Blacks in children's literature: an annotated bibliography of resource materials written by or about Blacks for children in kindergarten through sixth grade

Shirley Jean Fowlkes

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BLACKS IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RESOURCE MATERIALS
WRITTEN BY OR ABOUT BLACKS FOR CHILDREN
IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE

CARDINAL STRITCH COLLEGE
LIBRARY
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

by
Shirley Jean Fowlkes

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

In recent years there has been a notable increase in publication of classroom materials especially geared toward Black children. These materials portray both ethnic and inter-ethnic situations. With federal monies provided by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for enriching the reading programs of Inner City Schools, professionals are faced with the problem of selecting and purchasing materials appropriate for Black children.

To a great extent parents, teachers, and librarians are responsible for the books children read. Therefore, it is important that both Black and white parents, teachers and administrators not only become aware that Black-oriented books exist, but that they provide these books and materials with which Black children can identify; books which bear resemblance to Black lives; books which allow the urban Black child to reflect on his own experiences and his view of the world; books whose characters become literary friends with whom Black children can share hopes and dreams, projects and plans; and, books which instill an appreciation of Black culture in all children.
Children, both Black and white, deserve to have the best books possible, not just mediocre ones, or "will do" or token integration books. They should have books that reflect genuine experiences and offer honest explanations. They should have books in which they see people like themselves and people whose facial colors and facial profiles are different from their own. They should have books that show the beauty of all people.

It is vitally important that every child be exposed to Black-inclusive books at the outset of his career. These early years are the impressionable stages of development. His ideas and attitudes towards people—especially groups of people—take shape during his pre-school years.¹

Teachers, librarians, and administrators in Inner City Schools are now faced with a problem of utmost importance, namely, the wise selection and purchase of these materials. It is the intent of the author of this research paper to assist the professional in the selection of meaningful resource materials with which Black children can identify and which would be appealing to all children.

Statement of the Purpose

This study's objective, therefore, is to present an annotated list of useful and immediately relevant resource materials which includes Black characters, written for children in kindergarten through the sixth grade levels. The list includes publishers' names, prices, and a brief commentary on each title. Although the bibliography contains critical analysis, there has been no attempt to weigh the literary merits of each volume. Often the suitability of a given work will depend on how a teacher wants to use it, or the available purchase fund. However, materials worthy of a place in every school and library are marked "highly recommended".

The listings are meant to be a resource for the professional who may want to investigate and/or purchase supplementary materials in an area that has become a new focal point in current efforts to improve and enhance the elementary school curriculum.

By providing critical guidelines for selecting books, it is hoped that the reader will find help in what to look for in a book so that he or she can make an independent determination of those books which are relatively free of racist influences and degrading symbols. Ultimately, it is hoped that this study will enable adults to choose books that recognize Black people and at the same time impart to children a sense of respect for them.
Scope and Limitations

The information for this study was gathered from the latest brochures, pamphlets, and/or catalogs up to and including 1972 and from materials obtained from the Locust Street Library, the Cardinal Stritch College Library, Clarke Street School Library and the Milwaukee Public Schools Curriculum Library. The bibliography has been limited to supplementary materials written for children in kindergarten through the sixth grades. Materials beyond the sixth grade reading level and/or appeal were not included.

This bibliography contains annotated listings of over one hundred books, filmstrips, records, tapes, and posters current to September, 1972. The writer has attempted to differentiate between those books which meet certain critical standards of acceptability and those which fall short of these standards. Standards of illustration and theme have been applied and choices made accordingly. Titles which meet the general criteria have been included in Chapter III.

A list of books that are "not recommended" is included in the Appendix. Each critique is the result of a painstaking examination using the criteria outlined in Chapter II. Ultimately, the writer judged a book unacceptable if a number of faults appeared in the book and if its overall
effect did not seem to produce healthy images and constructive ideas for children to absorb. The books "not recommended" should be considered carefully before they are made available to children. The detractions and detrimental qualities of "not recommended" books seem to outweigh whatever virtues they might appear to have as multi-ethnic books.

A few books have been deliberately excluded--some because they were, in a variety of ways, offensive or inaccurate; others because they were social studies books requiring a separate evaluation. (Social Studies books clearly intended as readers have been included.) A few classics, such as a new edition of Uncle Tom's Cabin, have also been included, though in this case somewhat reluctantly because of the tendency for dialect stories to contain elements of ridicule and stereotyping.

Over fifty-nine publishers were solicited by mail for information on any and all books by and about Negroes which they have published. Nevertheless, the bibliography makes no claim to be exhaustive. It is not a selective list, but rather a comprehensive one. The writer has not tried to compile a definitive list of books on the American Negro nor to assemble a collection of materials sure to appeal to all children. Rather, the writer has tried to identify readable, sound and appealing titles of varied types and at varied levels of reading difficulty. It is hoped that every young reader will find books here which will satisfy both his interest and reading ability.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Why Black Literature Is Needed

Until recent years, there have been few children's books written about or including Black people. Even today most children's books present a world in which all the characters, at least the significant characters, are white. In essence, they reflect a segregated world and are a constant reminder of the inordinate value placed on whiteness in our society. The message that such books carry for Black children is that they do not really matter or count. Conversely, white children are imbued with a progressive sense of superiority from their earliest encounter with the world of literature.¹ In the meantime, by excluding nonwhites, books have been in effect, telling both white and Black children that White is right, that Black people don't actually exist or that if they do, they are not important enough to put in books. In this way, violence has been done to all children.²

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 1.
It is unknown how many young minds were irrevocably damaged by these omissions.¹

Consider the huge, plush world of fun and fantasy which young children delight in. All the loveable characters—the clowns, the fairies, elves and angels, Peter Pan, Red Riding Hood, and even that grand matriarch, Mother Goose—are invariably white. Even Dr. Suess's fantastic characters, who appear in a bright array of colors, are seldom shown as black.²

Most biographies of great personalities have been written about men and women of white ancestry to the exclusion of equally great Americans with black or brown or yellow skin. Books intended to stimulate career interests repeatedly show a white person excelling as ballet dancer, doctor, or astronaut. Popular serial characters, e.g., Pippi Longstocking, are consistently portrayed as white and the descriptions of their adventures further confirm their whiteness.³

All of this is a heady diet for young children who cannot help but conclude that white is the norm in our society and that a superior privileged status is the natural birthright of white people. If books supposedly


²Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 1.

³Ibid.
deal with all kinds of people, one consequently begins
to rationalize that Blacks are not people since they
do not appear in symbolic form. The young mind can assume
that Blacks do not experience whatever storybooks deal
with. ¹

When Black characters have entered into children's
literature in the past, their roles have been constricted
to stereotyped and negative images, providing further
confirmation of the idea that Black people were some­
how inferior to whites. Traditionally, a Black person
has been portrayed as a servant or a maid, a janitor,
a slapstick comedian or a villain. Most often, Blacks
have appeared as peripheral characters having little
or no significance to the story. With the exception of
an occasional biography, Black characters in children's
books have seldom been presented as real people doing
meaningful things. Whether jovial or serious, they
have usually been portrayed as submissive, inconse­
tuial and deferring--but never too intelligent.

The demeaning use of Black characters is reinforced
by the general meaning of blackness or black. Not
everything which is black is necessarily ugly or un­
derirable. However, the cultural implication exists
because of the way dictionaries define the word black
and the way it is figuratively used in everyday language.

The usual definitions of "black" are totally nega­
tive. Moreover, we have been trained to transform
palatable, ordinary words into negative concepts, merely
by adding "black" to them. A business market is accep­
table, except if it is a black market; a white lie is
excusable whereas a black lie is the worst kind. The
variation is endless, but the theme of "black" with a
connotation of evil, criminal or undesirability appears
in diverse ways.

It is understandable then that children at an early
age begin to associate blackness with something undesir­
able and eventually transfer this to people.

It is clear to see how the traditional treatment
of Black characters in children's literature has served
to perpetuate the negative image of Black people which
most whites in American society, and too many Blacks
hold. Whether they have been omitted, allowed to appear
in inferior and inconsequential roles or even granted
an occasional acknowledgment of excellence, the idea

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 1.
that Black people do not really matter is reinforced over and over in the minds of young children through the books they read. Such an idea, whether consciously or unconsciously held, serves to perpetuate the myth of white supremacy which has been the legacy of generations of Americans.¹

To Broaden Cultural Awareness of Negroes As Contributors to Literature.

The intensified struggle of American Negroes during the past decade for increased economic, cultural, and social recognition has made scholars in many fields sharply aware of the contributions and participation of this large segment of the population. Not the least of these areas is literature, and, though students of American literature have long been aware of Negro writers in this country, ² the importance of Negro Americans as sources of cultural values in the United States remains, unfortunately, one of the least studied aspects of American Negro life. Only a few know the broad extent of the integral participation of Negroes in native literature, both as characters in narrative as well as contributors. To broaden the cultural awareness in this field it is important to be aware of the reality and identity of the Negro American as cultural creators and

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 2.

scholars.\textsuperscript{1} The literature by and about Negroes in the
United States is not something separate or marginal, but
is an integral part of the whole fabric of American litera-
ture, and thus should be included in every school curricu-
lum.\textsuperscript{2}

A diversity of literature gives students opportunities of human experience embodied in a variety of
literary texts and helps to prevent the narrow or dogmatic
diminution of the richness of literature to a limited number
of "acceptable" writers or periods or movements.\textsuperscript{3}

Particularly important is the necessity for teaching
appreciation for black contribution through black literature,
because both the primary attitudinal hang-ups, and the
power to make the essential societal changes rest with
whites. Only recently has any recognizable trend toward
the total rejection of white values been exhibited by
Blacks, and this has been due largely to an increasing
loss of confidence on the part of Blacks in the sincerity
of whites to voluntarily share the American dream.\textsuperscript{4}

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid., p. 29.
\textsuperscript{2}Ibid., p. 5.
\textsuperscript{3}Ibid., p. 6.
To Aid In Identification.

Black children, like all children, need to identify with the characters portrayed in teaching materials used in their instruction. For years, instructional materials pictured only non-Black children. Black children failed to identify with previous book characterization. The book characters differed from the contemporaries around these children in appearance, speech, and behavior.

Indeed research evidence supports the notion that to a very large extent the materials Black pupils are forced to use in school are irrelevant (and even untrue) to their perception of their environment and of themselves.

