

# **MLK Education Task Force**

## **Suggested Titles for Third Grade Classrooms**

### **CONTEMPORARY BLACK AMERICAN STORIES**

**Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment** by Parker Curry

**Your Name Is a Song** by Diondra Brown

**Hair Love** by Mathew Cherry (PS - 3)

**Go Long** by Tiki & Ronde Barber (3 - 7)

**Fly** by Brittany Thurman (PS - 3)

**She Persisted: Florence Griffith Joyner** by Rita Williams Garcia (2 - 5)

**Extra Innings** by Tiki & Ronde Barber. (3 - 7)

**Dream Street** by Tricia E. Walker & Ekua Holmes. (PS - 3)

**Charlotte and the Nutcracker** by Charlotte Nebres. (PS - 3)

**Cece Loves Science and Adventure** (series) by Kimberley Derting. (PS - 3)

**Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Pena. (PS - 3)

**Isaiah Dunn is My Hero** by Kelly J. Baptist. (3 - 5)

**I Am Enough** by Grace Byers and Keturah Bobo. (PS - 3)

**Stacey's Extraordinary Words** by Stacy Abrams. (PS - 3)

**Something to Say** by Lisa Moore Ramee. (3 - 7)

**You Should Meet: Mae Jemison** by Laurie Caulkhoven (2 - 4)

Also, You Should Meet: John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Shirley Chisholm

**Who Was Maya Angelou** by Ellen LaBrecque. (3 - 7)

Also, Who Was: Louis Armstrong, Kobe Bryant, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman, and more

**The Madman of Piney Woods** by Christopher Paul Curtis. (3 - 7)

**A Good Kind of Trouble** by Lisa Moore Ramee (3 - 7)

**Of Thee I Sing** by Barack Obama (PK - 3)

**The Year I Flew Away** by Marie Arnold. (3 - 7)

**The Story of John Lewis** by Tonya Leslie (1 - 4)

**Easy-to-Read You Should Meet John Lewis** (Level 3) by Denise L Patrick (1 - 3)

**Looking Like Me** by Walter Dean Myers. (K - 3)

**The Favorite Daughter** by Allen Say. (PS - 3)

**The People Remember** by Ibi Zoboi & Loves Wise (PS - 3)  
**Stuntboy, In the Meantime** by Jason Reynolds & Raul the Third (2 -7)  
**We Are Family** by LeBron James & Andrea Williams (3 - 7)  
**Carla and the Christmas Cornbread** by Carla Hall & Cherise Harris. (PS - 3)  
**Our Table** by Peter Reynolds. (PS - 3)  
**Jump Shot** by Tiki Barber. (3 - 7)  
**The Story of Simone Biles** by Rachelle Burr. (2 - 3)  
**Cherries and Cherry Pits**, by Vera B. Williams (PK - 4)  
**A Chair for My Mother** by Vera B. Williams (K - 4)  
**Music, Music for Everyone** by Vera B. Williams (PK - 4)  
**Lucky Song** by Vera B. Williams (PK - 3)  
**Show Way** by Jacqueline Woodson. (PS - 3)  
**This is the Rope** by Jacqueline Woodson. (K - 3)  
**Pecan Pie Baby** by Jacqueline Woodson. (K - 3)  
**Each Kindness** by Jacqueline Woodson. (K - 3)  
**We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past** Jacqueline Woodson. (K - 3)  
**Comeback Kids Books** by Mike Lupica. (3 - 7)  
**Ryan Hart Series** by Renee Watson (Ways to Make Sunshine, Ways to Grow Love, Ways to Share Joy, Ways to Build Dreams) (3-4)

## **HISTORICAL BLACK AMERICAN STORIES**

**Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History** by Walter D. Myers (PS -3)  
**Mr. Lincoln's Way** by Patricia Polacco. (1 - 4)  
**Great Black Heroes: Five Brilliant Scientists** by Lynda Jones. (PS - 3)  
**Equality's Call: Story of Voting Rights in America** by Deborah Diesen (PS -3)  
**Born On The Water** by Nicole Hannah-Jones & Renee Watson (2 - 5)  
**Coretta Scott** by Ntozake Shange. (PS - 4)  
**Child of the Dream** by Sharon Robinson. (3 - 7)  
**Memphis, Martin and the Mountaintop** by Alice Faye Duncan. (2 - 5)  
**Jesse Owens Fastest Man Alive** by Carole Boston Weatherford (2 - 4)  
**Overground Railroad** by Lesa Cline-Ransome (PS - 3)  
**Stamped For Kids** by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. (1 - 5)  
**Ruby Bridges** by Kekla Magoon (1 - 4)

**Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman** Alan Shroeder. (K - 3)  
**The Watsons Go To Birmingham** by Christopher Paul Curtis. (3 - 7)  
**Stompin' at the Savoy** by Bebe Moore Campbell. (1 - 4)  
**The Story of Harriet Tubman** by Christine Platte (1 - 4)  
**Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968** by Alice Faye Duncan. (2 - 5)  
**Finding Langston** by Lesa Cline-Ransome (3 - 7)  
**Girls Survive Series** by Nikki Shannon Smith (3-4)  
    Ann Fights for Freedom (Underground Railroad)  
    Charlotte Spies for Justice (Civil War)  
    Noelle At Sea (Titanic)  
    Sarah Journeys West (Oregon Trail)  
**What is Juneteenth?** by Kirsti Jewel (3-7)

## **MULTICULTURAL STORIES**

**The World Needs More Purple Schools** by Carrie Kingsley  
**Room for Everyone** by Naaz Khan (PK - 3)  
**Dream Street** by Tricia Elam Walker and Ekoa Holmes. (PS -3)  
**Let's Celebrate Special Days Around the World** by Kate DePalma (1 - 5)  
**Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You** by Sonia Sotomayer (K - 3)  
**Listening with My Heart: A story of kindness and self-compassion** by Gabi Garcia and Ying Hui Tan. (1 - 5)

### *Jamaican Stories*

**A Likkle Miss Lou: How Jamaican Poet Louise Bennett Coverley Found Her Voice** by Nadia Hohn and Eugenie Fernandes. (1 - 4)  
**The Jamaican Pear** by Marsha-Lee D Webber and Jhazani A Webber (K - 3)  
**I Am a Promise** by Shelly Ann Fraser Pryce , Ashley Rousseau, et al. (K - 4)  
**Songs in the Shade of the Cashew and Coconut Trees: Lullabies and Nursery Rhymes from West Africa and the Caribbean** by Nathalie Soussana, Jean-Christophe Hoarau, et al. (K - 3)  
**Dominic Grows Sweetcorn** by Mandy Ross and Alison Bartlett (K - 4)  
**Jamaican Proverbs Illustrated** by Aeron Cargill

**How Rice Met Peas: A Jamaican Children's Story** by Leonie Althea and Ricardo Guy. (1 - 4)

*Asian, South East Asian, South Asian and Middle Eastern*

**Eyes That Kiss in the Corners** by Joanna Ho. (PS - 3)

**Dumplings for Lili** by Melissa Iwai (PS - 3)

**Three Keys** Kelly Yang. (3 - 4)

**Red White and Whole** by Rajani LaRocca. (3 - 7)

**Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business** (series) by Lyla Lee (1 - 4)

**The Year of the Book** (Anna Wang Novel 1) by Andrea Cheng. (1 - 4)

**The Year of the Baby** (Anna Wang Novel 2) by Andrea Cheng. (1 - 4)

**The Year of the Fortune Cookie** (Anna Wang Novel 3) by Andrea Cheng (1 - 4)

**Yoon and the Jade Bracelet** by Helen Recorvits (PK - 5)

**Grandma and the Great Gourd** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. (K - 3)

**The Story of Malala Yousafzai** by Joan Marie Galat (1 - 4)

**Barakah Beats** by Maleeha Siddiqui. (3 - 7)

**A Gift for Amma: Market Day in India** by Meera Sriram (K - 4)

**Room to Dream** by Kelly Yang (3 - 7)

**Watercress** by Andrea Wang (PK-3)

**Books by Grace Lin** (Chinese)

**Books by Christina Sootornvat** (Thai)

**When You Trap a Tiger** by Tae Keller (Korean)

*Wampanoag and Native American Stories*

**Clambake: A Wampanoag Tradition** by Russell Peters (Mashpee Wampanoag), 1992 \* (3 - 6)

**Da Goodie Monsta** by Robert Peters (Mashpee Wampanoag), 2009\*

**Tapenum's Day** by Kate Waters, Scholastic Books, 1996 \*. (PS - 3)

**1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving** by Marge Bruchac (Abenaki), Catherine O'Neill Grace, National Geographic, 2004\* (3 - 7)

