



**National  
Civil Rights  
Museum®**

AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL

# Resources for Exploring and Understanding Civil and Human Rights

EDITED BY DORY LERNER, NCRM K-12 EDUCATOR



## A Note from the Educators:

*Resources for Exploring and Understanding Civil and Human Rights* contains a small sampling of the numerous resources available for students, parents, and teachers on Civil and Human Rights. The purpose of this guide is to introduce you to the challenging and complex stories that make up the national and international struggle for social justice. The topics covered often involve emotionally challenging issues and difficult aspects of history which may require additional contextualization, as well as deep discussion.

***Please explore these materials with care.***

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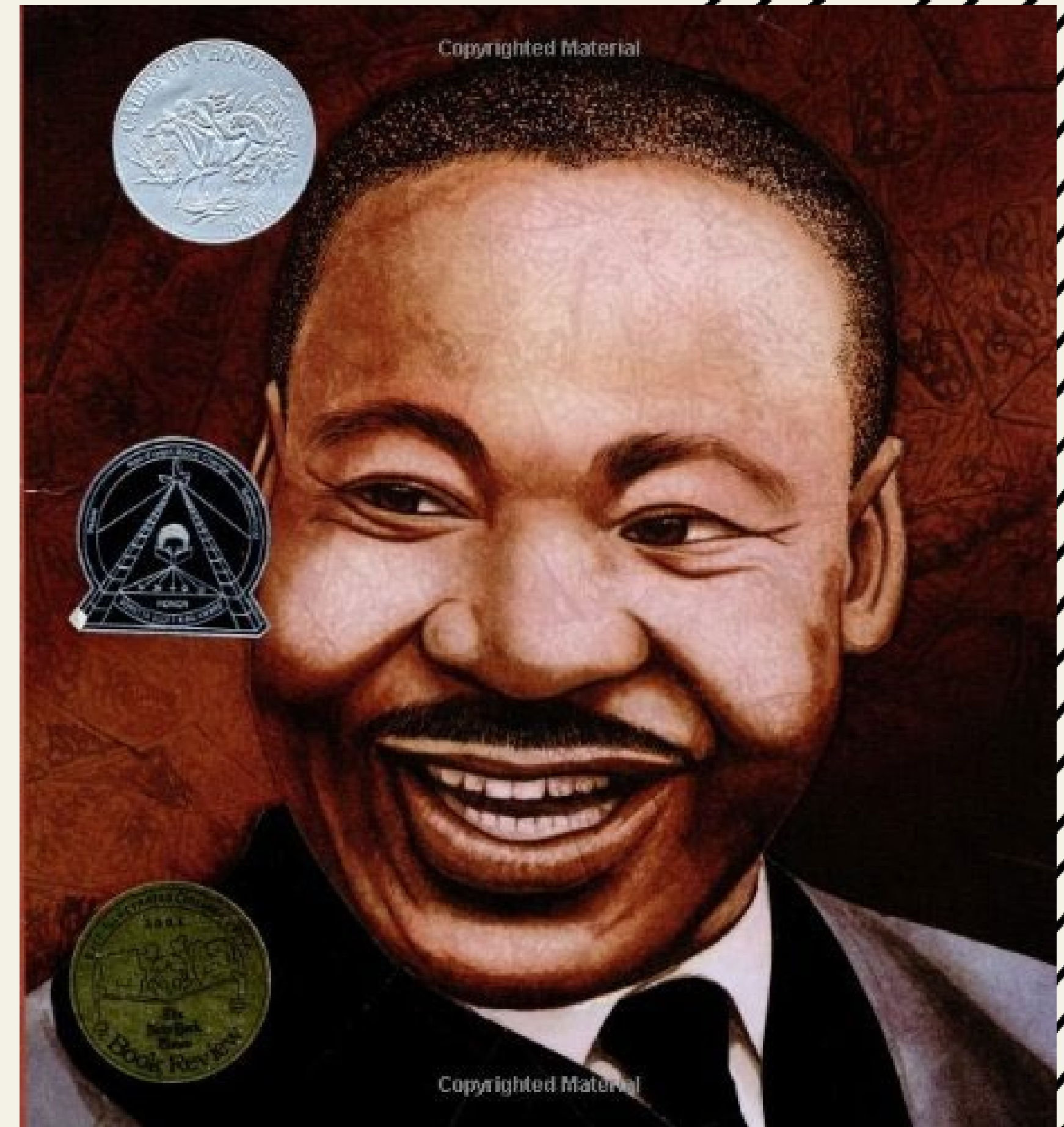


PRE-K - 2ND GRADE

# Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Doreen Rappaport | Illustrated by Bryan Collier

A picture book biography about Dr. King's life. Beautiful collaged illustrations. Won many literary awards including the Coretta Scott King Award.





PRE-K - 2ND GRADE

# We March

By Shane W. Evans

About a young child preparing for and participating in the March on Washington. Very concise and is great lead in to making protest signs or a having a student-led march.



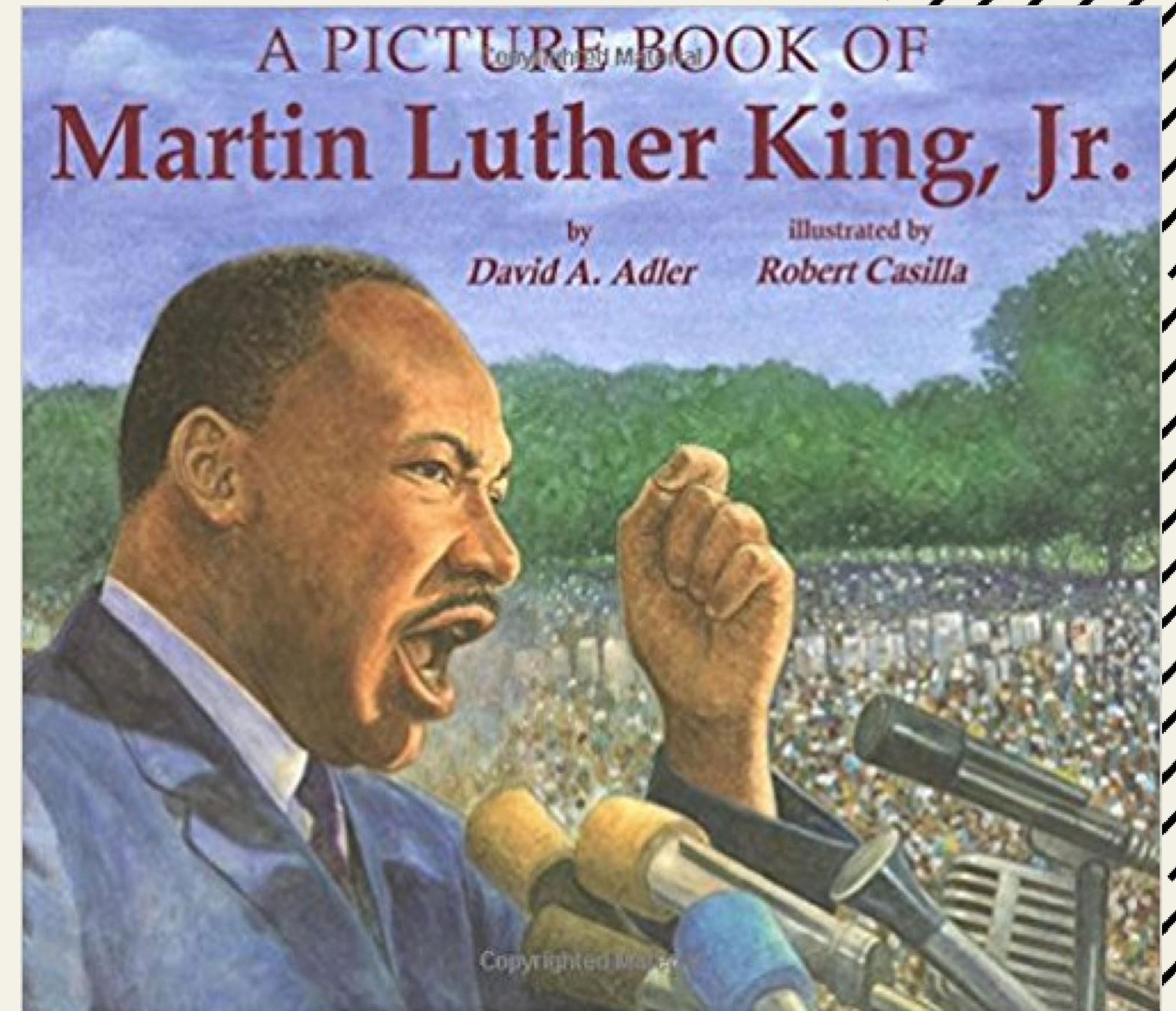


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# A Picture Book of Martin Luther King, Jr.

By David Adler | Illustrated by Robert Casilla

Outlines Dr. King's life with a focus on his childhood and family, as well as events that took place during the Civil Rights Movement.



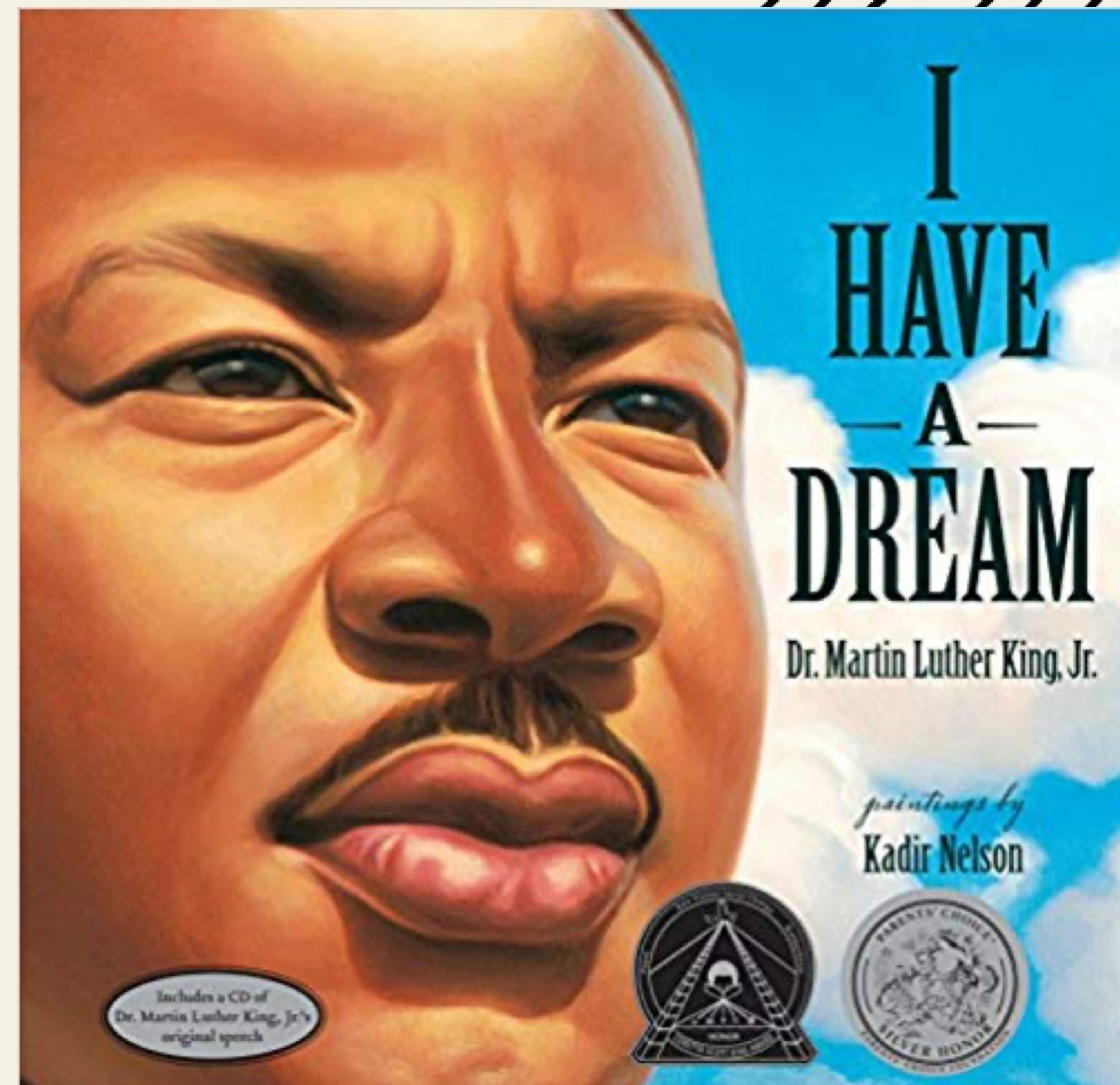


1ST - 5TH GRADE

# I Have a Dream

By Kadir Nelson

Comes with a companion CD with audio recording of Dr. King delivering his famous speech, “I Have a Dream.” Won several awards including the Coretta Scott King Award.





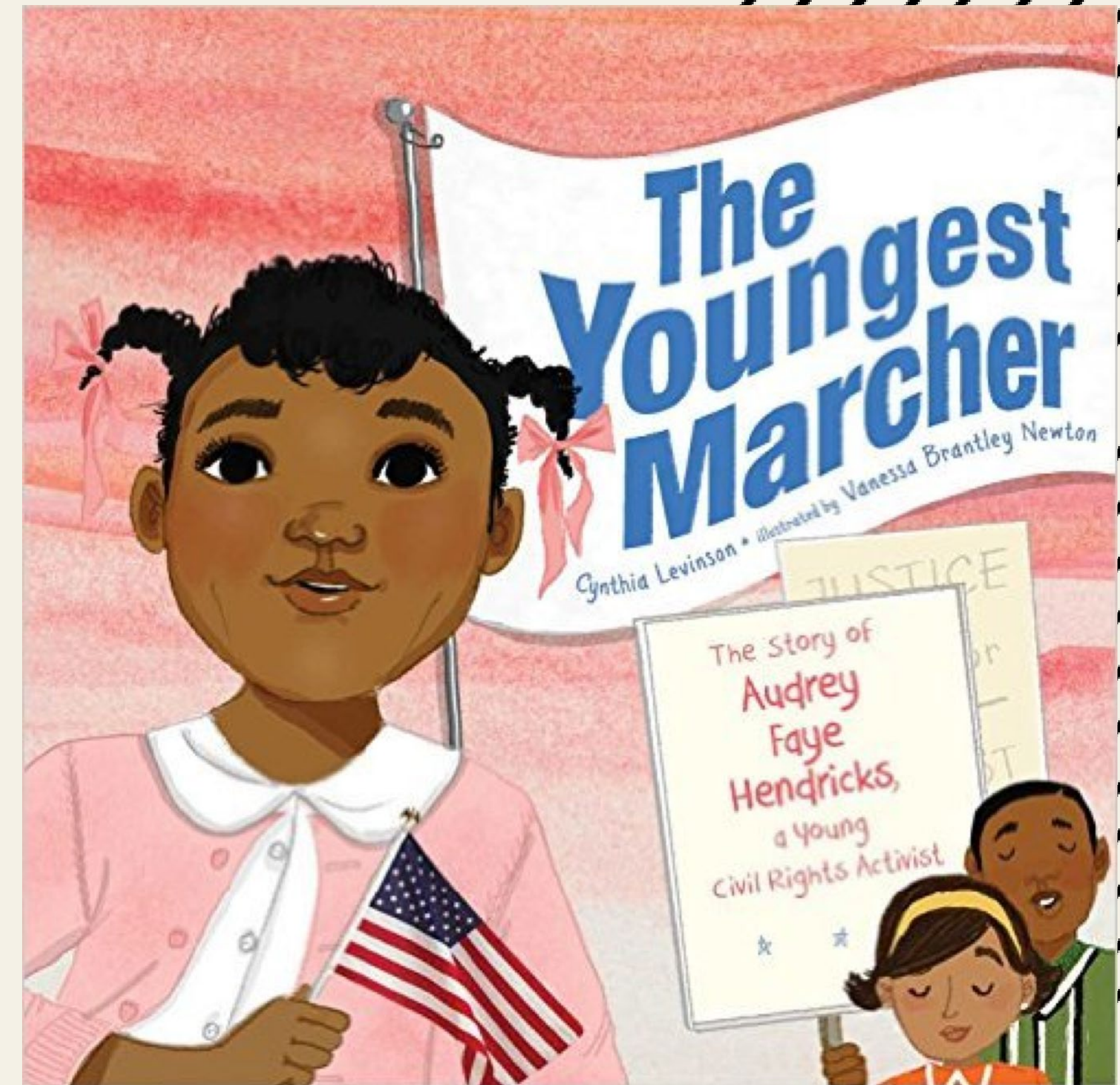
PRE-K – 3RD GRADE

# The Youngest Marcher

## The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks a Young Civil Rights Activist

By Cynthia Levinson | Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton

About the youngest Birmingham  
Children's Crusader. Shows that children  
have potential to be activists and changemakers.



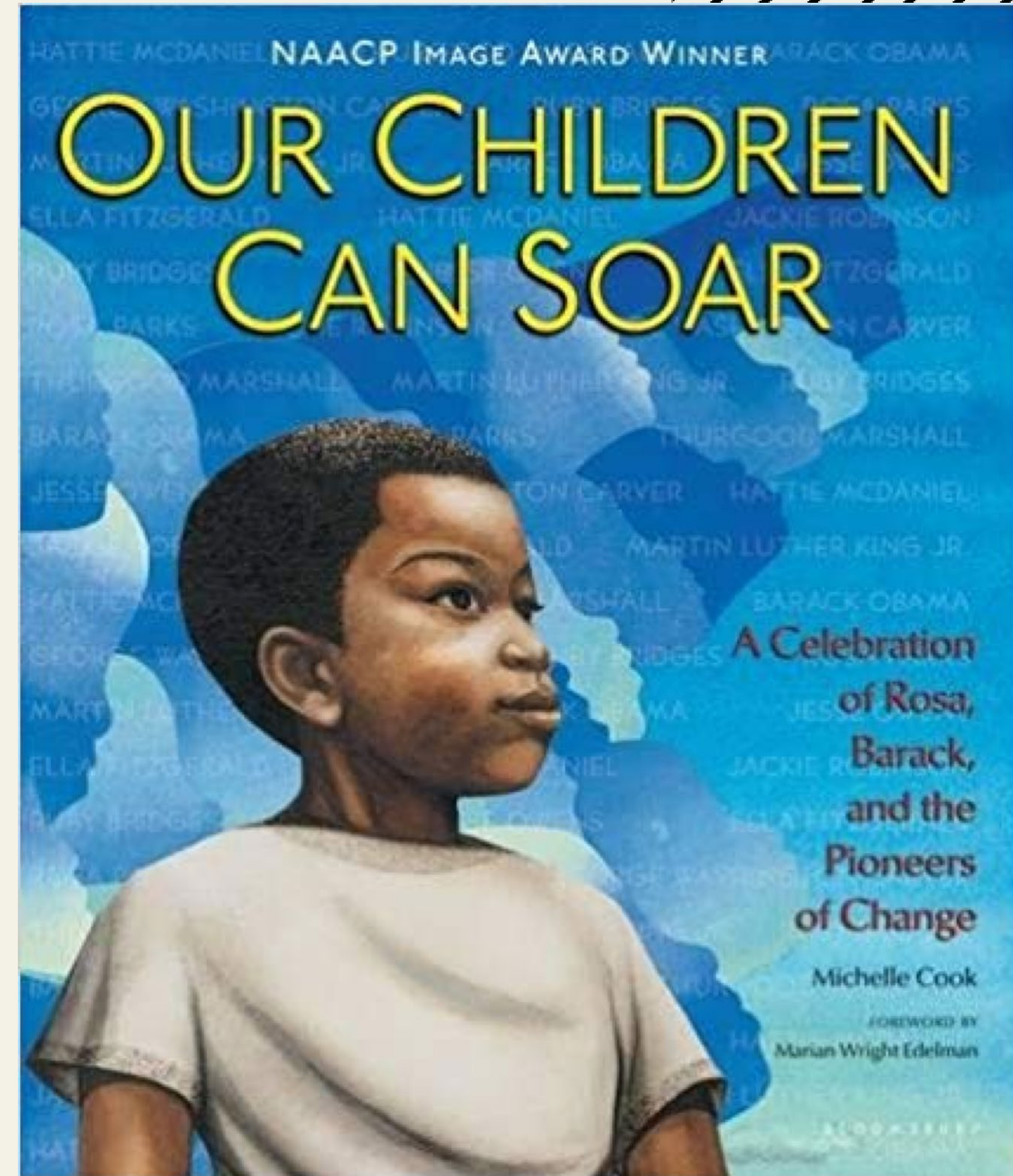


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# Our Children Can Soar

By Michelle Cook

About pioneers in African American History.  
Each page has a different illustrator!  
Students can act out the book and take  
steps forward with each page. Demonstrates that  
if we continue to take steps forward,  
we can soar, and so will future generations.





