Black Voices

A selected list of recommended books by Black creators for kids of all ages. This list may be updated as new titles are added to our collection.

**Board books**

*Antiracist Baby* by Ibram X. Kendi, illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky ([book, OverDrive e-book](#))

*Baby Says* by John Steptoe ([book](#))

*Whose Toes Are Those?* by Jabari Asim, illustrated by LeUyen Pham ([board book](#))

*Whose Knees Are These?* by Jabari Asim, illustrated by LeUyen Pham ([board book](#))

**Picture books**

*All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier ([book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook](#))

*Auntie Luce’s Talking Paintings* by Francie Latour, illustrated by Ken Daley ([book, Hoopla e-book](#))

*Baby Goes to Market* by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank ([book](#))

*Bedtime Bonnet* by Nancy Redd, illustrated by Nneka Myers ([book](#))

*Bedtime for Sweet Creatures* by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon ([book, OverDrive audiobook](#))

*Big Papa and the Time Machine* by Daniel Bernstrom, illustrated by Shane W. Evans ([book](#))

*B Is for Baby* by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank ([book](#))

*Black Girl Magic* by Mahogany L. Browne, illustrated by Jess X. Snow ([book](#))

*Black Is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekua Holmes ([book, OverDrive e-book](#))

*Brown: The Many Shades of Love* by Nancy Johnson James, illustrated by Constance Moore ([book, Hoopla e-book](#))

*Brown Sugar Babe* by Charlotte Watson Sherman, illustrated by Akem ([book](#))

*Calling Dr. Zaza* by Mylo Freeman ([book](#))

*Chocolate Me!* by Taye Diggs, illustrated by Shane W. Evans ([book, Hoopla audiobook](#))

*C is for Country* by Lil Nas X, illustrated by Theodore Taylor III ([book](#))

*Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James ([book, Hoopla e-book](#))

*The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael Lopez ([book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook](#))
Don't Touch My Hair! by Sharee Miller (book, OverDrive e-book)

Double Bass Blues by Andrea J. Loney (book)

Dreams for a Daughter by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (book)

The Electric Slide and Kai by Kelly J. Baptist, illustrated by Darnell Johnson (book)

Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance by Misty Copeland, illustrated by Christopher Myers (book)

Freedom Soup by Tami Charles, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara (book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)

Freedom, We Sing by Amyra León, illustrated by Molly Mendoza (book)

Full, Full, Full of Love by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Paul Howard (book)

Going Down Home with Daddy by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Daniel Minter (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla audiobook)

Goin’ Someplace Special by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (book)

Grandma’s Purse by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (book, OverDrive e-book)


Hair, It’s a Family Affair! by Mylo Freeman (book)

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla audiobook)

Hands Up! by Breanna J. McDaniel, illustrated by Shane W. Evans (book)

Harlem Renaissance Party by Faith Ringgold (book)

Happy to be Nappy by bell hooks, illustrated by Chris Raschka (book)

Hey, Black Child by Useni Eugene Perkins, illustrated by Bryan Collier (book, OverDrive e-book)

Homemade Love by bell hooks, illustrated by Shane W. Evans (book)

How to Find a Fox by Nilah Magruder (book)

The Hula Hooerin’ Queen by Thelma Lynne Godin, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (book)

I Am Enough by Grace Byers, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)

I Am Perfectly Designed by Karamo Brown and Jason “Rachel” Brown, illustrated by Anoosha Syed (book)

Just Like Me by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (book, OverDrive e-book)

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

*Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* by Daniel Beaty, illustrated by Bryan Collier (book)

*Layla’s Happiness* by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, illustrated by Ashley Corrin (book)

*Looking for Bongo* by Eric Velasquez (book)

*Lullaby (for a Black Mother): A Poem* by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Sean Qualls (book)


*Malaika's Costume* by Nadia L. Hohn, illustrated by Irene Luxbacher (book, Hoopla e-book)

