

JUNETEENTH PICTURE BOOK PICKS

JUNETEENTH EARLY READER PICKS

JUNETEENTH MIDDLE GRADE PICKS

Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper

Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty, freedom, and a great day in history - the day her ancestors were no longer slaves. Mazie remembers the struggles and the triumph, as she gets ready to celebrate Juneteenth.



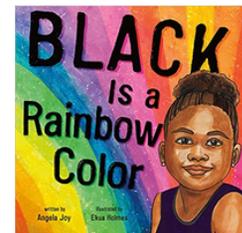
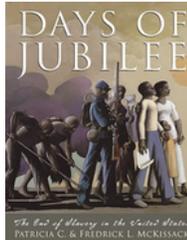
Juneteenth by Rachel Koestler-Grack

On June 19, 1865 - 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation - Galveston, Texas became the last place in the country to learn slaves were free. This book teaches the origins and traditions of Juneteenth, honoring the freedom of African Americans.



Days of Jubilee by Pat McKissack

For 250 years, African-American slaves sang about, prayed for, and waited on their long-anticipated freedom. But it didn't come for all slaves at the same time. This book chronicles the various stages of U.S. emancipation, and invites young readers to celebrate.

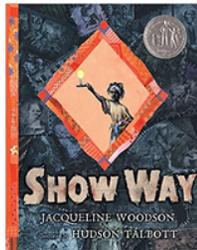


Black Is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy Illus. by Ekua Holmes

A child reflects on the meaning of being Black in this moving and powerful anthem about a people, a culture, a history, and a legacy that lives on.

Show Way by Jacqueline Woodson Illus. by Hudson Talbott

From slavery to freedom, through segregation and freedom marches, a tradition is passed down by the women in Woodson's family to remember the past and celebrate the possibilities of the future.



Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a town of runaway slaves, and is the first child there born free. One day, money is stolen from Elijah's friend, who's been saving to buy his family out of slavery. Elijah must find the thief - and the courage to get home.

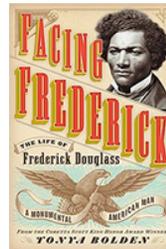


Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement as she searches for her place in the world.

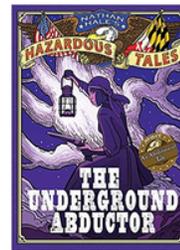
Facing Frederick by Tonya Bolden

There is much more to Douglass's story than his time spent enslaved and his famous autobiography. Facing Frederick captures the whole complicated, and at times, perplexing, person that he was.



The Underground Abductor by Nathan Hale

Araminta Ross was born enslaved in Delaware. After years of slavery, she escaped to freedom and changed her name to Harriet Tubman. As an "abductor" on the Underground Railroad, she risked her life helping enslaved people escape to freedom.

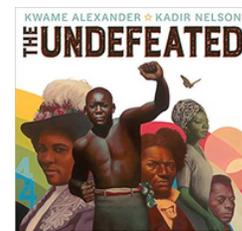
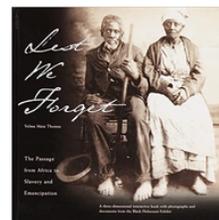


The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis

A cruel plantation overseer, Cap'n Buck, forces Charlie to join him traveling from South Carolina to Detroit to collar a gang of thieves who stole from Buck's boss. But the thieves are people who escaped slavery to Canada's freedom, and what they stole was themselves.

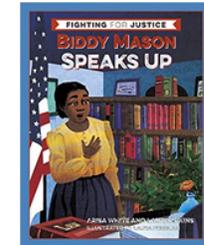
Lest We Forget by Velma Maia Thomas

Richly designed, this historical document is an ingenious, interactive, three-dimensional experience that dramatically addresses the painful history of America and the slave trade, based on the Black Holocaust Exhibit.



The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander Illus. by Kadir Nelson

This love letter to Black life in the US highlights slavery, the civil rights movement, and Black heroes, with insights into past accomplishments, and attention to those surviving and thriving in the present.

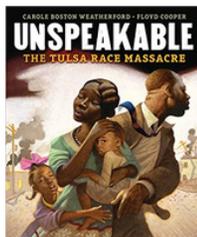


Biddy Mason Speaks Up by Arisa White

Born into slavery, when Biddy arrived in California, where slavery was technically illegal, she was kept captive by her owners and forced to work without pay. But when Biddy learned that she was going to be taken to a slave state, she launched a plan to win her freedom.