By and large, teachers have ignored, both consciously and unconsciously, the student's wealth of experience; and thus the link between the world of the classroom and the idiosyncratic world of the youngster's own experience has been missing. To fill this vacuum, the street has often become the teacher. ¹

By failing to include relevant content in our materials that the Black child can identify with, teachers reinforce the discontinuity between school and the real world.

Children bring their life experiences to the classroom--how many teachers have been prepared to accept these experiences, much less to use them to help the child communicate thoughts and feelings?

Alienation, rebellion, and disinterested withdrawal results when what adults say and do lacks a direct relationship to the psychological and social realities embedded in the minds and feelings of students.¹

Little by little, the concept of publishing is being eroded primarily because of the Black activist groups that are putting political pressure on the school to change its curricula and its materials.

Increasingly, educational publishers are becoming more responsive to the needs articulated by the schools.²

This new direction in children's books represents a healthy start and a good beginning. Now there are books about Black professionals, judges, soldiers, sailors, and cowboys. There are books about conservatives as well as books about Black militants—Blacks, in fact, as they are found in every walk of life. These books help the Black child discover his own identity. They don't hurt a Black child's image of himself, instead they help clarify and strengthen it.³ Authentic situations and realistic characterization contribute to the universality of experience found in these books. At present, the point has been

²Ibid., p. 166.
³Liz Gant, "That One's Me!", p. 54.
reached where most aspects of the human experience in the Black community can be portrayed in children's books without being self-conscious.¹

Black children should not be cheated and confused by having to read exclusively about a life-style that is not their own. Black students should be able to look at Black people of their own time, speaking their own language, in their own country, and measure their own literary achievement. Why should it take them years and years to discover and validate their own experience through books? As children, they should have access to books whose characters become literary friends with whom they can share hopes and dreams, projects and plans, books that aid in identification.²

Fortunately, the treatment of Black people in children's literature is beginning to change. Increasingly, authors and illustrators are acknowledging the multi-ethnic nature of contemporary society by including non-white characters in their stories. This inclusion sometimes appears to be a token gesture. A number of children's books about Black people have emerged, some of which

¹Olsen, "Developing Instructional Materials for Disadvantaged Youth," p. 166.

²Gant, "That One's Me!", p. 52.
are beautifully executed and mark the beginning of a move both to confirm the existence of Blacks and to record a full and accurate picture of their history and experience.¹

There is a need to provide the kind of reading materials, the socio-dramatic activities, and other curricular elements which broaden and deepen children's opportunities to identify with people whom they can emulate, to assess situations which have implications for them as members of the human family; for ethical values develop through books when the reader identifies with like situations and evaluates his solutions.

The school has an obligation to provide these learning activities and materials that aid in identification, contribute to a child's achieving dignity in his civic and personal life, and give him an appreciation of why he should accord to others the same respect he desires for himself.²

Parents, teachers and librarians still have a major responsibility to make these books available—and to guarantee that Little Black Sambo never lives again.³

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 2.


³Gant, "That One's Me!", p. 57.
To Promote Better Race Relations and Understanding.

The whole world is uneasy. This is an era of tensions, and not the least among them are tensions among groups in the American population. Such tensions are serious threats to the American way of life, to its unity as a people, and to economic, political and cultural welfare. Inter-group conflict is far more dangerous than are many of the more obvious, less insidious external threats against which we now erect barriers.¹

Literature has been instrumental in aggravating the racism of America. It is not duly recognized as such. Nevertheless, it is powerful in its racist hypnosis. This hypnotic process begins in books for the very young. Perhaps the most serious offense committed by the literary world has been the virtual exclusion of Black people from children's books. On the one hand, the omission itself strengthens the omnipotence of white supremacy. On the other, it is part of the myth complex appropriate to the racism of American culture—it is a way of acting out that Black people do not exist or count.²

Educators have either failed to recognize their responsibility for devising solutions to the "American


²Latimer, **Starting Out Right**, p. 24.
Dilemma" of racial conflict or they lack the necessary courage required to implement curricular change.\(^1\)

Racial harmony cannot be attained without a nationwide acceptance and appreciation of cultural differences. Since cultural appreciation is an evolutionary stage of a well-rounded educational system, a comprehensive reading program that includes multi-ethnic materials is imperative to this end. Moreover, an individualized reading program that includes black literature could effectively provide students with insights that would lead to intergroup understanding attainable in no other way.\(^2\)

Background information that aids in understanding of any group can be obtained in several ways—from books containing myths and folktales, from statistical reports, from books containing accurate accounts sometimes documented with first hand reports, from stories laid in the locale, or from books designed to impart information in fictional form. Such information is necessary if a group is to be understood by members of another group, for each person is a part of his heritage yet also contributes to it. Factual

\(^1\) Alexander, "Black Literature for the Culturally Deprived," p. 1229.

\(^2\) Ibid.
information about the history, the traditions, the mores, and values aid in clarifying motive and explaining actions that, in turn, contribute to understanding.¹

Literature vivifies and highlights the ways people of a particular culture live. But more important, it enables the reader to experience how they feel. It is the best means to bring about empathy and understanding between persons who are culturally different. Literary work should be selected in order to generate empathy between members of the mainstream culture and minority cultures and to provide models of interaction between mainstream and minority culture members at a time when bringing disadvantaged persons into healthy interaction with the mainstream culture is the most urgent problem facing our society. Literature chosen to promote understanding and empathy must portray minority culture members as live, unstereotyped human beings interacting with dignity and respect for their own values among mainstream culture members.²


Books can perform a unique function in the plan for intercultural education. They provide a means for gaining knowledge, improving social skills, and influencing attitudes and ways of thinking so that they reinforce each other. They help develop awareness and can carry readers into the experiences and feelings of people different from themselves. Books cannot take the place of first-hand contacts with other people. However, they can prepare children to meet people, to discount unimportant differences, and to appreciate cultural traditions and values unlike their own.

The Black child is given pride in his heritage at the same time that the white child gains knowledge of another culture and history. Not only must the Black child find his identity as a Black but he must also develop in relation to others in the society in which he lives.¹

The fact is that white children spend most of their reading time in a mirror reflection of themselves, while Black children spend their time looking into that mirror.²

Just as the world of books provide for little interaction between Black and white characters, segregated society makes it virtually impossible for Black and white children to have any meaningful contact. Books can help

²Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 24.
bridge that gap and prepare children for the day when racial oppression and segregation are no longer a way of life.¹

While the Black child needs to have books that include him for his own confirmation, it is crucial that the white child be exposed to integrated books. It is impossible for the Black child to grow up unaware of the experiences of the dominant white culture. He is immersed in that culture through literature, the mass media and all he comes in contact with in the course of his life. But it is possible for the white child to grow up unaware of the experience of Black people. Most white children by virtue of where they live and by virtue of the symbols placed before them, have little opportunity to see beyond the white segregated world that encloses them. Therefore, it is crucial that the literary and communication world of white children be integrated so that they can understand and begin to appreciate the humanity of Black people with whom they seldom have contact.²

It is only as readers of any age obtain accurate information about non-white minorities, either through factual

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 24.
²Ibid., p. 25.
accounts, biographies or stories dealing with current problems, that the complex problem of assimilation can be understood and each individual accepted for himself as a member of the human race.¹

Multi-ethnic literature develops understanding and awareness about the background of non-white groups, for real understanding is based upon knowing facts.² What better way is there to create viable and more positive human relationships than through the study of literature, for it is through literature that one gains insights into those universal verities of life: pain, love, hope, and dreams as they touch the lives of all men.³

School curricula that include materials which accurately reflect the contributions of the various ethnic groups represented in American society will do much to reduce the human relationship gap between whites and non-whites. The inclusion of materials that adequately reflect cultural uniqueness in a positive manner will greatly promote an "appreciation" for difference. The systematic exclusion of Black writers and Black achievements from

¹Austin, "The Kinds of Programs That Can Do the Job," p. 54.

²Ibid., p. 48.

anthologies and textbooks gives an erroneous image of the ability and achievements of Black Americans. This exclusion of ethnic credit contributes to the negative image that whites have of Blacks, as well as to the negative self-image that many Blacks have of themselves.¹

The irrefutable value of these materials is that they provide insights which lead to a greater awareness and understanding of the qualities of Black people that enable them not only to endure but to survive. Materials which document Blacks who have achieved in spite of monumental handicaps will help to generate greater respect on the part of whites for Blacks and will provide a foundation for positive self-image among Blacks.²

Today's racial tension and smoldering emotions will not long remain below the surface unless decision and innovative methods are applied by educators toward solutions.³

If American society is to understand and appreciate the problems, aspirations and contributions of its Black citizens, the inclusion of Black literature as an integral part of the curriculum is axiomatic. The Black experience is a fundamental element of American culture and, therefore, cannot logically be deleted from American literature.⁴

¹ Alexander, "Black Literature for the Culturally Deprived," p. 1230.
² Ibid., p. 1231.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
This argument needs to be put in the strongest possible terms, for if ever literature and literary criticism had relevance to one's life, it is now; if ever an aspect of American life could be better known through literature, it is the life of the Negro. One can even say, as one rarely can these days, that literary criticism may help to change the spirit of our time. In these tense moments of American history, few people--Black or white--are capable of speaking rationally about race; reactions towards the subject are usually radical, wild, or to use the really accurate term, uneducated. Somehow the mind must triumph or all Americans will perish; somehow literature has to tell white Americans about lives they do not know and as a consequence make those lives less threatening, less distant, more humanely complex. The chaotic state of Negro studies, the absence of white scholars in the field of Negro culture, the inaccessibility of important materials all suggest how little is known of Black people in this country. This would seem precisely the time when the writings of Negroes should not be judged only by Negroes.¹

life. By maintaining the highest criteria in judging Negro writing, Negro's culture is honored; by giving the literature of American Negroes the widest circulation, in the most authoritative format, scholars justify their profession and permit the humanities and human life to touch, to affect one another. The material is there; readers wait to know it. How else can the result be other than wonderful?¹

Criteria For Selecting Books Involving Black People

It is essential to consider both the needs of children and the responsibility of the writer in arriving at criteria for judging books about Black people. No longer can teachers afford to present children with a distorted view of history which glorifies the past of white Americans and at the same time, often totally ignores the existence and heritage of Black Americans. If children are to be prepared to cope with the realities of a pluralistic society, they must be able to free themselves from any conscious or unconscious racism which has been a legacy of this country since its beginning. Children need to understand and come to grips with history and experience of Black people and all other forgotten Americans who are a vital part of the life of this country.²