*Me & Mama* by Cozbi A. Cabrera (book)

*Mirandy and Brother Wind* by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (book)

*M Is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child* by Tiffany Rose (book)


*Mommy's Khimar* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (book, OverDrive e-book)

*Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe (book, OverDrive audiobook)


*My Rainbow* by Trinity and DeShanna Neal, illustrated by Art Twink (book)

*My Rainy Day Rocket Ship* by Markette Sheppard, illustrated by Charly Palmer (book)

*A Night Out with Mama* by Quvenzhane Wallis, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (book, OverDrive e-book)

*Not Quite Snow White* by Ashley Franklin, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (book)

*Off to See the Sea* by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon (book)

*The Old Boat* by Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey (book, OverDrive e-book)

*The Old Truck* by Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey (book, OverDrive e-book)

*A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart* by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Noa Denmon (book)

*Princess Hair* by Sharee Miller (book)


*Puppy Truck* by Brian Pinkney (book)


Saturday by Oge Mora (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Sing a Song: How "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Inspired Generations by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Keith Mallett (book)

Stella's Stellar Hair by Yesenia Moises (book)

A Story About Afifa by James Berry, illustrated by Anna Cunha (book, Hoopla e-book)

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (book, OverDrive e-book)

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold (book)

Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora (book, OverDrive e-book)

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy by Tony Medina and thirteen artists (book)

Time for Kenny by Brian Pinkney (book)

Welcome to the Party by Gabrielle Union, illustrated by Ashley Evans (book, OverDrive e-book)

What Is Given from the Heart by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by April Harrison (book, OverDrive e-book)

Where's Rodney? by Carmen Bogan (book)

Who Will You Be? by Andrea Pippins (book)


Your Name Is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow (book, Hoopla e-book)

Early readers

Ana and Andrew: Dancing at Carnival by Christine Platt, illustrated by Sharon Sordo (book, Hoopla e-book)


Find That Cat! by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Mike Byrne (book)

Go, Jade, Go! by Tony and Lauren Dungy with Nathan Whitaker; illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton (book)

It's Shoe Time! by Bryan Collier (book)

Ty's Travels: All Aboard! by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Nina Mata (book)

Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom! by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Nina Mata (book)

Where Is Mommy? by Pat Cummings (book)

Chapter books

The Amazing Life of Azaleah Lane by Nikki Shannon Smith, illustrated by Mari Lobo (book, OverDrive e-book)

Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke (book, book on CD)


The Clubhouse Mysteries: The Buried Bones Mystery by Sharon M. Draper, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson (book)


Hockey Night in Kenya by Danson Mutinda and Eric Walters, illustrated by Claudia Davila (book, hoopla e-book)


J. D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard, illustrated by Akeem S. Roberts (book, OverDrive audiobook, OverDrive e-book)


STAT: Home Court by Amar’e Stoudemire, illustrated by Tim Jessell (book, OverDrive e-book)

Sugar Plum Ballerinas: Plum Fantastic by Whoopi Goldberg with Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Maryn Roos (book)

Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson, illustrated by Nina Mata (book, OverDrive e-book)

The Zero Degree Zombie Zone by Patrik Henry Bass, illustrated by Jerry Craft (book)

**Middle grade**

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, hoopla audiobook)

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Bayou Magic by Jewell Parker Rhodes (book, OverDrive e-book)

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)
Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)

Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes (book, OverDrive e-book)


Blended by Sharon Draper (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond by Brenda Woods (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (book, book on CD, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)


Clean Getaway by Nic Stone (book, Overdrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Cleo Edison Oliver, Playground Millionaire by Sundee T. Frazier (book)

Courage by Barbara Binns (book, OverDrive e-book)


Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)

The Forgotten Girl by India Hill Brown (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla audiobook)


Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams (book, OverDrive audiobook, OverDrive e-book)

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)

The Great Greene Heist by Varian Johnson (book)

Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Hide and Seeker by Daka Hermon (book)


