

## **African American Literature: Civil Rights Era (Grades PreK – 7)**

*Quick read-aloud links for the busy teacher:*

- *especially during COVID-19, and*
- *during this period of heightened attention and awareness on African American topics.*
- *Key words are highlighted for ease in incorporating into teaching units, or for use as extra story-time sessions for students.*

*Along with books specifically highlighting the lives and work of civil rights activists, books about other important African American historical figures are included, giving context and depth to this anthology. Mathematicians, scientists, musicians, photographers, athletes, etc are included, with color being the common denominator, blending the work of all of them together in their struggles against inequality and abuse.*

**For the Teacher** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0VzAL3WnGY> (2:36) to introduce the assimilation of African Americans into American history, using *Heart and Soul: the Story of America and African Americans* by Kadir Nelson.

**Note:** (Setting the stage: how the timeline of monuments establishes context for today's pushback against them) - "In the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, there were not many monuments to the Confederacy, beyond memorials placed in cemeteries for soldiers who had died. Today, there are over seven hundred Confederate monuments, situated in far more than the eleven states that seceded from the Union in 1860. *Many of these monuments went up in city squares or in front of official buildings between 1890 and 1950, coinciding with the Jim Crow era.* As the historian Mark Elliott observes, groups like the Daughters of the Confederacy were interested in *rehabilitating and glorifying the Southern cause (and ironically, changing the actual history)*. Monuments of this kind exist at the intersection of art and infrastructure, public memory and elite whim. They possess what Farber calls an "aura of permanence." But they embody the struggle to interpret a shared past, and *they contain a desire, he said, to "stop time, to hold on to power."* <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/the-new-monuments-that-america-needs>

**For the Teacher** --

<https://smithsonianapa.org/learn/> (11:52 – scroll down to find this). A TED Talk about teaching taboo topics of equity. Hard history can be taboo. This teacher's talk sets the stage for educators in an encouraging and challenging way.

*All Are Welcome* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwS3FOn4-Ow> (4:09) PreK – Grade 1  
Setting: anywhere. A beginning-of-the-school-year book, with the recurring theme appearing

on each page, that “all are welcome here,” it’s a celebration of diversity, inclusivity and affirmation.

*Her Right Foot* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN3nnL8Ke-0> (13:36) PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9gw1Xyby30> (2:09) (An intro to the book)

Dedicated in 1886, just 11 years after the end of the Civil War, the **Statue of Liberty**, stood, as a symbol of welcome in the name of freedom: a good reminder.

*The Undefeated* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evOokjgNPQc> (:41) (an excerpt) All ages

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLCLX8xW11k> (3:34) (With a commanding dynamic, the artist reads the book!)

A great **introduction** to an **overview** of the history of African Americans, this beautiful book is not to be missed!

*An African American Alphabet: D is for Drinking Gourd*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHa8emvlbuQ> (7:05) Grades PreK - 4

Another excellent **introductory overview** to the history of African Americans in America! M is for the **March on Washington**. (Teacher note: the actual book contains info for the teacher, but this reader in the video reads the text geared to the children.)

*A is for Activist* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZldCCKDGvF4> (7:18) PreK – Grade 3

An animated narrator takes the listener through the book that is in rhyme. A timely read. Even the youngest listener will find the sounds of the words engaging, even if the meanings of many are not clear. An exciting introduction to new vocabulary words related to advocacy and participation in the creation of meaningful change.

*\*\*These Hands* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhgE2t-m\\_9o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhgE2t-m_9o) (2:32) PreK – Grade 1

The grandfather is talking to his grandson, telling him what his hands could do. His reminiscences include playing the piano, throwing a ball, and protesting **Jim Crow** practices in the bread factory, advancing the civil rights there. A gentle story. A nice place to begin to tackle this tough topic.

*We March* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHszJOck YE> (1:55) (PreK – Grade 2)

Read by a young child, with background music and excerpts from history (**Dr. MLK, Jr's** speech), this lovely book is simple, geared to very young audiences, but appropriate for many ages. A great introduction to the concept of civil rights activism, centered on the story of the **1963 March on Washington**, with broad application to current events.

*More Than Anything Else* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIYOdg7lOew> (8:20)

PreK – Grade 3

**Booker T. Washington**, born a slave, but free after the end of the Civil War, his story sets the stage for civil rights. Celebrity actor, Malcolm Jamal Warner, reads to a small group of children, who are spellbound. A delight.

*Overground Railroad* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOWL-1lCTFk> (6:47) PreK – Grade 3

A description of the trip north during the **Great Migration**, (1917 – 1970), from NC to NYC - includes the names of the train stops and also a mention of **Frederick Douglass**, who had traveled north before them, except that it was years earlier and without a train ticket. The Jim Crow South is vividly juxtaposed with the North in a look at the train car seating changes, as they travel closer to NYC.

*Tar Beach* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9RKJleFdBU> (4:56) PreK – Grade 3

A gentle reading by the author. A little girl's dreams allude to the nightmares of **life in the 1930s and 40s**, while focusing on her dream-like quotidian good.

*Mae Among the Stars* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_mfdqyBqT8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_mfdqyBqT8) PreK – Grade 3

Non fiction. Biography about **Dr. Mae Jemison**. After a discouraging comment by Mae's teacher, Mae's mother encouraged her to follow any dream she had, telling her to always say to herself, "If I can believe it,...anything is possible." Although born in Alabama during the Jim Crow era in the late 1950s, Mae did follow her dreams – from Stanford University, in CA, with a degree in chemical engineering, then to Cornell, becoming an M.D. After serving in the Peace Corps in Africa, she entered NASA and became the **first African American female astronaut**, traveling to space on the *Endeavor* in 1992. After capturing another first, that of being the first real astronaut to act in a Star Trek episode, she heads 2 foundations. Mae speaks 4 languages.

