



African American Literature Book Club

147 Important Children's Books

This page has been optimized for printing and the titles are sorted alphabetically. This list will evolve over time. These children's books may also be displayed with images.

1. A Hero Ain't Nothin But a Sandwich by Alice Childress
2. A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara
3. A Song for Gwendolyn Brooks by Alice Faye Duncan
4. A Weed Is a Flower : The Life of George Washington Carver by Aliko
5. Afro-Bets 1-2-3 Book by Cheryl Willis Hudson
6. Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
7. And the Sun God Said: That's Hip by Ernest Gregg
8. Anna Carries Water by Olive Senior
9. As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds
10. Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Margaret Musgrove
11. Aya: The Secrets Come Out: Volume Three by Marguerite Abouet
12. Baby Says by John Steptoe
13. Bad News For Outlaws: The Remarkable Life Of Bass Reeves, Deputy U. S. Marshal by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
14. Beautiful Moon by Tonya Bolden
15. Bird by Zetta Elliott
16. Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers by Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick McKissack
17. Black Mother Goose Book by Elizabeth Murphy Oliver
18. Black, White, Just Right! by Marguerite W. Davol
19. Book of Black Heroes from A to Z: An Introduction to Important Black Achievers for Young Readers by Wade Hudson
20. Boonoonoonous Hair by Olive Senior
21. Bright Eyes, Brown Skin by Cheryl Willis Hudson
22. Bronzeville Boys And Girls by Gwendolyn Brooks



27. Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia
28. Come On, Rain! by Karen Hesse
29. Coretta Scott by Ntozake Shange
30. Cornrows by Camille Yarbrough
31. Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes
32. Daddy Calls Me Man by Angela Johnson
33. Daddy is a Monster ... Sometimes by John Steptoe
34. Dancing In The Wings by Debbie Allen
35. Dave The Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill
36. Daydreamers by Eloise Greenfield
37. Don't Let Auntie Mabel Bless the Table by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
38. Donovan's Double Trouble by Monalisa DeGross
39. Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah by Laurie Ann Thompson
40. Everett Anderson's Goodbye by Lucille Clifton
41. Fly High!: The Story of Bessie Coleman by Louise Borden
42. Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan
43. Furqan's First Flat Top – El Primer Corte de Mesita de Furqan by Robert Liu-Trujillo
44. Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia
45. Grandma's Records by Eric Velasquez
46. Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad? by Sandy Lynne Holman
47. Hair Dance! by Dinah Johnson
48. Harlem's Little Blackbird by Renée Watson
49. Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson
50. Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine
51. Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, And True Tales by Virginia Hamilton
52. Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly
53. How the Leopard Got His Claws by Chinua Achebe
54. I Am Loved by Nikki Giovanni
55. I Am Mixed by Garcelle Beauvais



60. Jazz Age Josephine: Dancer, singer—who's that, who? Why, that's MISS Josephine Baker, to you! by Jonah Winter
61. Jump Back, Honey: The Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar by Paul Laurence Dunbar
62. Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper
63. Just an Overnight Guest by Eleanora E. Tate
64. Just Us Women by Jeannette Caines
65. Kevin And His Dad by Irene Smalls
66. Kids Book of Wisdom: Quotes from the African American Tradition by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Wade Hudson
67. Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson
68. Let's Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout; Dance, Spin & Turn It Out!: Games, Songs, and Stories from an African American Childhood by Patricia C. Mckissack
69. Little Lion Goes to School by Kellie Magnus
70. Ludell by Brenda Wilkinson
71. Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist by Lesa Cline-Ransome
72. Make A Joyful Sound: Poems for Children by African-American Poets by Deborah Shink
73. Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up To Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Al-Shabazz
74. March Book One by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
75. March Book Three by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
76. Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl by Tonya Bolden
77. Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport
78. Max and the Tag-Along Moon by Floyd Cooper
79. Max Paints the House by Ken Wilson-Max
80. Me & Neesie (reillustrated) by Eloise Greenfield
81. Mirandy and Brother Wind by Patricia C. Mckissack
82. Molly, by Golly!: The Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter by Dianne Ochiltree
83. Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
84. Monster by Walter Dean Myers
85. Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford
86. Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe



91. One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
92. One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance by Nikki Grimes
93. One Love by Cedella Marley
94. One Million Men And Me by Kelly Starling Lyons
95. One Word from Sophia by Jim Averbeck
96. Only Passing Through by Anne F. Rockwell
97. Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration Of Rosa, Barack, And The Pioneers Of Change by Michelle Cook
98. Peeny Butter Fudge by Toni Morrison and Slade Morrison
99. Please, Baby, Please by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee
00. Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton by Don Tate
01. Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes by Langston Hughes
02. Precious and the Boo Hag by Patricia C. Mckissack
03. Rice & Rocks by Sandra L. Richards
04. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
05. Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream by Deloris Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan
06. Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library by Carole Boston Weatherford
07. She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story by Audrey Vernick
08. Shortcut by Donald Crews
09. Sing to the Moon by Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl
10. Sisters and Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Howard Bryant
11. Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney
12. So Tall Within: Sojourner Truth's Long Walk Toward Freedom by Gary D. Schmidt
13. Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride by Andrea Davis Pinkney
14. Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth
15. Soul Looks Back in Wonder by Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Walter Dean Myers, Haki R. Madhubuti, Lucille Clifton and 8 others
16. Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o
17. Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
18. The Adventures of Obi and Titi: The Hidden Temple of Ogiso (Book 1) by O.T. Begho
19. The Barber's Cutting Edge by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert



24. The Great Migration: Journey To The North by Eloise Greenfield
25. The Little Piano Girl: The Story of Mary Lou Williams, Jazz Legend by Ann Ingalls
26. The Meanest Thing to Say by Bill Cosby
27. The Middle Passage: White Ships/ Black Cargo by Tom Feelings
28. The Negro Speaks Of Rivers by Langston Hughes
29. The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
30. The People Could Fly Picture Book by Virginia Hamilton
31. The Skin I'm In by Sharon G. Flake
32. The Soul Brothers and Sister Lou by Kristin Hunter
33. Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy by Tony Medina
34. This Kid Can Fly: It's about Ability (Not Disability) by Aaron Philip
35. Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges
36. Thunder Rose by Jerdine Nolen
37. To Be a Slave by Julius Lester
38. Trombone Shorty by Troy Andrews
39. Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford
40. We Came to America by Faith Ringgold
41. What Color Is My World?: The Lost History Of African-American Inventors by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld
42. Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton
43. Whose Knees Are These? by Jabari Asim
44. Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull
45. Wings by Christopher Myers
46. You Can Do It! by Tony Dungy
47. Young Cornrows Callin Out the Moon by Ruth Forman