**Powwow** by Linda Coombs (Aquinnah Wampanoag), Modern Curriculum Press, 1992\* (4 - 8)

**Nickommoh! A Thanksgiving Celebration** by Jackie F. Koller, 1999\* (2 - 3)

**Malian's Song** by Marge Bruchac (Abenaki), 2005\* (2 - 3)

**Forever Sky**, by Thomas Peacock

**Why The Bear Has a Short Tail**, by Dr. Giniwgiizhig and Niizhobines

**Takoza: Walks With the Blue Moon Girl**, by Tara Perron

**Child of the Flower Song People** by Gloria Amescua (1 - 5)

**Rez Dogs** by Joseph Bruchac. (3 - 7)

**Pow Wow Day** by Traci Sorrell

**We Are Still Here** by Traci Sorrell

**We Are Grateful** by Traci Sorrell

### *Caribbean, Cape Verde and Latinx Stories*

**How Tia Lola...**series by Julia Alvarez. (3 - 7)

**The Bea Garcia series** by Deborah Zemke. (1 - 3)

**Dinner on Domingos** by Alexandra Katana. (PS - 3)

**Definitely Dominiquita** (series of 4) by Terry Catusus. (1-4)

**Mateo Goes to Cape Verde** by Cindy Similien (select 3rd grade level)

**Seaside Dream** by Janet Bates and Lambert Davis. (1 - 4) Cape Verdean

**Love Sugar Magic** by Anna Meriano (3 - 7) Mexican

**If Dominican Were a Color** by Sili Recio (PS - 3)

**Juana and Lucas** by Juana Mendina. (K - 3)

**How Tia Came to Stay** (Tia Lola Series) by Julia Alvarez. (3 - 7)

**Island Born** by Junot Diaz. (K - 3)

**Stella Diaz Dreams Big** Angela Domginguez. (3 - 4)

**Who is Sonia Sotomayor** Meghan Stine. (3 - 7)

**Without Separation: Prejudice, Segregation and the Case of Roberto Alvarez**

by Larry Dane Brimner and Maya Gonzalez. (2 - 4)

**Sonia Sotomayor She Persisted** by Meg Medina (1 - 4)

**Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match** by Monica Brown

**Cristiano Ronaldo, A Boy Who Became a Star** by Steve Herman

**Without Separation** by Larry D. Brimner. (2 - 5)

**Just Help! How to Build a Better World** by Sonia Sotomayer (PS - 3)

### **EARLY READER CHAPTER BOOKS (2-4)**

**Jasmine Toguchi Series** by Debbi Michiko Florence (Japanese American)

**Meet Yasmin Book Series** by Saadia Faruqi (Pakastani American)

**Jo Jo Makoons Series** by Dawn Quigley (Ojibwe)

**Sadiq Series** by Siman Nuurali (Somali American)

**Mindy Kim Series** by Lyla Lee (Korean American)

**Zoey and Sassafras Series** by Asia Citro (Black American)

### **MIDDLE READER CHAPTER BOOKS (3-7)**

**Amari and the Night Brothers** by B.B. Alston (Black American, magic realism)

**Amari and the Great Game** by B.B. Alston (Black American, magic realism)

**Dragons in a Bag Series** by Zetta Elliot (Black American, magic realism)

**Frizzy** by Claribel A. Ortega (graphic novel, Dominican)

**Swim Team** by Johnnie Christmas (graphic novel, Black American)

**Last Mirror on the Left and The Last Last Days of Summer** (A Legendary Alston Boys Adventure) by Lamar Giles (Black American)

### **POETRY**

**Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes** by David Roessel, et al

**Poetry for Young People: Maya Angelou** by Edwin Graves Wilson and Jerome Lagarrigue

**Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes** by Floyd Cooper

**Imagine** by Juan Felipe Herrera and Lauren Castillo

**The Undefeated** by Kwame Alexander

**Bronzeville Boys and Girls** by Gwendolyn Brooks

**I, Too, Am America** by Langston Hughes,

**Change Sings** by Amanda Gorman

**Out of Wonder** by Kwame Alexander

(Grade levels noted in parentheses)

*\*Book recommendations from Wampanoag Bibliography compiled and shared by Linda Jeffers Coombs Aquinnah Wampanoag (October 2020)*

