

BLACK HISTORY

Fiction Books in Great Lakes Media Center

F ARM

Armstrong, William and Barkley, James.

Sounder [1969].

Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and with the help of the devoted dog Sounder.

F BER

Berleth, Richard J and Watling, James.

Samuel's Choice [1990].

Samuel, a fourteen-year-old slave in Brooklyn in 1776, faces a difficult choice when the fighting between the British and the colonists reaches his doorstep and only he can help the rebels.

F BOL

Bolden, Tonya.

Just Family [1996].

Ten-year-old Beryl is fairly content with her life in East Harlem in the 1960s, until she learns that her older sister is really her half-sister and worries that her family will begin to change.

F BRO

Brooks, Bruce.

The Moves Make the Man : A Novel [1984].

A black boy and an emotionally troubled white boy in North Carolina form a precarious friendship.

F CAR

Carbone, Elisa.

Storm Warriors [2001].

In 1895, after his mother's death, twelve-year-old Nathan moves with his father and grandfather to Pea Island off the coast of North Carolina, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station, despite his father's objections.

F COH

Cohen, Barbara and Cuffari, Richard.

Thank You, Jackie Robinson. [1974].

A fatherless white boy, who shares with an old black man an enthusiasm for the Brooklyn Dodgers and first baseman, Jackie Robinson, takes a ball autographed by Jackie to his elderly friend's death bed.

F COL

Collier, Kristi.

Jericho Walls [2002].

In 1957, when her preacher father accepts a post in Jericho, Alabama, Jo wants to fit in but her growing friendship with a black boy forces her to confront the racism of the South and to reconsider her own values.

F CRO

Crowe, Chris

Mississippi Trial. [2002].

In Mississippi in 1955, a white sixteen-year-old finds himself at odds with his grandfather over issues surrounding the kidnapping and murder of a fourteen-year-old African American from Chicago. (Fictional story based on the Emmett Till murder.)

F CUR

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Bud, Not Buddy [1999].

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 CUR

Curtis, Christopher Paul.

Mr. Chickee's Funny Money [2005].

Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's huge dog Zoopy solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it.

F CUR

Curtis, Christopher Paul.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963 [1995].

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 EDW

Edwards, Sally and Levenson, Richard.

When the World's on Fire [1972].

During the Revolution a nine-year-old black slave girl is given the task of blowing up ammunition stored in the British barracks in Charleston.

F ENG

English, Karen.

Francie [1999].

When the sixteen-year-old boy whom she tutors in reading is accused of attempting to murder a white man, Francie gets herself in serious trouble for her efforts at friendship.

F FOX

Fox, Paula.

The Slave Dancer [1991, 1973].

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

F GRA

Gray, Genevieve and Mars, W. T.

The Yellow Bone Ring [1971].

Fifteen-year-old Cato joins the first black regiment in the Union Army and learns the responsibility demanded by his new position as freedman.

F HAM

Hamilton, Virginia and Keith, Eros.

The House of Dies Drear [1968].

A black family of five moves into an enormous house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves. Mysterious sounds and events as well as the discovery of secret passageways make the family believe they are in grave danger.

F HAM

Hamilton, Virginia

M. C. Higgins, the Great [1974].

As a slag heap, the result of strip mining, creeps closer to his house in the Ohio hills, fifteen-year-old M. C. is torn between trying to get his family away and fighting for the home they love.

F HAM

Hamilton, Virginia.

Zeely [1986, 1967].

Greeder's summer at her uncle's farm is made special because of her friendship with a very tall, composed woman who raises hogs and who closely resembles the magazine photograph of a Watutsi queen.

F HAN

Hansen, Joyce.

The Heart Calls Home [1999].

After the Civil War, former slave Obi Booker tries to make a new life on a South Carolina island while waiting to be joined by his beloved Easter, who is studying in the North.

F HAN

Hansen, Joyce.

I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly [1997].