**\*\*Child of the Civil Rights Movement** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbfRAoO142g> (14:43) (music throughout– excellent. Note: message from the author at the start) PreK – Grade 3

Setting: **Jim Crow, Deep South.** This is the perfect choice for a book to introduce the history of the modern civil rights activism to children of all ages. “Uncle Martin” is **Dr. MLK, Jr.**, “uncle” of Paula, the narrator, daughter of Andrew Young, activist, pastor, confidante of MLK, Jr, and former congressman and mayor of Atlanta, GA.

*The Story of **Ruby Bridges*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8D4ldGY41s> PreK – Grade 3

Setting: New Orleans, LA, 1960. Dressed in her Sunday best, little 6 year old Ruby, walks to school. Ordered by the President of the United States, **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, federal marshals protected her as she walked through crowds of angry white people, who shouted at her, called her names, and refused to send their white children to school with her. This is the story of how she saw things.

**\*\*Ruby Bridges Goes to School: my True Story** PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTRTfwUQ4bl> (Sankofa) (4:08)

Setting: New Orleans, LA, **1960.** Ruby’s story is set in the context of the civil rights period of history. Photographs with simple statements, bringing the history into easy focus.

*Harlem’s Little Blackbird: The Story of **Florence Mills*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U-cXxVUR48> (8:16) PreK – Grade 2

Setting: Washington, D.C., at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A little girl who grew up singing and dancing won accolades when she was still quite young, and quickly became a hot attraction in white performance venues – at a time when **Jim Crow** laws were the law of the land, preventing African Americans from entering those same venues (when atrocities against people of color in America were the norm). Florence demanded equal treatment for her friends and family members, refusing to perform unless her demands were met. Introducing **jazz** to white audiences between the 2 World Wars (in 1921), and a part of the huge movement called the Harlem Renaissance, she continued her fight throughout her life, not only for equal rights, but for principles that were right, as she allowed **compassion**, kindness and faith to guide her everyday choices involving everyday people.

*Jazz on a Saturday Night* PreK – Grade 3

**\*\***[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCfz8ILr\\_Po](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCfz8ILr_Po) (9:20) This is a short stage musical based on this book. Wonderful! A great intro to jazz!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iJcNlqW8q8> (3:39) (Skip ahead to 1:21. The reader reads the entire introductory page, which is not for the young child, but rather for the adult).

A description in rhyme, capturing the heart of the need in the difficult times of Jim Crow, for a place where tired workers could “still hold the glow” and “feel the beat in [their] feet.”

**Charlie Parker Played Be Bop** PreK – Grade 3

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWPe\\_o7avac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWPe_o7avac) (2:24) A delightful jazzy presentation of the book!

*Mister and Lady Day: Billie Holiday and the Dog Who Loved Her* PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0U7Q2IZkyA> (5:27) This is not an exciting reading of this book, which is a shame. It’s included b/c of the heritage of Billie Holiday in civil rights history. Hounded by one particular FBI leader in the 1950s b/c of his hatred of 2 things: drug users and African Americans, Billie’s life was cut short, as she fought to make the multi-layered message of abuse public. Her signature song (not appropriate for young children, reserved for high school students), “Strange Fruit,” is about lynching. She sang it everywhere, and when she did, she insisted on “rules” - complete silence, and a blackened room with a single light shining on her as she sang the plaintive tune with the cutting words of facts.

*A Voice Named Aretha* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7810Lo4YxYg> (14:44)

PreK – Grade 3

Setting: Detroit, Michigan. Civil Rights era. “The Queen of Soul” grew up in a home where civil rights leaders and prominent figures in the music industry gathered. **Dr. MLK, Jr.** went often. Divorce and death of a parent are themes that shaped the music of the “young girl with the old soul.” With the ability to copy any music she heard almost instantly, she became a powerhouse, becoming the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. That same power advanced the civil rights cause, the place of women in society, as well as in her personal life with her steady business acumen guaranteeing payment in an industry where integrity and fairness were often not the norm. “**R-E-S-P-E-C-T**” was not only her most well-known song, but was the theme that seemed to have the power to move mountains, and “even a president.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FOUqQt3Kg0> (2:29) “R-E-S-P-E-C-T.”

*Nina: Jazz Legend and Civil Rights Activist Nina Simone*    PreK – Grade 3

Begun with a lullaby excerpt that had been sung by Nina Simone, and continued as a bedtime story, the book is non-fiction, based on Simone's life experiences. A powerful voice in civil rights activism, her voice was loud, even in childhood. With a theme of affirmation, the book has an ethereal quality about it, lulling the listener in.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIXCDme0vJM> (8:18)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4kGc8bp7LY> (6:55) (A fun intro to this Nina Simone song, a video, with a teen's commentary - "Feeling Good")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTGiKYqk0gY> (2:51) (Another Nina Simone song - "Young, Gifted and Black")

*Swing Sisters: The Story of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm*    PreK – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-xvfLYyrhY> (8:40)

Setting: the **1930 and 40s**. **Jim Crow**. During WWII, the Sweethearts traveled across the ocean to play for the soldiers. Fighting danger and prejudice as an all-woman band, they were pioneers in the music industry, bringing hope to all who heard them.

Armond Fletcher, local African American **Chestertown** resident, tells a story of one of the most thrilling memories of his mother, of the day when she had waited patiently for the Swing Sisters to get off the bus that was bringing them to **Sumner Hall** for a performance.

*Freedom Summer* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rTxAWqHmUs> (6:09)    PreK – Grade 3

Setting: Summer 1964, Mississippi. A view of the **Jim Crow South**, through one realistic incident: the town-sanctioned closing and destruction of a public swimming pool in the heat of the summer – in order to avoid compliance with integration guidelines. (Similarly, when the Freedom Riders were scheduled to come to **Chestertown** that same year, Stam's Drug Store removed its stools so that customers of color would not be able to be seated. Through the eyes of 2 boys, one white and one Black.

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/freedom-riders> K – 3

Story for teacher to read to students about the **Freedom Riders**.