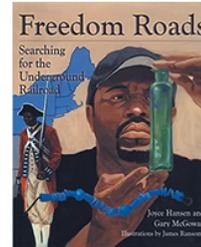
Unspeakable by Carole Boston Weatherford Illus. by Floyd Cooper

Traces the history of African Americans in Tulsa's Greenwood district and chronicles the devastation that occurred in 1921 when a white mob attacked the Black community, and concludes with a call for a better future.



Freedom Roads by Joyce Hansen

The Underground Railroad was meant to be a set of secret pathways, and its traces have been obscured by time. See how archaeologists and historians sift through corn cobs and root cellars, study songs and quilts, and use the latest technology to reconstruct those heroic, courageous journeys.



JUNETEENTH YOUNG ADULT PICKS

JUNETEENTH ADULT PICKS

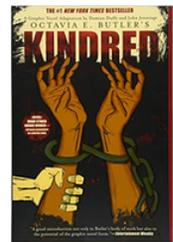
***The Fire This Time* Ed. by Jesmyn Ward**

100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Baldwin wrote: "You know and I know, that the country is celebrating 100 years of freedom 100 years too soon." His "fire next time" is here, in three parts that examine our dark history, wrestle with our present, and envision a better future.



***On Juneteenth* by Annette Gordon-Reed**

Reed demonstrates, among other things, that the slave- and race-based economy not only defined the fractious era of Texas independence, but precipitated the Civil War itself. Her work vitally revises conventional renderings of Texas and national history.

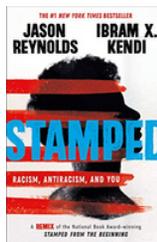


***Octavia E. Butler's Kindred* by Damian Duffy**

Dana, a young Black woman in the 1970s, is thrust backward in time to a 19th-century Maryland plantation. Over many trips, she realizes that the spoiled son of the plantation owner is her ancestor, and she must protect his life to ensure her own existence.

***Stamped* by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi**

Beginning in 1415 with the infamous work that laid the foundation for religious justifications of slavery and continuing through the present, the construct of race has always been used to gain power, and create dynamics that separate and silence.

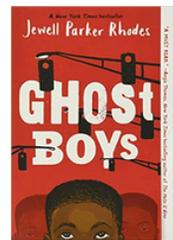
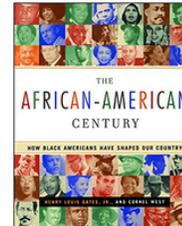


***The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* by Deesha Philyaw**

Philyaw explores the raw places where Black women and girls dare to follow their desires and pursue a brief reprieve from being good. They are as seductive as they want to be, as vulnerable as they need to be, as unfaithful and unrepentant as they care to be, and as free as they deserve to be.

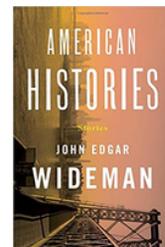
***The African-American Century* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. & Cornel West**

A captivating look at the fact that "we cannot imagine a truly American culture that has not, in profound ways, been shaped by the contributions of African Americans."



***Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

Jerome is shot by a cop who sees his toy gun as a threat. As a ghost, he sees the devastation unleashed by his killing, then meets another ghost: Emmett Till. Emmett helps him process and journey toward recognizing how historical racism may have led to his death.

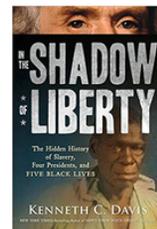


***American Histories* by John Edgar Wideman**

Wideman blends the personal, historical, and political to invent complex, charged stories about love, death, struggle, and what we owe each other. With characters from everyday folks to Jean-Michel Basquiat to Nat Turner, this is a journey through the soul of our country.

***In the Shadow of Liberty* by Kenneth C. Davis**

These narratives explore our country's great tragedy - that a nation "conceived in liberty" was also born in shackles. Get to know the real people who were essential to the birth of this nation but traditionally have been left out of US history books.



***Black Futures* Ed. by Kimberly Drew & Jenna Wortham**

"What does it mean to be Black and alive right now?" This work is vivid, juicy, thick; it makes clear the "infinite" nature of Blackness with contributions from unknown artists and luminaries. An illustration of the richness, joy, and power of the modern Black experience.