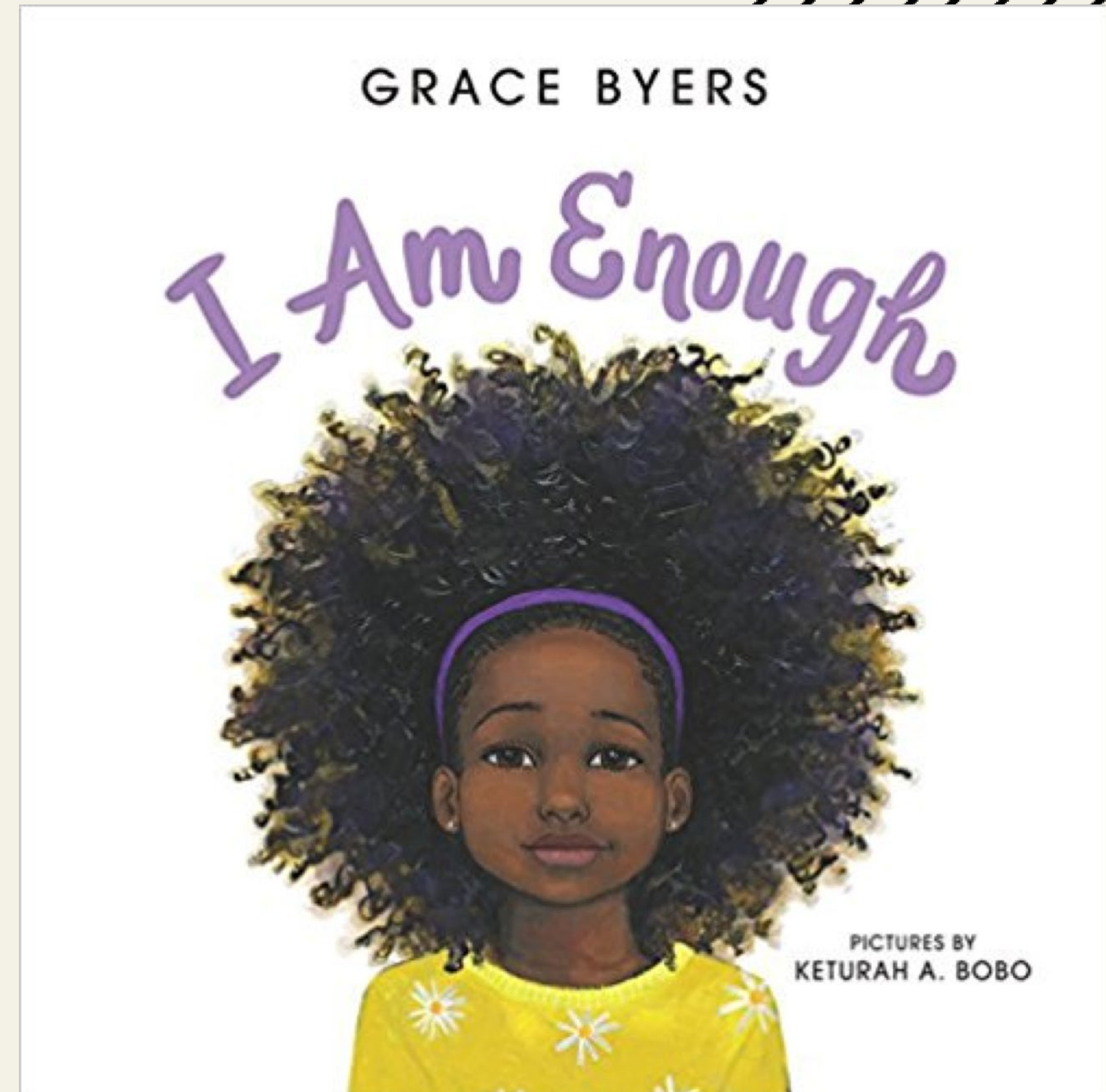


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# I Am Enough

By Grace Byers

Beautiful and simple. Written to help young learners combat the effects of bullying and to promote having positive self-image. Encourages appreciation of diversity.



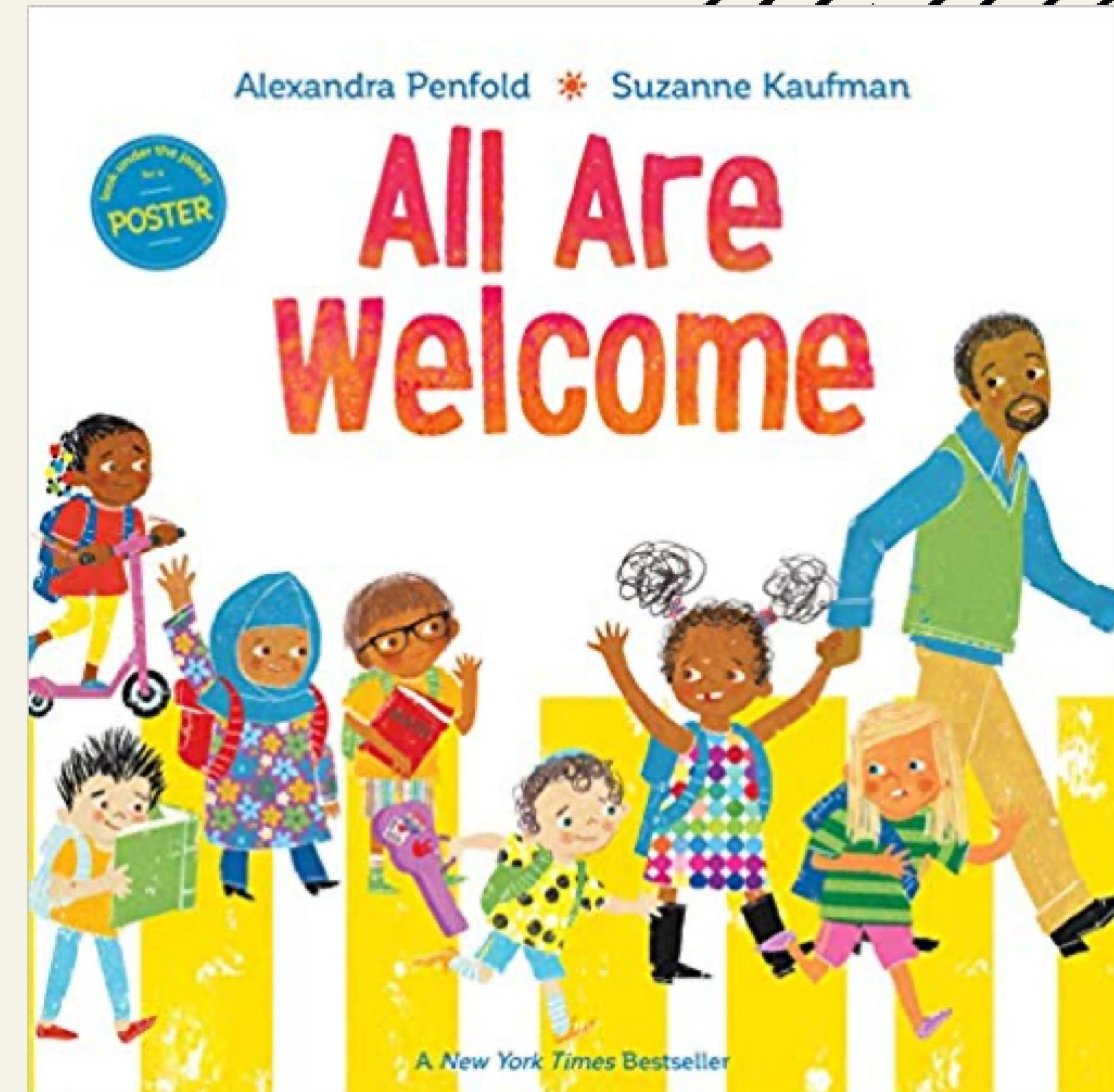


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# All Are Welcome

By Alexandra Penfold | Illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman

About diversity and inclusion. Features awesome illustrations of students wearing patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes and eating foods from cultures all around the world. Perfect book for the first day of school.



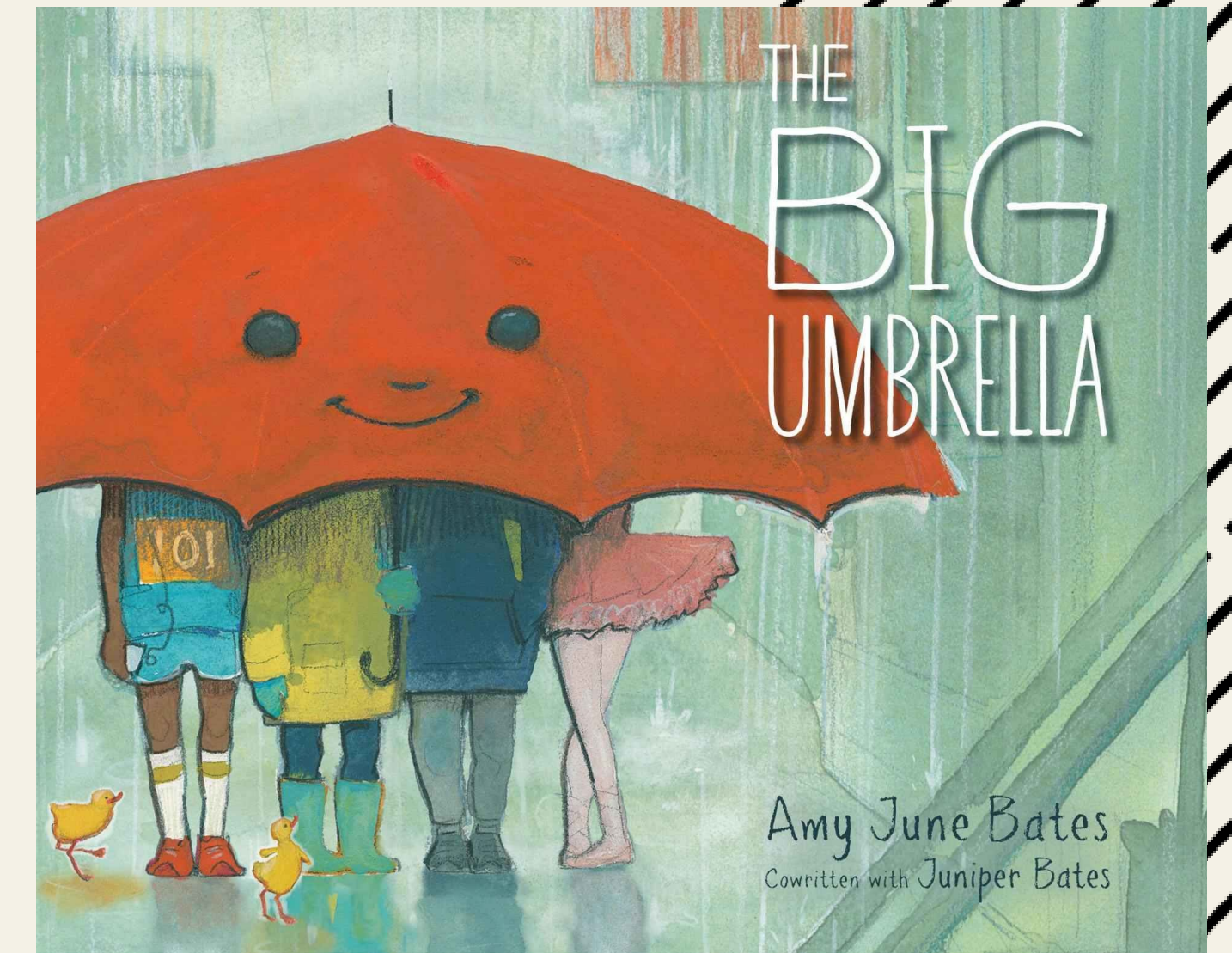


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# The Big Umbrella

By Amy June Bates | Cowritten by Juniper Bates

This feel great book is written by a mom and daughter duo. It lovingly illustrates how our "big umbrella" can grow enough for everyone to fit underneath and feel welcome. About inclusion and appreciation of our differences.



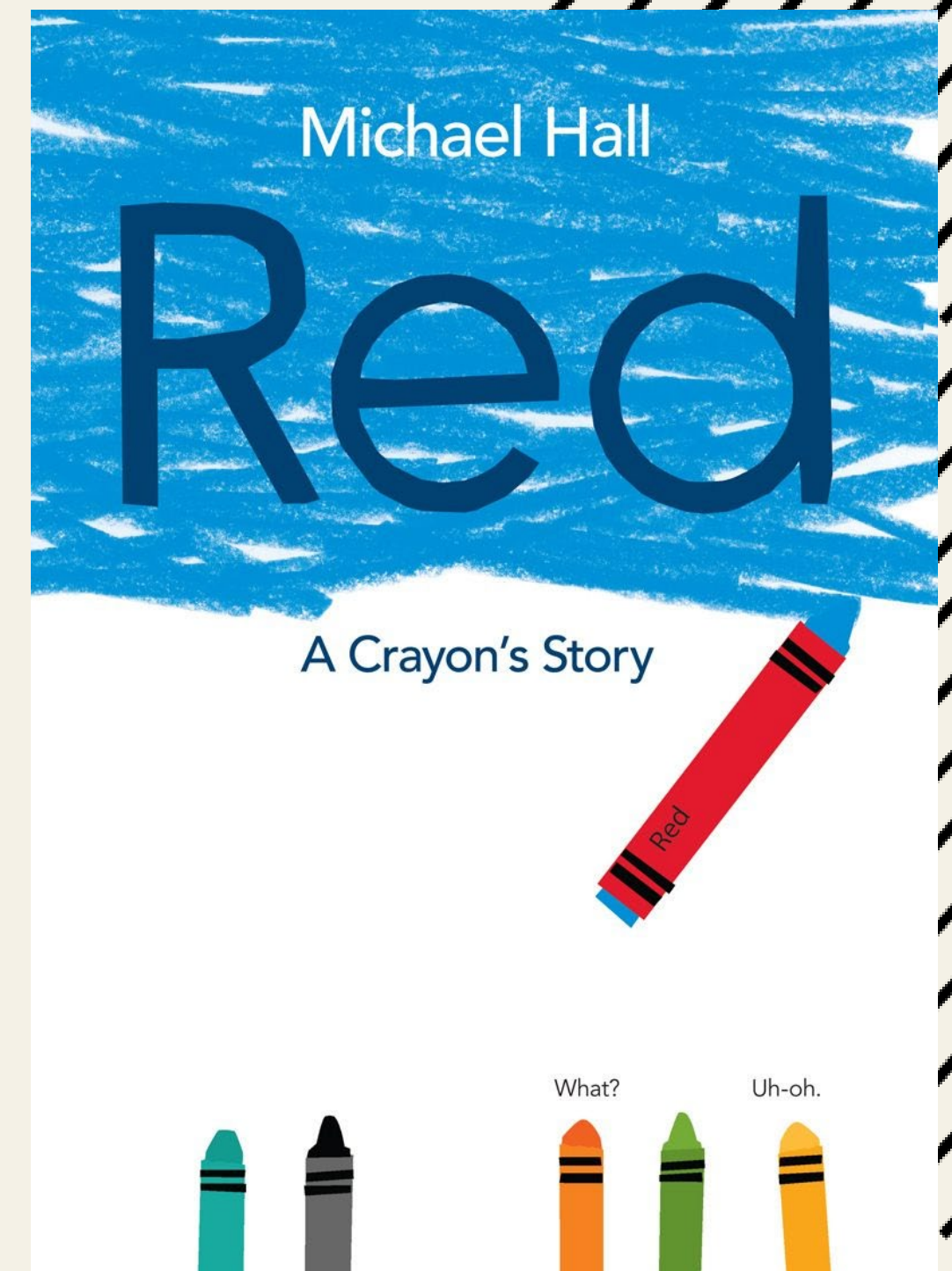


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# Red: A Crayon's Story

By Michael Hall

About a red crayon who feels and expresses themselves as blue. Prompts the reader to think about how we label each other and to respect everyone's right to be themselves. Encourages the reader to welcome diversity and be open-minded to individual identities.





