

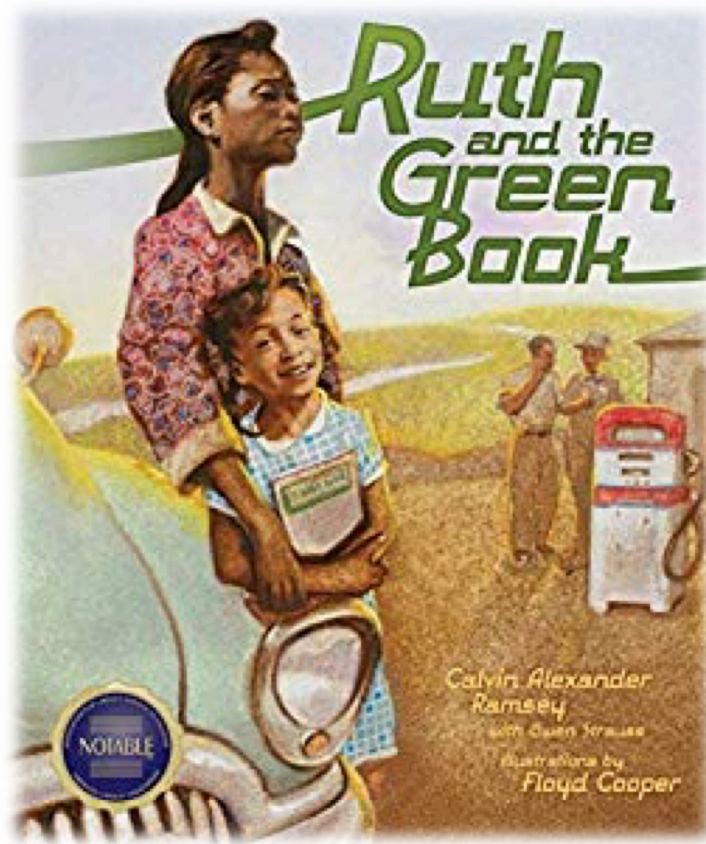


## LITERARY COMMENTARY

By [Penelope Bunn](#)

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### ***RUTH AND THE GREEN BOOK*** By [Calvin Alexander Ramsey](#)



#### **What is the book about?**

Ruth was so excited to take a trip in her family's new car! In the early 1950s, few African Americans could afford to buy cars, so this would be an adventure. But she soon found out that black travelers weren't treated very well in some towns. Many hotels and gas stations refused service to black people. Daddy was upset about something called Jim Crow laws. Finally, a friendly attendant at a gas station showed Ruth's family *The Green Book*. It listed all of the places that would welcome black travelers. With this guidebook—and the kindness of strangers—Ruth could finally make a safe journey from Chicago to her grandma's house in Alabama. Ruth's story is fiction, but *The Green Book* and its role in helping a generation of African American travelers avoid some of the indignities of Jim Crow are historical fact.



When you meet [Calvin Alexander Ramsey](#), you completely understand why he was “**THE ONE**” to write this book and tell Ruth’s story. Ramsey, a Black American writer, playwright and historian, is an artful communicator with a resilient desire to convey unknown and forgotten truths about the African-American experience to all, especially to children. He is one of America’s most sought after speakers at schools, libraries, and cultural events, and travels all around the world to lecture.

Ramsey has written two children’s books and twelve plays and musicals. His current endeavors include:

- (1) **RUTH AND THE GREEN BOOK**, the movie and Broadway play are in production. By the way, **RUTH AND THE GREEN BOOK** was written before the Oscar award-winning movie, “*The Green Book*”. According to Ramsey, “*This ironically worked out in a good way because now everybody knows about The Green Book and are eager to read Ruth’s story.*” [Purchase Book on Amazon](#)
- (2) **THE SCHOLAR WITHIN**, is a dramatic play about the life of **Dr. Edward Alexander Bouchet**, the first African-American graduate of Yale University in 1876 with a Ph.D. in Physics. It will be opening in New York City in September and traveling to New Haven in the fall (date and place to be announced).
- (3) A play about the life of **Dr. Marion Sims**, the father of modern day gynecology, which is currently in the reading stage.

You can learn more about **Calvin Alexander Ramsey**, and his works at his website: [www.calvinalexanderramseysr.com](http://www.calvinalexanderramseysr.com).

**Ruth and the Green Book**, as well as all of Ramsey’s other works, supports the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) as follows:

- **SDG #4 – Quality Education** – Obtaining a quality education underpins a range of fundamental development drivers. Major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels, particularly for women and girls.
- **SDG #16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions**. To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

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