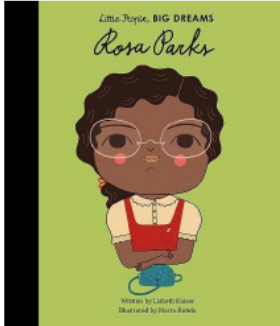


Black History Month

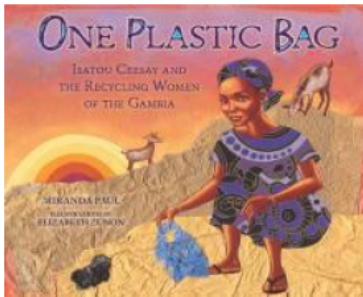
Book Recommendations



Rosa Parks by Lisbeth Kaiser, illustrated by Marta Antelo
Frances Lincoln 9781786030177

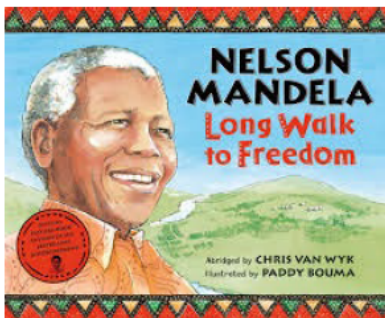
One of a series Little People, Big Dreams aimed at young children and each featuring a woman who has made a significant contribution to society. This book is an account of the life of civil rights activist Rosa Parks, recounted simply and respectfully.

The series also includes *Maya Angelou* 9781847808905



One Plastic Bag by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
Millbrook Press, USA 9781467716086

The true story of Isatou Ceesay who saw the problem that the proliferation of plastic bags was causing in her country, the Gambia, contaminating the environment and killing the goats that swallowed them. She collaborated with other local women to crochet thread made from the plastic bags to create purses resulting in a thriving trade and reducing pollution. The illustrator grew up in West Africa and has used colourful papers and leftover shopping bags in the creation of her pictures. [A CLPE Power of Reading text.](#)



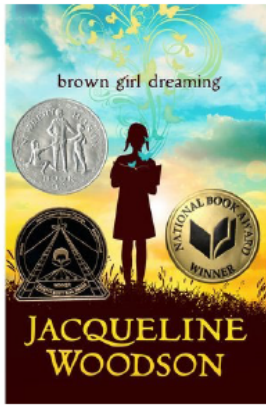
Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela, abridged by Chris Van Wyk, illustrated by Paddy Bouma
Macmillan 9781447275541

An admirable distillation of Nelson Mandela's autobiography into a picture book format by a South African writer and illustrator. Mandela describes his childhood, university education, involvement with politics and fight for freedom from apartheid, his long years in prison, and his eventual release and election as President of his country and emergence as one of the most significant figures in recent world history. [A CLPE core book.](#)



Coming to England by Floella Benjamin, illustrated by Michael Frith
Macmillan 9781509835485

The writer's autobiographical account of her childhood in Trinidad and her family's migration to Britain in 1960. The warmth and strength she gained from her family are strongly evoked, as are her feelings of bewilderment at the ignorance and racism they encountered. This is a new edition to mark the twentieth anniversary of its first publication with a reflective introduction by the author. [A CLPE core book.](#)



Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Puffin USA 9780147515827

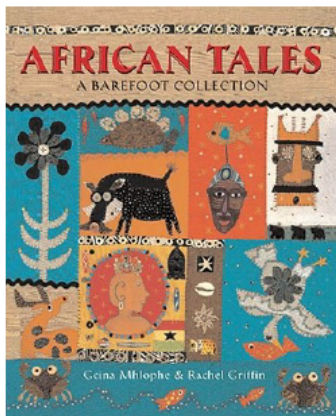
This book, which has won multiple awards in the USA, is the life story of the author in the style of a verse novel beginning with her birth in 1963. During the course of this beautifully written book readers get to know her extended family within the wider context of African American history. Jacqueline Woodson's evolution as a writer is a strong thread throughout. A Power of Reading teaching sequence is available for Jacqueline Woodson's verse novel [Locomotion](#).



Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky

Wren & Rook 9781526360519

This appealingly designed book highlights the work of women scientists, ranging widely across the globe and through time. It's really striking what polymaths many of these women were, excelling in several fields of science and across other spheres of knowledge and activity. They include Katherine Johnson, an African-American physicist and mathematician, whose work on calculating flight paths for space missions is featured in the film 'Hidden Figures', and psychologist and civil rights activist Mamie Phipps Clark whose research was instrumental in ending school segregation in the USA. [A CLPE core book](#).