Twelve-year-old Patsy keeps a diary of the ripe but confusing time following the end of the Civil War and the granting of freedom to former slaves. Dear America Series.

F HAN

Hansen, Joyce.

Out From This Place [1992, 1988].

A fourteen-year-old black girl tries to find a fellow ex-slave, who had joined the Union army during the Civil War, during the confusing times after the emancipation of the slaves.

F HAN

Hansen, Joyce.

Which Way Freedom? [1992, 1986].

Obi escapes from slavery during the Civil War, joins a black Union regiment, and soon becomes involved in the bloody fighting at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

F JOH

Johnson, Angela.

Bird [2004].

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 KON

Konigsburg, E. L.

Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth [1967].

Two fifth-grade girls, one of whom is the first black child in a middle-income suburb, play at being apprentice witches.

F LAS

Lasky, Kathryn

True North [1996].

Because of the strong influence which her grandfather, an abolitionist, has in her life, fourteen-year-old Lucy assists a fugitive slave girl in her escape.

F LEE

Lee, Harper.

To Kill a Mockingbird [1960, 1982].

When a black man is accused of raping a southern white woman, the outcome of the trial seems to be a foregone conclusion until a lawyer agrees to defend him.

F LES

Lester, Julius

Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue [2005].

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma.

F MAT

Mathis, Sharon Bell.

Sidewalk Story [1986, 1971].

When her best friend's family is evicted from their apartment, a nine-year-old black girl decides to do something about the situation.

F McK

McKissack, Patricia C.

A Picture of Freedom [1997].

In 1859 12-yr.-old Clotee, a slave who must conceal the fact that she can read and write, records in her diary her experiences & her struggle to decide whether to escape to freedom. Dear America Series.

PB FIC MYE

Myers, Walter Dean.

Glory Field [1994].

Follows a family's two hundred forty-one year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean.

The Journal of Joshua Loper : A Black Cowboy [1999].

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 MYE

Myers, Walter Dean and Pate, Rodney.

Me, Mop, and the Moondance Kid [1988].

Although adoption has taken them out of the New Jersey institution where they grew up, eleven-year-old T.J. and his younger brother Moondance remain involved with their friend Mop's relentless attempts to become adopted herself and to wreak revenge on their baseball rivals the obnoxious Eagles.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean.

Monster [1999].

This is the story of Steve Harmon who is in jail for felony murder and how he feels during the trial.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean.

Scorpions [1990, 1988].

After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun until a tragedy occurs.

F MYE

Myers, Walter Dean.

Slam! [1996].

Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

F NEL

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux.

Possibles [1995].

Following the death of her father, a twelve-year-old girl takes a summer job instead of going to camp with a friend as planned.

F ODE

O'Dell, Scott

My Name is Not Angelica [1990, 1989].

Relates the experiences of a young Senegalese girl brought as a slave to the Danish owned Caribbean island of St. John as she participates in the slave revolt of 1733-1734.

F PAT

Paterson, Katherine.

Jip: His Story [1996].

While living on a Vermont poor farm during 1855 and 1856, Jip learns his identity and that of his mother and comes to understand how he arrived at this place.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary.

Nightjohn [1993].

Twelve-year-old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her how to read.

F PAU

Paulsen, Gary.

Sarny, a Life Remembered [1999,1997].

Continues the adventures of Sarny, the slave girl Nightjohn taught to read, through the aftermath of the Civil War during which time she taught other Blacks and lived a full life until age ninety-four.

F PEA

Pearsall, Shelley.

Trouble Don't Last [2002].

Samuel, an eleven-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

F RIN

Rinaldi, Ann.

Taking Liberty : The Story of Oney Judge, George Washington's Runaway Slave [2002].

The true story of Oney Judge, personal servant to Martha Washington.

F ROB

Robinet, Harriette.

Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues [2000].

Twelve-year-old Alfa Merryfield, his older sister, and their grandmother struggle for rent money, food, and their dignity as they participate in the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in the summer of 1956.