¹Ibid., p. 61.
²Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 6.
Clark, a noted psychologist and educator, points out that children's attitudes towards Blacks are determined not by physical contact with them but by contact with prevailing attitudes toward them.¹ Since in our society children tend to be isolated from others unlike themselves--culturally and economically--books provide one of the few ways to shatter the myths about Black people on which racist attitudes flourish.²

Thus the writers of children's books about Black Americans have a special responsibility to move beyond the stereotypes, myths, and half-truths perpetuated about Black people to develop characters--whether real or imagined--whose unique heritage and personal experiences have an authentic ring about them. The creative writer of fiction has an especially rich opportunity to expose the young to a broad range of life experiences in which both Black and white characters are shown in equitable relationships, performing a variety of roles, settings and occupations, experiencing the range of emotions and aspirations common to all people. These kinds of vicarious experiences are invaluable for white children whose day-to-day life may not include any opportunity to know Black

²Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 6.
people as individuals. For the Black child, it is crucial that the world of literature reflect his reality as well as offer significant options for his future.¹

This is not to suggest that a book should be evaluated only in terms of its presentation of a Black personality or how it deals with racism or social problems. If a writer cannot get beyond an idea and makes the story a mere vehicle for that idea, the child is deprived of the chance to gain real insight from the unfolding of the story itself. Clearly, the most successful stories are those which avoid explicit moralizing but which present human experiences honestly in a way that increases a child's understanding of himself and the world around him.²

It is difficult to isolate a single aspect of a book and even more difficult to evaluate it on a single attribute. To effect a real change in negative attitudes that children can procure from reading materials, teachers must know what to offer them and what might be detrimental.³

In trying to find the "one" book for a particular boy or girl that will say to that child, "here is a key to an unexplored world; tarry awhile here," teachers need

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 6.
²Ibid., p. 7.
³Ibid.
to formulate some guide-lines for use in introducing
the culturally-disadvantaged reader to the world of books.\(^1\)

The criteria that follow represent guidelines for
judging a book that involves Black people. A series of
relevant questions are asked—questions that will help
the reader to assess a book in a specific way. Not all of
these questions need to be applied to a single book. To
properly evaluate, it is necessary to determine what the
book is about—its purpose, its style, its content. From
that point on one can select the criteria which seem ap-
propriate.\(^2\)

The criteria point out definite characteristics
and areas to look for in evaluating a book involving Blacks.
Overall, the criteria deal with three main areas: 1) the
pictures and illustrations; 2) the word content; and, 3)
the tone and perspective set by the author.

**Tone and Perspective.**

1. Is the book written so that a Black perspective
has been taken into consideration?

The author who attempts to write a story about the
lives of Black people must have some knowledge and
appreciation of the Black experience. Neither good

\(^1\)Barbara Miller, "Books for the Culturally Disadvan-
taged," *If They Read*. Edited by Edwin C. Strohecker. A Re-
port of the Workshop in the Reading Problems of the Disadvan-
taged Child (Louisville, Kentucky: Department of Library

intentions nor good writing ability qualifies one to speak from a Black perspective, as evidenced by the multitude of books about Black people who are often a kind of verbal minstrel show—whites in black face—rather than the expression of a real or imagined experience derived from wearing the shoe.¹

No one character can represent all people who identify themselves as Black, nor can any character speak to the needs and total experiences of Blacks. Yet we can identify some story situations where it is necessary for a Black perspective to be utilized in order to give the Black person as an individual a fair representation.²

First of all there should never be a stigma attached to being Black.

Secondly, the writer should be aware of the situations into which he puts Black characters. Unwittingly, he may select a role which corresponds to old stereotypes. Or his characters may perform a role which confirms the expectations set by contemporary racism and its peculiar stereotypes. If a character does not move beyond the stereotype, this heightens the stereotype and nurtures prejudiced ideas that are much too widespread.

2. What is the dimension of Blackness in the Book?

A. Why is it called a Black literature book?

B. Why is it on a bibliography related to ethnic minorities?

C. What is the function of the Blackness in the book?

D. If the book is predominantly white, how effective is the inclusion of Black characters? Does it go beyond the token integration level?


²Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 7.
E. Is the story interesting itself or does it depend upon the novelty of the Black faces for interest?

3. How responsible is the author in dealing with problems and issues?

A. Does he make an honest presentation?

B. Is a problem presented clearly but without oversimplification?

C. Is the solution that is offered too simple for a complex problem?

D. Has the author treated a serious problem in a flippant way?

E. How are the Black characters treated in a problem situation? If they have been exposed to dehumanizing, degrading, or insulting experiences, does the author manufacture a happy ending? Is it the Black character who is called upon to exercise all the understanding and forgiveness?

F. How does the author handle acts of racism or prejudice? Are there explanations within the context of the story? Is this anti-social behavior passed off as a mere impoliteness; is it ignored or is it shown for what it is?1

Illustrations.

The next important factor to consider is that of illustration. The depiction of a Black person is exceptionally important in books for children.

4. Do the characters look like human beings?

Grotesque characters, overdrawn figures and exaggerated features are common pitfalls. Characters judged as such easily become the object of ridicule and the prime purpose of having books create respect instead of disrespect is at once lost.2

1Ibid., p. 9.

2Ibid., p. 10.
The Black child who sees pictures which ridicule his race may be deeply hurt, feel defeated, or become resentful and rebellious. The white child who sees the stereotyped presentation of the Black person begins to feel superior and to accept this distorted picture or 'type'.

5. Will the young reader know that he is looking at a Black person or do the characters emerge 'grey' in appearance to resemble Caucasians in blackface?

6. Is the Black character portrayed as a unique individual or as a representative of a group?

7. Does the clothing or behavior seem to perpetuate the stereotypes about Blacks being primitive or submissive?

8. Is the story romanticized? Is the character glamorized or glorified, especially in a biography?

9. Is the setting authentic, so that the child reader is able to recognize it as an urban or suburban or rural or fantasized situation?

Theme and Tone.

There are many points to consider when the theme and tone of the book are examined.

10. Does the author set a patronizing or a paternalistic tone?

11. Is a Black character used as a vehicle to get a point across so that he becomes a tool of literary exploitation and acts artificial rather than real?

12. How are the Black characters shown in relationship to white characters and vice versa?

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2Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 11.
A. Is either placed in a passive, submissive, inferior or subordinate role without justification?

B. Does the book give the impression that the survival and well being of Black people comes from the generosity, concern and goodwill of white people? If so, this is a misleading point of view.

C. Does the book have Blacks as authority figures or decision-making people or creators or inventors; or do the images of Blacks show them receiving services or advice or assistance largely from white benefactors.1

D. Is the Black character a clown and a buffon, the object of ridicule, and butt of humor, or is he a person who is making some worthwhile contribution to the progress of society?2

Dialect, Language.

Another important factor to consider is dialect and language.

13. If any dialect or slang is used, does it have a purpose?

A. Does it ring true?

B. Is it used to reinforce the myth that Blacks speak a 'sub-standard' language?

C. Does it blend naturally with the story?

D. Does it evoke disrespect toward the user or in any way demean him?

E. If there are differences between the language of Blacks and whites in a particular story, do these differences reinforce stereotypes and perpetuate the superiority-inferiority complex?3

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1Ibid., pp. 11-12.


3Latimer, Starting Out Right, pp. 11-12.
When considering the factor of language, it is important to be critical of books which describe Blacks in derisive terms which use derogating names and epithets. When the latter are used in an historical setting or for forceful action it should be done in such a manner that their unacceptability will be obvious to the reader. These terms are either insulting or patronizing rather than humorous or affectionate.¹ There are exceptions to this. In historical fiction for older children where the characters are known to have used these terms, this is accepted. An author who tries to present an honest portrayal of a period must of necessity set down the words as they were naturally used.² In order to recreate certain scenes in a particular setting he must try to give a faithful presentation. Examples of this may be found in *Railroad to Freedom*, by Hildegarde Swift (Harcourt, Brace) and the more recent Newberry Award winner, *Rifles for Watie* by Harold Keith (Crowell). The real objection to these terms arises when the author uses them in referring to his characters.³

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¹Baker, *The Black Experience In Children's Books*, p. i.


³Ibid., p. 336.
Another language consideration is the use of dialect particularly when it is phonetically written, as "gwine" for "goin". It is too difficult for the child to read and understand and, since it is not authentic, it is misleading.\textsuperscript{1} The use of regional vernacular is acceptable, but dialect should be used with great care. There are distinct regional speech patterns which are used by all people in a given area, whether they be Black or white. The colorful speech of all who share the same economic, regional, or historical background should be reproduced as faithfully as possible in order to give flavor to the story, but never at the expense of any individual in the group.\textsuperscript{2}

Accuracy.

14. How accurate is the story if it deals with historical or factual events?

A. If the book is being used in a teaching situation, does the teacher feel that he has an adequate knowledge of Black history in order to evaluate the viewpoints and data presented?

B. If the book deals with American history, are Blacks included as an integral part of the American experience? Are they segregated into a separate unit without being included in the other chapters or units of discussion?

\textsuperscript{1}Baker, The Black Experience in Children's Books, p. i.

\textsuperscript{2}Ibid., p. ii.
15. In the biography, is the personality as well as the accomplishments of the main characters shown?

16. How much does this book free the child from the white-centered middle-class world with its connotations of superiority?¹

In our eagerness to find ethnic reading materials for young children, we must be careful not to sacrifice quality for quantity. The best books go beyond the quality of their Blackness in making for a rich reading experience. It is this type of book that should appear in multiple copies on bookshelves in schools and libraries so that they are easily accessible for all children to enjoy. It is these books that parents—both Black and white—should be eager to have their children own.²

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 12.
²Ibid., p. 25.
CHAPTER III

REVIE'W OF BOOKS FOR PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH SIXTH GRADE

This section is composed of a bibliography of books appropriate for young children in kindergarten through sixth grade reading level. Each title is accompanied by a critique. The books have been classified into eight categories. In each category, only representative titles can be mentioned. The number of books is increasing annually as the concern becomes more widespread than previously, and categories are not mutually exclusive, for several works could be classified in more than one category. The books are listed alphabetically by title. The reading levels reflect national norms and are flexible.

