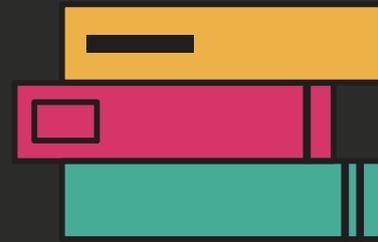


RECOMMENDED BLACK HISTORY BOOK LIST



BY JALILAH J.

FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD BY: JEANETTE WINTER

I discovered this gem two summers ago while working at a summer camp! And while I didn't have the opportunity to incorporate it this year, it's still a great read for young children. Suitable for children ages 3-8 years old, the Drinking Gourd tells the story of a peg-legged sailor who aids slaves on their escape while using the underground railroad. Click here for more information.

MUMBET'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY: GRETCHEN WOELFLE

I used to be a kindergarten teacher in 2014-2015 and this book was a part of our school curriculum for "literature circle" and my students loved it. Mumbet's Declaration of Independence is the story of Elizabeth Freeman, a slave who dreams of her freedom and fights for her freedom with the help of a young lawyer. Link to the story here.

ART FROM HER HEART: FOLK ARTIST CLEMENTINE HUNTER BY: KATHY WHITEHEAD

Can you imagine being an artist who isn't allowed into your own show? That's what happened to folk artist Clementine Hunter. Her paintings went from hanging on her clothesline to hanging in museums, yet because of the color of her skin, a friend had to sneak her in when the gallery was closed. This picture book biography introduces kids to a self-taught artist whose paintings captured scenes of backbreaking work and joyous celebrations of southern farm life. They preserve a part of American history we rarely see and prove that art can help keep the spirit alive.

MAGIC TRASH: A STORY OF TYREE GUYTON AND HIS ART BY: J. H. SHAPIRO

Paintbrush in hand, Tyree cast his artistic spell, transforming everyday junk into magic trash. Soon local kids and families joined Tyree in rebuilding their neighborhood, discovering the healing power of art along the way. This picture book biography of Tyree Guyton, an urban environmental artist, shows how he transformed his decaying, crime-ridden neighborhood into the Heidelberg Project, an interactive sculpture park. The story spans from Tyree's childhood in 1950s Detroit to his early efforts to heal his community through art in the 1980s. Tyree's awards include Michigan Artist of the Year and International Artist.

BEAUTIFUL BLACKBIRD BY: ASHLEY BRYAN

Long ago, Blackbird was voted the most beautiful bird in the forest. The other birds, who were colored red, yellow, blue, and green, were so envious that they begged Blackbird to paint their feathers with a touch of black so they could be beautiful too. Although Black-bird warns them that true beauty comes from within, the other birds persist and soon each is given a ring of black around their neck or a dot of black on their wings—markings that detail birds to this very day.