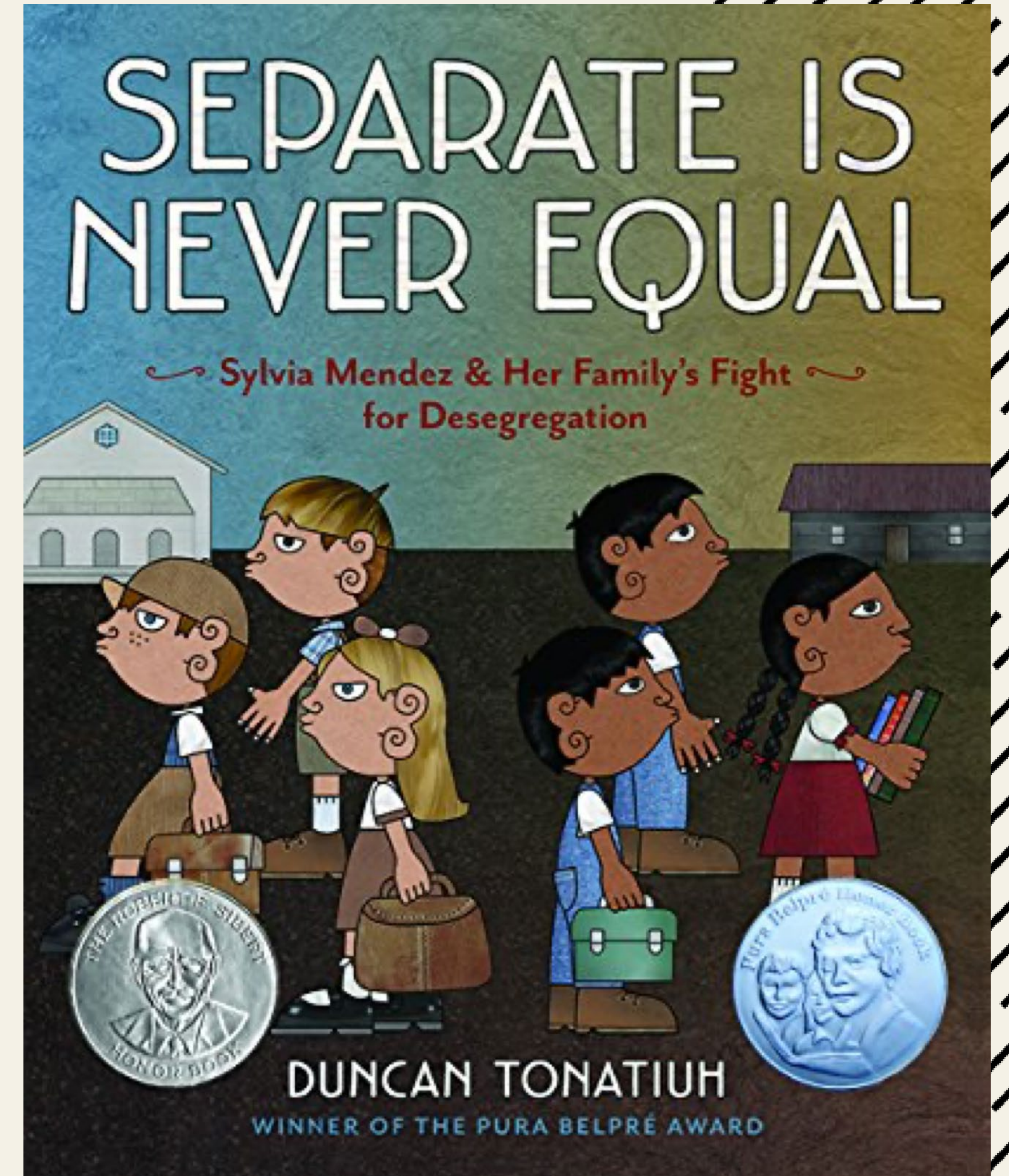
PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# Separate is Never Equal

By Duncan Tonatiuh

About Sylvia Mendez & her family's fight to desegregate public schools in California (Mendez v. Westminster, 1947).

Predates Brown v. Board of Education case and highlights the contribution of this Latino family to the Civil Rights movement



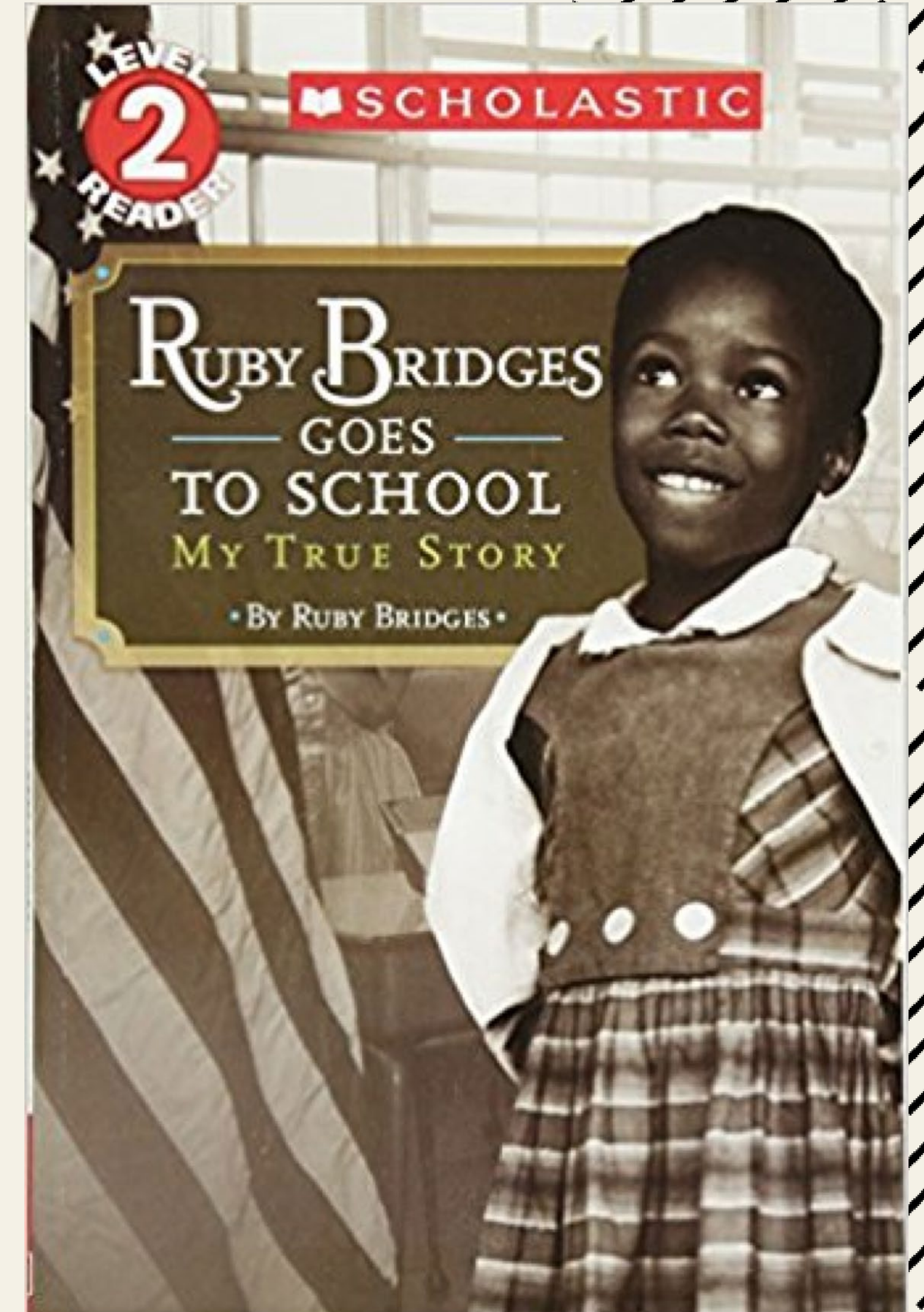


K - 2ND GRADE

# Ruby Bridges Goes to School

By Ruby Bridges

Autobiography of Ruby Bridges, who at age six integrated an all-white elementary school in New Orleans, in 1960. Features historical photographs. Teaches that activists can be small but mighty!





PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# Rosa

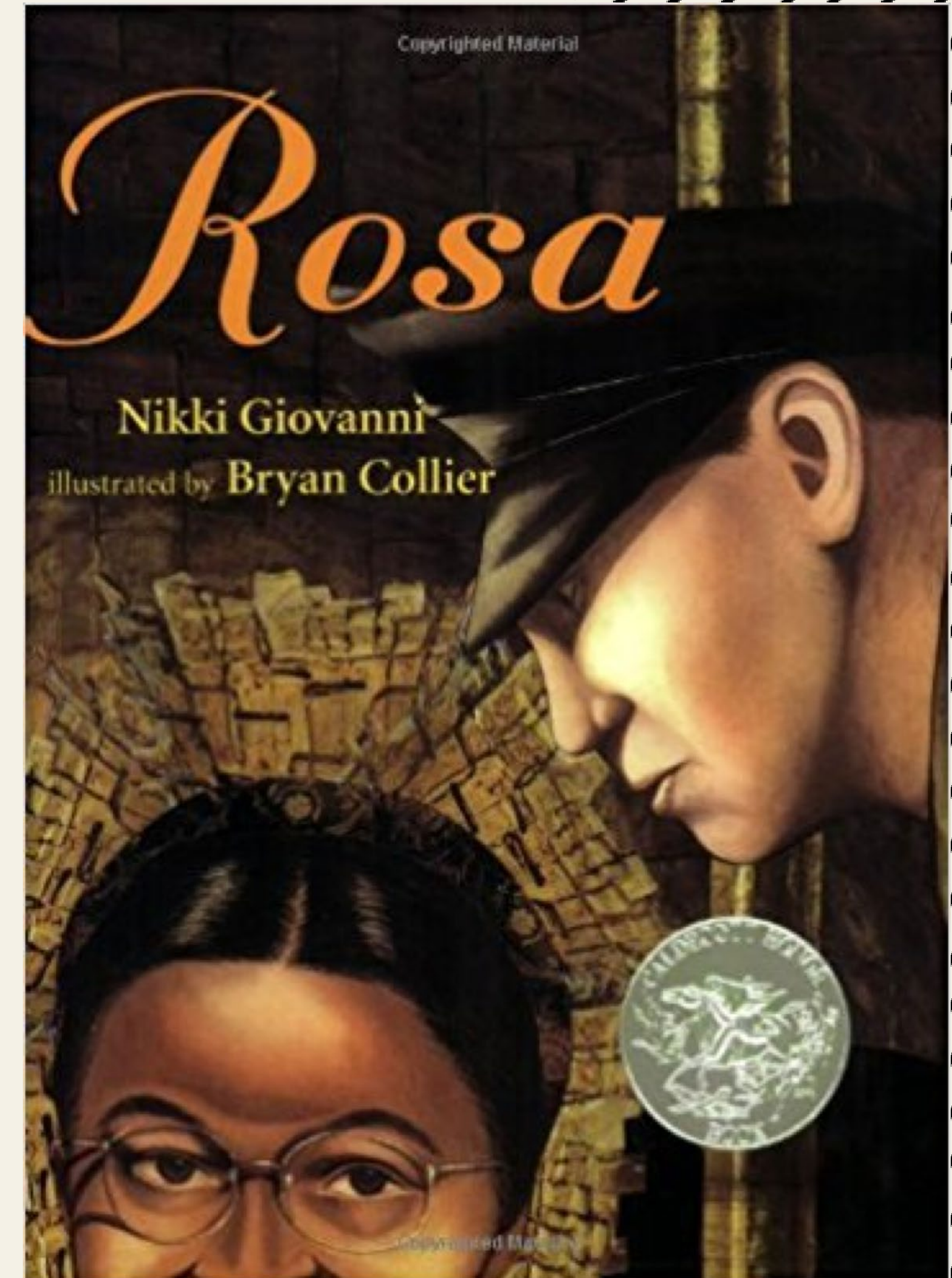
By Nikki Giovanni | Illustrated by Bryan Collier

Depicts the story of Rosa Parks' bold resistance.

Beautiful collaged illustrations. Won Caldecott Award.

Author, Giovanni, is a poet but this is not a poetry book.

The children's poetry book by Nikki Giovanni is entitled *I Am Loved*.



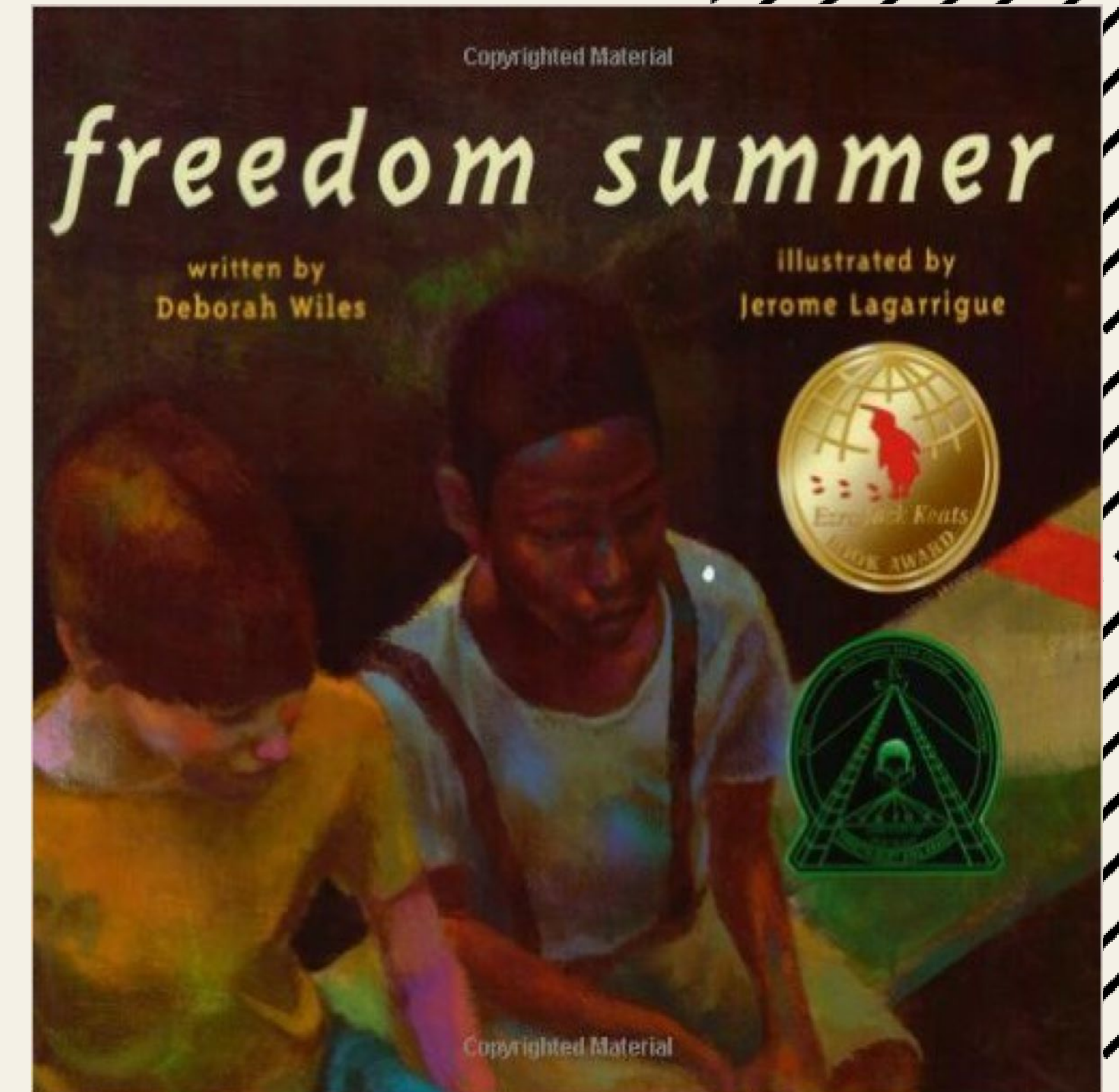


PRE-K - 2ND GRADE

# Freedom Summer

By Deborah Wiles | Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue

Story of two young boys (one black and one white) whose friendship overcame racial difference.  
Teaches about friendship, kindness and compassion.





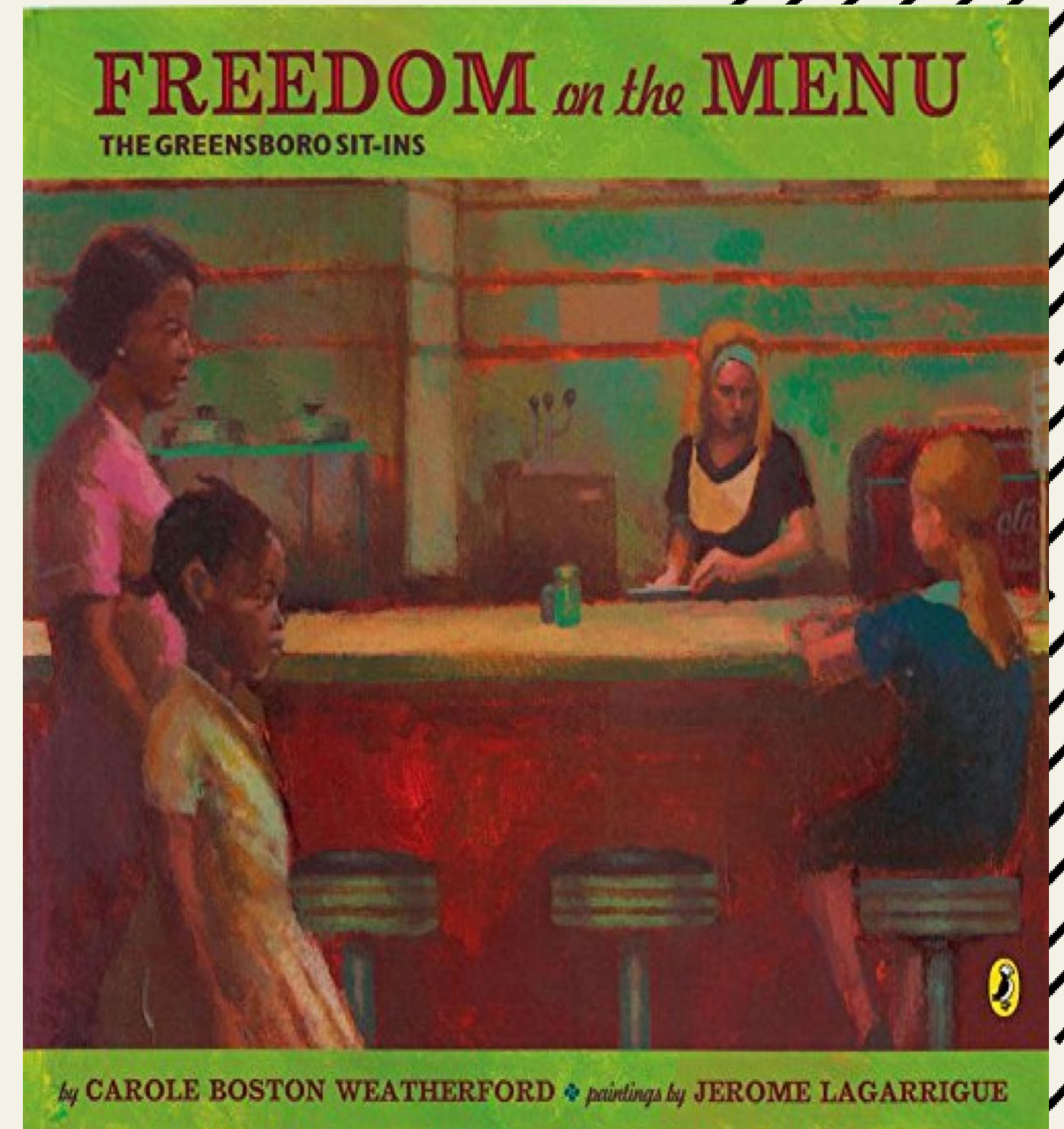


PRE-K - 3RD GRADE

# Freedom on the Menu The Greensboro Sit-Ins

By Carole Boston Weatherford | Illustrated by Jerome Lagarrigue

About lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro in 1960. Focuses on young activism and highlights courageous young people who impacted the Civil Rights Movement through nonviolent action.