The list of publishers was given first in the appendix to aid in a quicker reference. In the publishers' guide, each publisher and/or company was letter-coded to the left. The letter to the right of each entry in Chapter III refers to the publisher and/or company from whom one can purchase the book or write for further information. Since this list may serve as a buying guide, entries for books include not only titles, author, and annotations,
but also publisher, reading level, interest level and price. Paperback books are indicated when they are available.

Picture Books and Easy Readers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANCHOR MAN</td>
<td>Jesse Jackson</td>
<td>Grades 3-7</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>$1.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>The story of Charlie Jackson, the only Black youngster in a suburban school and the problems he faces and solves when the school in Blackberry Patch burns down. Good sports story with a moral.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND WHAT OF YOU,</td>
<td>Elizabeth Witheridge</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Easy Reader</td>
<td>$4.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE</td>
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<tr>
<td>A well-written story of the struggles of an intelligent young slave girl in Maryland in the early 1800's. Inspiring.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BECKY</td>
<td>Julia Wilson</td>
<td>Grades 1-4</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Picture Book</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>A warm engrossing story about a little Black girl, Becky, who goes shopping for her birthday present and finds a very special doll that is too expensive.</td>
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BENJIE

Interest Level: Grades 2-6
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Picture Book

This story revolves around a young Black boy, Benjie, who lives with his grandmother and how he finds her favorite earring, a gift from grand-daddy on their wedding day. The story has excellent characterization and attractive illustrations.

Price.............................................. $3.50

BIG CITY RODEO RIDER

Interest Level: Grades 2-6
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Picture Book

The exciting story of how a weekend cowboy became one of the best on the local circuit. This motivating story of a courageous Black man has the high interest, low reading level that older, slower readers need.

Price.............................................. $2.25

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Interest Level: K-4
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Picture Book

Excellent photographs accompany simple lines of poetry. Both extol the beauty of blackness in people and nature. This as well as the delightful illustrations should have high appeal for children.

Price.............................................. $3.72

BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

Interest Level: K-4
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Picture Book

In words and photographs, this sensitive, joyous book celebrates the single thought: "Black is beautiful!"
It is a thin paperback that makes for easy handling for children. Excellent illustrations.

Paperback.............................................. $ .60

**THE BLACK MUSTANGER**  Richard Wormser  WM  
Interest Level:  Grades 5-8  
Grade Level:  Grade 5  
Category:  Easy  

Fast moving, action-packed story of how the Black Mustanger took on thirteen-year-old Dan as his partner and taught him to catch wild mustangs on the vast plains of Texas.

Price.............................................. $4.59

**BOY OF DAHOMEY**  Elaine & Peter Larsen  DM  
Interest Level:  Grades 4-6  
Grade Level:  Grade 4  
Category:  Easy  

A fascinating glimpse into the customs and culture of the people living in the West African Village of Dahomey.

Price.............................................. $3.50

**BRADY**  Jean Fritz  S  
Interest Level:  Grades 3-6  
Grade Level:  Grade 4  
Category:  Easy  

Warm, moving story of a young boy in pre-civil war days who must face up to the moral question of slavery. Excellent characterization. Highly recommended.

Price.............................................. $ .45
BROWN IS A BEAUTIFUL COLOR  Jean Carey Bond  FW

Interest Level:  K-4
Grade Level:  Grade 2
Category:  Picture Books

A rhyming picture book depicting the many aspects of the color brown.

Price..........................  $3.50

THE BUSHBABIES  William Stevenson  HM

Interest Level:  Grades 4-6
Grade Level:  Grade 5
Category:  Easy

An exciting and moving adventure story of a Swahili man and the danger he faces when he accompanies a girl on a journey to return her pet to its native home.

Price..........................  $3.95

A CAP FOR MARY ELLIS  Hope Newell  H

Interest Level:  Grades 5-9
Grade Level:  Grade 5
Category:  Easy

The beautiful story of the adjustments of the first Negro student who attends an all-white nursing school.

Price..........................  $3.50

THE CASE OF THE CAT'S MEOW  Crosby Bonsall  H

THE CASE OF THE DUMBELLS

THE CASE OF THE HUNGRY STRANGER

Interest Level:  Grades 1-3
Grade Level:  Grade 2
Category:  Readers

All of these books revolve around a group of children who delight in chasing down and solving mysteries in their backyards. All are easy-to-read, funny mysteries with a Negro boy as one of the central characters. Humorous illustrations and text.

Price..........................  $2.50 each
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITY RHYTHMS</strong></td>
<td>Ann Grifalconi</td>
<td>BM</td>
<td>$4.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Level:</td>
<td>K-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Level:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category:</td>
<td>Picture Books and Easy</td>
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<tr>
<td>This story revolves around a small boy adventures in discovering the moods and rhythms of his city and home and how he derives pleasure from his discoveries which are beautifully dramatized in full color illustrations.</td>
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<td><strong>COLOR ME BROWN</strong></td>
<td>Lucille Giles</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Level:</td>
<td>Grades K-6</td>
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<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>Category:</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<tr>
<td>A story-coloring book about Black men and women who have made contributions to world history.</td>
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<td><strong>COME BY HERE</strong></td>
<td>Olivia Coolidge</td>
<td>HM</td>
<td>$4.95</td>
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<td>Interest Level:</td>
<td>Grades 4-8</td>
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<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category:</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<tr>
<td>A gripping story of Minty Lou's tragic childhood and how she learned in heartbreaking ways the difference between the difference in living with relatives and visiting them.</td>
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<td><strong>CORDUROY</strong></td>
<td>Don Freeman</td>
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<td>$3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Level:</td>
<td>Pre-Schoolers - 2nd grade</td>
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<td>Grade Level:</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
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<td>Category:</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<tr>
<td>A warm story about how a stuffed bear named Curduroy finds happiness in the home of a little Black girl after his nocturnal adventures in a department store.</td>
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COUNTING CARNIVAL  Feenie Ziner  CM
Interest Level:  Pre-school
Grade Level:  Picture Book
Category:  Easy

This is a large picture book that consists of simple counting rhymes for young children. The lively illustrations portray all races in his parade.

Price................................. $2.52

THE COWBOY  John Peterson  S
Interest Level:  Grades K-2
Grade Level:  Grade 2
Category:  Easy

The text relates the adventures of a cowboy and his sidekick Navajo Joe. The cowboy is a small Black boy and Navajo Joe is his cat. Their errand is to buy groceries for Joe's mother. Reality and fantasy are cleverly mixed with "real" cowboy talk to produce an adventure that should appeal to young children.

Paperback............................ $ .50

COWBOYS OF MANY RACES  Donald Russell
Mary Jane Simonsen  BP
Interest Level:  PP-6
Grade Level:  PP-Level 5
Category:  Easy

Beautifully depicts the early Western Frontier, the excitement and action, the many people of various races and backgrounds, and the adventures and challenges of our early frontier. The adventures of these young trailblazing pioneers make COWBOYS OF MANY RACES a special experience for today's American young people.

Price................................. $16.00 for set of 6 books
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>COYOTE IN MANHATTAN</td>
<td>Jean Craighead George</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Grades 4-8</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>$3.95</td>
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<td>A suspense-filled story of a young Negro girl responsible for releasing a wild coyote near Central Park in New York and how the coyote uses his instincts to survive.</td>
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<td>THE DOG WHO CAME TO DINNER</td>
<td>Sydney Johnson</td>
<td>K-4</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Grades K-4</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<td>New neighbors are invited next door to dinner accompanied by a dog who makes himself at home. The dog's &quot;table manners&quot; spoil everyone's good time and cause problems until all discover the dog is a stranger to both families. The dog's humorous antics should hold a child's interests. Excellent illustrations show the new neighbors are Black.</td>
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<td>THE DRINKING GOURED</td>
<td>F. N. Monjo</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Grades 1-3</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The dramatic and powerful story of how a young white boy and his family help a slave family escape to Canada via the underground railroad. The text presents a straightforward explanation of slavery which makes it easy for young readers to understand.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**EVAN'S CORNER**

Elizabeth Starr Hill  
HRW

Interest Level: Grades 2-5  
Grade Level: Grade 3  
Category: Easy Readers & Picture Books

A poignant and beautiful story of a young boy's experience in sharing when he is given his own special corner in his family's crowded two-room apartment. Sure to reach the hearts of children.

Price: $3.59

**ESCAPE TO FREEDOM**

Ruth Fosdick Jones  
RA

Interest Level: Grades 5-6  
Grade Level: Grade 5  
Category: Easy

A striking story about a white family who ran a "Station" on the Underground Railroad to help slaves escape to freedom during the Civil War.

Price: $3.39

**FREEDOM NOW**

Francine Klagsbrun  
HM

Interest Level: Grades 5-12  
Grade Level: Grade 5  
Category: Readers & Picture Books

The dramatic, fascinating story of the abolitionists is brilliantly told in this book. It is the story of men and women who focused on the evils of slavery and worked to abolish it.

Price: $4.95

**FREE SOULS**

Mary B. Dahl  
H

Interest Level: Grades 4-8  
Grade Level: Grade 5  
Category: Easy Readers & Picture Books

A fictional account of the Amistad schooner and how it was seized by African slaves and sailed back to Africa. It focuses on the inhumanity of the slave trade. A profound treatment of slavery. Recommended.

Price: $4.95
GALUMPH

Brenda Lansdown

Interest Level: Grades K-4
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Easy Readers & Picture Books

Each of a group of children in a multi-racial neighborhood thinks that a beautiful golden brown cat belongs to him. Children should enjoy this cat's story with "four lives" and how its ownership is resolved in the end. Excellent pictures.

Price $3.23

GOOGLES

Ezra Jack Keats

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Easy Readers & Picture Books

A beautifully illustrated, high-action story about the adventures of two black boys, Archie and Peter, and how they outwit a gang of older boys. The story makes use of a universal experience of boyhood; sure to leave young readers with a warm, satisfied feeling.

Price $3.95

GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Michael Capizzi

Interest Level: Grades 5-9
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

A poor Black boy who had just lost his father in Vietnam doesn't need any more hassles. Facing another pointless year as a non-reader, Dan Poole starts to come alive after meeting Beatrice Johnson. However, when he plots an elaborate scheme to impress her, she not only rebuffs him but threatens to stomp him in front of the whole class. This story of a fourteen year-old Black boy portrays with frankness and sensitivity the first faint gropings toward self-discovery of adolescents everywhere.

