



Early Readers PreK and Up



Sikulu & Harambe, Kunle Oguneye

Illustrated by Bruce McCorkindale

Children are retold the classic Good Samaritan story through African storytelling. In this version an old village woman cries out for help to animals passing along the Lubinda river. After all the animals make excuses and refuse to offer their help, two playful, polite animals, a hippo, Harambe, and a spider, Sikulu, agree to help and are rewarded greatly for doing so. The invaluable lesson of the importance of kindness is at the heart of this text that includes African names, words, and traditions. A helpful glossary introduces the country of Zambia with geographical explanations and language translations of the Swahili names and words used throughout the story. A great resource for teaching children about social awareness and communities. Grades K-3.

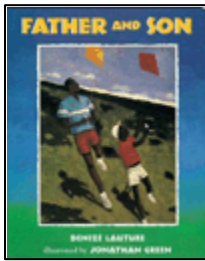


My First Kwanzaa Book, Debrorah M. Newton Chocolate

Illustrated by Cal Massey

Children are harmoniously introduced to Kwanzaa with the repeated phrase, "It's Kwanzaa time". This text details highlights of this week-long celebration of African heritage and pride which includes wearing traditional African clothing, telling African stories, lighting colorful candles, and sharing gifts. This enlightening book and instructional guide teaches readers Kwanzaa principles, symbols, and Swahili words used during the holidays. It also includes wonderful illustrations by painter and sculptor Cal Massey. Grades K-3.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST



Father and Son, Denize Lauture

Illustrated by Jonathan Green

The closeness between a father-son relationship is tenderly told in this lyrical book. Filled with imagery, the text and rich paintings by Jonathan Green depicts a boy and his father in the low country of South Carolina engaging in many activities in a unison way, like fishing with one bucket, humming while working, rowing a boat, and gazing at the same fruit tree. The story is told poetically which makes it a quiet yet insightful read. Excellent resource for fathers of young sons or male mentors and mentees. Grades K-3.

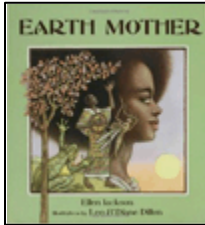


Our People, Angela Shelf Madearis

Illustrated by Michael Bryant

A father helps his young daughter shape her dreams by telling her stories of great African-Americans. From constructing the pyramids to exploring America with Christopher Columbus to inventing the light bulb, this story chronicles the important roles Africans and African-Americans have played in world history. In addition to encouraging pride through historical lessons, this text displays a loving, supportive parent-child relationship and is ideal for inciting young children to think about their futures. Grades K-3.

Young Readers Ages 6-8



Earth Mother, Ellen Jackson

Illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon

One day while Earth Mother journeys through the land performing her daily tasks like placing acorns in the trees, blowing wind across the deserts, and flinging spears of lightning into the sky, she encounters man, frog, and mosquito, each questioning their places in nature. They are all happy to feast on their chosen foods, but none happy to be fed upon. Earth mother listens to their complaints but continues through the land with the understanding of nature's cycle. This text is a great resource for introducing natural sciences to young children through storytelling. Grades 1-3.



Chinye, A West African Folktale, Obi Onyefulu

Illustrated by Evie Safarewic

In this is a version of the classic tale of Cinderella retold in a West African setting, readers are introduced to Chinye, a stepdaughter who is made to perform all the household chores. One night she is sent, by her evil stepmother into the dark, dangerous forest to fetch water from the stream. It's in the forest that she meets the figures of animals and an old woman who guide her through her journey and to a special blessing. Children learn the timeless lesson of good prevailing over evil. Grades 1-3.



Fish For Grand Lady, Colin Bootman

Two brothers rise early one morning to go fishing promising their grandmother, fondly called Grand Lady, they will catch more fish than she can cook in one day. The eldest brother decides to try a different fishing spot and the two venture there hoping to find large quantities of fish. Set in Trinidad this text uses the dialogue and the paintings of the author to give readers full insight into the culture and land. A glossary provides translation for the dialect used throughout the story. Grades 1-3.

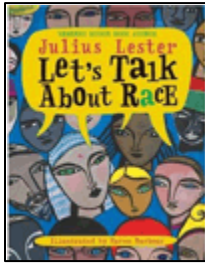
Readers Ages 6 and Up



Family, Familia Diane Gonzales Bertrand
Illustrated by Pauline Rodriguez Howard

The importance of family is embraced when a boy named Daniel, who thinks the family stories his father tells him are boring because he feels no connection the people, attends a family reunion. Over the course of a day he meets a host of relatives and can even place some of them with the stories he's heard. He befriends another boy and discovers they are cousins, and he learns how families are interconnected though they may live far apart. In addition, this dual-language text has bright illustrations that provide wonderful visuals of Mexican customs, like breaking piñatas and dancing with a mariachis. Grades 1-4.

RECOMMENDED READING LIST



Let's Talk About Race, Julius Lester

Illustrated by Karen Barbour

This engaging, folklore-like story poses a simple question: What's your story? The narrator gives us his background and we learn that everyone has a story. And like our birthplaces, religions, and favorite hobbies, race is a part of our stories too. Coupled with dramatic, vibrant paintings of artist Karen Barbour, this text introduces children the concept of race. Perhaps most appealing, the readers are often asked to interactively consider questions about race by feeling the bones beneath their skin, or imagining a world in which everyone goes without skin and hair for a day. Be prepared for questions. This book begs for a discussion and sharing period afterwards. Grades 1-5.

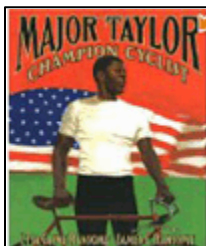


Coming Home, A Story of Josh Gibson, Baseball's Greatest Home Run Hitter,

Cornelius Van Wright

Illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu

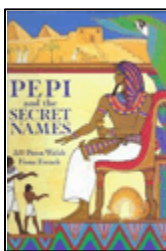
A grandfather shares a childhood story with his grandson recalling the moment he watched baseball great Josh "Thunder" Gibson hit a historic homerun out of Yankee Stadium. This text will inspire young sports fans, while also teaching the history and importance of the Negro Baseball League. Grades 1-6.



Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist, Lesa Cline-Ransome

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

This non-fiction text tells readers the biography of cyclist Marshall Taylor, from his rare, privileged childhood, as a African-American boy raised with a prominent white family in the late 1800's through his successful career as a championship cyclist. Readers follow Taylor from a boy who learns and performs stunt tricks on his bicycle, to the adversity he faced as a young man in segregated America and national cycling leagues. After many years, races, and wins he becomes the fastest cyclist in the world and travels to France to compete for the world title. This is a story of perseverance and how dreams can come true. Grades 2-4.



Pepi and the Secret Names, Jill Paton Walsh

Illustrated by Fiona French

When Pepi's father, a painter, is asked to design a tomb for the Egyptian Prince Dhutmose, he explains to Pepi that he likes to draw from life and he begins the first morning by carry a goose to the tomb. Pepi decides to assist his father by delivering him live versions of the creatures he must draw each day, a lion, crocodile, hawk and snake. To the get the animals to cooperate Pepi must guess their secret names. This text introduces children to Egyptian culture. Hieroglyphics, tombs, secret codes, along with large-scaled, ancient-art styled illustrations make this book an amusing read for young and older children. A key at the end reveals the hieroglyphic names of each animal, which are kept secret throughout the story. Grade 3-6 and older.