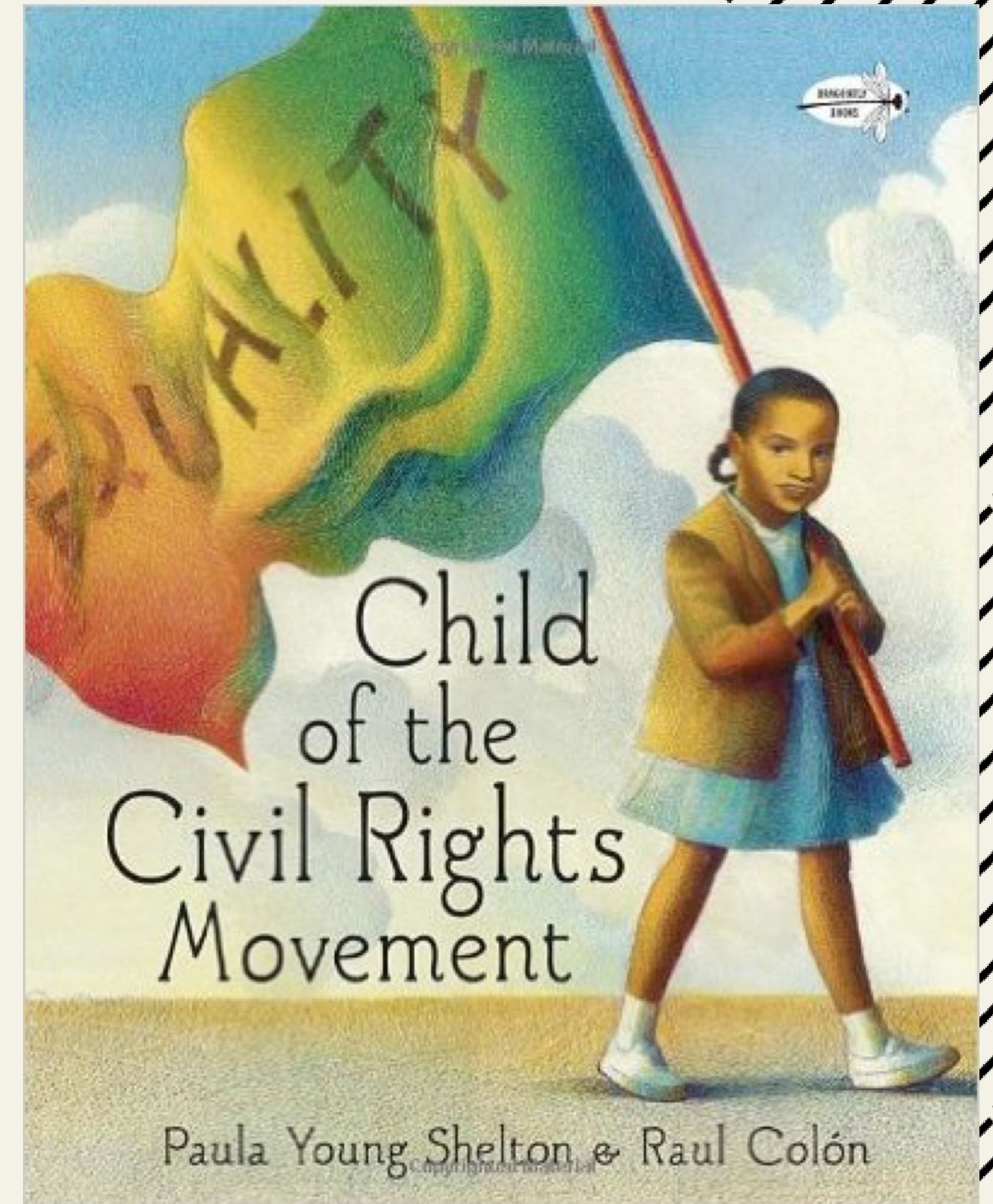


PRESCHOOL - 3RD GRADE

# Child of the Civil Rights Movement

By Paula Young Shelton | Illustrated by Raul Colón

About a young girl growing up amidst  
the Civil Rights Movement. Written by the  
daughter of civil rights activist, Andrew Young.





1ST - 4TH GRADE

# Let the Children March

By Monica Clark-Robinson | Illustrated by Frank Morrison

Takes place in Birmingham, AL in 1963.

Depicts the Birmingham Children's Marchers.

Gorgeous illustrations and accurate historical images.

Reminds us of the power of young activists.

Won Coretta Scott King Book Award.





1ST - 4TH GRADE

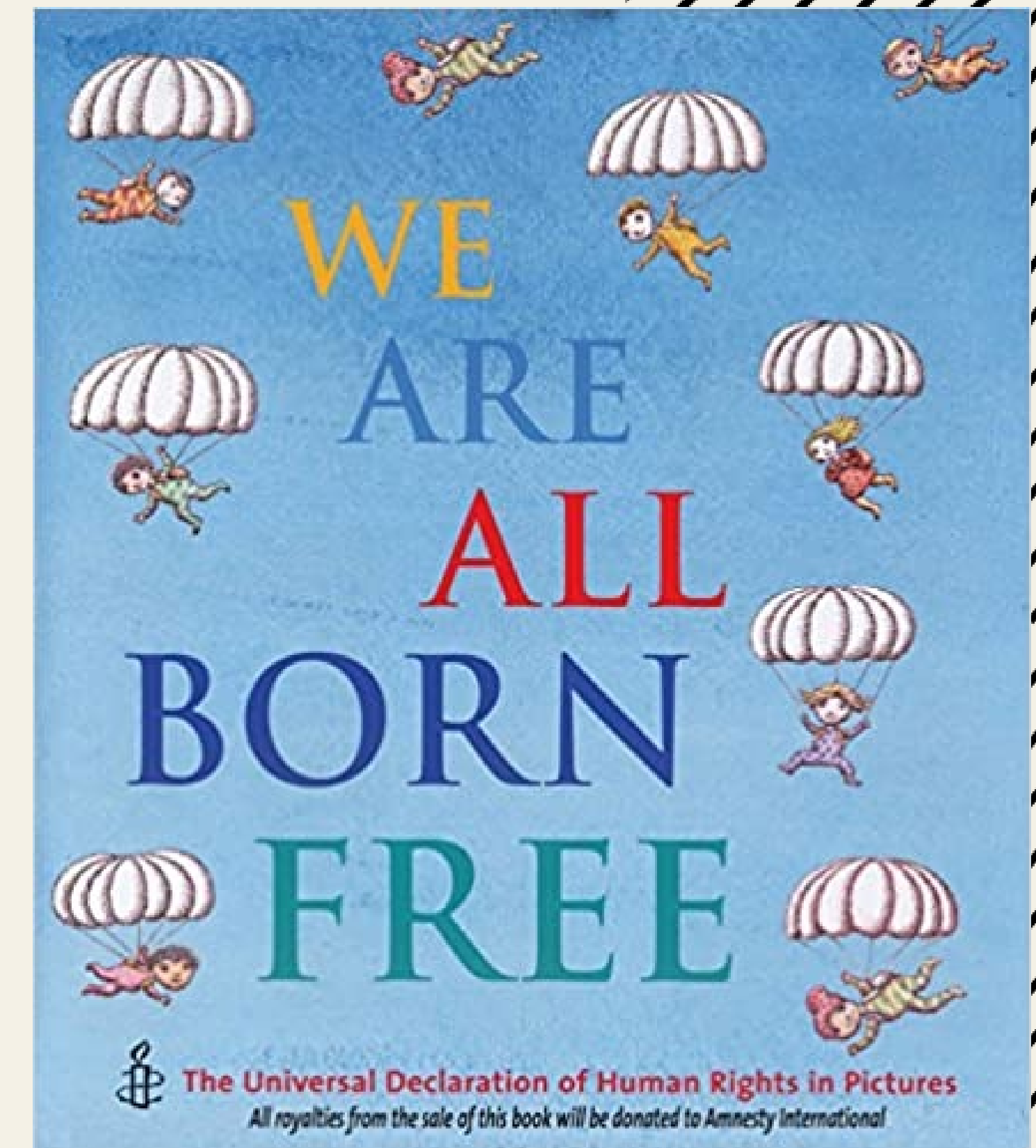
# We Are All Born Free

By Amnesty International | Artwork by Multiple Illustrators

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures.

Illustrates human rights in clear, understandable statements.

Reminds us to think about every individual's freedoms and not only our own.





3RD - 5TH GRADE

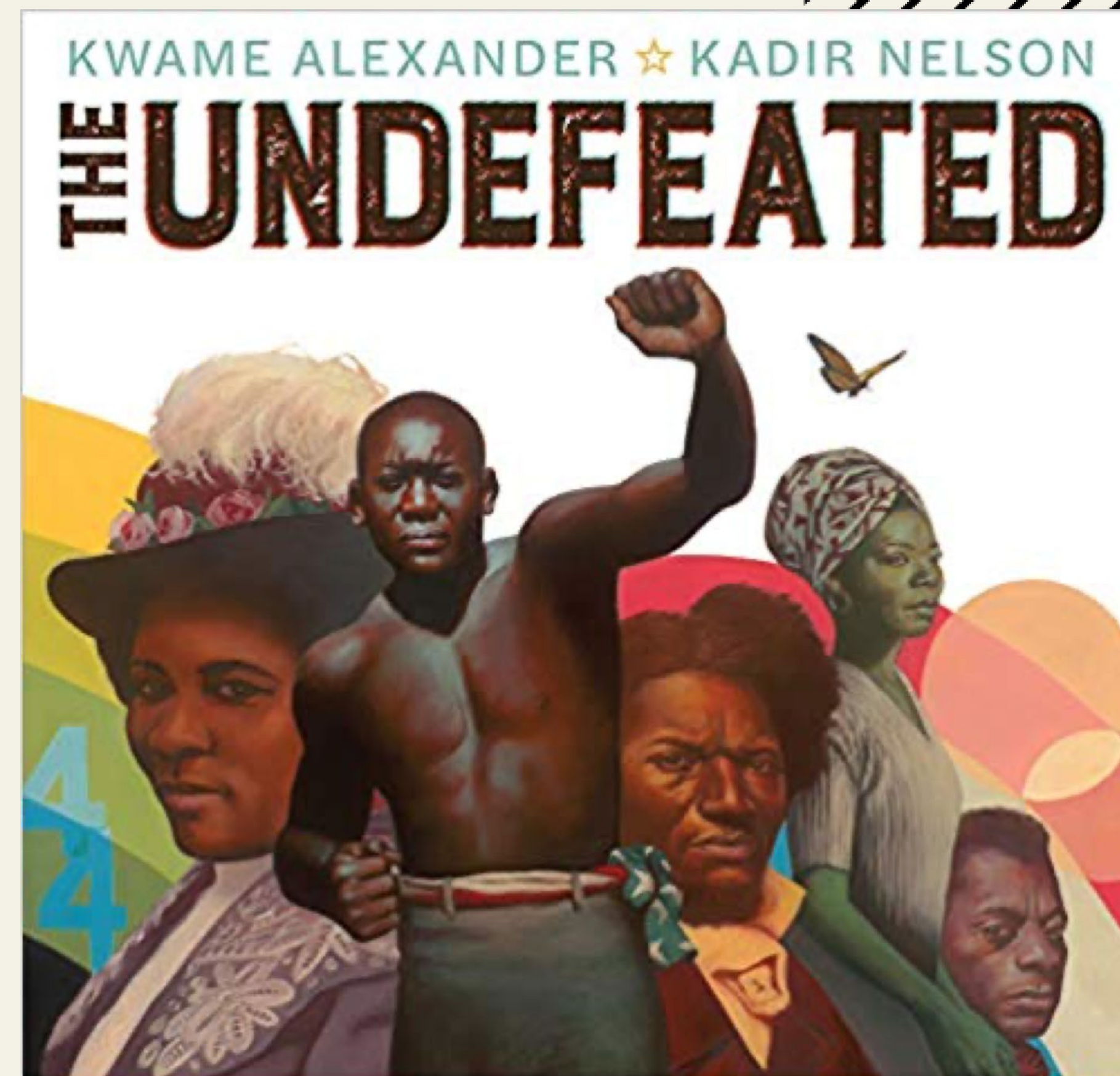
# The Undeclared

By Kwame Alexander | Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Written and presented as a poem which pays tribute to the resilience and strength of black life and history in America.

From Transatlantic Slave Trade, to Civil War, to the American Civil Rights Movement, to Black Lives Matter.

Last section has list of historical and contemporary figures and events featured throughout the book.



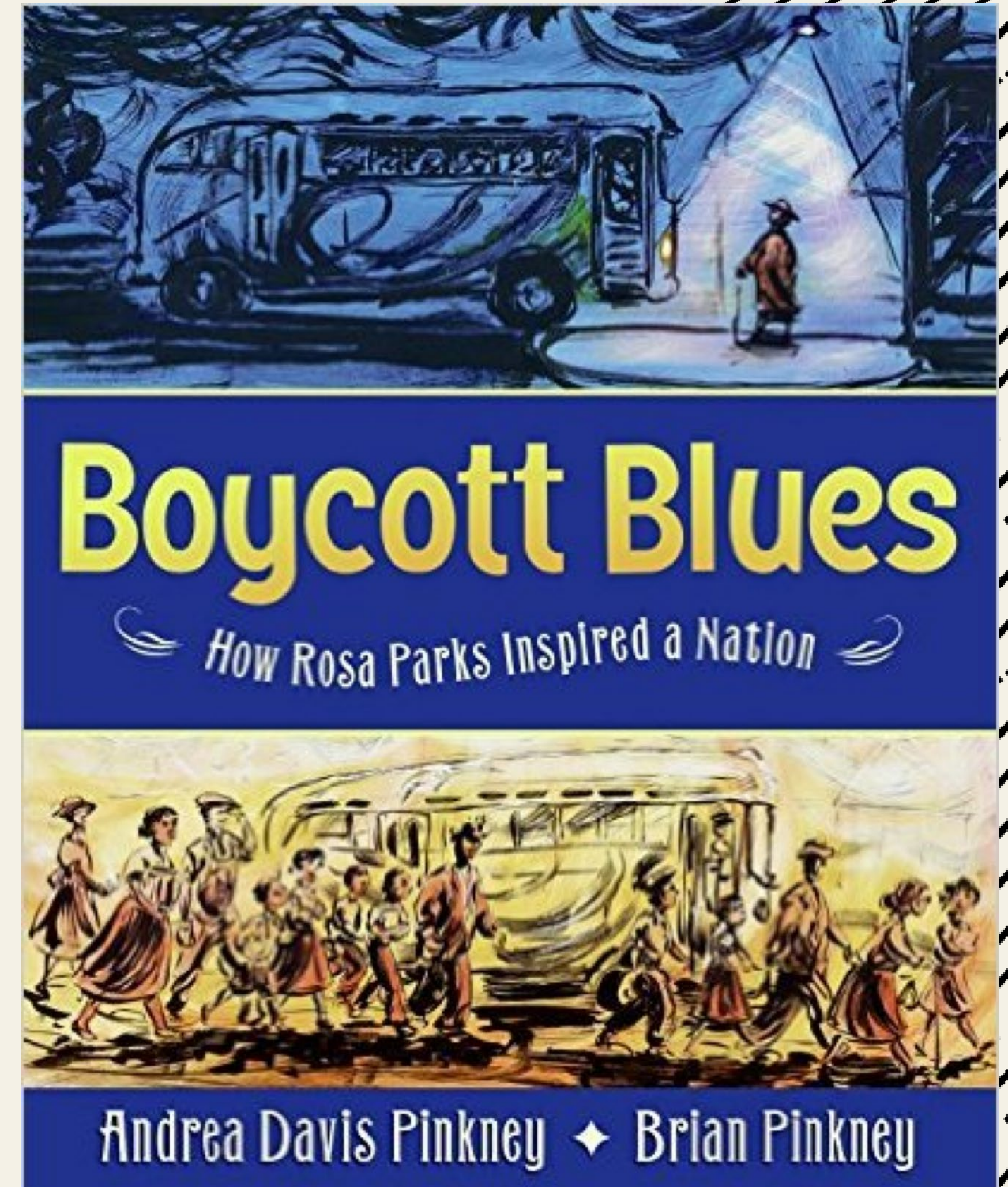


1ST - 4TH GRADE

## Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation

By Andrea Davis Pinkney | Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Tells the true story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Illustrates how people came together and found strength. Shows how women were changemakers. Bold and vivid illustrations!



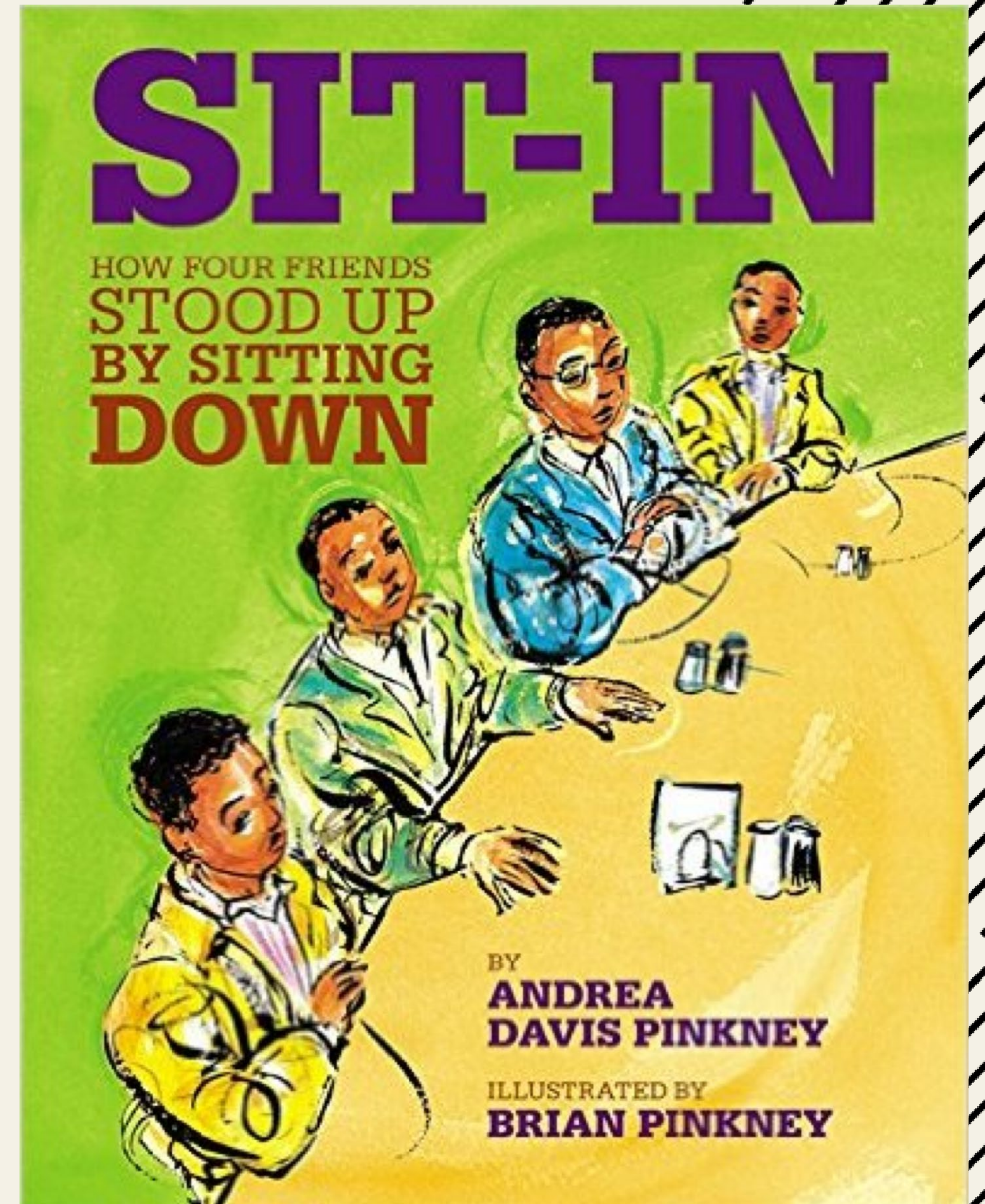


1ST - 4TH GRADE

# Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down

By Andrea Davis Pinkney | Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

About four African American college students who led Lunch Counter Sit-Ins in 1960 in Greensboro, NC. Reflects the power of young activism and nonviolent resistance.





