

Black American Read Alouds



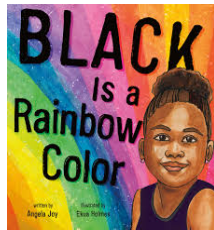
A young boy named Frank who loves elephants is thrilled when Miss Fancy, an elephant, retires from the circus and is moved into a nearby park in Birmingham, Alabama. But it is 1913, before the civil rights movement, and the park is only for white people. When Miss Fancy escapes the park, Frank is able to help the elephant and fulfill his dream.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVpwhv8kEJ4>



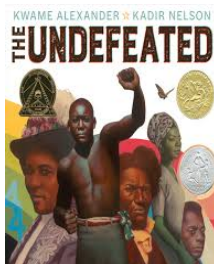
Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vujbTouzg2Q>



In rhyming text, a young girl reflects on being Black, and the color black that she sees everywhere from bicycle tires to the robe on Thurgood Marshall. Describes how black also means family, history, culture, faith, and community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcGSGvH1YBw>



Presents a poem honoring the troubles and triumphs of African Americans through history.

<https://youtu.be/pLCLX8xw11k> (read by author)



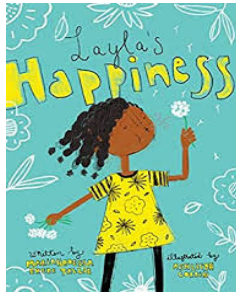
When the aroma of Omu's homemade stew fills the air, her neighbors arrive, one by one, for a taste until all is gone except for her generous spirit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S628jnrp8JU>



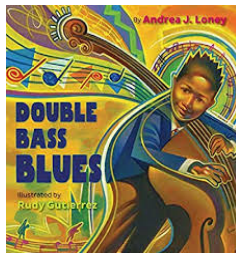
Gia is tired of hearing about the new baby. It hasn't even been born yet, but everyone seems fixated on it. Gia thinks things are fine just the way they are! And she's worried: if the baby's such a big deal now, what's going to happen to Gia's nice, cozy life with Mama once it's born?

<https://youtu.be/sbGxHmLGt-o>



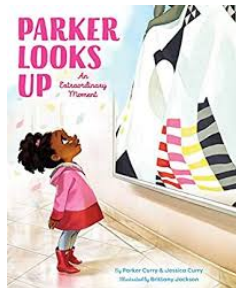
A seven-year-old African American girl describes the things that make her happy, from dark colors to eating spaghetti without a fork to her mother reading poetry.

<https://youtu.be/98juzx1u2YE>



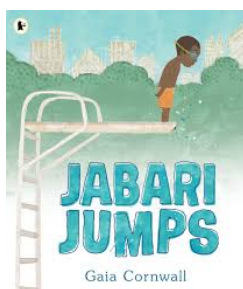
After leaving his suburban school where he shines as an orchestral bassist, Nic carries his huge instrument through various obstacles in the city before arriving to play jazz tunes with his grandfather.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCuxV4_HFIs&list=PLjfv6vXr6wgtS7-xtBsoYrRjnCCVix18&index=8&t=12s



When young Parker Curry visits Washington, DC's National Portrait Gallery she is immediately drawn to the iconic image of First Lady Michelle Obama. The moment was captured by a bystander and Parker became an overnight internet sensation. But the moment meant so much more to Parker as she began to see Michelle Obama as the kind of woman--strong, self-assured, and beautiful--that Parker wanted to be.

<https://youtu.be/dr-tq4cuFbQ>



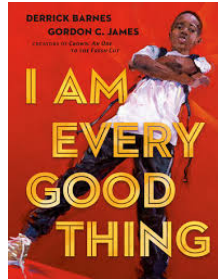
Jabari is a great jumper, and he thinks he is ready to conquer the diving board. He passed his swim test and all the other kids seem able to jump and have fun. It looks easy, but Jabari is afraid.