Hurricane Child by Kacen Callender (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)
Ikenga by Nnedi Okorafor (book, OverDrive e-book, hoopla audiobook)

Jada Sly, Artist and Spy by Sherri Winston (book)

Jake the Fake Keeps It Real by Craig Robinson (book, OverDrive e-book)


Just South of Home by Karen Strong (book)

Kinda Like Brothers by Coe Booth (book, hoopla audiobook)

King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla audiobook)

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer by Lamar Giles (book, OverDrive e-book)

Love Double Dutch by Doreen Spicer-Dannelly (book)


Mango Delight by Fracaswell Hyman (book, OverDrive e-book)

Maya and the Rising Dark by Rena Barron (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)


The Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, hoopla audiobook)

The Perfect Place by Teresa E. Harris (book, OverDrive e-book, hoopla e-book)

The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, hoopla audiobook)

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor (book, book on CD, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Root Magic by Eden Royce (book, OverDrive e-book)


The Shadows of Sherwood by Kekla Magoon (book, OverDrive e-book)

Some Places More Than Others by Renee Watson (book, OverDrive e-book)

The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

The Sweetest Sound by Sherri Winston (book, OverDrive e-book)
Trace by Pat Cummings (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla e-book)


The True Definition of Neva Beane by Christine Kendall (book, Hoopla audiobook)

Twinchantment by Elise Allen (book, Hoopla e-book)

Unstoppable Octobia May by Sharon G. Flake (book, OverDrive e-book)

The Usual Suspects by Maurice Broaddus (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla e-book)

What Lane? by Torrey Maldonado (book, OverDrive e-book)

When Life Gives You Mangos by Kereen Getten (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

The Year I Flew Away by Marie Arnold (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Zoe in Wonderland by Brenda Woods (book)

Graphic novels

Akissi: Tales of Mischief by Marguerite Abouet, illustrated by Mathieu Sapin (book)


The March Trilogy by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell (book, OverDrive e-book)


Sci-Fu: Kick It Off by Yehudi Mercado (book)

Twins by Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright (book, OverDrive e-book)

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Nonfiction

28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World by Charles R. Smith Jr. (book)

All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson (book)

Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl by Megan Reid, illustrated by Laura Freeman (book)


Bayard Rustin by J. P. Miller, illustrated by Markia Jenai (book, Hoopla e-book)

Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Sean Qualls (book)

Beyoncé by Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl, illustrated by Tammy Taylor (book, Hoopla e-book)

Beyoncé: Queen of the Spotlight by Ebony Joy Wilkins, illustrated by Rachel Sanson (book)


Brave, Black, and First: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World by Cheryl Willis Hudson, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson (book)

Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford (OverDrive e-book, Hoopla audiobook)


By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Bryan Collier (book)

Changing the Equation: 50+ US Black Women in STEM by Tonya Bolden (book)

The Case for Loving by Selina Alko (book)

A Child's Introduction to African American History: The Experiences, People, and Events That Shaped Our Country by Jabari Asim (book)


Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill, illustrated by Bryan Collier (book)

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Laura Freeman (book)

Ellington Was Not a Street by Ntozake Shange (book, Hoopla audiobook)

Facing Frederick: The Life of Frederick Douglass, a Monumental American Man by Tonya Bolden (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook, Hoopla e-book, Hoopla audiobook)

Follow Chester!: A College Football Team Fights Racism and Makes History by Gloria Respress-Churchwell, illustrated by Laura Freeman (book, Hoopla audiobook)

Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History by Walter Dean Myers (book)


Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue (book)
Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome (book)

A Girl Named Misty: The True Story of Misty Copeland by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Melissa Manwill (book)


Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America by Andrea Davis Pinkney (book)

Harlem's Little Blackbird by Renée Watson, illustrated by Christian Robinson (book, OverDrive e-book)

Harriet Tubman: Journey to Freedom by Sandra A. Agard (book)

Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans by Kadir Nelson (book, Hoopla audiobook)