3RD - 5TH GRADE

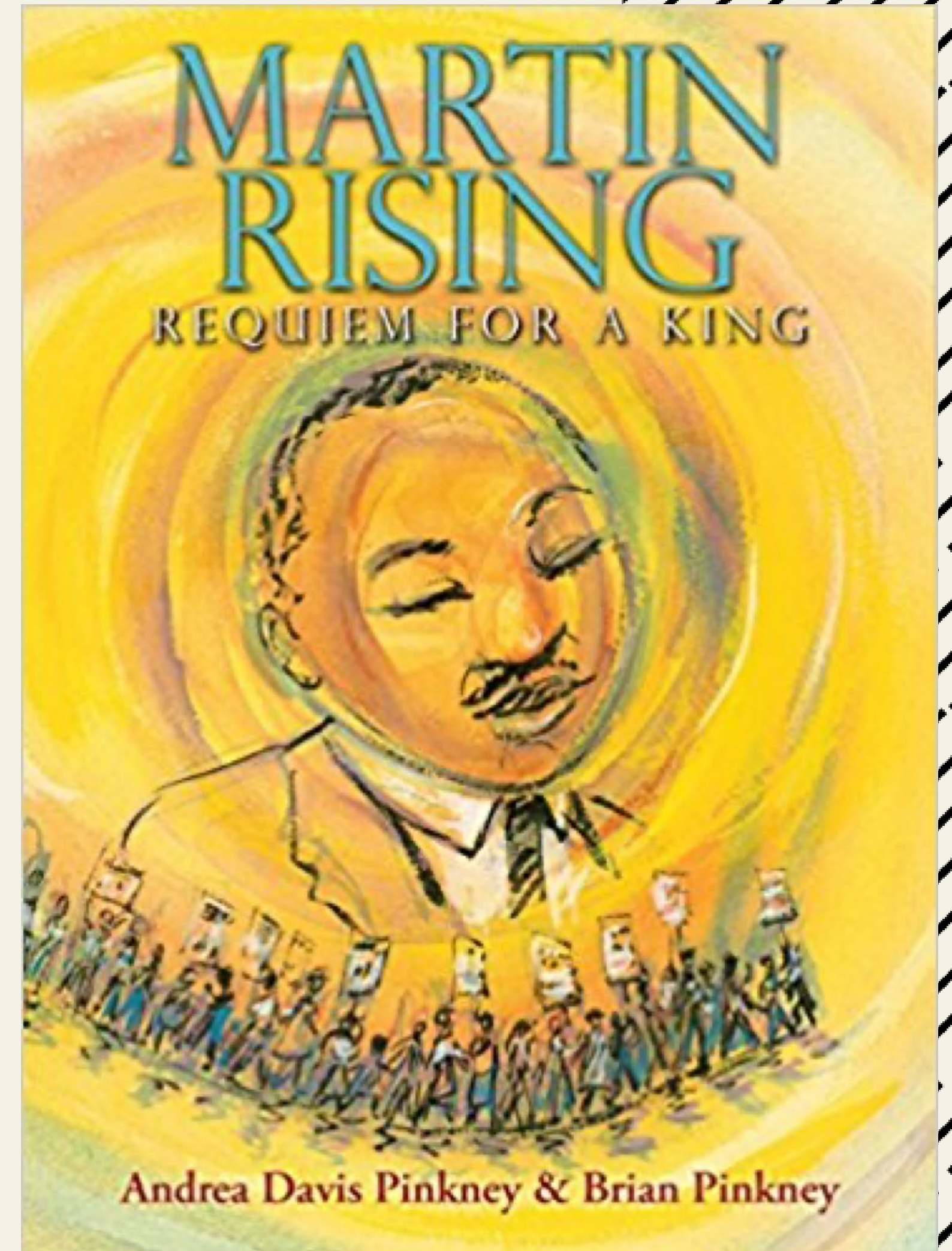
# Martin Rising: Requiem of a King

By Andrea Davis Pinkney | Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Poetry collection about Dr. King's life and legacy.

Focuses on his last days in Memphis in 1968.

Features illustrations of the Lorraine Motel and the  
Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike.





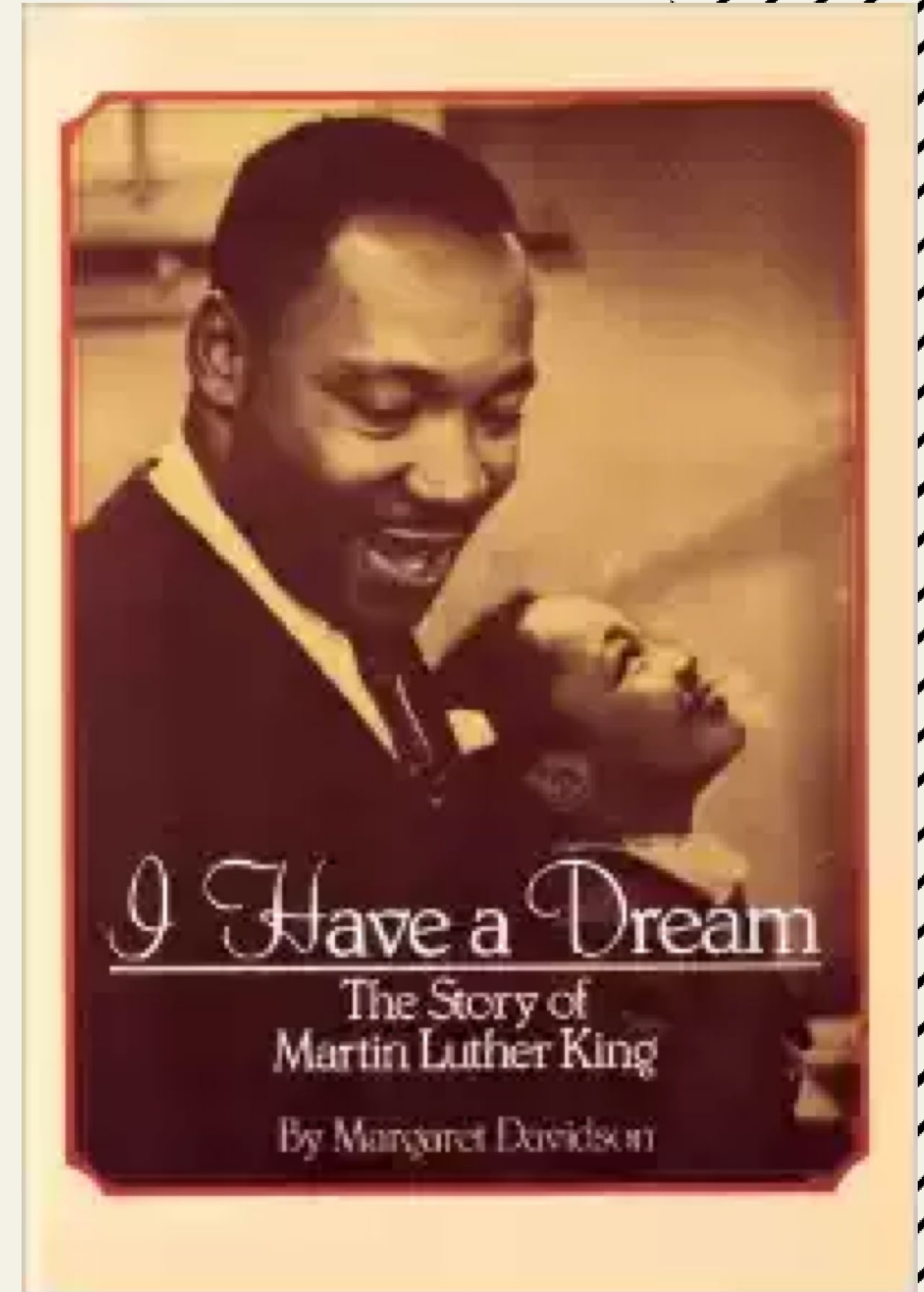


2ND - 4TH GRADE

# I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King

By Margaret Davidson

Juvenile biography tracing Dr. King's life from his childhood in Atlanta, to his tragic death in Memphis in 1968.



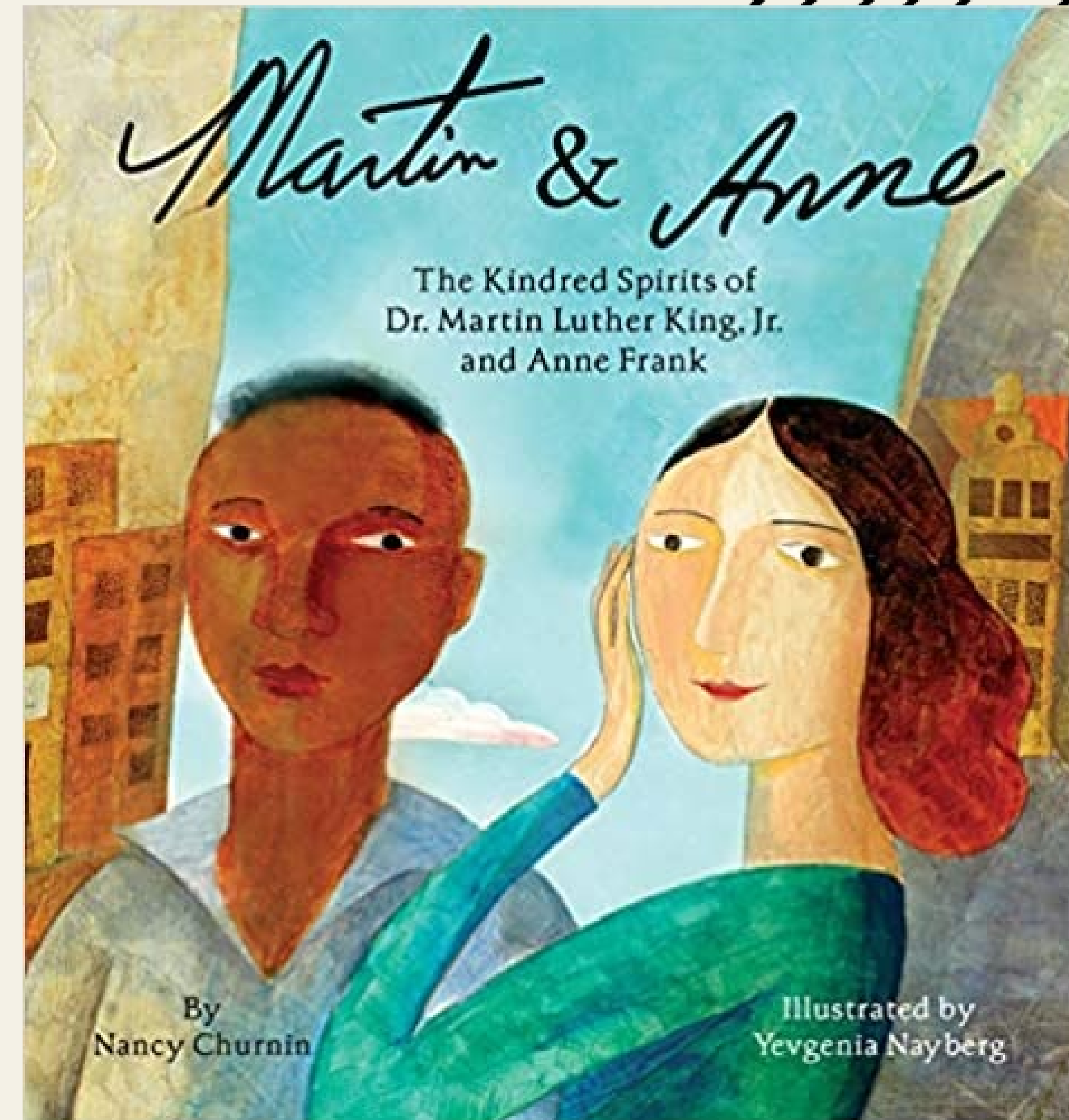


2ND - 5TH GRADE

## Martin & Anne

By Nancy Churnin | Illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg

About the kindred spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank. Both were born in 1929 but worlds apart. The book parallels their lives as they each fight prejudice and dream of freedom.





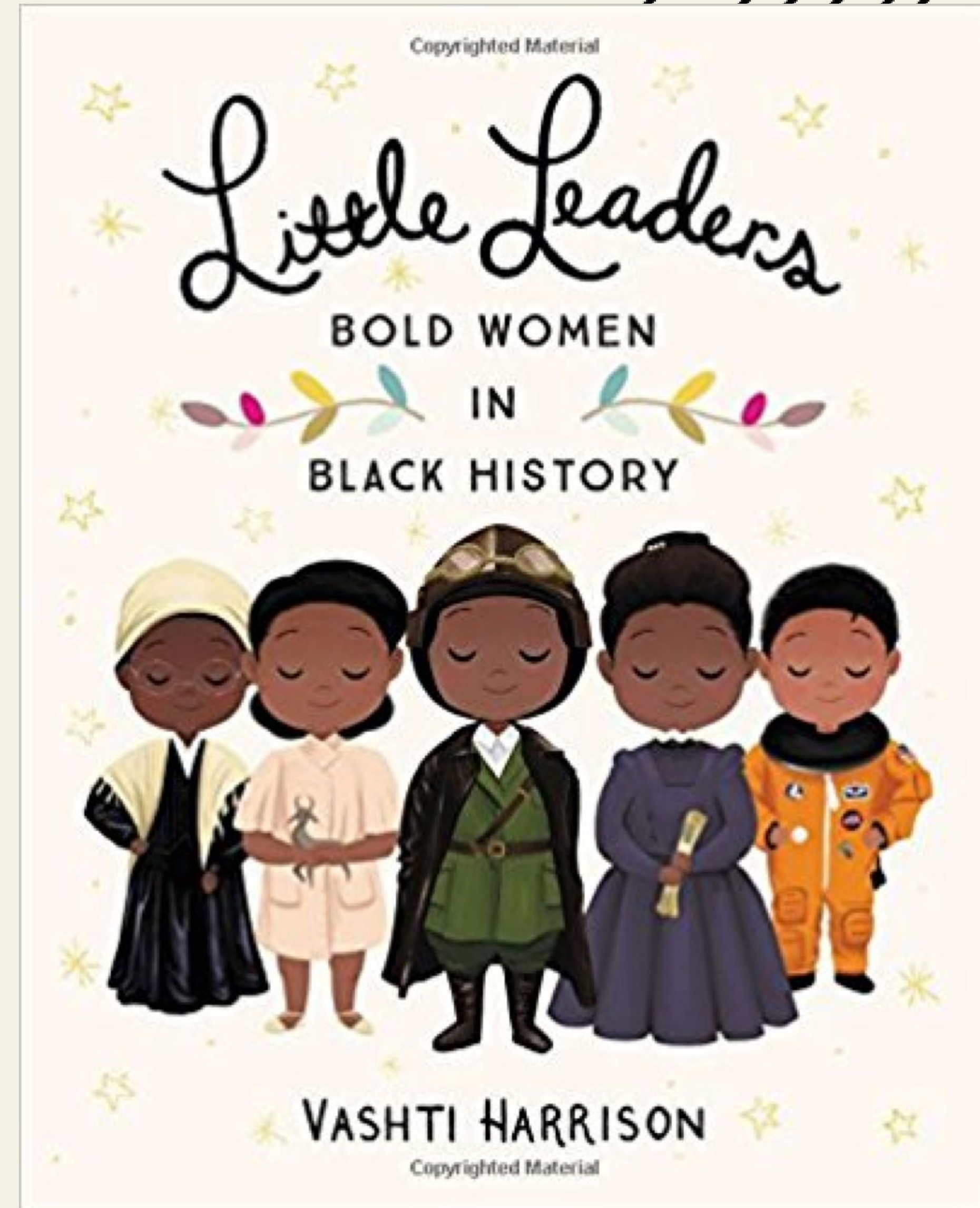
PRE-K - 4TH GRADE

# Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History

By Vashti Harrison

Beautifully illustrated book about 40 African American women, from Audre Lord to Gabby Douglass, from Mae Jemison to Julie Dash. Describes women of all ages, from past and present, who have changed and continue to impact the world positively.

*New York Times & USA Today Best Seller*





2ND - 5TH GRADE

# She Spoke: 14 Women Who Raised Their Voices and Changed the World

By Kathy MacMillan and Manuel Bernardi

Illustrated by Kathrin Honesta

Discover and hear actual voices of women who “Raised their Voices and Changed the World” like Malala Yousafzai, Dolores Huerta, Maya Angelou, Sonia Sotomayer, Shirley Chisholm, and Mary McLeod Bethune.

Sound bites are awesome!



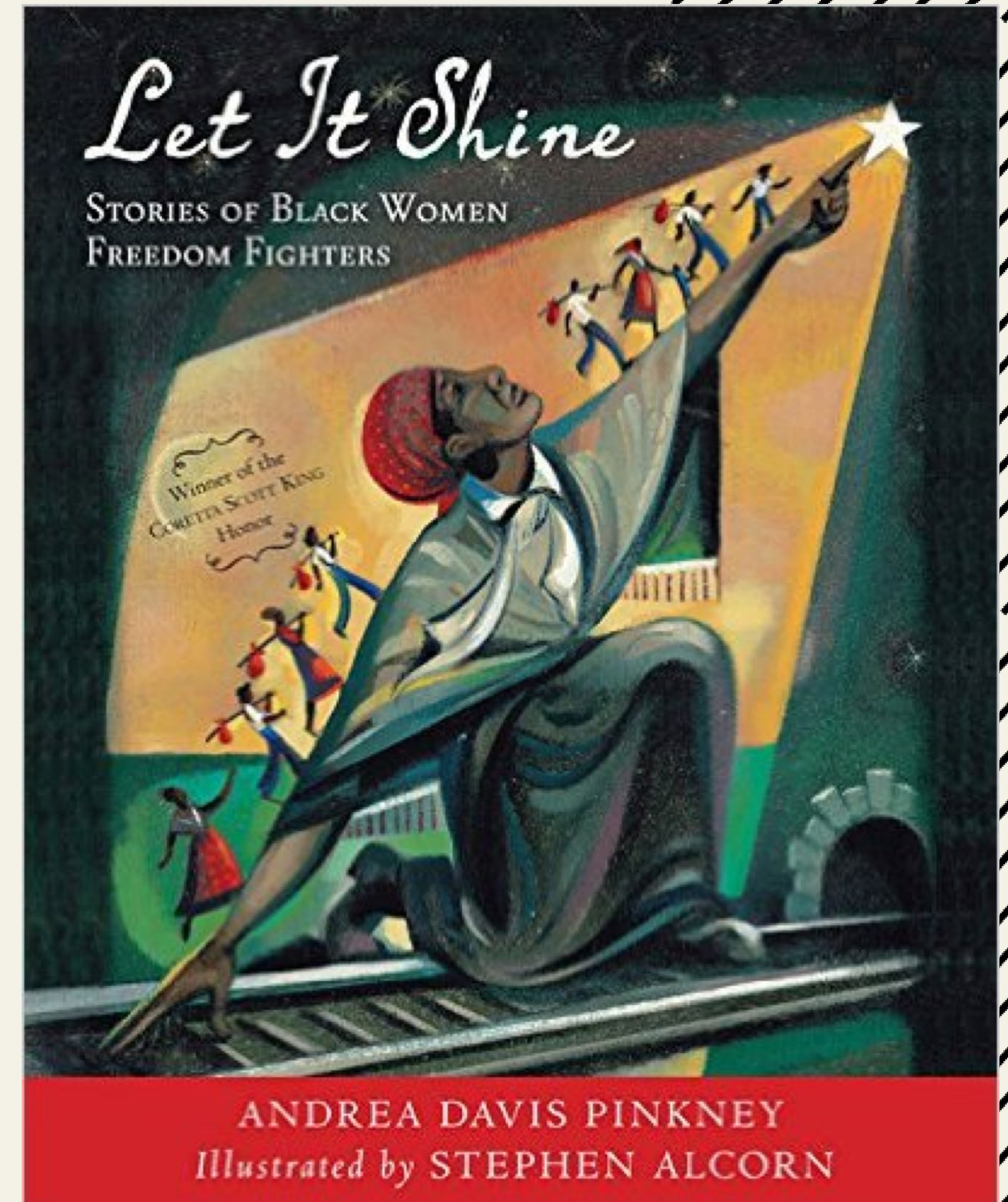


2ND - 4TH GRADE

# Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters

By Andrea Davis Pinkney | Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn

About African American Women who made history, such as Sojourner Truth, Ella Baker, Ida B. Wells, Fannie Lou Hamer, & Dorothy Height. Won the Coretta Scott King Award. This book tells true stories of “she-roes” from 1797 to 1988!