Price $4.95
THE HOMEWORK CAPER

Joan M. Lexau

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Easy Readers and Picture Books

An amusing story of how two friends, one Black, one white, solved the mystery of what happened to a homework assignment for school. The cartoon-like illustration enhances the story.

Price: $2.50

I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED

Joan Lexau

Interest Level: Grades K-4
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Picture Books

An easy-to-read, humorous story of the woes of a small Black boy in school who by lunchtime, decides he "should have stayed in bed".

Price: $3.50

JUST ONE ME

Aileen Brothers
Cora Hokclaw

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 1
Category: Easy Readers and Picture Books

Beautiful color drawings by Jan Balet illustrates what Jimmy sees and dreams of in the future.

Price: $1.95

LITTLE LEAGUE HEROES

Curtis Bishop

Interest Level: Grades 4-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Easy

Warmly, human story of how Joel, the only Negro boy in the little league wins a place on the team in spite of problems and handicaps. Emphasizes good sportsmanship.

Price: $3.39
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LITTLE MAN IN THE FAMILY</td>
<td>John Shearer</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>$4.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This vibrant story is about the &quot;have&quot;s and &quot;have-nots&quot;. Through probing interviews and eloquent photography, the author contrasts the lives of two boys whose worlds are separated by a wide gulf of race, economics and education. Excellent illustrations. These intimate portraits will provoke in young readers many questions about inequalities in American life today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE LONG BLACK SCHOONER</td>
<td>Emma Gelders Sterne</td>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gripping sea saga of slavery revolt, based on history, reveals one facet of man's struggle for freedom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCHERS FOR THE DREAM</td>
<td>Alvin Smith</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Touching story of eleven-year-old Bethany and her grandmother picketing for a home of their own after returning from the Poor People's March to Washington's Resurrection City.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Title</td>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Interest Level</td>
<td>Grade Level</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARTIN DE PORRES, HERO</strong></td>
<td>Clare Huchet Bishop</td>
<td>Grades 4-8</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>A warm, moving story of a poor Black man from Peru who, despite prejudice and obstacles, devoted his life helping the poor and sick regardless of race, color, or creed. Lovely and serene drawings.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MELINDY'S HAPPY SUMMER</strong></td>
<td>Georgene Faulkner</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>Melindy learns about farming when she goes to live with a white family during summer vacation. Heartwarming story of good race relations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MELINDY'S MEDAL</strong></td>
<td>Georgene Faulkner</td>
<td>Grades 2-5</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Becker</td>
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<td>A beautiful, moving story of a Negro girl's courage and race pride and how she won a medal for bravery and courage.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MEMBER OF THE GANG</strong></td>
<td>Barbara Rinkoff</td>
<td>Grades 4-8</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>A sensitive and realistic, socially revelant story of a thirteen-year-old Black boy's search for identity in an urban environment.</td>
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</table>
AMERICA'S FIRST SLAVERY

**MEMOIRS OF A FUGITIVE:**

**NOVEL**

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

A suspense-filled novel of the dramatic experiences of a young Mulatto slave, son of a slave owner and his slave concubine, who experiences and observes all the evils of slavery as he is sold from place to place in the South until he finally escapes to New York.

Price: $4.50

**THE MOONBEAM SERIES**

Interest Level: Grades PP-6
Grade Level: Grades PP-6
Category: Easy

Realistic and stimulating plots—from jungle capture to space-age adventures for beginning readers. During Moonbeam's adventures, adult characters of multi-ethnic backgrounds co-star. Action packed stories, vivid illustrations and controlled vocabulary.

Price: $19.35 for set of 10 books

**MY BROTHER STEVIE**

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

Moving story of twelve-year-old Annie's efforts to save her high-spirited brother from delinquency. A realistic portrayal of low income family's problems in a city.

Paperback: $ .60
MY DOG RINTY
Ellen Tarry
Marie Hall

Interest Level: Grades 2-6
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Picture Books

A beautifully illustrated story about the adventures of a Negro boy who almost loses his dog and how a kind lady solves the problem.

Price........................................... $3.00

NEGROES IN THE EASY WEST
Olive W. Burt

Interest Level: Grades 3-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Easy

Stories of Black explorers, founders of cities, soldiers, cowboys, and women who contributed to the growth of the West. Based on journals, historical records and stories of the early West. This will give young readers a good idea of what contributions these pioneer Negroes made.

Price........................................... $3.64

ORPHANS OF THE WIND
Erik Christian Haugaard

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

The dramatic sea adventures of a twelve year old Black boy's life aboard an English ship during the Civil War.

Price........................................... $3.50
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

Molly Cone

Interest Level: Grades 3-5
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Easy

A realistic, touching story of how Joey, a white boy, persuades the white adults to change their attitudes of unfriendliness towards a black family who has just moved into their all-white neighborhood.

Price $3.75

PATHWAYS TO FREEDOM

Edwin D. Hoffman

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

The dramatic events in which groups of courageous citizens got together and found ways to attain freedom. An excellent and valuable book for use in history class.

Price $3.95

PATRICIA CROSSES TOWN

Betty Baum

Interest Level: Grades 2-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Easy

A realistic story of the bussing issue. Patricia, a Black fourth grader, fears she will not find friends in the new school. She finds that her new friends readily accept her. Beautifully written. Highly recommended.

Price $3.50

PROUDLY WE HAIL

Vashti and Jack Brown

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Readers

Designed to appeal to the slow or reluctant reader, this book presents twenty brief stories about Black Americans. Ten subjects from the past and ten from the present are represented. The style of writing is
simple and vivid and the text is readily comprehensible
Beautiful illustrations in two colors heightens motivation and interest.

Price........................................... $2.70

THE RAIN FOREST
Armstrong Sperry

Interest Level: Grades 5-8
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Easy

An exciting and moving adventure story of a friendship which developed between two boys despite racial and language difficulties.

A RIDE ON HIGH
Candida Palmer

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Easy

This is a delightful story of how two inner-city boys solve the problem of getting home on an elevated train after one of them loses his token.

Price........................................... $2.95

THE ROOFTOP MYSTERY
Joan M. Lexau

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 1
Category: Readers

Entertaining story of how a doll mysteriously disappears from a rooftop and how the mystery was solved. The cartoon-like illustrations show the children to be both Black and white.

Price........................................... $2.50

ROOSEVELT GRADY
Louisa R. Shotwell

Interest Level: Grades 3-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Easy

A sad-funny story of a nine-year-old Black boy of a migrant family who gets his wish when his family settled down in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td>Ann Herbert Scott</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
<td>$1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Through imaginative presentation in format and sensitivity in drawings, the author dramatizes a universal childhood experience of fear sure to be a lasting favorite with all young readers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOLROOM BUNNY</td>
<td>Janet Konkle</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Easy Readers and Picture Books</td>
<td>Grade K-1</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
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<td>In this story, the &quot;schoolroom bunny&quot; tells how he came to live in the schoolroom and how the children learned to take care of him. The story is told in the first person and is illustrated with photographs showing Black and white children. Highly recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BY SECRET RAILWAY</td>
<td>Enic La Monte</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Grades 4-8</td>
<td>$0.75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meadowcroft</td>
<td></td>
<td>The adventures of two boys, one Black, one white, in 1960, with the South-to-North &quot;Underground Railway&quot;. A fascinating story well told.</td>
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</table>
SHUTTERED WINDOWS
Florence Crannell Means
Interest Level: Grades 4-9
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

A touching story of a young Black girl who moves from the North to a primitive town in South Carolina and confronts problems she has never known before. Stunning in impact.

Price................................. $3.75

SKID
Florence Hayes
Interest Level: Grades 4-6
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

Warm story of a Black boy who moves from Georgia to Connecticut where he faces problems making friends in an all white school which he solves by organizing a baseball team.

Price................................. $3.95

THE SNOWY DAY
Ezra Jack Keats
Interest Level: Pre-School - 1
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Easy and Picture Book

An exceptionally beautiful and sensitive story of a small Black boy's adventures in the snow. Excellent illustrations depicting an urban setting enhances the story. Highly recommended.

Price................................. $3.00

SOUNDER
William Armstrong
Interest Level: Grades 6-9
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Easy

Extremely touching, fast-moving story of the death of a devoted dog and his Black master in the rural 19th
century South which leaves the man's son a hard but hopeful legacy of stoicism. Inspite of these horrors and man's cruelty to man, the courage, love and dignity of the family remains.

Price........................................... $3.95

SOUR LAND
William Armstrong

Interest Level: Grades 6-9
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Easy

The boy of Sounder is now a grey-haired teacher in a one-room school for Blacks. Through him, three motherless white children come to understand death and birth, injustice and dignity, despair and hope. The story makes use of a universal emotional experience sure to leave young readers with a warm, satisfied feeling.

Price........................................... $3.95

STRIPED ICE CREAM
Joan M. Lexau

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 1
Category: Easy

A delightful and touching story about a Black inner-city family who worked together to surprise their sister Becky on her birthday.

Price........................................... $3.25

STRANGER IN THE PINE
May McNeer

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

A suspense-filled and moving adventure story of how a fifteen year old slave escaped from his master in Philadelphia.

Price........................................... $4.95
SUGAR BEE

Rita Micklish

Interest Level: Grades 3-7
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

When Sugar Bee Harris receives an invitation to visit the Martins' country farm, she is more ashamed than ever of her ghetto home and clothes. However, the discovery that Rosemary Martin is blind awakens in Sugar Bee a sense of values about herself and her world. A realistic and moving story. Highly recommended.

Price ........................................... $4.95

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Interest Level: Grades 6-12
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Readers

Moving story of slave days written to awaken the conscience of the nation to the Negro's life under the slave system. A timeless plea for humanity and justice.

Price ........................................... $1.93

UPTOWN

John Steptoe

Interest Level: Grades 2-4
Grade Level: Easy

This story revolves around two boys from Harlem, John and Dennis, who talk about being Black and about their future occupations as they walk through Harlem. An honest book that reflects reality. Excellent colorful illustrations.

Price ........................................... $3.50
THE VALENTINE BOX

Maude Hart Lovelace

Interest Level: Grades 4-6
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

Exciting, well-written story of a little Black girl's fear that she will not receive any Valentines from her white classmates.