How to Build a Museum: Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture by Tonya Bolden (book)

I Am Loved by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Ashley Bryan (book)

I Have a Dream by Martin Luther King, Jr., illustrated by 15 Coretta Scott King Award winners (book)

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace by Ashley Bryan (book, OverDrive e-book)

John Henry by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (book, book with CD in bag, Hoopla audiobook)


Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neal Hurston by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara (book, OverDrive e-book)

Lewis Latimer: Engineering Wizard by Denise Lewis Patrick (book, OverDrive e-book)

The Legendary Miss Lena Horne by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon (book, OverDrive e-book)


Let 'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion by Vaunda Micheux Nelson, illustrated by Gordon C. James (book, Hoopla e-book)

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney (book)

Let's Clap, Jump, Sing, & Shout: Dance, Spin, & Turn It Out!: Games, Songs, & Stories from an African American Childhood collected by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (book)

A Likkle Miss Lou: How Jamaican Poet Louise Bennet Coverley Found Her Voice by Nadia L. Hohn, illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes (book)

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison (book, OverDrive e-book)

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison (book)

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz (book)

Mama Africa!: How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with Her Song by Kathryn Erskine, illustrated by Charly Palmer (book)

March Forward, Girl: From Young Warrior to Little Rock Nine by Melba Pattillo Beals (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla audiobook)

Martin and Mahalia: His Words, Her Song by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (book)

Martin Luther King Jr.: Fighting for Civil Rights by Christine Platt, illustrated by David Shephard (book)

Martin Rising: Requiem for a King by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (book, OverDrive e-book, Hoopla audiobook)


Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford (book)

My Dream of Martin Luther King by Faith Ringgold (book)

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora (book, OverDrive e-book)

One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by 13 artists (book, OverDrive e-book)

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (book, Hoopla audiobook)

Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton by Don Tate (book, Hoopla e-book)
Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis by Jabari Asim (book)
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe (book, OverDrive e-book)
R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison (book)
The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison (book)
Rosa by Nikki Giovanni (book)
She Persisted: Claudette Colvin by Lesa Cline-Ransome (book, OverDrive e-book)
She Persisted: Harriet Tubman by Andrea Davis Pinkney (book, OverDrive e-book)
Shirley Chisholm Is a Verb! by Veronica Chambers, illustrated by Rachelle Baker (book)
Sister Rosetta Tharpe by J. P. Miller, illustrated by Markia Jenai (book, Hoopla e-book)
Sisters and Champions: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Howard Bryant, illustrated by Floyd Cooper (book)
Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney (book)
Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride by Andrea Davis Pinkney (book)
A Song for Gwendolyn Brooks by Alice Faye Duncan (book)
Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You by Sonja Cherry-Paul, Jason Reynolds, and Ibram X. Kendi (book)
The Story of Harriet Tubman by Christine Platt, illustrated by Loris Lora (book)

Strange Fruit: Billie Holiday and the Power of a Protest Song by Gary Golio (book, Hoopla e-book)


Take a Picture of Me, James Van Der Zee! by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Keith Mallet (book)

This Is Your Time by Ruby Bridges (book, OverDrive e-book, OverDrive audiobook)

This Kid Can Fly: It's About Ability (Not Disability) by Aaron Philip with Tonya Bolden (book, Hoopla e-book)

Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman (book)


The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson (book, OverDrive e-book)

Underground by Shane W. Evans (book)


We March by Shane W. Evans (book)

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices by Cheryl and Wade Hudson (book)

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop by Laban Carrick Hill, illustrated by Theodore Taylor III (book)

William Still and His Freedom Stories by Don Tate (book, Hoopla e-book)

Woke: A Young Poet’s Call to Justice by Mahogany L. Browne with Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood, illustrated by Theodore Taylor III (book, OverDrive e-book)

You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jeffrey Boston Weatherford (book)

Young, Gifted, and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present by Jamia Wilson (book)