



J.P.MILLER'S GUIDE TO AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY





ABOUT J.P.

Growing up in Asheville, North Carolina my weekdays were filled with school and sports. My weekends with church. In between, I loved to read. I had an unrelenting thirst for books about African American people and culture, but few were to be found in the 1960s and 70s. Back then I was drawn to books that were packed with adventure. Preferably short. After retiring from the U. S. Forest Service in 2015, I have dedicated my life to writing stories of African Diaspora in Children's literature. Now I write the type of stories I would have enjoyed then...short, exciting, and filled with rich African American culture.

Why is this so Important?

"Once you learn to read, you will forever be free."

~Frederick Douglass

African Americans have made tremendous contributions to the establishment of the United States. Black and brown children need to see themselves in books so they know there are no limits to what they can achieve.

African American accomplishments are often brushed over and deliberately left out of classroom studies. There needs to be more awareness in other ethnic groups of the accomplishments of heroes and she-roes of color.

African Americans are many times shown in a negative light. It's time to change the dialogue and negative media portrayals of people of color while promoting family and spirituality.

Unfortunately, parents and educators often have a difficult time finding books that our brown and black readers can relate to. In most cases, they are limited in libraries and bookstores making them hard to find.

That is why I composed a list of go-to middle grade and picture books sure to satisfy the little readers in your life.

The books make for great gifts; they are fun ways to get into reading with children at home while also teaching valuable life and leadership skills.

Enjoy!
"Jp"

LEARN MORE ABOUT J.P. AT:

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JP'S YOUNG READERS GUIDE TO AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

- Alexander, Kwame, *The Crossover*, (2014) Houghton Mifflin - Middle Grade
- Alexander, Kwame, *Rebound*, (2018) Clarion Books - Middle Grade
- Allen, Tessa, *Sometimes People March*, (2020) Balzer & Bray
- Alston, B. B., *Amari and the Night Brothers* (2021) Balzer & Bray - Middle Grade
- Alston, B. B., *Amari and the Great Game* (2022) Balzer & Bray - Middle Grade
- Baptise, Tracey, *The Jumbies* (2015) Algonquin Young Readers -Middle Grade
- Baptise, Tracey, *The Rise of the Jumbies* (2017) Algonquin Young Readers-Middle Grade
- Cherry, Matthew A., *Hair Love*, (2019) Kokila
- Cooper, Floyd, *The Ring Bearer*, (2017) Philomel Books
- Hooks, Gwendolyn, *Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas*, (2016) Lee & Low
- Hubbard, Rita Lorraine, *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*, (2020) Schwartz & Wade
- Hudson, Wade & Cheryl, *The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth*, (2020) Crown Books for Young Readers - Middle Grade
- Lord, Michelle, *Patricia's Vision: The Doctor Who Saved Sight*, (2020) Sterling Children's Books
- Lyons, Kelly Stalings, *Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon*, (2020) Lee & Low Books
- Lyons, Kelly Stalings, *Sing a Song: How 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' Inspired Generations*, (2019) Nancy Paulsen Books
- Mbalia, Kwame, *Black Boy Joy*, (2021) Delcorte - Middle Grade
- Mbalia, Kwame, *Triston Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*, (2019) Rick Riordan Presents - Middle Grade
- Mbalia, Kwame, *Destroys the World*, (2020) -Rick Riordan Presents - Middle Grade
- McDaniel, Breanna J., *Hands Up!* (2019) Dial Books
- Miller, J.P., *Leaders Like Us Series* (August 2021) Rourke Educational/Carson Dellosa
- Miller, J.P., *Black Stories Matter Series* (2021) Crabtree Publishing
- Nyong'o, Lupita, *Sulwe*, (2019) Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
- Royce, Eden, *Spook Lights: Southern Gothic Horror*, (2015) Walden Pond Press - Middle Grade
- Royce, Eden, *Root Magic*, (2021) Walden Pond Press - Middle Grade
- Weatherford, Carol Boston, *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library*, (2017) Candlewick Press
- Weatherford, Carol Boston, *Freedom in Congo Square*, (2016) Little Bee Books
- Williams, Alicia D., *Genesis Begins Again*, (2019) Simon & Scheuster/Atheneum - Middle Grade



"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader"
-Margaret Fuller