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/storycorps-registering-to-vote> (1:49)

K – high school

Excellent video recording of one woman's experience with the **voting laws in the South during Jim Crow**.

*Equality's Call: The Story of Voting* PreK – up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxOTcSKAny4> (8:31)

An exposition on **voting**, presented in verse, this book covers a LOT. There are *key words*\* that should be explained, along with an overview by the teacher, so that it makes sense to younger listeners. But even without that, the video has value, since the reader's excitement and passion for the topic comes through. (From 1:21 to 2:50, the reader goes through the entire introductory page, which will be way too much for many of the youngest readers. So if this part can be skipped, it would be better for them. Or you can give it a shot and see what happens!) A valuable asset to the virtual library, the read-aloud can be visited and re-visited, with more gained with each time around. Teacher's note: Just as the pledge of allegiance is memorized, (big words and all!!), this book can be shared in the same way. Just presenting a couple of words each day might be a good way to tackle it with your students until you've repeated and repeated, with one reading each day + 2 new words each day, to the end.

\**Key words*: equality, ratification, amendment, voting, citizens, founders, consent, declared, governed, election, representation, nation, granted, state, gender, race, wealth, property, polls, rolls, democracy, enfranchised, enslavement, abolition, suffrage, overdue, war, franchise, law, denial, omitted, permitted, muffle, suffragists, oppression, suppression, legislation, extend, protect, journey, tended, debt, owe, honor.

*Freedom on the Menu* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECLs7qzkhf0> (8:59) PreK – Grade 3

Setting: **1960, Greensboro, NC**. (A tie-in story with **Dr. MLK, Jr.** history, and to social activism). The true story, told from the perspective of an elementary aged, African American girl, who watched, first-hand, how change was made. All she'd wanted was a banana split, but having known privation and humiliation herself, she certainly understood that she was watching something bigger than ice cream unfold in front of her eyes.

*I, Too, Am America* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZDbBGKpUw8> (1:25) PreK – Grade 3

\*\*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKJob48kwoM> (:30 – a super short intro, appropriate for children – Begin with this video, then show the above book link.)

Setting: The **Pullman Porter era** (post Civil War – 1960s). Although this short, simple Langston Hughes poem focuses on the traditional role of African Americans in the RRs, his theme of hope and equality carries into contemporary times. (A tie-in lesson for **transportation** and **Rosa Parks**, with Parks’s parallels drawn in the links below in the teacher background section).

Teacher background: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOgATGaTSrM> (2:24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yoYSkoCp5M> (5:09)

**Coretta Scott** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZXkhdUI9ig> (6:52) PreK – Grade 4

With a quiet music background, the overall effect of the reading is soothing, as this non-fictional account of a slice of the history of African Americans is presented through this brief biography of Coretta Scott King, wife of Dr. MLK, Jr. Making reference to several historical events, the book is best used as a follow-up to others, rather than as an introduction.

**Trombone Shorty** PreK – Grade 3

[https://www.google.com/search?q=trombone+shorty+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS890US890&oq=trombone+shorty+&aqs=chrome.3.69i59j69i57j69i59j35i39j0l2j46j69i60.8706j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=\\_wBNEX8HmH52pytMPi-GdkA021](https://www.google.com/search?q=trombone+shorty+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&oq=trombone+shorty+&aqs=chrome.3.69i59j69i57j69i59j35i39j0l2j46j69i60.8706j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_wBNEX8HmH52pytMPi-GdkA021)

Setting: **New Orleans**. Meet this **contemporary** (b. 1986) musician through this delightful reading. With music samples in the background, Actress Angela Bassett lends authenticity to this modern story that has roots birthed during earlier times, giving challenges, hope and inspiration to each hearer. (Even though this musician didn’t live through Jim Crow or the 60s Civil Rights history, his music did. It is included for that reason.)

**Ella: Queen of Jazz** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf0vYVeFDDQ> (1:03) PreK – Grade 3

Music only. Text is not read. But the video is simple, and a great, brief introductory peek into Ella Fitzgerald and jazz.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Gt-Lj7fekK> (3:49) A sampling of scat, (**scat singing** is vocal improvisation with wordless syllables, combining improvised melodies, motifs and rhythmic patterns using the voice as an instrument, not unlike a trumpet or saxophone). made famous by Ella and others, is delightfully presented in this animated intro.

**Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa** Grades K – 3

Biography of singer-activist, Ella Fitzgerald. Intro to **jazz and scat**. Ella sang in **Chestertown** at Sumner Hall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qgonblpalo> (1:08) (An intro to this book – a preview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MIJitg3Zs8> (19:46) (This is the entire reading, but the intro reading is better).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbL9vr4Q2LU> (6:35) (Ella singing scat!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZ1gSLGnwqA> (9:05) (An Ella song - “Cry Me a River” - A love song, but the sound is a great example of the sound of jazz.)

*Each Kindness* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Var5X3uuYwE> (5:41) Grades K – 3

Setting: Anywhere. A heartbreaking, poignant story about the meanness of children towards their classmate, the new kid, who is “different” (due to her poverty). Set in this civil rights anthology of literature for children, the theme of kindness dovetails perfectly, paving the way for other similar truths about perceived differences.

*White Socks Only* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRuOdTgxBPU> (9:55) Grades K – 3

Setting: Mississippi: the **Jim Crow South**. Historic fiction. Beautifully told, this story of unity, justice and hope allows the youngest students to face hard truth.

**\*\*A Sweet Smell of Roses** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLmECaBSNoY> (4:18)

Grades K – 3

Setting: Civil Rights era. Innocent and unaware of danger, 2 young girls slip out of their house to join a **march** with **Dr. MLK, Jr**, giving a glimpse into their simplistic view of the event. Sets the stage for the listener for more in-depth study.

*The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqdRkkYsml8> (13:46) K – Grade 4

Setting: 1963, Birmingham Alabama. A true story of 9 year old Audrey Faye Hendricks, whose involvement with **Dr. MLK, Jr**. in the **Birmingham Children’s March**, landed her in jail!