Price $3.50

WILL I HAVE A FRIEND?

Miriam Cohen

Interest Level: Grades K-2
Grade Level: Grade 1
Category: Picture Book

Multi-ethnic kindergarten class engaging in familiar activities will make this a meaningful picture book for Head Start and pre-school story groups. It is the story of a little boy's first day at school illustrated with lively, colorful scenes of the kindergarten class.

Price $4.50

WITH STANLEY IN AFRICA

Olga W. Hall-Quest

Interest Level: Grades 4-7
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Easy

A beautiful tale about Stanley's adventures while exploring the Congo.

Price $4.50

YOUR SKIN AND MINE

Paul Showers

Interest Level: Grades K-3
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Easy

This book explains the function of our skin. It includes a simplified text and a good explanation of skin colors. The excellent illustrations feature three boys each with a different skin coloring. Highly recommended.

Price $2.95
Moving story of Zeely, a farm woman who looked like a Waautusi princess, who helped eleven-year-old Geeder, a Negro city girl, understand her racial identity.

Price $4.95

Myths, Legends and Folktales

THE ADVENTURES OF SPIDER
Joyce Cooper Arkhurst

Interest Level: Grades 2-4
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Folk and Fairy Tales

A superb book containing six humorous tales from Liberia and Ghana explaining some facts about spiders. Highly recommended as a valuable resource material.

Price $3.50

AFRICAN VILLAGE FOLKTALES
Edna Mason Kaula

Interest Level: Grades 2-4
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Folk and Fairy Tales

This book presents a collection of short and long how-and-why fables from various African countries. They make excellent read-aloud materials for young children below grade three. Highly recommended.

Price $3.95

ANANSE THE SPIDER: TALES
Peggy Appiah
FROM AN ASHANTI VILLAGE

Interest Level: Grades 4-6
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Myths, Legends and Folktales

Hilariously funny tales of Anase, a rascal spider who uses his wit to bribe and cheat through thirteen tales.
Highly appealing original drawings from Ashanti brass weight designs sure to appeal to youngsters.

Price.......................... $3.59

**BANTA TALES**

Interest Level: Grades 3-6  
Grade Level: Grade 3  
Category: Folk and Fairy Tales

A collection of folktales from the Belgian Congo. Recommended for reading aloud.

Price.......................... $3.95

**BLACK FAIRY TALES**

Interest Level: Grades 3-5  
Grade Level: Grade 4  
Category: Folktales

A delightful collection of fairytales set in Africa.

Price.......................... $2.95

**THE CLEVER TURTLE**

Interest Level: Grades Pre-school - 6  
Grade Level: Grade 3  
Category: Folktales

This picture book revolves around a "clever turtle" and how he outsmarts his enemies. The impressive illustrations from bold woodcuts give a sense of movement on the pages and should appeal to young children.

Price.......................... $4.50

**CROCODILE AND HEN**

Interest Level: Grades K-2  
Grade Level: Grade 1  
Category: Folk and Fairy tales

An amusing African folktale explaining why crocodiles do not eat hens. Interesting pictures should appeal to young children.

Price.......................... $3.95
FOLK AND FAIRY TALES FROM Ethna Sheehan AROUND THE WORLD

Interest Level: Grades 4-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Folk Tales

A great collection of tales. The themes range from absurdity to heroic adventure and tender fantasy. Included are native tales from Africa, Ireland, Brazil and the United States. Enchanting illustrations.

Price................................. $4.50

THE OX OF THE WONDERFUL HORNED AND OTHER AFRICAN FOLKTALES

Interest Level: Grades K-5
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Folktales

A collection of five African folktales from various sources retold by Ashley Bryan and illustrated in striking African style.

Price................................. $5.95

RONNIE AND THE CHIEF'S SON

Interest Level: Grade 3-5
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Folktale

A vivid African folktale in which a captive boy is carried back to his home in a great herd of antelopes. The impressive, two-color woodcut illustrations are sure to appeal to young children.

Price................................. $3.95
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<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
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<td>A STORY, A STORY</td>
<td>Gail E. Haley</td>
<td>Folktales</td>
<td>Pre-School-2</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
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<td>WHY THE SUN AND THE MOON LIVE IN THE SKY</td>
<td>Elphinstone Dayrell, Blair Lent</td>
<td>Folktales</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>$3.40</td>
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<td>ZOMO THE RABBIT</td>
<td>Hugh Sturton</td>
<td>Folktale</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>$3.95</td>
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Poetry and Verse

BLACK MISERY

Langston Hughes

Interest Level: Grades 1-4
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Poetry and Verse

A delightful book that describes the "miseries" that a Black child can feel and experience.

Price................................. $2.50

BLACK OUT LOUD

Arnold Adoff

Interest Level: Grades 3 and up
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Poetry

A vigorous selection of poems from the works of many Black poets of the last seventy years.

Price................................. $4.95

BRONZEVILLE BOYS & GIRLS

Gwendolyn Brooks

Interest Level: Grades 2-6
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Poetry and Verse

A beautiful collection of simple verses. Attractively illustrated by Ronni Solbert.

Price................................. $3.50

THE DREAM KEEPER & OTHER POEMS

Langston Hughes

Interest Level: Grades 1-4
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Poetry and Verse

A collection of poems sure to be cherished by younger children.

Price................................. $3.24
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>I AM THE DARKER BROTHER</td>
<td>Mactuff Binding, Arnold Adoff</td>
<td>Grades 5-12</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>$1.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>An anthology of modern poems by Negro American poets that illuminate the despairs and the anguish found on the darker side of America. For older boys and girls.</td>
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<td>LOOKING FOR A PLACE</td>
<td>Richard J. Margolis</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Poetry and Verse</td>
<td>$3.95</td>
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<td>An anthology of poems dealing with the experiences of the inner-city child.</td>
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<td>YOUNG VOICES</td>
<td>Charles E. Shaefer, Kathleen Mellor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music and Art</td>
<td>$5.95</td>
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<td>A proud, candid collection of over one hundred poems written by New York city school children, reflecting the concern among the young with urban problems, peace, war and racial tensions.</td>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIDA</td>
<td>Giuseppe Verdi</td>
<td>Grades 4-8</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Music and Art</td>
<td>$4.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A beautiful introduction to the dramatic opera about the princess of Ethiopia. Beautiful color illustrations.</td>
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BLACK MAGIC. A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN ENTERTAINMENT

Langston Hughes
Milton Meltzer

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Music and Art

A pictorial history of Black entertainers beginning with slave entertainers and includes Blacks in all areas of the performing arts up to the late 1960's.

Price $13.95

BOOK OF AMERICAN NEGRO SPIRITUALS

James Weldon Johnson

Interest Level: For all ages
Category: Music and Art

A beautiful collection of Negro spirituals with simple piano accomplishments.

Price $6.95

DID YOU FEED MY COW?

Margaret Taylor Burroughs

Interest Level: Grades K-6
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Music and Art

A superb collection of humorous rhymes, chants, and street games compiled from children of Chicago's South Side.

Price $2.95

THE FIRST BOOK OF JAZZ

Langston Hughes

Interest Level: Grades 2-6
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Music and Art

In easy-to-read format, this is a beautiful explanation of the history of jazz from African drums to jazz performers of the late 1960's.

Price $2.95
JAZZ MASTERS OF THE TWENTIES  Richard Hadlock  M

Interest Level: Grades 4-8  
Grade Level: Grade 5  
Category: Music and Art

A comprehensive study of jazz and how and why each entertainer developed his own kind of jazz style.

Price................................. $5.95

JAZZ-REALITY AND MYTH  C. Lambert  R. Shapiro & Others  PB

Interest Level: Grades 4-12  
Grade Level: Grade 5  
Category: Music and Art

A factual presentation of the development of Jazz--its origin, and entertainers in the field.

Price................................. $44.77

START TO DRAW  Ann Campbell  FW

Interest Level: Grades K-4  
Grade Level: 
Category: Music and Art

Drawing is made fun for young children by the author who treats it as an imaginative game in this book about a young boy who draws himself a world.

Price................................. $2.95

Biography

Autobiography

HAUNTED BY A PAINTBRUSH  Al Price  CP

Interest Level: Grades 2-6  
Grade Level: Grade 2  
Category: Autobiography

An inspiring autobiography of Al Price dynamic rise despite a crippled hand, extreme hardships and prejudice.

Price................................. $2.25
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Interest Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>UP FROM SLAVERY</td>
<td>Booker T. Washington</td>
<td>Grades 6-12</td>
<td>Autobiography</td>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>ERD</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTOR IN EXILE:</td>
<td>Mary Malone</td>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Biography - general</td>
<td>Grades 5-8</td>
<td>$3.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>THE LIFE OF IRA ALDRIGLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biography of a gifted Black man forced by racial prejudice to emigrate to England in order to pursue a stage career and become one of the greatest Shakespearean actors in Europe. A well-written story.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOOKER T. WASHINGTON</td>
<td>Lillie G. Patterson</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Biography - general</td>
<td>Grades 2-4</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>From slave to college, this biography relates the life and ambitions of Booker T. Washington. It highlights his contributions to American history.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BOOKER T. WASHINGTON: LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE</td>
<td>Lillie Patterson</td>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Biography - general</td>
<td>Grades 2-5</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>An easy-to-read biography which traces Washington's life from slave to founder of Tuskegee Institute.</td>
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</table>
CAPTAIN OF THE PLANTER  Dorothy Sterling  DD

Interest Level:  Grades 4-8
Grade Level:  Grade 4
Category:  Biography - general

This is a thrilling and fully documented account of Robert Smalls, slave boy, who boldly sailed the "Planter", a Confederate ship, into the hands of the Union Army, won his freedom and became a Congressman.

Price.................................  $3.50

CARVERS' GEORGE  Florence Crannel  HM

Interest Level:  Grades 3-5
Grade Level:  Grade 4
Category:  Biography - general

A well-written biography of George Carver, his life and discoveries as a scientist. Beautiful illustrations.

Price.................................  $3.95

CHARLES DREW  Roland Bertol  C

Interest Level:  Grades 4-6
Grade Level:  Grade 4
Category:  Biography

Inspiring story of the first man to develop a way to preserve and store plasma. Dr. Drew's struggles and problems as a Black man and his contributions to medicine are well presented.

