

African American History Month - Fiction

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F CAM

Cameron, Ann. *Gloria's way*. New York: Farrar, [2000].

Note: Gloria shares special times with her mother and father and with her friends Julian, Huey, and Latisha.

F CUR

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons go to Birmingham--1963*. Delacortes, [1995].

Note: The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

F CUR

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, not Buddy*. New York: Delacorte, [2002].

Note: Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

F DAH

Dahlberg, Maurine F. *The story of Jonas*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, [2007].

Note: In the mid-1800s, a slave boy dreams of escaping to freedom while on a journey from Missouri to the gold fields of Kansas Territory with his master's n'er-do-well son.

F GOI

Going, K. L. *The liberation of Gabriel King*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, [2005].

Note: In Georgia during the summer of 1976, Gabriel, a white boy who is being bullied, and Frita, an African American girl who is facing prejudice, decide to overcome their many fears together as they enter fifth grade.

F GUC

Guccione, Leslie D. *Come morning*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, [1995].

Note: Twelve-year-old Freedom, the son of a freed slave living in Delaware in the early 1850s, takes over his father's work in the Underground Railroad when his father disappears.

F GUT

Gutman, Dan. *Jackie and me : a baseball card adventure*. New York: Avon, [1999].

Note: With his ability to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson, turning into a black boy in the process.

F GUT

Gutman, Dan. *Satch & me : a baseball card adventure*. New York: HarperCollins, [2006].

Note: With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.

F HAM

Hamilton, Virginia. Bluish. New York: Scholastic, [1999].

Note: Ten-year-old Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia is making her pale and causing her to use a wheelchair.

F HOF

Hoffman, Mary. Starring Grace. Penguin Putnam, [2000].

F HOP

Hopkinson, Deborah. A band of angels : a story inspired by the Jubilee Singers. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, [1999].

Note: The daughter of a slave forms a gospel singing group and goes on tour to raise money to save Fisk University.

F JOH

Johnson, Angela. Bird. New York: Dial Books, [2004].

Note: Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way helps two boys cope with their difficulties.

F LES

LeSourd, Nancy. The personal correspondence of Hannah Brown and Sarah Smith : the Underground Railroad, 1859. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zonderkidz, [2003].

Note: Letters between two young girls, one from Goose Creek, Virginia, and her friend living in Philadelphia, chronicle their involvement in helping an escaped slave travel via the Underground Railroad to join her father in Canada.

F LEV

Levine, Gail Carson. Dave at night. New York: HarperCollins, [1999].

Note: When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture -filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

F LEV

Levine, Ellen. Henry's freedom box / by Ellen Levine ; illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Scholastic Press, [2007].

Note: A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

F LOR

Lorbiecki, Marybeth. Sister Anne's hands. New York: Dial, [1998].

Note: Seven-year-old Anna has her first encounter with racism in the 1960s when an African American nun comes to teach at her parochial school.

F MCK

McKissack, Pat. Run away home. New York: Scholastic, [1997].

Note: In 1886 in Alabama, an eleven-year-old African American girl and her family befriend and give refuge to a runaway Apache boy.

F MCK

McKissack, Pat. *A picture of Freedom : the diary of Clotee, a slave girl, Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859.* New York: Scholastic, [1997].

Note: In 1859 twelve-year-old Clotee, a house slave who must conceal the fact that she can read and write, records in her diary her experiences and her struggle to decide whether to escape to freedom.

F MCK

McKissack, Pat. *Color me dark : the diary of Nellie Lee Love, the great migration North.* New York: Scholastic, [2000].

Note: Eleven-year-old Nellie Lee Love records in her diary the events of 1919, when her family moves from Tennessee to Chicago, hoping to leave the racism and hatred of the South behind.

F MCK

McKissack, Pat. *Abby takes a stand.* New York: Viking, [2005].

Note: Gee recalls for her grandchildren what happened in 1960 in Nashville, Tennessee, when she, aged ten, passed out flyers while her cousin and other adults held sit-ins at restaurants and lunch counters to protest segregation.

F MCK

McKissack, Pat. *A song for Harlem.* New York: Viking, [2007].

Note: In the summer of 1928, Lilly Belle Turner of Smyrna, Tennessee, participates in a young author's writing program, taught by Zora Neale Hurston and hosted by A'Lelia Walker in her Harlem teahouse at the height of the Harlem Renaissance.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean. *The journal of Bidley Owens, the Negro leagues.* New York: Scholastic, [2001].

Note: Teenager Bidley Owens' 1948 journal about working for the Birmingham Black Barons includes the games and the players, racism the team faces from New Orleans to Chicago, and his family's resistance to his becoming a professional baseball player. Includes a historical note about the evolution of the Negro Leagues.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean. *The journal of Joshua Loper : a Black cowboy.* New York: Scholastic, [1999].

Note: In 1871 Joshua Loper, a sixteen-year-old black cowboy, records in his journal his experiences while making his first cattle drive under an unsympathetic trail boss.

F PIN

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Silent thunder.* New York: Hyperion, [1999].

Note: In 1862 eleven-year-old Summer and her thirteen-year-old brother Rosco take turns describing how life on the quiet Virginia plantation where they are slaves is affected by the Civil War.

F QUA

Quattlebaum, Mary. *Jackson Jones and the puddle of thorns.* New York: Bantam Doubleday, [1994].

Note: When his mother gives him a garden plot for his tenth birthday, Jackson Jones hopes to earn enough money to buy a basketball, but all he seems to get is trouble.

F ROB

Robinet, Harriette. The twins, the pirates, and the Battle of New Orleans. New York: Aladdin, [2001].

Note: Twelve-year-old Afro-American twins attempt to escape in the face of pirates, an American army, and the British forces during the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.

F SAC

Sachar, Louis. Small steps. New York: Delacorte Press, [2006].

Note: Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

F SCH

Schotter, Roni. F is for freedom. New York: Scholastic, [2003].

Note: When ten-year-old Manda interrupts a midnight delivery, she discovers her parents' involvement in the Underground Railroad and makes her own contribution to a fugitive slave's freedom.

F TAY

Taylor, Mildred D. Roll of thunder, hear my cry. Listening Library, [1996].

F THO

Thomas, Joyce Carol. I have heard of a land. New York: HarperCollins, [1998].

Note: Describes the joys and hardships experienced by an African-American pioneer woman who staked a claim for free land in the Oklahoma territory.

F WEA

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Moses : when Harriet Tubman led her people to freedom. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, [2006].

Note: Follows Harriet Tubman's spiritual journey to freedom as she, leaving her family behind, escaped from slavery and led many others to freedom.

F WOO

Woodson, Jacqueline. Show way. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, [2005].

Note: The making of "Show ways," or quilts which once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves, is a tradition passed from mother to daughter in the author's family.

F WOO

Woodson, Jacqueline. Peace, Locomotion (MCPS 11 BES Grade 4-6) New York: Putnam's, [2009].

Note: Separated from his little sister after moving in with his new foster family, twelve-year-old Lonnie keeps a journal in order to share his memories with her when they meet again, but after his foster brother goes off to war, another dose of loss hits him hard and the concept of peace becomes more real with every passing day he is away.

F WYE

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. Flying free. New York: Scholastic, [2002].

Note: In 1858, nine-year-old Corey Birdsong and his family, fugitive slaves from Kentucky, build a new life in Amherstburg, Canada, while still hoping to help those they left behind.