*The Quickest Kid in Clarksville* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmsM76Ss4ZA> (5:36)

### K – Grade 3

Setting: 1960, a parade honoring African American **Wilma Rudolph**, the first U.S. woman to win 3 gold medals at the same Olympics. A story of competitive grade school girls whose **competitions** evolve into cooperation as they honor their hero together, giving clear evidence of how higher choices are the best ones.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYQXYVwa4YE> (2:52) For the teacher and older students – an excellent short bio, giving more inspirational info about Wilma Rudolph.

*Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Runner* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSIPYPCi254> (12:08)

A tiny, energetic, determined little girl, Wilma overcame polio and an inability to walk, becoming the first Black woman to win 3 Olympic gold medals. A hero on the track and off, she spoke up against segregation, making history in her small town, as well as in the world. A delightful reading, complete with music and sound effects. The story captures the breathtaking drama of Wilma's 3 winning track races, as well as the collective excitement of the nation, with the National Anthem playing in the background. A story championing dedication, courage and integrity.

*The Bat Boy and His Violin* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKPWwoainuw> (10:23)

Setting: 1940s, **Negro Baseball League. Segregation.** Reginald's father's life revolves around baseball, his dream for his son as well. But young Reginald is already an accomplished violinist, and has his own dreams. His father insists Reginald help out at the games by being a bat boy, but it doesn't go well – until Reginald begins playing his violin – and they are all changed.

*I Have a Dream, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* K - up

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jf6osaOmH5c> (9:39) (There are annoying puppets in the beginning, but the pictures are clearly visible and the reader an excellent reader and teacher).

Setting: Washington, D.C., **1963, March on Washington.** Highlights of the text of the speech, Kadir Nelson's illustrations bring the historic words to life. A youtube video introduction to the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKud-sNk6Ds> (1:16)

*If You're Going to a March* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHwuv0fZloM> (6:20) K - up

Setting: contemporary. A practical guide to participation as a young social activist: making signs, taking water, etc, bringing **current events** down to the level of young children.

*Rocket Says Look Up!* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMyxCH\\_y2MY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMyxCH_y2MY) (5:31) Grades K – 2.

Setting: contemporary. In this read-aloud, the book is introduced by a child, and read by her mom. The story is about a little girl, named Rocket, and her dreams of thinking big, made possible by **civil rights pioneers** who have gone before her.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OofJFHSPAts> (3:00) Grades K – 2

(A kid-friendly book review by the author and illustrator)

*Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon* K – Grade 3 (No YouTube video read-aloud)

A biography, which introduces the reader to Phil's struggle in school, as he was trying to learn to read. His supportive family members encourage him to explore other academic gifts, previously hidden by his early failures. Phil forms ideas about his world, learning about Jim Crow in the South through stories by his father, a businessman whose travel took him there. He sees heroes in his everyday world, as he takes in civil rights events while growing up, watching Dr. MLK, Jr on TV, even as his own dad is there in Washington at the March. He learns to dream, as his personal world expands in high school and college, as success is achieved. His deep commitment to integrity is his hallmark, taking only jobs that had meaning and value, that would elevate others. He was the perfect choice to be on the team to plan the National African American Museum in Washington, D.C.

*Human Computer: Mary Jackson* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQITbi30DaY> (3:41)

Grades K – 3

**Segregation** tries to keep a talented woman down, but Mary pushes through it, securing her place at NASA and in America's space history.

*Talkin' About Bessie* (not available as a read-aloud on youtube) A story in short poems. K – 3

*Brave Bessie* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ec3Wo9tdBU> (7:10) Biography.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDProFrAcgI> (An animated biography of **Bessie Coleman**, the first African American woman pilot during the **Jim Crow** era).

*Wind Flyers* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLSgImCR0qY> (3:17) K – Grade 3

An introduction to the **Tuskegee Airmen**, African American airmen of World War II. With beautiful illustrations, children are introduced to these brave fighters of civil rights freedoms through their fight for their country.

*A Computer Called Katherine: How **Katherine Johnson** Helped Put America on the Moon*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jm0T3jrdBs> (7:44) K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKxgieXQ82w> (2:06) Grade 3 (an excellent short bio)

Setting: NASA in the 1950s and 60s. (See notes below). An exciting look at not only how math trajectories can make a difference, but how by simply speaking up, refusing to remain complicit in silence, other kinds of changes can be made in **human rights** trajectories.

***Mahalia Jackson: Walking with Kings and Queens*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-ct5mEWs-I> (5:07) K – Grade 3

A lovely reading. Mahalia sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, during the March on Washington, when **Dr. MLK, Jr.** Gave his “I Have a Dream” speech.

*She Loved Baseball: The **Effa Manley** Story* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dO6Wg4G6Xmc> (10:32)

**Negro League Baseball** players gained a place in history, at the Baseball Hall of Fame, because of Effa’s love of the sport and her letter writing campaign. A former baseball team owner and aficionado, she also made baseball history, becoming the first woman to also be inducted.

*Sing a Song: How Lift Every Voice and Sing Inspired Generations* K – Grade 3

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3IT35G4Z\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3IT35G4Z_g) (7:06)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngFDy52eCZY> (4:31) A riveting performance by a men’s acapella group.

The book presents the history of the song, known as the “**African American National Anthem**,” which was first sung as part of a birthday celebration for **Abraham Lincoln**. The story takes the

reader through history, with the **civil rights** heritage held within the stanzas of the song. A beautiful reading of a beautiful book.