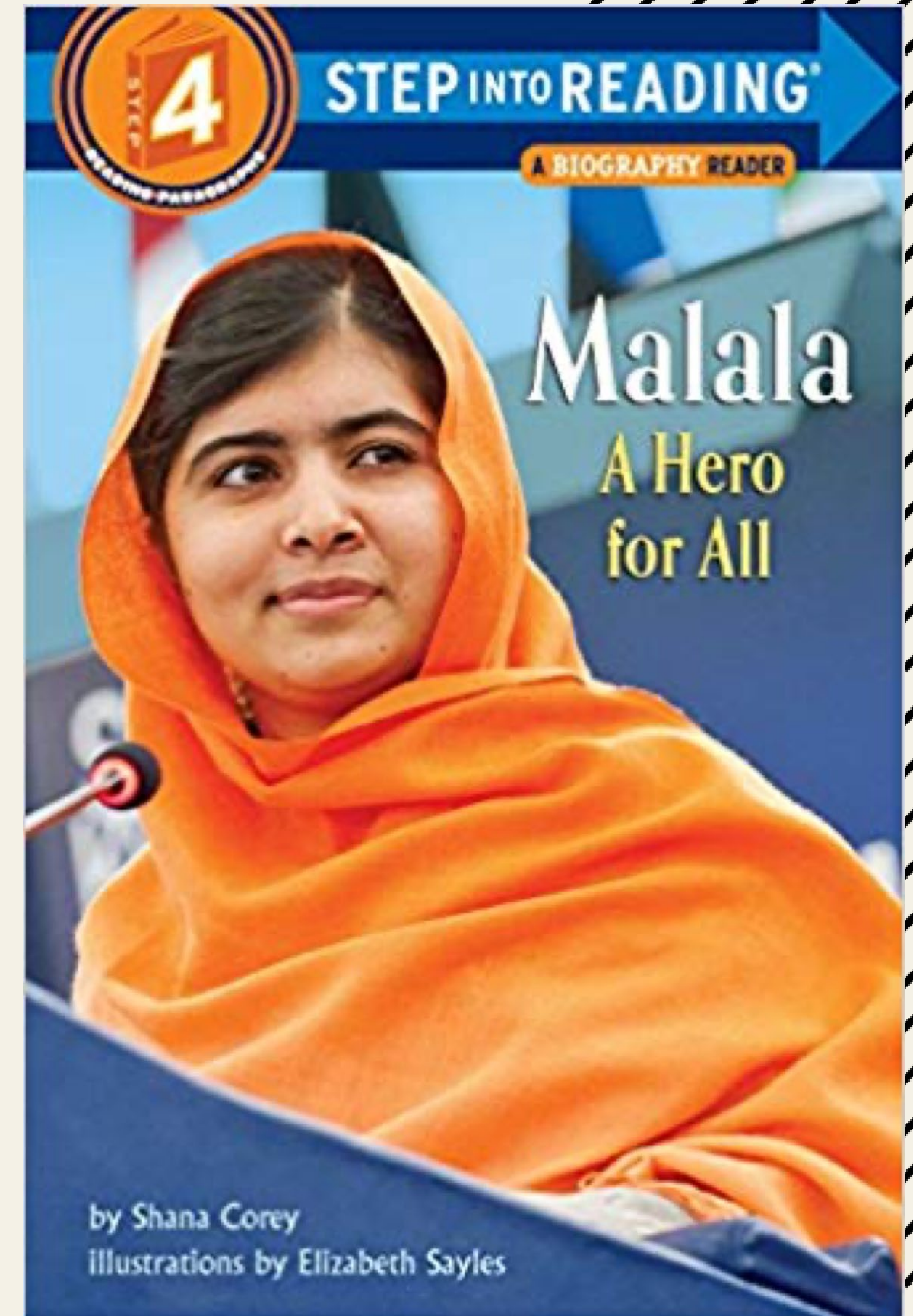


2ND - 3RD GRADE

## Malala: A Hero for All

By Shana Corey | Illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles

About Malala, who spoke up for the rights of girls everywhere and for all children's right to education. Malala addressed the United Nations at the age of 16, and is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.





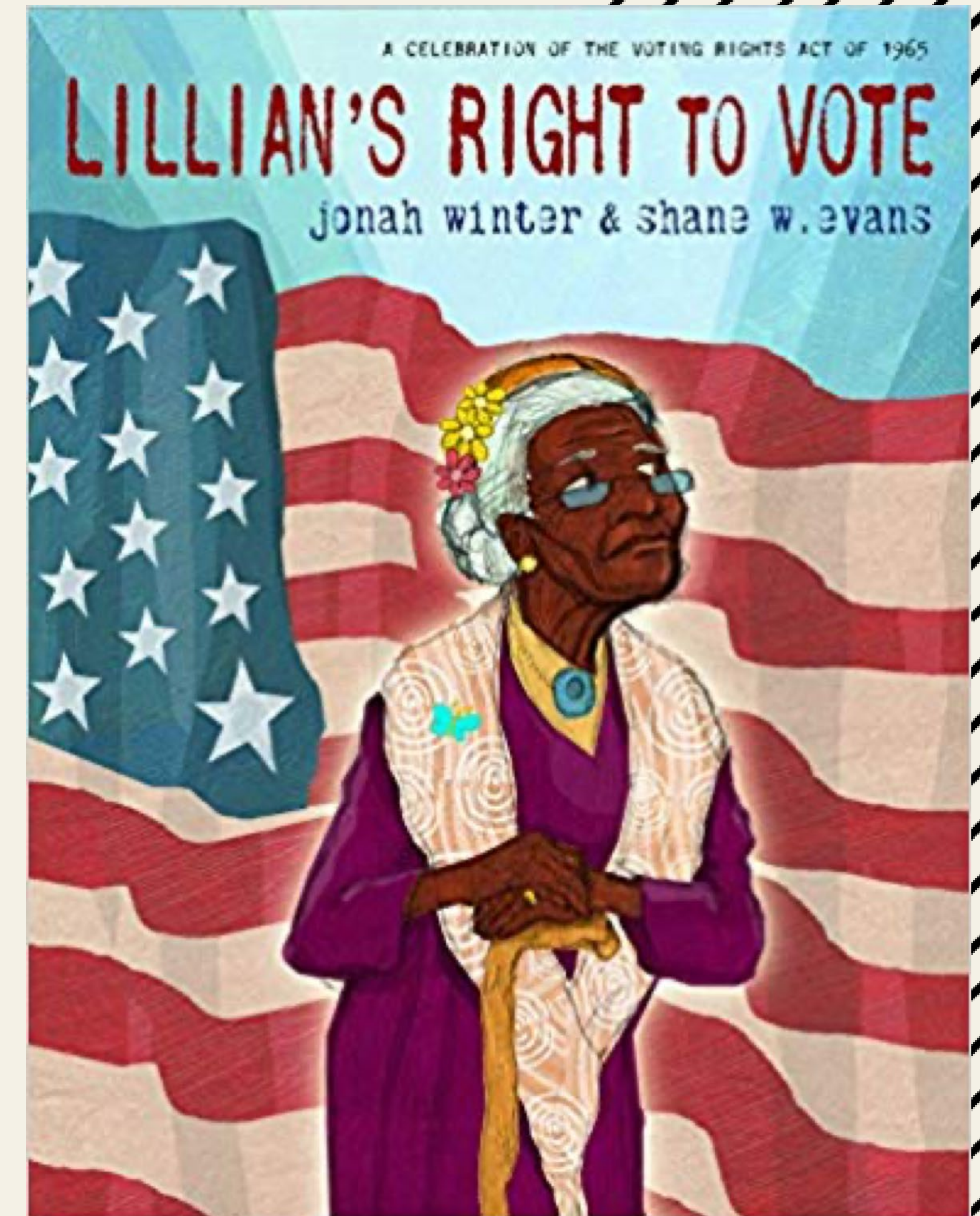
1ST - 4TH GRADE

# Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

By Jonah Winter | Illustrated by Shane Evans

About an elderly woman who is going to vote and reflects on history of voting rights for women and African Americans.

Discusses passage of 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments.



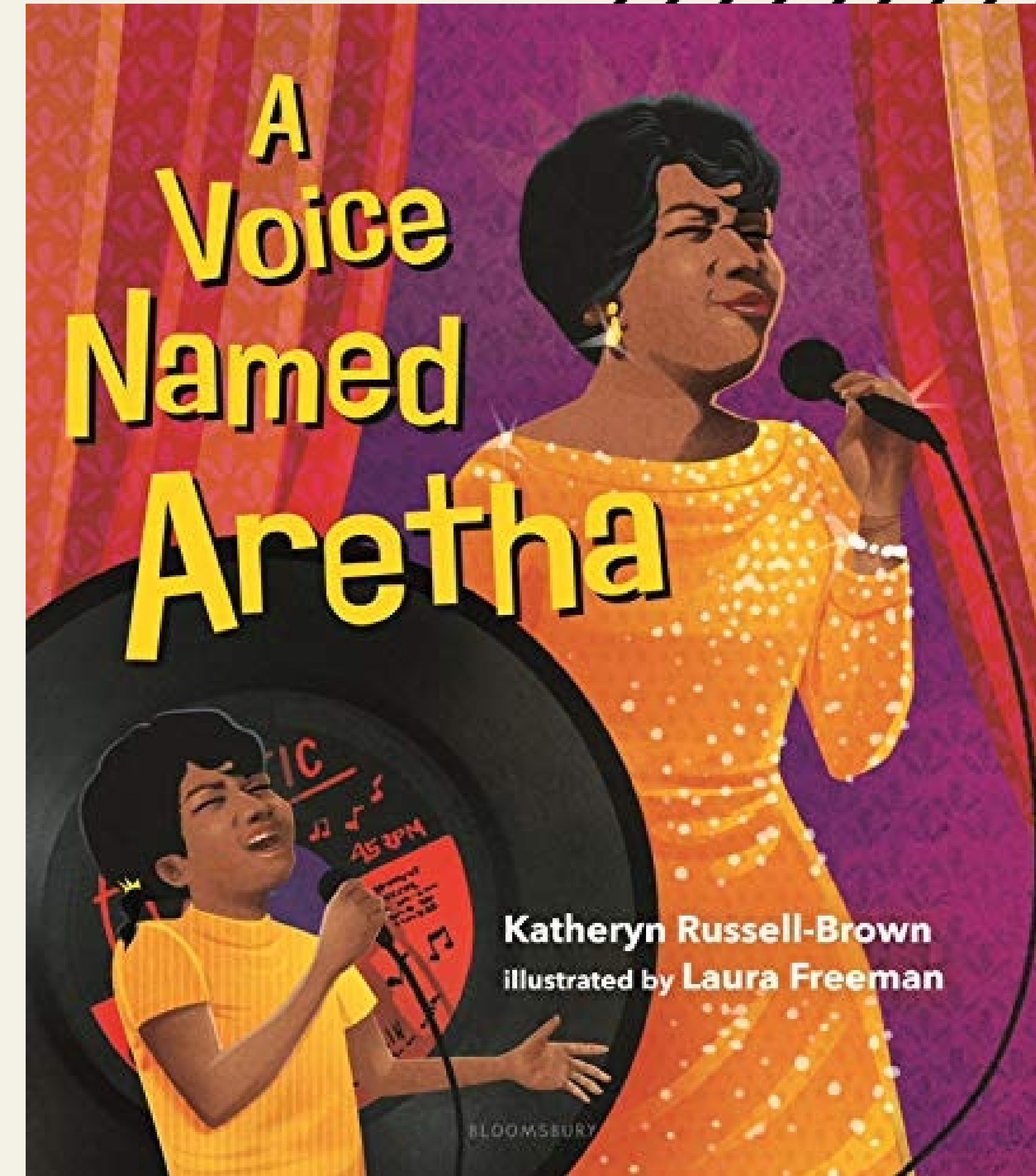


K - 5TH GRADE

# A Voice Named Aretha

By Katheryn Russell-Brown | Illustrated by Laura Freeman

Chronicles the life and career of the legendary Queen of Soul. Gorgeous illustrations! Accessible for young readers as story begins with "a shy little girl with a voice so powerful..." If you love this book, also try *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone*.







4TH - 6TH GRADE

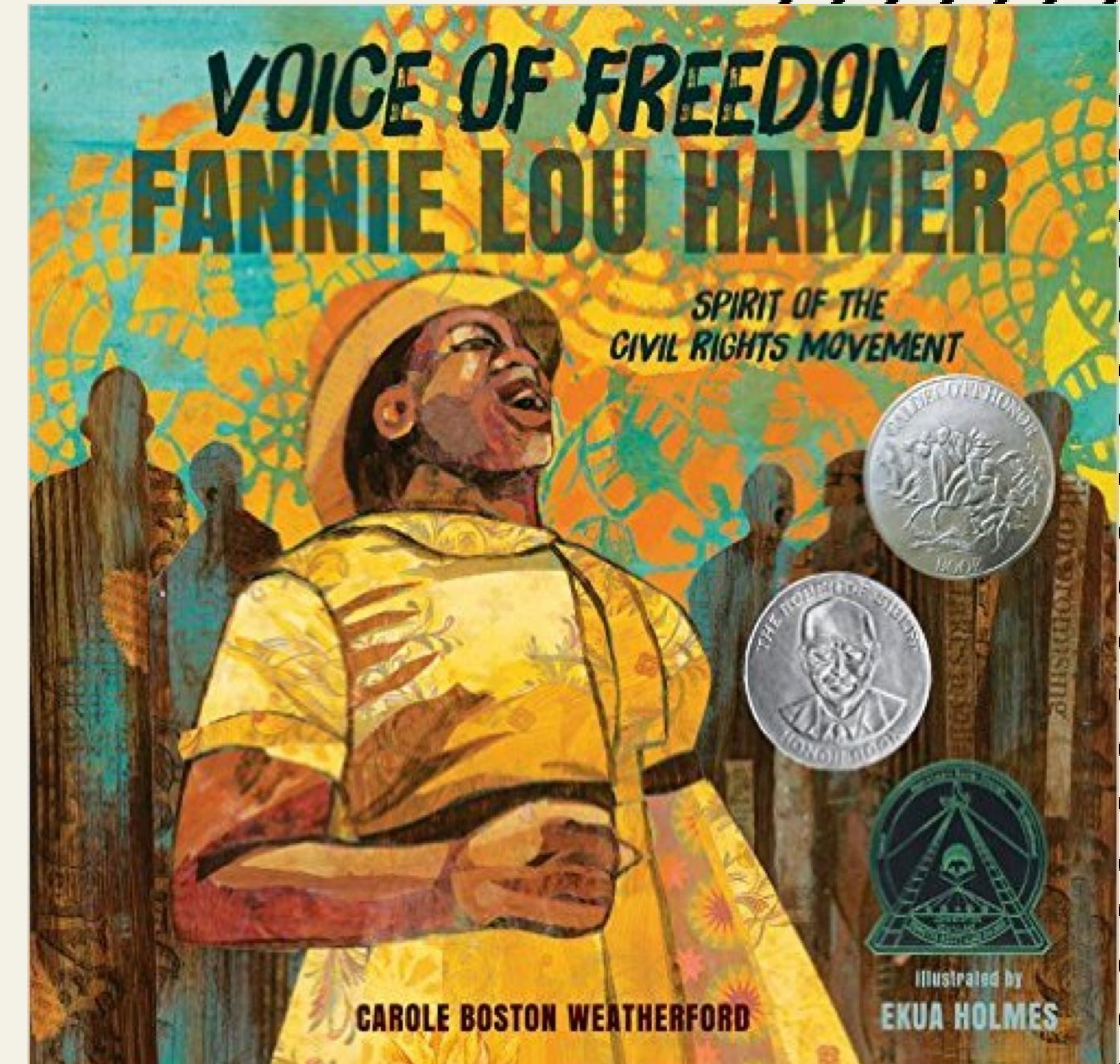
\* Contains emotionally charged language and content which call for contextual groundwork

# Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement

By Carole Boston Weatherford | Illustrated by Ekuia Holmes

Sheds light on the story of Fannie Lou Hamer, a grassroots “she-ro.” Covers the hardships she overcame, and her activism, leading voter registration efforts and the MS Freedom Democratic Party.

Won the Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Awards.





