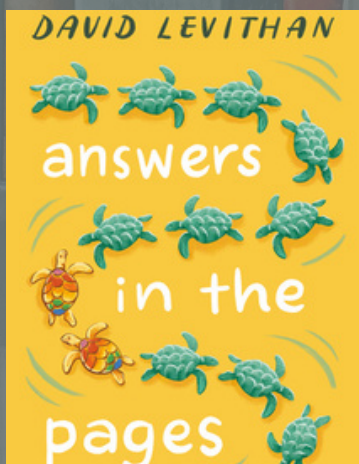
JULIÁN IS A MERMAID

Written & Illustrated by Jessica Love

While on the subway, Julian sees some older women spectacularly dressed up as mermaids. He is then determined to create his own mermaid costume, but he is nervous what his Abuela may think. This book is a perfect proclamation of self-love and celebrates individuality.



 Click me for the Amazon link!



ANSWERS IN THE PAGES

By David Levithan

After leaving a school assigned book out, Donovan's mother is convinced the main characters are gay so she is determined to have the novel removed from the curriculum. Donovan disagrees with his mother and goes on a journey to learn how to stand up for what is right, even when it is hard. A great YA novel for those in middle school!



MY RAINBOW

By DeShanna Neal & Trinity Neal | Illustrated by Art Twink

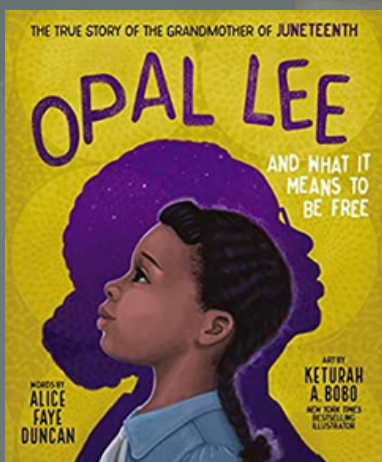
When Trinity wants to look more like her dolls, her family is there for support. Even better, her mother decides to make a rainbow wig to match Trinity's inside and outside self.



THE JUNETEENTH STORY

By Alliah L. Agostini | Illustrated by Sawyer Cloud

Perfect for kids and adults, this beautifully illustrated book gives a summary of Juneteenth and how it came to be. Follow along with the historical context as well as anecdotes on the holiday's importance in today's society.



OPAL LEE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FREE

By Alice Faye Duncan | Illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo

Opal is a little girl from Texas where Juneteenth originated. She learns that the rest of the U.S. does not know of the holiday. The reader gets to follow Opal in her adventure to educate others on the importance of Juneteenth.

in honor of African
American Music
Appreciation Month

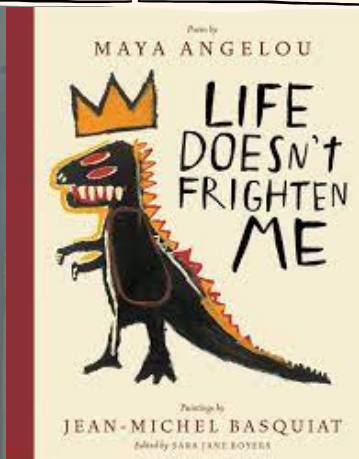


JAZZ ON A SATURDAY NIGHT

By Leo & Diane Dillion

A Coretta Scott King Honor Book, readers follow along with *Jazz on a Saturday Night* to get to know some of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. The book comes with a CD to help readers learn more about jazz instruments.

in honor of PTSD
Awareness Month



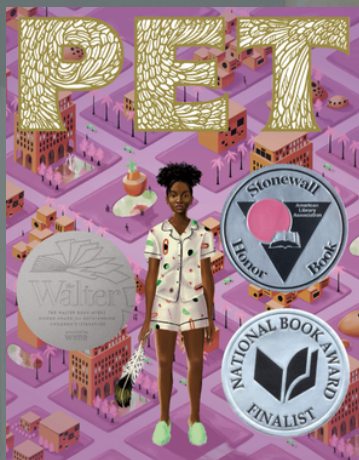
Life Doesn't Frighten Me

By Maya Angelou | Illustrated by Jean-Michel Basquiat

This is an ode to one of Maya Angelou's poems about bravery and overcoming personal adversity. *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* reminds all readers, big and small, to celebrate their moments of courage and themselves.