**Thurgood** K – Grade 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbZEvWajXGE> (14:50)

The first African American justice on the **U.S. Supreme Court**, he seemed born for the job, from his earliest years. Growing up in Baltimore during segregation, he had plenty of abuse during his years of growing up in the system where the racism of white-oriented laws prevailed. Realizing that civil disobedience (along with breaking the law) was one way to attack the problem, Thurgood opted for the higher ground, preparing for the life and work of an attorney, dedicated to changing the laws, rather than breaking them. A gifted orator in his role of attorney, and fiercely motivated to right wrongs, it was Thurgood who won the case, **Brown v. Board of Ed** in 1954 before the U.S. Supreme Court. (<https://www.npr.org/2003/12/08/1535826/thurgood-marshall-and-brown-v-board-of-ed> - teacher background – a short NPR article about the case). He joined that bench in 1967, serving until his retirement in 1991.

*Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams* K – Grade 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4o5Mj4DsVQ> (9:23)

Setting: 1990s – 2000s: “The greatest story in **tennis**.” Scraping and sweeping broken-glass-strewn tennis courts, and dodging bullets near those courts during their earliest years, with their parents training and cheering them on, the girls crashed and catapulted through tennis norms and records to become the world’s # 1 and # 2 in the sport. Traditionally a white sport, “long-legged, brown-skinned, beaded cornrowed sisters stood out in a sea of white tennis attire,” and racist fans didn’t know quite what to do with them. Powerful and passionate, they were a force to be reckoned with, and the white world had to figure it out, as the sport was changed forever.

*Counting on Katherine* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXtTMCBpXRg> (7:20) Grades 1 - 3

Setting: NASA in the 1950s and 60s. With patience and perseverance, waiting out delays due to **segregation and racism**, **Katherine Johnson** became one of the African American human “computers” at **NASA** in the 1950s – 60s. Her intellect and acumen catapulted her to a position of hero as she saved the Apollo 13 space mission when the now-famous statement came in from space, “**Houston, we have a problem.**” Correcting that problem - of a space explosion, affecting the path of the space shuttle, and threatening the lives of the astronauts onboard - Katherine responded to the critical challenge. It was her quick thinking and logical, thorough,

complicated math calculations that saved the day in America's space history, and the lives of the astronauts onboard. She died in Feb, 2020.

*Hidden Figures: Young Readers Edition* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRaNQ6jgcVY>

(12:47) Grades 1 – up Setting: 1940s – 1960s. **NASA**. Hear the stories of 4 African American women at NASA, grinding and gritting their paths from **segregation** and Jim Crow mindsets to acclaimed places in American history.

Song: *Oh, Freedom* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vejLhXdown8> (3:04) Grades 1 – up

The backdrop for this powerful song is a **series of iconic scenes from the Civil Rights era**.

*I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer* Grades 1 – 3

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fniVum\\_Szd8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fniVum_Szd8) (1:07) a brief animated intro to Henson and Peary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atJrxxV4azg> (1:58) an animated rap focused on Henson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqUTxkjULoc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNJCI3EtTtE> (2:50)

There is no YouTube read-aloud for this book, but a brief sketch about Henson appears in *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*.

(Teacher note: a message to teachers about *28 Days* is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4NN8zIWILk>)

**\*\*Martin's Big Words** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWT9H3aV1o> (5:03) Grades 1 – 4

An excellent overview of **Dr. MLK, Jr.** - of his life, his dreams and his works.

**Lillian's Right to Vote** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geQYBF2ir0E> (12:51) Grades 1 – 4

Setting: Alabama. Contemporary. A beautiful story of an old woman climbing slowly up a steep hill, which turns out to be a "hill of history." An overview of Lillian's ancestors, which is an **overview of history**, from slavery till today. Packed with a punch and with lots of facts, listeners

hear the names of notables: **Dr. MLK, Jr., John Lewis, LBJ**, with the story ending in success, as Lillian's gnarled hand pushes the voting lever: victory at last.

*Election Day* <https://www.amazon.com/Election-Day-Rookie-Read-About-Holidays/dp/0516274880> (This is not a read-aloud. It is a companion book to the one above, about voting.) PreK – Grade 2

*Preaching to the Chickens* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTFpsQyRfGs> (10:16)

Grades K-3 Setting: Alabama. **John Lewis's** childhood, focused mainly on his spiritual upbringing.

Teacher note: One of the main figures in the Civil Rights movement in the 60s, he led the march for voting rights on **Bloody Sunday** over the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma. Beaten numerous times, and arrested over 40 times, the work of social justice was, and is still not easy.

*Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra* Grades 1 – 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu-NwGOfQyw> (10:09)

Setting: At the very end of the 1800s, Duke was born. NYC. Honky-tonks, the *umpty dump* sound, the Cotton Club, Carnegie Hall, “cutting the rug”: big words of the era. Read by a gentle-sounding African American man, a Birmingham City Councilor-pastor, the listener learns how civil rights were tackled through the sweet, honeyed “Black, Brown, and Beige” color sounds of smooth jazz, rockin’ ragtime and sassy swing by The Duke.

Teacher note: <https://www.npr.org/2019/02/22/697075534/a-sprawling-blueprint-for-protest-music-courtesy-of-the-jazz-duke>

*Let the Children March* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoBPKwjiDL8> (6:39) Grades 1 - 4

Setting: 1963, Birmingham, Alabama, the **Birmingham Children's March**. A good, age-appropriate look at the **Jim Crow South** that ties into **Dr. MLK, Jr** history, as Dr. King said that the children “were not too young to want [their] freedom: Let the children march. They will lead the way.” Dressed in their Sunday best, but unarmed against the powerful water hoses that knocked them down and shoved them into the dirt, they were dragged into the paddy wagon that would take them to jail – with so many stuffed into the cells that there was no more room for other children willing to fight. A story of courage and strength, giving hope that one voice and one stand – even by one child – can make a difference in the world.

*Back of the Bus* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXUxkiwEqHs> (5:36) Grades 1 - 3

Setting: Montgomery, AL, 1955. Historic fiction. A young Black boy plays with his marble on the bus, as **Rosa Parks** enters the story by returning his rolling marble back to him. It turns out to be the day when Rosa Parks makes her stand by staying in her seat, with “lightnin’ storm eyes,” and the young boy catches a glimpse of purpose, courage and hope.

*Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America* Grades 1 - 6

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqMDwttq\\_dl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqMDwttq_dl) (4:08)

Setting: Washington, D.C. 1930s – 1990s. Biography. Born in KS, traveling to Minnesota, with a stop in Chicago, a challenge by an employer takes him to the nation’s capital. Fighting **racism, segregation and inequality** through his camera lens, Parks’s story is compelling. Drawing a parallel between a classic piece of iconic art, *American Gothic*, <https://www.artic.edu/artworks/6565/american-gothic>, (painted in the 1930s by Grant Woods, a white artist), Gordon gives a riveting contrast to the working poor, as he captures Ella Watson, a cleaning lady, on film: <https://collections.artsmia.org/art/100557/american-gothic-washington-d-c-gordon-parks>. An inspiring story, Gordon’s life and work give hope to young readers, and is a hero to look up to.

*Show Way* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1r8Rtu2PLJ0> (12:09) Grades 1 - 6

The author, Jacqueline Woodson, reads her book about the generations in her own family. Accompanied by music, with the selections changing with each generation. From slavery, past Civil Rights, to today. Beautiful. Absolutely beautiful.

*New Shoes* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-1bKQcM15U> (6:50) (The reading is just “ok,” but the story is wonderful.) Grades 1 - 4

Setting: the 1960s, in an unnamed place, but it could’ve been **Chestertown** b/c local African Americans remember these same circumstances. A beautiful, honest piece of historic fiction about a 7 year old girl’s experience during the **Jim Crow era**. We watch as her humiliation drives her to a higher place of compassion for others, as she shares with her friends a practical way to rise above their unfair, unequal circumstances.

*The Other Side* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C80HdoDkHxY&t=77s> (5:53) Grades 1 – 4

A beautiful story about **segregation**, and about how friendship sometimes crosses over “to the other side.”

*Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAg34W4bfxQ> (16:33) Grades 1 - 4

Setting: 1947, California – a true, 1<sup>st</sup> person story of 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Sylvia, from Mexico. As Southern Black children were targeted for abuse by their neighbors, Brown children in the country were also facing **fight for equality**. Accused of being dirty, stupid and inferior to the Caucasian race, a few brave families risked all they had to fight the falsehoods governing the school system through the **systemic racism** shown to them in their everyday lives. The court decision that gave the Mendez children the right to attend the “white” school came just 7 years before **Brown v. Board of Education**, paving the way for all children in the country to be treated the same.

*Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down* Grades 1 - 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO5mkbqY0AQ> (10:49)

Teacher Background: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgIMTkmzBck> (6:42) An excellent intro to the teacher.

Setting: **1960, Greensboro, NC.** (Another excellent story about the **sit-ins**).

*Little **Melba** and Her Big Trombone* Grades 2 - 3

[https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS890US890&sxsrf=AleKk01YdpWcyBC4fkFs\\_bx0TpijilHB7Zg%3A1598295904724&ei=YA9EX8jrK6uwytMPwImCmAY&q=little+melba+and+her+big+trombone+read+aloud+youtube&og=little+melba+and+her+big+trombone+read+aloud+youtube&gs\\_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAzIFCCEQqwl6BwgjEOoCECc6BAgjECc6BQguEJECOGsILhCxAXDHARCjAjoFCAAQsQM6CAguELEDEIMBOgQIABBDOgclLhAUEIcCOgQILhBDOgclLhCxAXBDogclLhAnEJMCOggILhCxAXCRAjoiCC4QxwEQrwE6BQguELEDOgILljoCCAA6BggAEBYQHjoFCCEQoAE6BwghEAoQoAFQ0pkBWNbsAWDt7gFoAXAAeACAAdEBiAHpJ5IBBzMzLjE4LjGYAQCgAQGqAQdnd3Mt\\_d2l6sAEKwAEB&sclient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEWjlm5adxLTrAhUrmHIEHcCEAGMQ4dUDCAw&uact=5#kpvalbx=\\_gA9EX9qmF8-JytMPi5mCkAc22](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&sxsrf=AleKk01YdpWcyBC4fkFs_bx0TpijilHB7Zg%3A1598295904724&ei=YA9EX8jrK6uwytMPwImCmAY&q=little+melba+and+her+big+trombone+read+aloud+youtube&og=little+melba+and+her+big+trombone+read+aloud+youtube&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAzIFCCEQqwl6BwgjEOoCECc6BAgjECc6BQguEJECOGsILhCxAXDHARCjAjoFCAAQsQM6CAguELEDEIMBOgQIABBDOgclLhAUEIcCOgQILhBDOgclLhCxAXBDogclLhAnEJMCOggILhCxAXCRAjoiCC4QxwEQrwE6BQguELEDOgILljoCCAA6BggAEBYQHjoFCCEQoAE6BwghEAoQoAFQ0pkBWNbsAWDt7gFoAXAAeACAAdEBiAHpJ5IBBzMzLjE4LjGYAQCgAQGqAQdnd3Mt_d2l6sAEKwAEB&sclient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEWjlm5adxLTrAhUrmHIEHcCEAGMQ4dUDCAw&uact=5#kpvalbx=_gA9EX9qmF8-JytMPi5mCkAc22)

Setting: Kansas City, 1930s – 70s. The **Jim Crow South**.

A star musician and student, her mother gave her blessing for Melba to explore jazz. She took off while still in her teens, and didn't stop – even when things got tough – till she'd visited spots all over the world! She played with the top names of the industry, and came out on top herself.

*Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: **The Sanitation Strike of 1968*** Grades 2 - 5

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrbGrqynB\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrbGrqynB_g) (25:36)

Setting: 1968, Memphis, TN. 9-year-old Lorraine tells the true story of how “freedom is never free” - about her daddy's job, demands for decent pay and safe conditions, and how it all related to **Dr. MLK, Jr's assassination** in her city, the day after he gave a speech titled “I've Been to the Mountaintop.” For older elementary students.