F ROD

Rodman, Mary Ann

Yankee Girl [2004].

When her FBI-agent father is transferred to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964, eleven-year-old Alice wants to be popular but also wants to reach out to the one black girl in her class in a newly-integrated school.

F SAC

Sachar, Louis.

Small Steps [2006].

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

Schmidt, Gary D.

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy [2004].

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers—and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

F SEB

Sebestyen, Ouida

Words By Heart [1981, 1979].

A young black girl struggles to fulfill her papa's dream of a better future for their family in the southwestern town where, in 1910, they are the only blacks.

F SLO

Slote, Alfred.

Finding Buck McHenry [1993,1991].

Eleven-year-old Jason, believing the school custodian Mack Henry to be Buck McHenry, a famous pitcher from the old Negro League, tries to enlist him as a coach for his Little League team by revealing his identity to the world.

F STO

Stowe, Harriet Beecher.

Uncle Tom's Cabin [2004, 1852].

By calling attention to the issue of slavery, Uncle Tom's Cabin has become part of our country's literary and historical heritage.

F TAT

Tate, Eleanora E.

The Secret of Gumbo Grove [1988, 1987].

While helping restore the cemetery of the old Baptist church, eleven-year-old Raisin solves the mystery surrounding the founding of her home town and gains pride in her family's past.

F TAT

Tate, Eleanora E.

Thank you, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr! [1992, 1990].

The children of Gumbo Grove Elementary School discover the contributions of many famous Afro-Americans during Black History Month.

F TAT

Tate, Eleanora E.

The Secret of Gumbo Grove [1988, 1987].

While helping restore the cemetery of the old Baptist church, eleven-year-old Raisin solves the mystery surrounding the founding of her home town and gains pride in her family's past.

F TAY

Taylor, Mildred D.

Let the Circle Be Unbroken [1991, 1981].

Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive.

F TAY

Taylor, Mildred D and Ginsburg, Max.

Mississippi Bridge [1992, 1990].

During a heavy rainstorm in 1930s rural Mississippi, a ten-year-old white boy sees a bus driver order all the black passengers off a crowded bus to make room for late-arriving white passengers and then set off across the raging Rosa Lee River.

F TAY

Taylor, Mildred D.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry [1997, 1976].

A Black family struggles to maintain their dignity and independence against prejudice and discrimination in Depression-era Mississippi.

F TAY

Taylor, Mildred D.

Song of the Trees [1996, 1975].

Every morning Cassie would open her window to the trees that would greet her, but her mother had been forced to sell.

F TAY

Taylor, Mildred D.

The Land [2001].

Paul-Edward, the son of a part-Indian, part-African slave mother and a White plantation owner father, finds himself caught between the two worlds of his parents as he pursues his dream of owning land in the aftermath of the Civil War.

F TAY

Taylor, Theodore.

The Cay [1969].

When the freighter on which they are traveling is torpedoed by a German submarine during World War II, an adolescent white boy, blinded by a blow on the head, and an old black man are stranded on a tiny Caribbean island where the boy acquires a new kind of vision, courage, and love from his old companion.

F WEI

Weik, Mary Hays and Grifalconi, Ann.

The Jazz Man [1993].

Nine-year-old Zeke, who lives in Harlem, listens to the wonderful music coming from the jazz musician's piano across the court and escapes for a while from the harsh realities that worry him.

F WOO

Woodson, Jacqueline.

If You Come Softly [1998].

After meeting at school in New York, 15-yr-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and abandoned, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

F WOO

Woodson, Jacqueline

Hush [2001].

Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

F WOO

Woodson, Jacqueline.

Locomotion [2003].

In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.

F YOU

Young, Ronder Thomas.

Learning By Heart [1993].

In the early 1960s, ten-year-old Rachel sees changes in her family and her small Southern town as she tries to sort out how she feels about her young black maid, racial prejudice, and her responsibility for her own life.