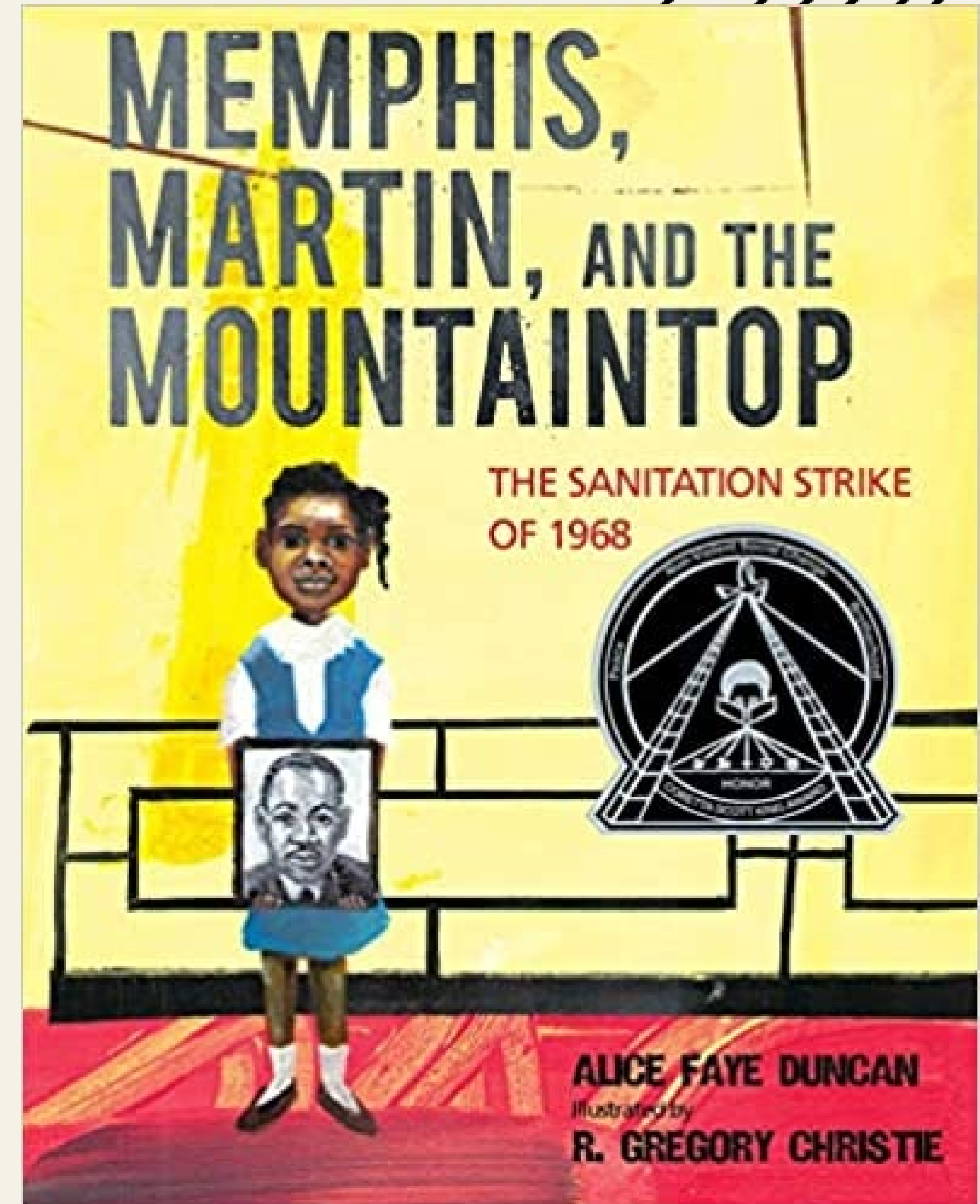
4RD-5TH GRADE

# Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968

By Alice Faye Duncan | Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Each page is like a separate chapter telling this historically significant and tragic story through the eyes of a young girl.

Won Coretta Scott King Award.





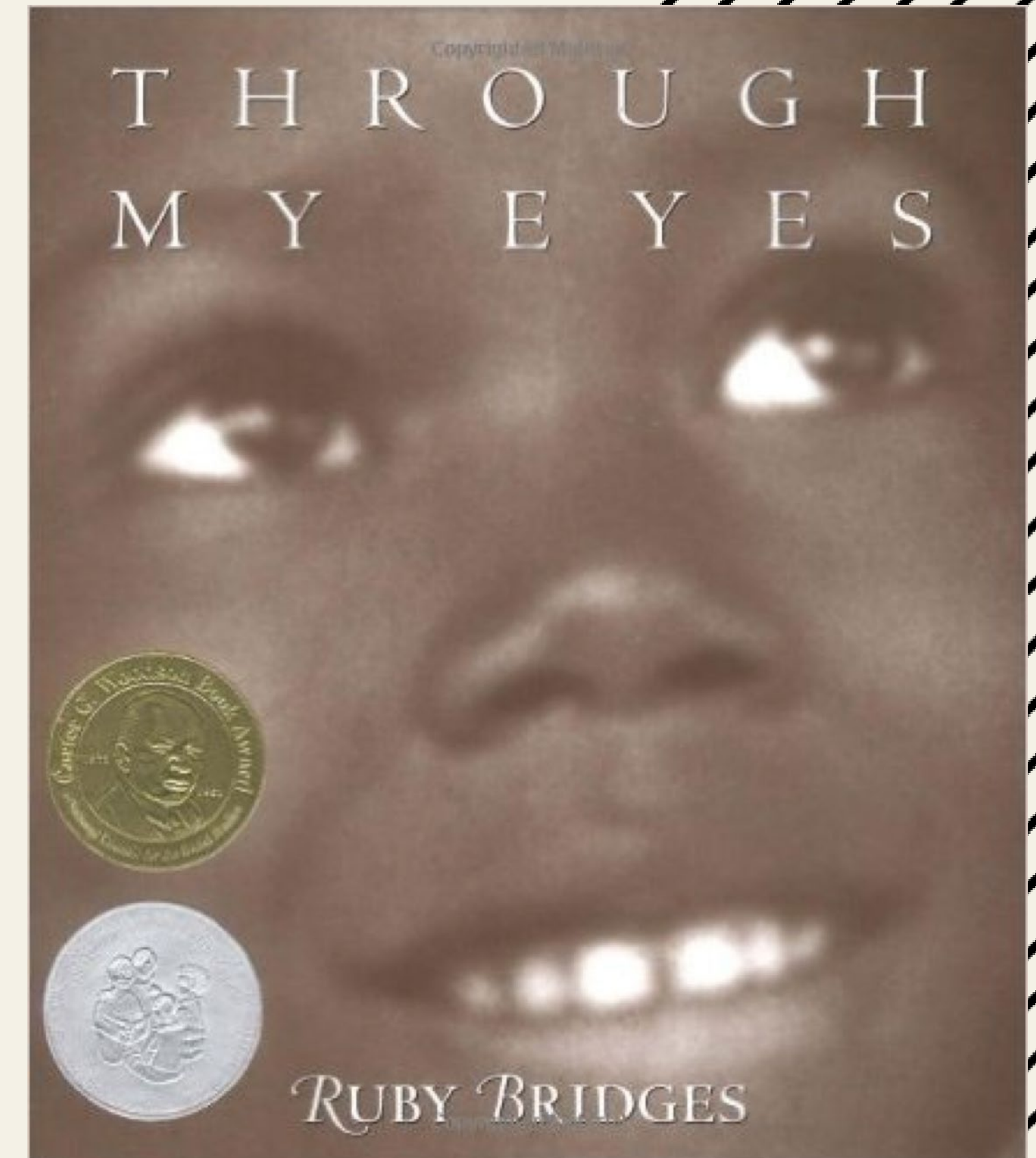
3RD - 6TH GRADE

## Through My Eyes

By Ruby Bridges

Autobiography of 6-year-old Ruby Bridges, who integrates a public elementary school in New Orleans in 1960.

Has primary resource photos. Tells the true story of this young activist's bravery & courage.





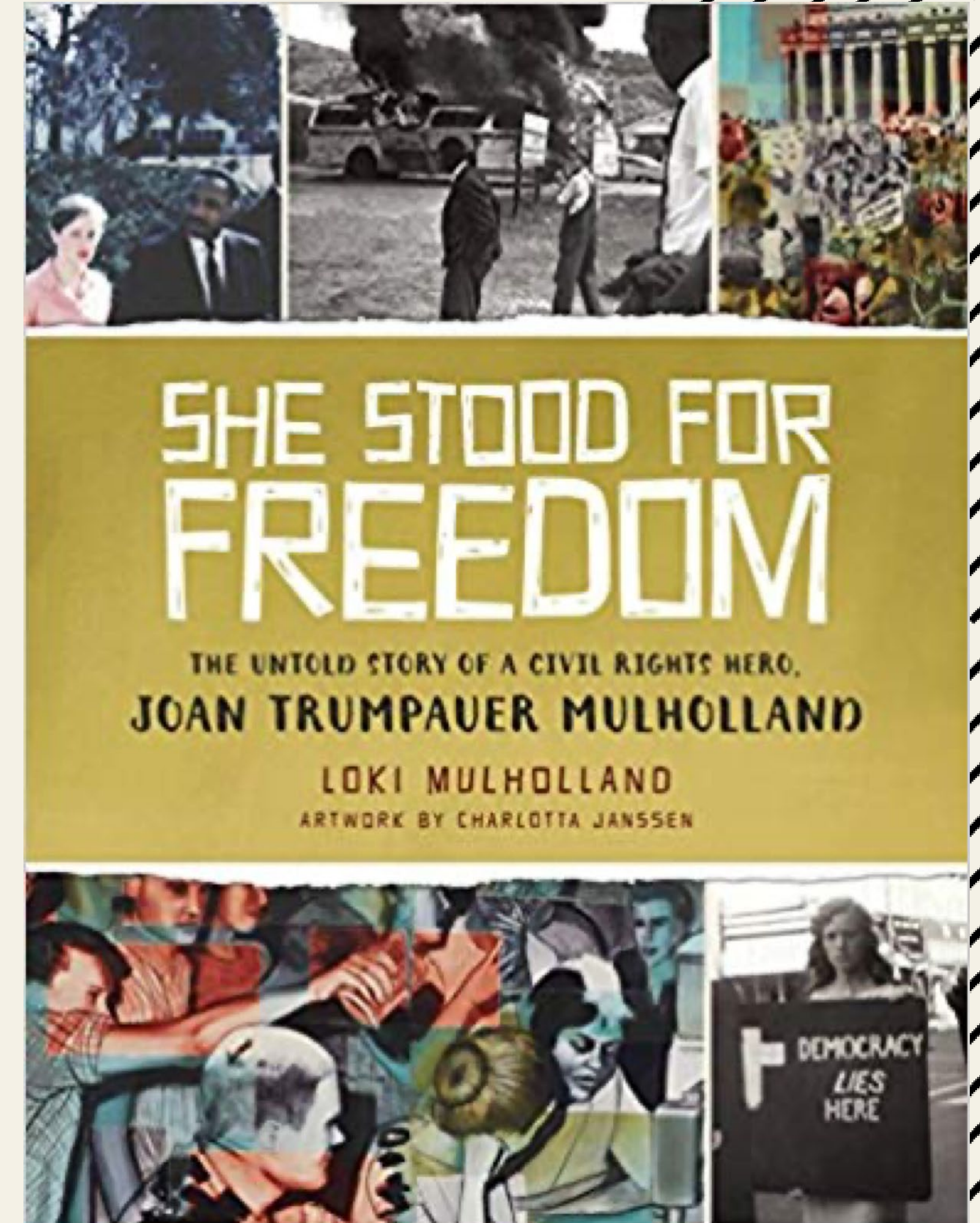
2ND - 6TH GRADE

# She Stood For Freedom: The Untold Story of a Civil Rights Hero, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland

By Loki Mulholland and Angela Fairwell | Art by Charlotta Jansen

About a young, white female freedom fighter.

This is available in two formats (same title) for younger & older students.





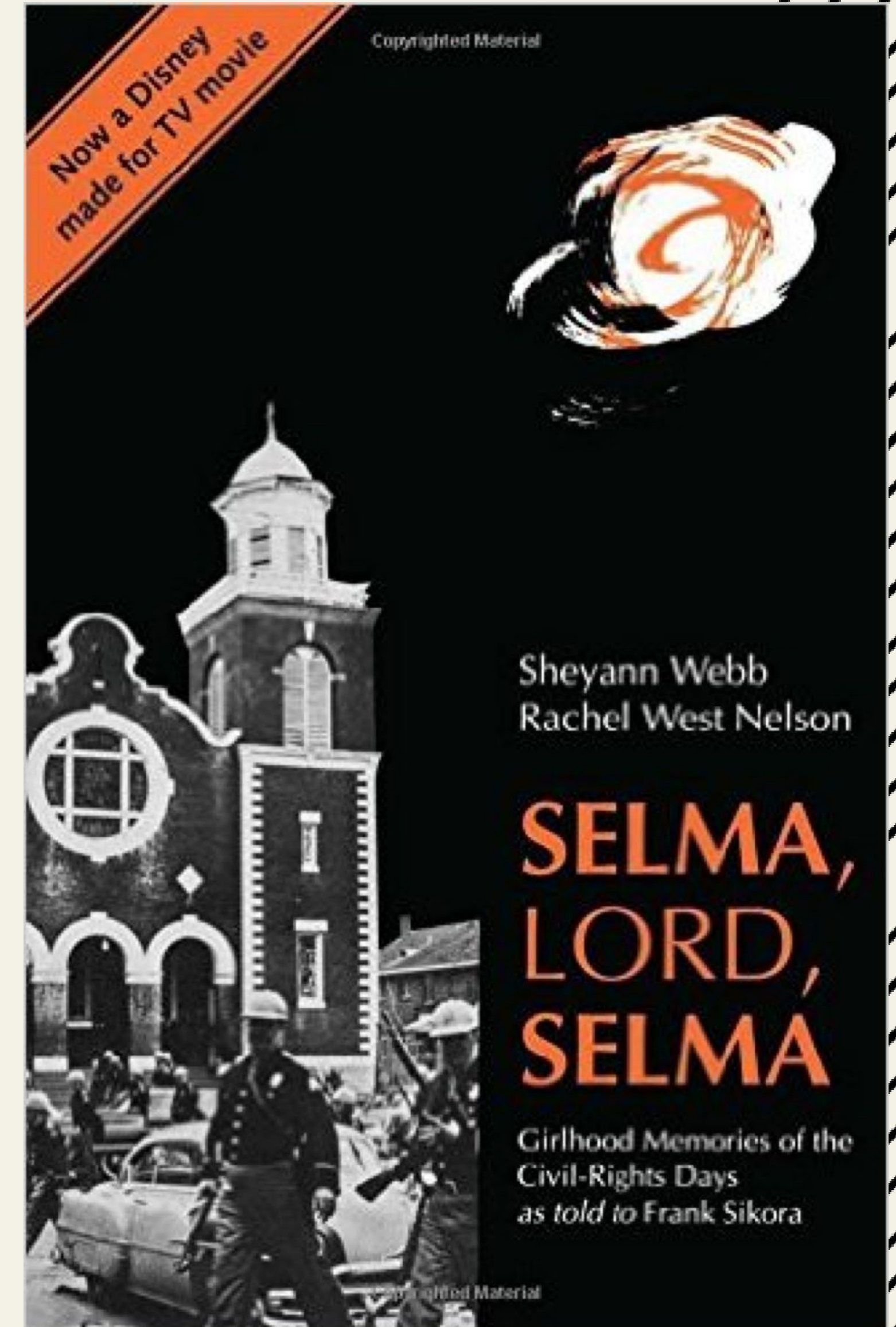
3RD - 6TH GRADE

# Selma Lord Selma: Girlhood Memories of Civil Rights Days

By Sheyann Webb and Rachel West Nelson

About Selma Marches (in Selma, AL).

Autobiography of two girls who marched with Dr. King in 1965 at the ages of 8 and 9. Great first civil rights chapter book for kids.





4TH - 8TH GRADE

## We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March

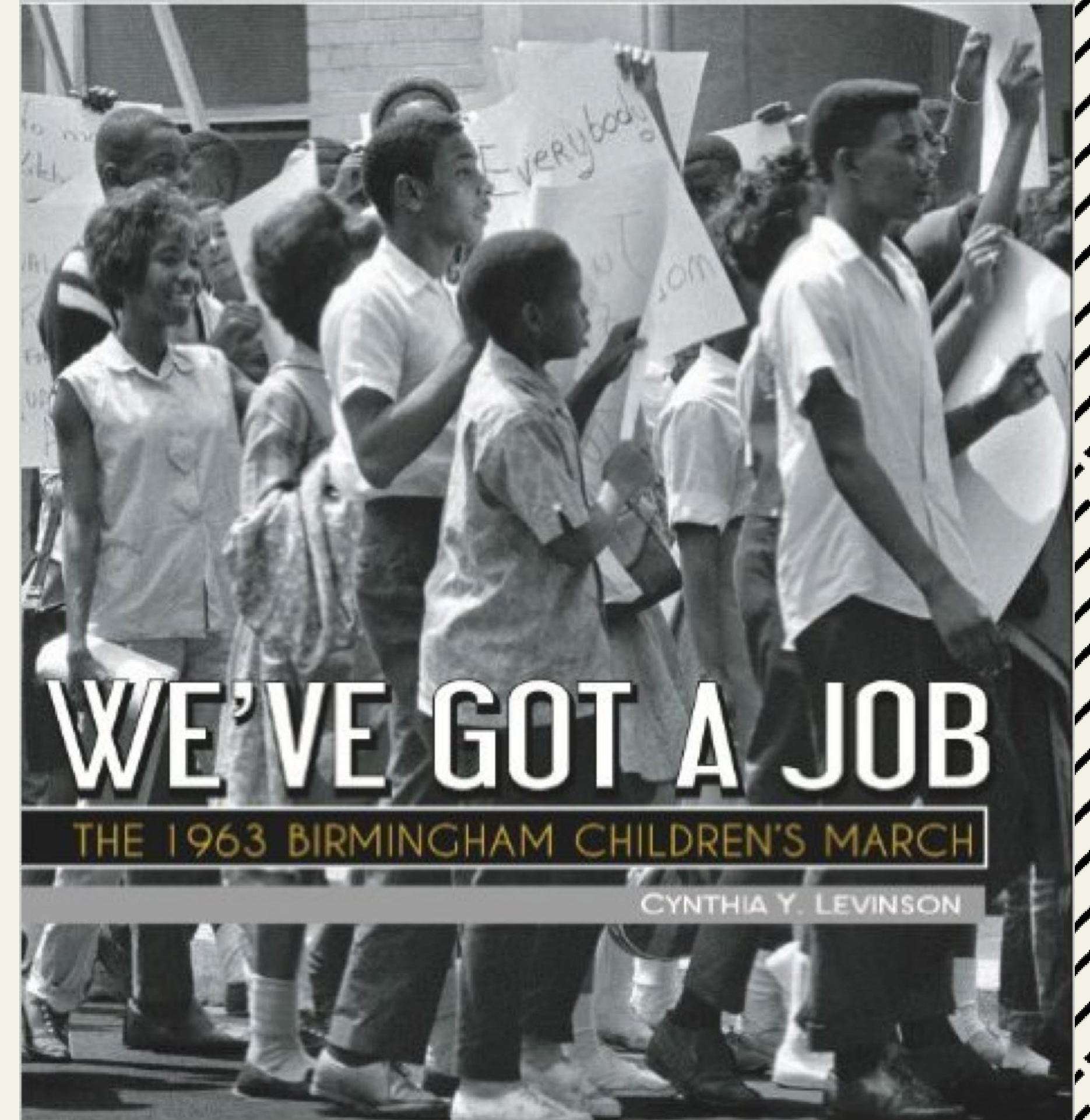
By Cynthia Levinson

Strong reference with primary sources

Shows the power of young activism.