*Martin & Mahalia: His Words / Her Song* Grades 2 - 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aofEnz4v7I> (10:19)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odHqG1rA4M8> (2:55) an exciting video of Mahalia singing while on the stage with **Dr. MLK, Jr.** Children will “get the feel” for the energy of the movement.

Setting: The South & Washington, D.C., 1950s –60s, the civil rights era. Tie-in story with Rosa Parks. A **narrative montage of the era.**

*Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* (no read aloud available)

*Jazz Age Josephine* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fURIME9mm2s> (7:15) Grades 2 - 5

Josephine Baker had a rough start, but after she got fed up with **Jim Crow and blackface**, she danced and sang her way to Paris, finally feeling free. A story in rhyme.

**Song: “Ain't Let Nobody Turn Me Around”** (Scenes from Civil Rights era on video) Grades 3 - 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sieDJNW66sY> (3:10)

*The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of **Raye Montague*** Grades 2 – 5

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwBBrC\\_b8Ww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwBBrC_b8Ww) (8:28)

Setting: 1940s in the segregated **Jim Crow South**, Arkansas. Biography about a little Black girl whose dreams seemed out of reach at first, but encouraged by her mom, she kept going until she made **naval history**.

Additional note about U.S. naval history: (In 2020, the first ship to be named after an African American sailor, a WWII hero, the S.S. *Doris Miller*, was christened:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/29/917816651/a-military-first-a-supercarrier-is-named-after-an-african-american-sailor>)

Additional notes about U.S. naval history: see books / read-alouds in the slavery unit, featuring James Forten, in the Revolutionary War, and Robert Smalls, from the Civil War.

*The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* Grades 2 – 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp0rOi4dMJ8> (1:17) An inviting, sobering book review.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eFm3f6ZiTI> (18:37)

Setting: Mississippi, pre- and post- Civil War years. **Abraham Lincoln. Reconstruction. Hard history**; includes an illustration with a white man preparing to whip a Black man tied to a tree. (Not a photograph, so it's age appropriate, creating context and accuracy). After grabbing opportunities to teach himself to read, and after a meteoric rise in prominence, Lynch was elected to the House of Representatives. But while John Roy Lynch was serving as a **Congressman** in Washington, D.C., life in his hometown area was rife with the evils that had plagued Black citizens during slavery. With rampant acts of violence and terror, and a determination by whites to succeed in crippling the newly freed Black citizens, voter suppression, burnings, beatings and murder were the norm. Lynch fought for civil rights during **Reconstruction**, later even becoming a **historian** to set the record straight to combat the inaccurate narrative of white supremacy that had reigned for so long.

*Ida B. Wells / Let The Truth Be Told* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tChQK-Fx90c> (12:53)  
Grades 3 – 6

Setting: Mississippi, Post Civil War – early 1900s. Born a slave, Ida B. Wells was one of the most important, powerful African American figures in history. A teacher, activist, writer, and political candidate for the American senate during the **Jim Crow** era, and friend to **Frederick Douglass**, she was small in stature, but loud in her voice, speaking out about unfair treatment towards Black men, (especially through **lynching\***), and she was mighty in accomplishments. (\* Teacher note: There is a local group of activists which is working to bring racial reconciliation to **Chestertown** through the erecting of a lynching memorial).

*Little Leaders: **Bold Women in Black History*** Grades 3 - 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JskSORRi1bA> (2:09)

An engaging book review shared by a high school aged African American female – to encourage students to visit the public library to check out the book. Contains an overview of 40 Black women in history. Exciting!

*We Are The Ship* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us6l\\_ECf4zo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us6l_ECf4zo) (11:00) Grades 3 – 7

“First Inning” (Chapter 1)

Using different voices for different ball players, an African American master reader reads the story of **Negro League Baseball** in the era of **Jim Crow**. An exciting story that will keep listeners of every age on the edges of their seats. Even if you never had any interest at all in baseball, you’ll ask yourself wondering why you waited so long to hear this story.

“Second Inning” (Chapter 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9R-WFPkUkg> (9:05)

“Third Inning” (Chapter 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtROdq1o37Q> (10:30)

“Fourth Inning” (Chapter 4) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtG8O0EqsEY> (11:29)

“Fifth Inning” (Chapter 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDlIM2fqEYs> (13:30)

“Sixth Inning” (Chapter 6) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JT-6W9mKI2c> (6:35)

“Seventh Inning” (Chapter 7) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWJ\\_HrCmxcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWJ_HrCmxcc) (9:40)

“Eighth Inning” (Chapter 8) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42wzVV0qz3w> (6:10)

“Ninth Inning” (Chapter 9) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g\\_7o2bU9qlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_7o2bU9qlg) (13:50)

(This is the chapter about Jackie Robinson).

*In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* Grades 4 – 7

An award-winning book about Bandit, aka, Shirley, an Asian immigrant who struggles to fit into an unwelcoming, uncertain, unfamiliar, and unsettling set of circumstances. Her love of **Jackie Robinson** brings joy and hope.

“January” (Chapter One) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeAltgp5PDw> (31:34)

“February” (Chapter Two) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-TMt4f2gsk> (22:34)

“March” “April” (Chapters 3 – 4) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC\\_zPanAnQ8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC_zPanAnQ8) (32:05)

“May” (Chapter 5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waQKKI4hi9c> (17:33)

“June” “July” (Chapters 6 – 7) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJIDlxzKagY> (21:01)

“August” (Chapter 8) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTus0wMD\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTus0wMD_4) (13:44)

“September” (Chapter 9, part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMFH0AVZAtA> (6:37)

“September” (Chapter 9, part 2) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C\\_h9AWRi3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C_h9AWRi3s) (8:38)

“September” (Chapter 9, part 3) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbglFcZOkt0> (11:59)

“October” (Chapter 10) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RY6eESFisrA> (5:49)

“November” (Chapter 11) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMtSJc-hKil> (6:20)

“December” (Chapter 12, part 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YX2fU5PsPvk> (7:47)

“December” (Chapter 12, part 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0cT1wrfQ3g> (8:06)

**Paul Robeson** <https://www.amazon.com/Paul-Robeson-Eloise-Greenfield/dp/1600602622>

(There is no read-aloud. The above link contains info about the book).