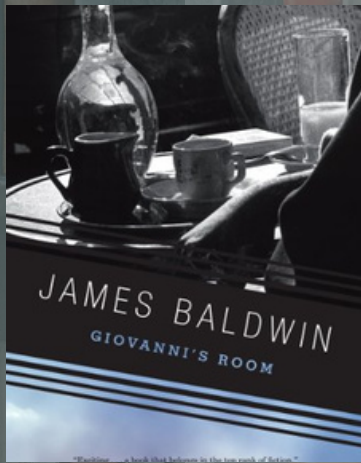
BOOKS FOR ALL



PET

By Akwaeke Emezi

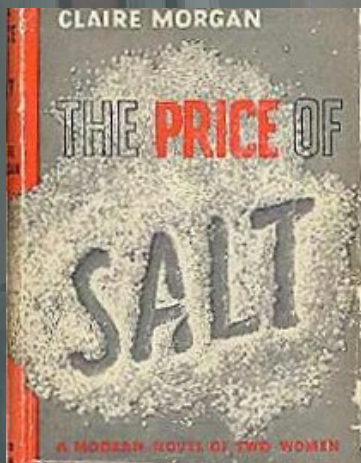
Named Book of the Year by the New York Times as well as a winner of the Stonewall Book Award, *Pet* depicts monsters come to life in a world that seems to be perfect. Filled with LGBTQIA characters - including main character Jam who is non-binary - *Pet* touches on hard topics, including how to face society when it denies its own issues.



GIOVANNI'S ROOM

By James Baldwin

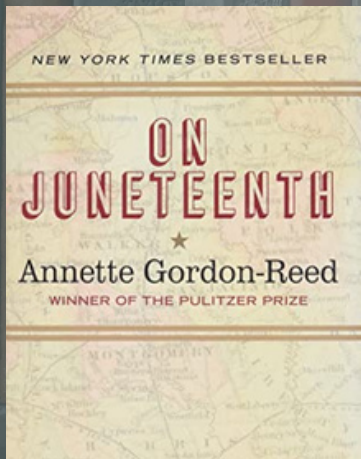
Set in 1950s Paris, *Giovanni's Room* is a timeless classic about forbidden love, and tragic twists and turns. Written by the renowned James Baldwin, this novel stands strong amongst other canons in its quest to define passion.



THE PRICE OF SALT (CAROL)

By Patricia Highsmith

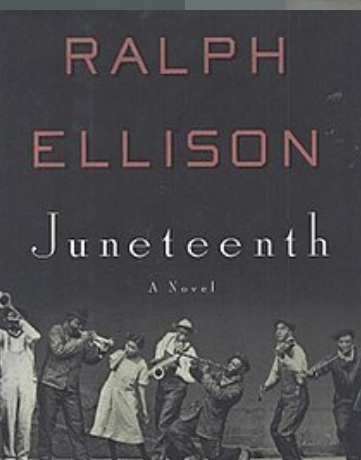
Author Patricia Highsmith may be known for her thrillers like *Strangers on a Train*, but she is also famous for *The Price of Salt* and its story of two women falling in love while on the open road. Published in the 1950s, this novel became a cult classic that was eventually turned into the movie we know as *Carol*.



ON JUNETEENTH

By Annette Gordon-Reed

Annette Gordon-Reed, a descendant of enslaved people brought to Texas as early as the 1820s, describes the history of Juneteenth through memoir and factual descriptions of American history including Reconstruction through the Jim Crow era.

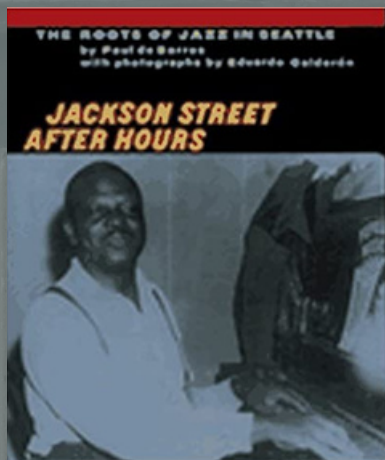


JUNETEENTH: A Novel

By Ralph Ellison

Juneteenth is the long awaited second book from Ralph Ellison. Mixed with the languages of jazz and gospel, Ellison brings readers along on the adventures of Senator Sunraider and Preacher Hickman.

in honor of African
American Music
Appreciation Month



JACKSON STREET AFTER HOURS: THE ROOTS OF JAZZ IN SEATTLE

By Paul De Barros

From Ray Charles to jazz clubs like the Black and Tan, De Barros gives readers a new lens in which to view Seattle. So much musical history runs through our streets and this book is a magical way to take it all in.