Price.................................  $3.75

DUKE ELLINGTON: KING OF JAZZ  Elizabeth Rider  Montgomery  G

Interest Level:  Grades 3-6
Grade Level:  Grade 4
Category:  Biography

In easy-to-read format, this biography reveals a great artist who, during the Harlem Renaissance,
captured the sound and soul of Black America in his music.

Price............................................ $2.79

FREDERICK DOUGLAS: Lillie Patterson G
FREEDOM FIGHTER

Interest Level: Grades 2-5
Grade Level: Grade 2
Category: Biography

An easy-to-read biography which successfully portrays the facts of his life and his relentless fight against slavery.

$1.98

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: Margaret Davidson F
FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM

Interest Level: Grades 2-4
Grade Level: Grade 3
Category: Biography

Adventure-filled biography of the Black orator, freedom fighter, and honored historical figure. The emotions which Douglas felt as a child are well portrayed and children will identify with him early in the book. This paperback successfully gives children a feeling of magnitude of this man.

Paperback...................................... $ .60

FREEDOM TRAIN: THE STORY Dorothy Sterling DD
OF HARRIET TUBMAN

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Biography

The author has captured all the excitement of the danger-packed life—slavery, escape, daring rescue missions, and activities as a Civil War nurse of Harriet Tubman.

Price............................................ $3.95
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER  Sam and Beryl Epstein

Interest Level:  Grades 2-5
Grade Level:  Grade 3
Category:  Biography

Authentic and interesting biography of a famous scientist which details the achievements of his work in chemical and food sciences. Excellent colorful illustrations increase the book's attraction.

Price .............................. $1.98

GORDON PARKS: BLACK PHOTOGRAPHER AND FILM MAKER  Terry Harnan

Interest Level:  Grades 3-6
Grade Level:  Grade 4
Category:  Biography

This biography reveals the many talents of Gordon Parks—songwriter, author, film maker, and photographer, and how using the camera as a weapon in his fight for success, he became America's first Black photo-journalist. How Parks rose to fame against great odds is a real success story. Inspiring book.

Price .............................. $2.79

HARRIET TUBMAN: CONDUCTOR ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  Ann Petry

Interest Level:  Grades 4-8
Grade Level:  Grade 5
Category:  Biography - general

A dramatic and powerful story of Harriet Tubman's life and her heroic efforts as a conductor on the Underground Railroad to help her people escape to freedom. Highly recommended.

Price .............................. $3.95
**I HAVE A DREAM**

Emma Gelders Sterne  

Interest Level: Grades 4-8  
Grade Level: Grade 6  
Category: Biography  

Brief portraits of ten Black leaders in their personal struggles and in the Civil Rights Movement. It also includes Rev. Martin Luther King's speech "I Have a Dream", delivered at the 1963 March on Washington. Highly recommended.

Price $3.95

**JACKIE ROBINSON**

Kenneth Rudeen  

Interest Level: Grades 4-6  
Grade Level: Grade 5  
Category: Biography  

An interesting account of the trials and triumphs of Jackie Robinson and how he became the first Black to play in the Major leagues despite the bigotry he faced. An inspiring book.

Price $3.75

**LOUIS ARMSTRONG**

Jean Gay Cornell  

Interest Level: Grades 3-6  
Grade Level: Grade 4  
Category: Biography  

This exciting biography rocks with the exuberance of Satchmo's trumpet and swings with the vitality of Jazz. Through his story, young readers will understand why Armstrong's idea about rhythm and melody made him one of the greatest Dixieland Musicians of all time.

Price $2.79
<table>
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<td>MALCOM X</td>
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<tr>
<td>A straightforward readable biography that portrays the events, both tragic and rewarding, in the life of Malcolm X from early childhood to death.</td>
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<td>RUNAWAY SLAVE. THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN</td>
<td>Ann McGovern</td>
<td>Grades 2-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dramatic Story of a Courageous woman who escaped from slavery, yet returned to the South to lead others to freedom.</td>
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<td>Price..........................</td>
<td>$2.95</td>
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<td>SOJOURNER TRUTH: FEARLESS CRUSADER</td>
<td>Helen Stone Peterson</td>
<td>Grades 3-6</td>
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<td>Born Black, a slave, and a woman, Sojourner Truth had much to overcome to achieve human dignity. With an uncrushable spirit, she set forth on a one-woman civil rights campaign. Youngsters today will identify with this moving biography and with Sojourner Truth's gallant fight for Black equality and woman's rights.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Price..........................</td>
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A SPECIAL BRAVERY

Interest Level: Grades 4-6
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Biography - General

Brief portraits of fifteen Black Americans in their struggles in the Civil Rights Movement. Beautiful Black and White line drawings.

Price: $3.75

SPOKESMAN FOR FREEDOM

Interest Level: Grades 4-7
Grade Level: Grade 5
Category: Biography - General

A straightforward, factual biography of a Negro man whose role in the early days of the civil rights battle has been overlooked until now in juvenile literature.

Price: $3.95

WHITNEY YOUNG, JR.: CRUSADER FOR EQUALITY

Interest Level: Grades 3-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Biography - General

Whitney Young, Jr.'s special role as a bridge builder between two worlds is given meaning in this biography for young readers. Details of his efforts as executive director of the National Urban League to obtain equal job opportunities for Black Americans are balanced with descriptions of an exceptionally happy family life in this portrait of an outstanding contemporary leader.

Price: $2.79
WILLIAM C. HANDY: ELIZABETH RIDER
FATHER OF THE BLUES

Interest Level: Grades 3-6
Grade Level: Grade 4
Category: Biography

A vivid account of the hardships and achievements of the father of the blues.

Price........................................ $2.79

Sport Biography

PRO BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS
GEORGE Vecsey

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Biography - sport

The struggles and triumphs of ten super stars including Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor and others.

Price........................................ $ .60

PRO FOOTBALL HEROES
STEVE GELMAN

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Biography - sport

Fast-paced biographies of ten super stars including Jim Brown.

Paperback...................................... $ .60

YOUNG OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS
STEVE GELMAN

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: Grade 6
Category: Biography - sport

Thrilling victories of track star Wilma Rudolph, boxer Muhammed Ali and eight more Olympic Champions.

Paperback...................................... $ .50
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<td>AFRICAN FOLKTALES</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An excellent collection of four sets of filmstrips from countries in Africa.</td>
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<td>Set of 4 filmstrips, 4 records... $44.00</td>
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<td>4 cassettes... $51.00</td>
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<td>AFRICAN LEGENDS AND FOLK TALES</td>
<td>Moses Gunn</td>
<td>Grades 1-12</td>
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<td>The six stories presented in this set are taken from an extensive folklore essentially from western Africa. Each highlights an aspect of this varied lore. Three of the tales feature animals as the central character, two explain natural phenomena, two have a definite moral and one describes the origin of a tribal custom. All are beautifully illustrated in full color drawings.</td>
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<td>Set of 6 filmstrips, 2 LP records... $54.00</td>
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<td>AMERICAN NEGROES</td>
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<td>Grades 2-6</td>
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<td>These eight color filmstrips reveal the life and times of men and women dedicated to helping American Negroes in their struggle for freedom. Through education, journalism, bravery and a deep belief in equality and justice, these leaders and heroes valiantly fought to turn their dream of freedom into a living reality.</td>
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<td>8 filmstrips... $56.00</td>
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CHILDREN OF THE INNER CITY - SVE

Interest Level: Grades K-6
Grade Level: -
Category: Filmstrips

Beautiful full color filmstrips. Encourages positive attitudes toward minority groups by emphasizing their cultural and economic contributions.

Set of 6 filmstrips, 3 cassettes, 6 guides.. $55.00

FRED, BLACK AMERICAN BOY - SVE

Interest Level: Primary - Intermediate
Grade Level: -
Category: Filmstrips

This filmstrip presents the dreams and realities of Fred, an urban Black boy. It portrays both the joys and the hostilities Fred and his family encounter. Encourages Black pride and self-esteem, stresses the importance of education and skills. Vividly portrays Fred's determination to become an Airline pilot and how he works toward his goal. Highly recommended.

Filmstrip, record, guide................. $11.00

KINDLE SOUND - FILMSTRIP SERIES - S

Interest Level: K - Primary
Grade Level: -
Category: Filmstrips

Beautiful full-color filmstrips of great visual appeal and imagination portrays the world from the child's point of view. They help the young child develop self-respect and positive self-image. Every child will see someone like himself in every filmstrip. Children of multi-ethnic groups, are depicted against backgrounds which are familiar to young children. By watching the children in the filmstrips, the child learns that their feelings, hopes, fears, doubts, and mistakes are much his own. He is relieved and reassured. And the understanding he gains of himself and other people help him make sense of his own social environment. Highly recommended.

Complete Unit I on record................. $49.50
Complete Unit II on record................. $49.50
LEADING AMERICAN NEGROES  Russell L. Adams  SVE

Interest Level: Grades 4-12
Grade Level: 
Category: Filmstrips

Compelling biographies depict significant contributions of American Negroes to American culture. Each relates personal achievements to the growth of our nation. Full color artwork is synchronized with factual narration. Excellent resource material.

Set of 6 filmstrips, 3 records, 6 guides... $45.00

THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  David P. Ross, Jr.  SVE

Interest Level: Grades 4-12
Grade Level: 
Category: Filmstrip

An objective presentation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s crusade for the right and dignity of all men. Documented photographs show the events that shaped his life. On-location recording of his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Filmstrip with records......................... $ 8.50
Filmstrip with cassette......................... $11.00

ROBERT AND HIS FAMILY  Shirlyn Nash
John R. Belton  SVE

Interest Level: Grades K-Primary
Grade Level: 
Category: Filmstrip

Story-type narration portrays the life of Robert Anderson, a young Black boy living in an urban community. The story is told with humor and simplicity. Helps promote racial understanding and develop desirable and healthy social attitudes. Highly recommended.

Set of 4 filmstrips, 2 records............. $31.00
Set of 4 filmstrips with 2 cassettes...... $35.00
AFRICAN HERITAGE DANCES  Mary Joyce Strahlendorf  EA

Interest Level: Grades 4-12
Grade Level: -
Category: Records

Exciting big drum rhythms and authentic simplified movements characterize these folk dances of African origin. The easy to learn movements clearly reflect the area of their beginnings. Dances are performed without partners and are taught in a three-stage technique.