African Tales by Gcina Mhlophe, illustrated by Rachel Griffin

Barefoot Books 9781782853596

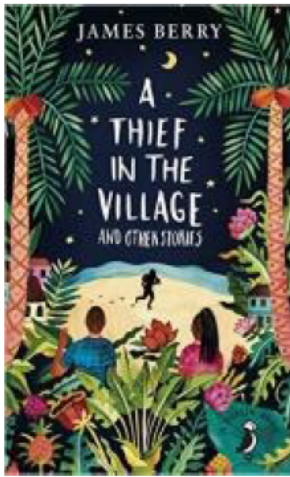
These traditional stories from the length and breadth of Africa are retold by a renowned South African storyteller. Each of the eight stories is prefaced by an introduction to the country from which it comes revealing many fascinating cultural and historical details and there is also a contextualising map of the continent. Each is set against a cloth background displaying beautifully crafted illustrations created mainly from fabrics and beads. [A CLPE Power of Reading text](#)



Tales from the Caribbean by Trish Cooke, illustrated by Joe Lillington

Puffin Classics 9780141373089

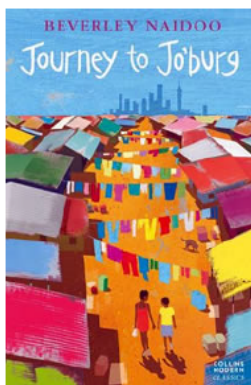
A terrific collection of tales from all over the Caribbean, retold by an author whose parents came to Britain from Dominica in the 1950s. The stories have a mixture of West African and Amerindian roots. Many are humorous including several about tricksters Anansi and Compère Lapin/Brer Rabbit. Notes at the end of the book contextualise the stories, giving information about the history and cultures of the Caribbean. The style of storytelling makes this collection ideal for reading aloud and ripe for retelling orally.



A Thief in the Village by James Berry

Puffin 9780141368641

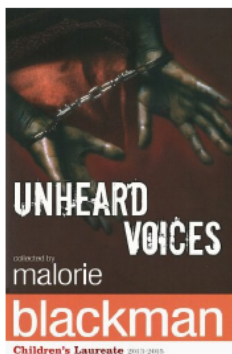
These short stories are vignettes of Jamaican village life, full of the rhythms of Caribbean speech. The stories treat of relationships between weak and strong, between generations and among young people. The themes are universal and there is a strong sense of culture and place. [A CLPE core book](#). One of the first Black writers to receive wider recognition in Britain, sadly James Berry died earlier during 2017 and this is the only children's book by him currently in print. Some of his poems for children are included in the collection of his selected poems *A Story I Am In Bloodaxe* 9781852249175. There is a teaching sequence for his poetry collection [A Nest Full of Stars](#) here. See James Berry reading from his work on [Poetryline](#).



Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo, illustrations by Lisa Kopper

HarperCollins 9780007263509

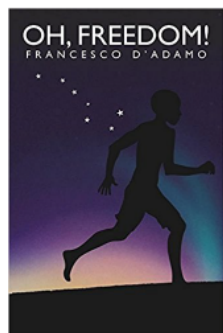
This short novel about two children travelling alone to Johannesburg in apartheid South Africa to find their mother was banned there when it was first published in 1985. Now regarded as a modern classic, this edition has an introduction by Michael Rosen in which he explains its continuing relevance although in some ways it could now be regarded as an historical novel.



Unheard Voices collected by Malorie Blackman

Corgi 9780552556002

This collection was published in 2007 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade act in Britain. It contains stories and poems by modern authors including Sandra Agard, Catherine Johnson, Grace Nichols, John Agard, Benjamin Zephaniah and Malorie Blackman and extracts of writings from and about people who were themselves slaves including Frederick Douglass, Mary Prince, Olaudah Equiano and Harriet Jacobs.



Oh, Freedom! by Francesco d'Adamo, translated from Italian by Siân Williams

Darf Publishing 9781850772859

Tommy and his family are slaves on a cotton plantation in Alabama in 1850. One day a stranger arrives, a free Black man known as Peg Leg Joe and he offers to guide them on a flight to freedom in Canada. And so their journey begins...