Grades 2 – up

[https://www.leeandlow.com/books/paul-robeson/teachers\\_guide](https://www.leeandlow.com/books/paul-robeson/teachers_guide)

(Below are youtube links about Robeson – both well done).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQbA6ZtT7oE> (1:31)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNgutuM82rM> (6:44) Brings Robeson’s history into contemporary context.

*Lift as You Climb: The Story of **Ella Baker*** Grades 4 - 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5WfdjTb5rs> (16:58)

Setting: NC. The **Jim Crow South**. Grassroots movements – from the bottom to the top: “What do you hope to accomplish?” Ella’s question of all of her peers involved in social activism was the same. Her method of levelling the playing field by involving those at the bottom of social rungs, as well as those at the top, was groundbreaking. Sharecroppers without choices, to preachers and physicians with many, were members of the same teams, in order to work together to accomplish change. She told them to lift as they climbed, (sit-ins, Freedom Rides),

and so they did, accomplishing much, but leaving plenty more to do, as we continue to ask today: “What do we hope to accomplish?”

*Voice of Freedom: **Fannie Lou Hamer** / The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTDGar-Zw8U> (2:45) Grades 4 – 7 This is a book talk, to pique the interest of students who’d like to check the book out of their local library.

*The Watsons Go to **Birmingham** – 1963* (a chapter book) Chapter 1 Grades 4 - 8

[https://www.google.com/search?q=the+watsons+go+to+birmingham+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS890US890&oq=the+watsons+go+to+birmingham+read+aloud+youtube&ags=cchrome..69i57j0l3j69i64l2.8789j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx= KCc4X4 pN62p5wLKzp QCA21](https://www.google.com/search?q=the+watsons+go+to+birmingham+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&oq=the+watsons+go+to+birmingham+read+aloud+youtube&ags=cchrome..69i57j0l3j69i64l2.8789j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx= KCc4X4 pN62p5wLKzp QCA21) (14:49)

Setting: Birmingham, AL, 1963. Historic fiction. Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award and also a Newberry Honor Book. Read aloud by a child, the reader may be the age of 10 year old Kenny. At the outset of the book, the family is living in Flint, MI, but they’re headed south. “...a warmly memorable evocation of an African-American family.” - Horn Book Magazine

*One Crazy Summer* (an award-winning chapter book, 1<sup>st</sup> in a trilogy about 3 sisters)

Grades 3-7

Setting: CA, **1968**

Students can order the other 2 books in the series from the library: P.S. Be Eleven and One Crazy in Alabama, all by Rita Williams-Garcia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkaZhialt0o> (14:26) Chapter 1 (There’s a short lesson before the actual reading, but it’s not long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Os4xhifL5Lw> (19:41) Chapters 2-3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= FGfrj8QDqM> (32:46) Chapters 4-7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3e70hPL80MY> (22:40) Chapters 8-10

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLYj6W\\_6CyQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLYj6W_6CyQ) (36:48) Chapters 11-14

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=El5owuzXUGY> (32:48) Chapters 15-18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQDw6e4XYs4> (24:12) Chapters 19-21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJW3SvJm5nE> (22:28) Chapters 22-24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSgruxeURJQ> (34:18) Chapter 25-28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFa2HUekK1U> (7:56) Chapter 29

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kxPun5VQrI> (31:30) Chapter 30-33

*Finding Langston* (1<sup>st</sup> book in a trilogy) Grades 5 - 7

Chapter 1 + part of Chapter 2 -

[https://www.google.com/search?q=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS890US890&oq=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.10381j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx= bhJX5S1EYqzytMP7KyDsAY23](https://www.google.com/search?q=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS890US890&oq=finding+langston+read+aloud+youtube&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.10381j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx= bhJX5S1EYqzytMP7KyDsAY23) - A fantastic reading by actor Dion Graham.

Unfortunately, it's only a tease, since the listener will want to grab the book asap, to finish reading the story!! A wonderful introduction to the book, a lovely story and winner of the Coretta Scott King Award.

*Bud, Not Buddy* (a chapter book) Grades 5 – 7

Setting: Michigan, 1930s **The Great Depression**. An award-winning classic. A story of courage, perseverance and hope.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3XAwXob1bo> (11:19) Chapter 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24qAMj42ix4> (17:04) Chapter 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1t1LDQPEu5g> (11:33) Chapter 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-ZM65OwVg8> (5:50) Chapter 4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZvPNYCOXbo> (11:19) Chapter 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xnf3HgNoMOg> (10:02) Chapter 6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcmUNir2LVg> (8:52) Chapter 7

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oazJ3Mw8Li0> (19:52) Chapter 8 - Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lqsWHBFdvM> (17:52) Chapter 8 – Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaslzeQUs78> (10:29) Chapter 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cK4r1T-C6ms> (14:09) Chapter 10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mf3Z3xiUIMM> (27:01) Chapter 11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjoKKYVklpY> (24:06) Chapter 12

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7ZJ\\_xMnTNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7ZJ_xMnTNE) (13:51) Chapter 13

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG5Te\\_S9SX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DG5Te_S9SX8) (18:43) Chapter 14

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBm6C0lpEpc> (11:09) Chapter 15

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lj-Ar-qW5M> (17:17) Chapter 16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujgDJNOT4S4> (7:31) Chapter 17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhceJuNI8k> (12:04) Chapter 18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WxqQfAwnzl> (28:07) Chapter 19

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7apCQ70\\_XkA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7apCQ70_XkA) (5:46) Afterword

*Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom* (a chapter book – a review only, so students can check out book from the library) Grades 7 - 9

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU\\_Ss81hIH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU_Ss81hIH0) (2:12)