LP Album................................. $ 6.95

AUTHENTIC AFRO-RHYTHMS  Joe Montego  EA

Interest Level: Grades K-8
Grade Level: -
Category: Records

These authentic rhythms from Africa, Haiti, Brazil and Trinidad are excellent resource material for music appreciation, dance, rhythms, and physical education. A complete teacher's guide giving historical background of the evolution of these rhythms, along with suggestions for use, is included.

Price........................................ $ 5.95

BLACK CONTRIBUTORS TO AMERICAN CULTURE  Russel Adams  SVE

This series of records beautifully dramatizes the contributions of Black Americans to our culture in the fields of science, government and human rights, music and art.

Price........................................ $11.50 each
Set of 4 albums............................. $40.00
**BIOGRAPHIES OF OUTSTANDING BLACK AMERICANS**

Leon Weisman

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: -
Category: Tapes

Each cassette tape is recorded on both sides and contains four to five minutes about the lives of fifty-six eminent Black personages from poet to patriots vividly portrayed in prose to stimulate the Black student to become acutely aware of his own identity and heritage.

Set of 6 cassette tapes.................. $34.95

**BLACK HERITAGE**

Russell Adams
Madeline Stratton
Charlemae Rollins

Interest Level: Grades 4-9
Grade Level: -
Category: Tapes

An outstanding series of dramatized biographies of Black men and women who have made important contributions to American life and culture.

Complete program of 28 cassettes........ $231.00

**THE BLACK MAN'S STRUGGLE**

Interest Level: 6th grade and up
Grade Level: -
Category: Records and Cassettes

The Black man's efforts throughout American history to win equal rights and opportunities. Peaceful and violent Black protests, reasons for protests and the consequences and white reaction to Black protest are dramatized in these in-depth episodes.

Set of 8 records.......................... $47.60
Set of 8 tapes or 16 cassettes.......... $63.20
ETHNIC DANCES OF BLACK PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

Marie Francois Brooks

Interest Level: Elementary - College
Grade Level: -
Category: Records

Communication through dance—students learn about differences in Black people's culture and experiences in many parts of the world. Three-part teaching techniques includes vocal instructions. Music for six African dances.

Price: $12.00

MUSIC OF EQUATORIAL AFRICA

DRUMS OF THE YORUBA OF NIGERIA

PYGMIES OF THE ITURI FOREST

AFRICAN MUSIC

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Grade Level: -
Category: Records

Authentic on the spot records of tribal songs, dances and choruses. The series provides invaluable material for the study of the mores and folkways of the people in Africa. Extensive notes accompany each recording.

Price: $7.79 each

RECONSTRUCTION AND NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS

Russel Adams and others

Interest Level: Grades 4-12
Grade Level: -
Category: Records

These dramatized recordings enable students to examine ideas about freedom, equality and the rights of men that have influenced the behavior of Americans. Students
are encouraged to participate and draw their own conclusion about certain issues.

Set of 2 records................................. $11.90
Set of 2 tape cassettes......................... $15.80

**Kits, Posters, Portfolios**

**THE COLOR OF MAN KIT**

Vivian Church  
PIM

Interest Level: K-6  
Category: Kits

A six-item kit of materials which starts with the creation of positive self images in children of various skin colors, and expands to the wider concepts of race and the unity of the human family. The answers to many questions troubling today's youngsters are provided in entertaining and motivating presentation as well as discussion guides and activities. Each item may be purchased separately. Excellent for teaching K-6 human relations.

Complete kit of six item packages........... $21.00

**COLORS AROUND ME**

Vivian Church  
PIM

Interest Level: K-1  
Category: Kits

A readiness picture book designed to develop positive self-images by relating charming portraits representing various complexions to child-appeal objects of similar colors. It explains in simple primary language the meaning of the words "Black", "Negro" and "Afro-American". Written from the perspectives of an Afro-American teacher, this book will entertain and educate children of all races. Highly recommended.

Price................................. $4.95

**COLORS AROUND ME**

Spirit Masters  
PIM

Twelve line drawings of illustrations from the book offer a natural follow-up activity for pupils to not only duplicate or create their own complexions but also consider most flattering colors for next-to-face items of clothing. Printed in black line.

Price................................. $3.00
COLORS AROUND US  
Vivian Church  
PIM

Interest Level: Grades K-6  
Category: Kit

A portfolio of study prints for teacher use which adapts twelve illustrations from the book, "Colors Around Me" to expand pupil awareness from the beauty of skin color to a wider appreciation of different races, friendship, and the brotherhood of the human family. Each print uses the complexion-object analogy to introduce a concept and teach a specific lesson through an entertaining presentation and informative follow-up discussion guide. Highly recommended.

Price.............................................. $4.95

COLORS AROUND US  
Booklets  
Vivian Church  
PIM

Interest Level: Grades K-6  
Category: Kits

These booklets contain the same material as the "Colors Around Us" study prints, with the exceptions of the annotation for the teacher.

Price.............................................. $4.95

SKIN COLOR CRAYONS  
Vivian Church  
PIM

Interest Level: Grades K-6  
Category: Kits

Twelve crayons ranging from white and pink to dark brown and black, selected for coloring or blending various skin tones more realistically. Helps child to appreciate beauty of differences, and understand limitations of racial color stereotypes.

Price.............................................. $3.00

TEACHER GUIDE TO "COLORS"  
Vivian Church  
PIM

Interest Level: -  
Category: Kits

Helps the teacher make maximum use of the "Colors Around Me" book and study prints by relating them to
various classroom situations and curriculum units of study, suggesting follow-up activities and providing basic teacher information on race and heredity. Comprehensive in scope and clinical in presentation, it will enlighten and assist teachers using it. Highly recommended.

Price.............................................. $2.50

BLACK ABC'S

Interest Level: Grades K-6
Category: Posters (Study Prints)

Delightful, full color 18" x 13" photographs, each vividly illustrating an alphabet letter and a key word beginning with that letter. Emphasis is on Black! The pictures and words are those with which Black children readily identify. The reverse side of each study print contains complete lesson material including a biography of a famous Black American whose last name begins with the letter pictures. Highly recommended.

Set of 26 Study Prints............................ $26.00

CONTEMPORARY BLACK BIOGRAPHIES

Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Category: Posters

Thirty-two illustrated study prints, each with a biographical text describes the lives and accomplishments of prominent Black persons of this century. Each print illustrates a Black American and summarizes the main events of his or her life. Some of the persons in the set are: Marian Anderson, Ralph Bunche, Thurgood Marshall and Malcolm X.

Price.............................................. $7.50

EBONY PHOTOPAKS

Interest Level: Grades K-6
Category: Posters

Four packets of 8" x 10" black and white photographs includes twelve famous Negroes of the past, fourteen
contemporary Negroes, children at home and play and pictures of twelve young people.

Price.................................................. $1.25 per pak

HISTORICAL BLACK BIOGRAPHIES  
Interest Level: Grades 4-8
Category: Posters

Thirty-two bright, attention-getting study prints describe the lives of prominent Black Americans from every period of our history. Each print is a picture of one person, with a summary of the highlights of his or her life.

Price.................................................. $7.50

NEGROES IN OUR HISTORY  
Interest Level: Grade 5 and up
Category: Picture Portfolio

This portfolio includes important contributors to America's progress from Crispus Attucks to the late Mary McLeod Bethune.

Price.................................................. $4.95

NEGROES OF ACHIEVEMENT  
Interest Level: Grade 5 and up
Category: Picture Portfolio

Each print features a Negro who overcame the handicaps of the Post-Civil War Period (1865-1915) to achieve social stature. Though many are not famous they are important because they represent the thousands of Negroes who disprove the historical stereotype of the period.

Price.................................................. $4.95
These books are only a beginning, and an important one.

Again the note of warning. Teachers and librarians must try not to purchase mediocre books merely because they are by and/or about Black people even though today's market is ripe for them. The introduction of the Black experience into children's literature does not guarantee good and fair writing about Blacks. It cannot be taken for granted that such an innovation represents quality and progress. Quality should not be confused with quantity. In the haste to rectify the omission of Blacks from literature, teachers and librarians should be careful not to accept books of inferior quality.¹

Teachers and librarians have a challenge or chore facing them in the education of the culturally deprived reader. It can be a heartening and successful challenge if they choose books and resource materials that whet, stimulate and motivate the culturally deprived student which makes him become not a CULTURALLY DEPRIVED reader but, a READER who is no longer earth bound and one for whom the world is ready to awaken at his fingertip.² Any child who has such a teacher and/or librarian as a friend is blessed. It is their duty to try and become such a friend.³

¹Latimer, Starting Out Right, p. 8.
²Miller, If They Read, p. 8.
³Ibid., p. 11.
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<td>162 East 38th Street - New York, New York 10016</td>
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<td>BM</td>
<td>The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc.</td>
<td>4300 West 62nd Street - Indianapolis, Indiana 46206</td>
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<td>BP</td>
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<td>10300 West Roosevelt Road - Westchester, Illinois 60153</td>
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<td>C C</td>
<td>Thomas Y. Crowell Company</td>
<td>201 Park Avenue South - New York, New York 10003</td>
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<td>CMC</td>
<td>Coward McCann, Inc.</td>
<td>200 Madison Avenue - New York, New York 10016</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>Children's Press, Inc.</td>
<td>1224 West Van Buren Street - Chicago, Illinois 60607</td>
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<td>The World Publishing Company - 2231 West 110th Street - Cleveland, Ohio 44102</td>
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BOOKS NOT RECOMMENDED


Harriet and the Promised Land, by Jacob Lawrence, Simon and Schuster, 1968.


Spotty, by Margaret Rey, Harper and Row, 1945.


Tombi's Song, by Jenny Seed, Rand, McNally, 1966.
FORMAT USED FOR GATHERING DATA

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September 14, 1972
Mrs. Shirley Jean Fowlkes
Clarke Street School
2816 West Clarke Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210

Dear Sir:

I am in the process of writing a research paper on the Black experience in children's literature: books written by or about Blacks for children in Kindergarten through the sixth grades. I would appreciate any materials and/or information on books that you have published by or about Blacks.

Thanking you for your time and effort in my behalf.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shirley Jean Fowlkes
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles From Magazines and Periodicals


Articles From Proceedings


Books