<https://youtu.be/Au21LHVEQjE>



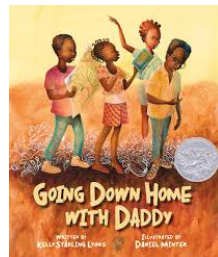
A young boy named James Otis and his Mama are very poor, but they have each other. When another family in their church loses everything they have in a fire, Mama suggests James should give a little gift to the young girl, Sarah. James feels like he has nothing a little girl would want, until he realizes he has words and pictures he can draw, and so he gives her something from his heart.

<https://youtu.be/eE7C4etCqho>



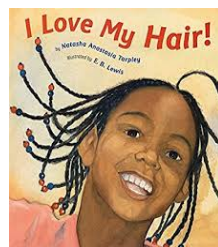
The narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid, because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you--and shows you--who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!

<https://youtu.be/9xxqvhwnrlc>



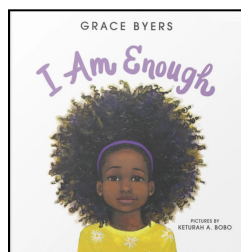
Alan looks forward to the annual family reunion at the farm where Daddy grew up, but everyone is supposed to share something special and Alan worries about arriving with empty hands.

<https://youtu.be/tFLHubvPk7I>



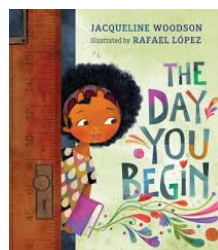
In this imaginative, evocative story, a girl named Keyana discovers the beauty and magic of her special hair, encouraging black children to be proud of their heritage and enhancing self-confidence.

<https://youtu.be/FfxijL4sEfo>



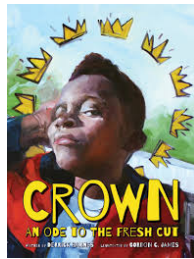
Simple poetic text and colorful illustrations of young girls in action teach young readers about self-acceptance. *We are all here for a purpose. We are more than enough. We just need to believe it.*

https://youtu.be/a_kjezH84k



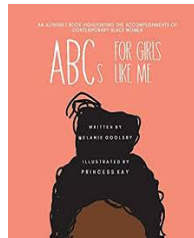
Venezuelan immigrant Rigoberto looks crestfallen when the class laughs at his name; other classmates feel left out when friends make fun of their lunch foods. And the (unnamed) African American protagonist has trouble finding her voice when her classmates recount their summer vacations until she realizes books have afforded her boundless travel.

https://youtu.be/kDs5d_qFbEs



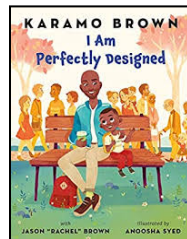
Presents an illustrated ode to getting a haircut for self-confidence and the honorable role of barbers in African American culture.

<https://youtu.be/BuYcg2PdeEA>



This alphabet book highlights the accomplishments of 26 inspiring Black women, from Ava DuVernay to Zakiya Randall.

<https://youtu.be/qh4oQGknwI>



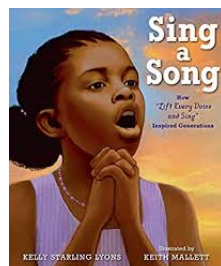
In this empowering ode to modern families, a boy and his father take a joyful walk through the city, discovering all the ways in which they are perfectly designed for each other. A tale with a meaningful message of kindness and inclusion.

<https://youtu.be/k9utYtbCQrk>



Copeland is the only African American ballerina to solo with the American Ballet Theater. In this book, she places herself in the story to speak with a young African American girl—an every girl—who also wants to become a ballerina, encouraging her, and telling her that with hard work and a belief in herself, she could become a Firebird.

<https://youtu.be/TzUZEace2Kc>



Tells the origin of the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by two black brothers as a tribute to Abraham Lincoln's birthday, that has gone on to become an anthem for African Americans. Follows the story of a young girl who was taught the song in choir, who then teaches it to her children, who teach it to their children throughout many periods in Civil Rights history, culminating in a final encouragement for young children to learn the song and continue to pass it on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfHowldkRXI&list=PLjfv6vXr6WgtS7-xtBsoYlrRjnCCJix18&index=1&t=6s>

https://youtu.be/ougoH_tq7-Q (The Song)