To accompany this, watch the video

"Mighty Times: The Children's March"



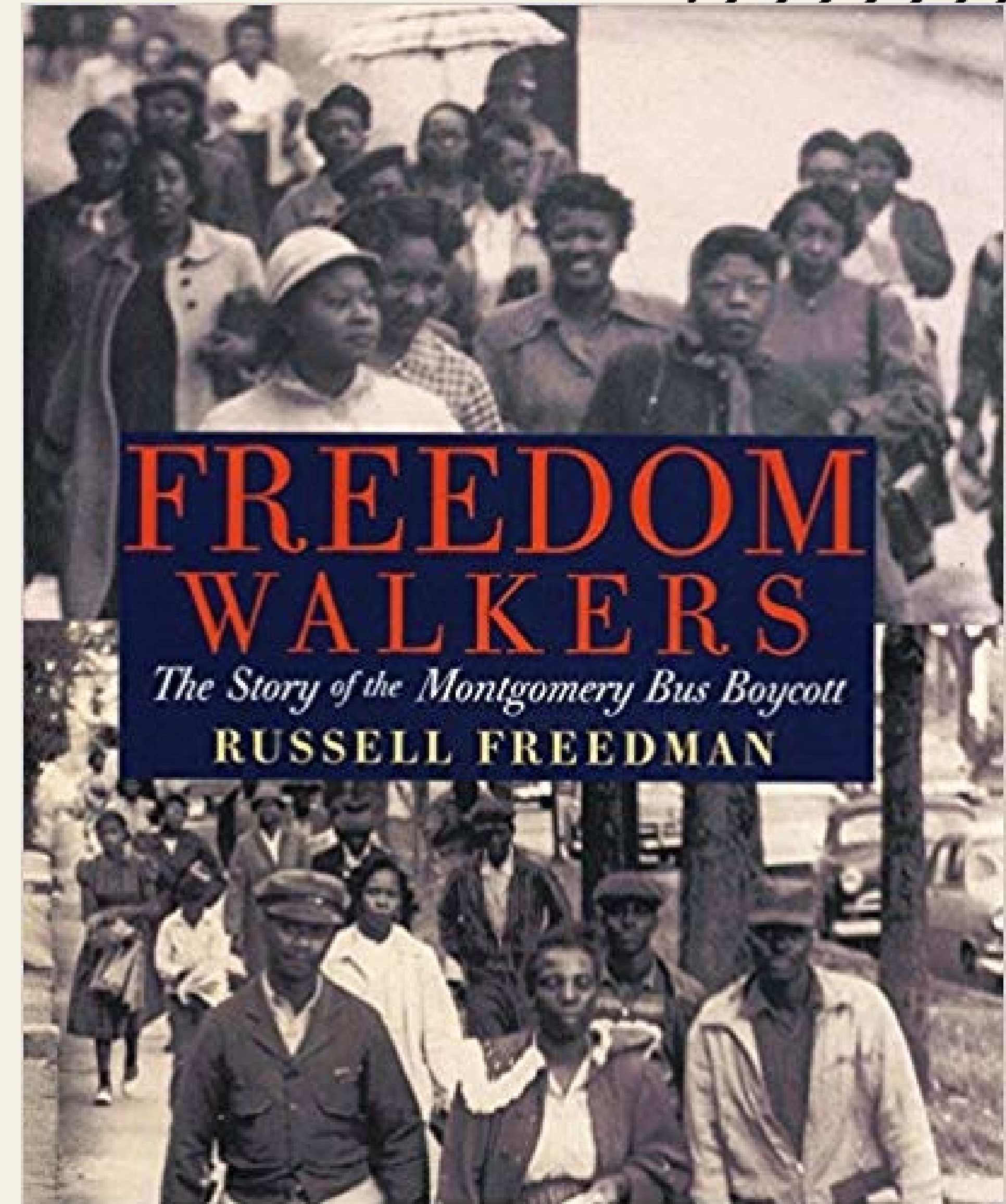


6TH - 8TH GRADE

## Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott

By Russell Freedman

Includes first-hand accounts, great primary sources & iconic photos from the Boycott. Highlights activism of women like Jo Ann Robinson & Claudette Colvin in addition to Rosa Parks.



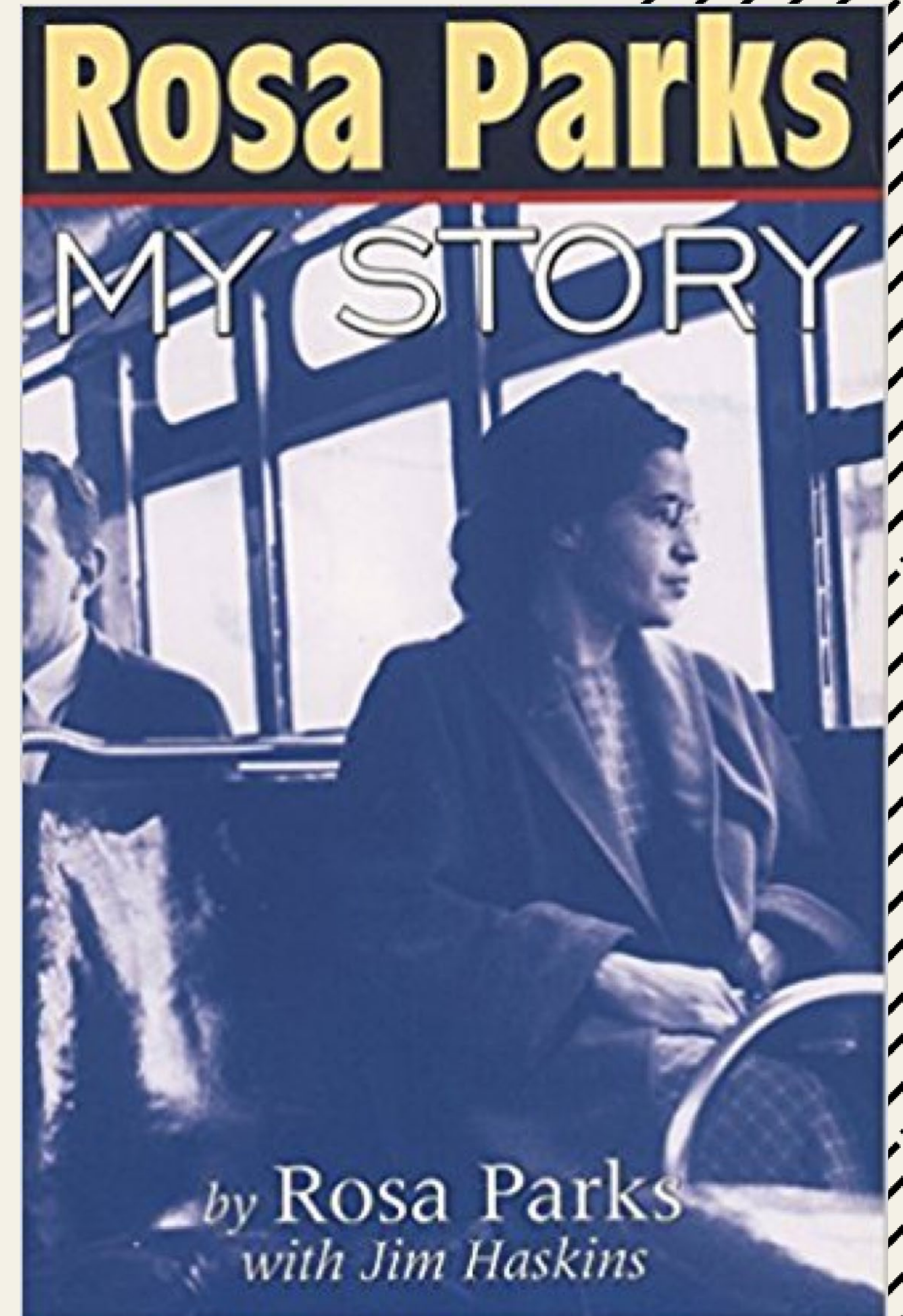


3RD - 7TH GRADE

## Rosa Parks: My Story

By Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins

Autobiography and quick read. Gives new insight into Rosa's life and motivation to ignite change. Shares stories from her long road of activism and persistence.





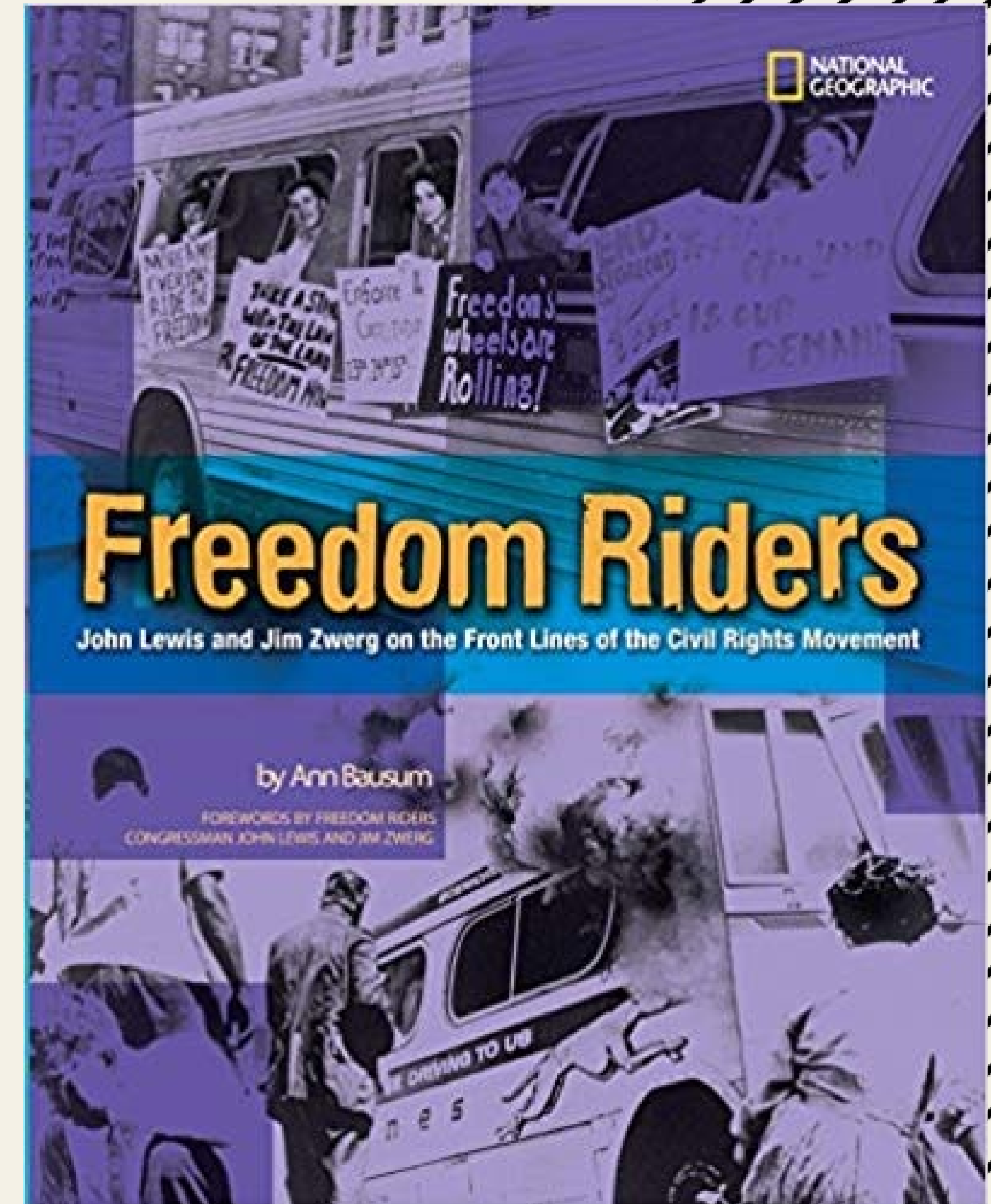


5TH - 9TH GRADE

# Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement

By Ann Bausum

Contrasts Lewis' and Zwerg's childhood and how their divergent paths come together during the Movement. Fantastic reference book. Includes photographs from the Freedom Rides.



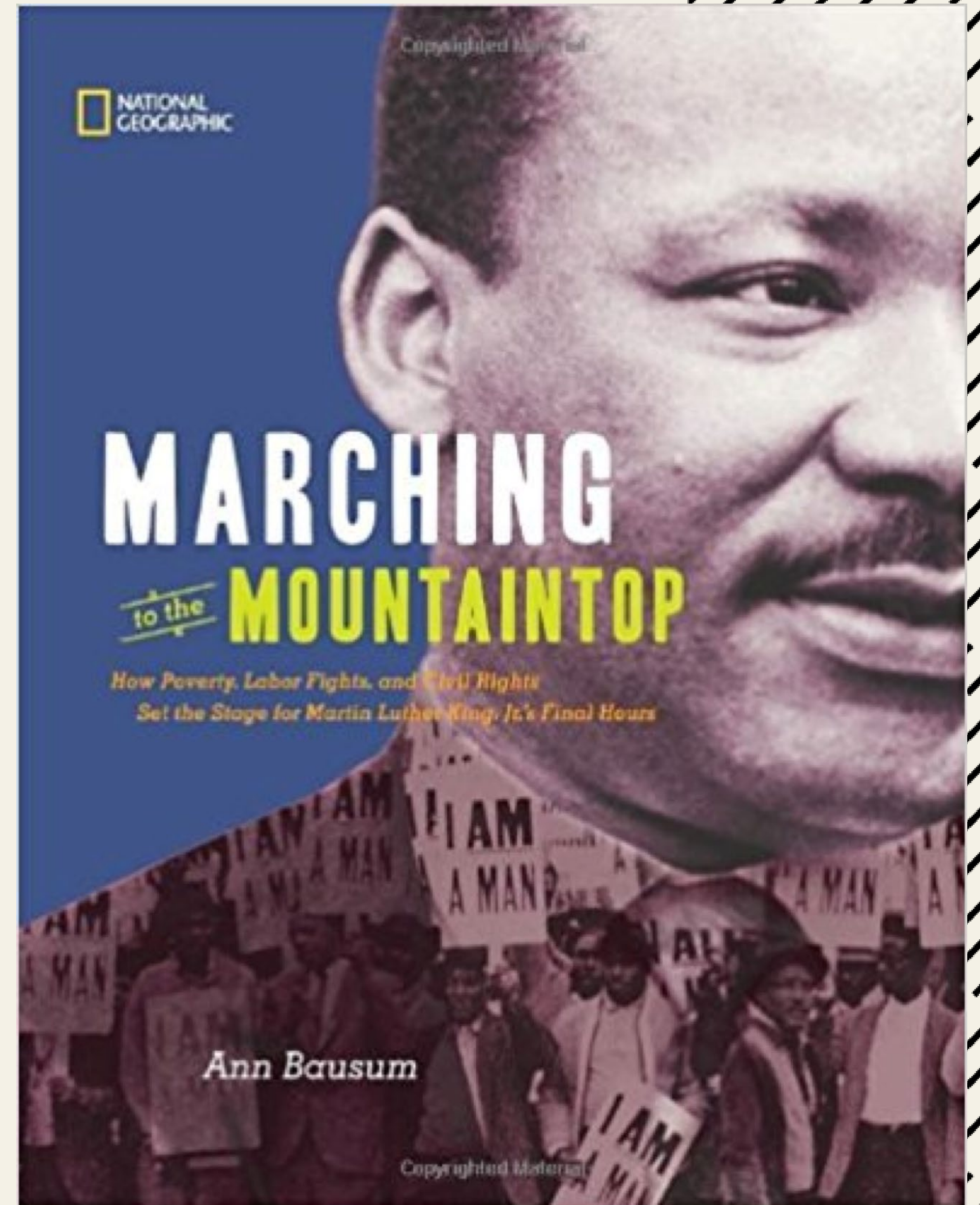


6TH - 12TH GRADE

## Marching to the Mountaintop: How Poverty, Labor Fights and Civil Rights Set the Stage for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Final Hours

By Ann Bausum

About Dr. King in 1968. Can be a reference book. Includes actual photographs from the Sanitation Workers Strike in Memphis, TN.



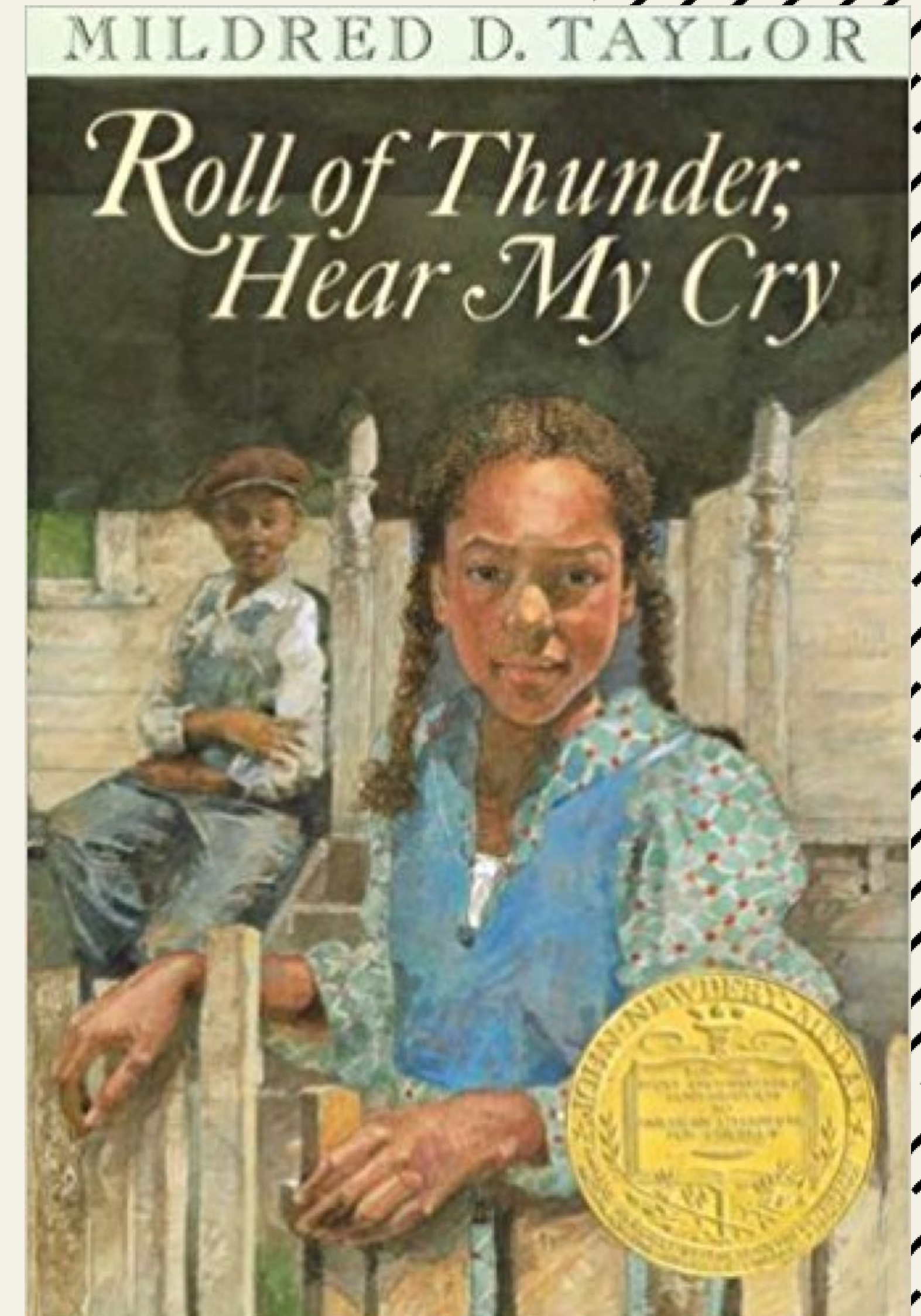


5TH GRADE & UP

# Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

By Mildred D. Taylor

Novel about a young girl growing up in the southern Mississippi during the Great Depression. Won the Newbery Award. Part one of six in the Logan Family Saga book series.



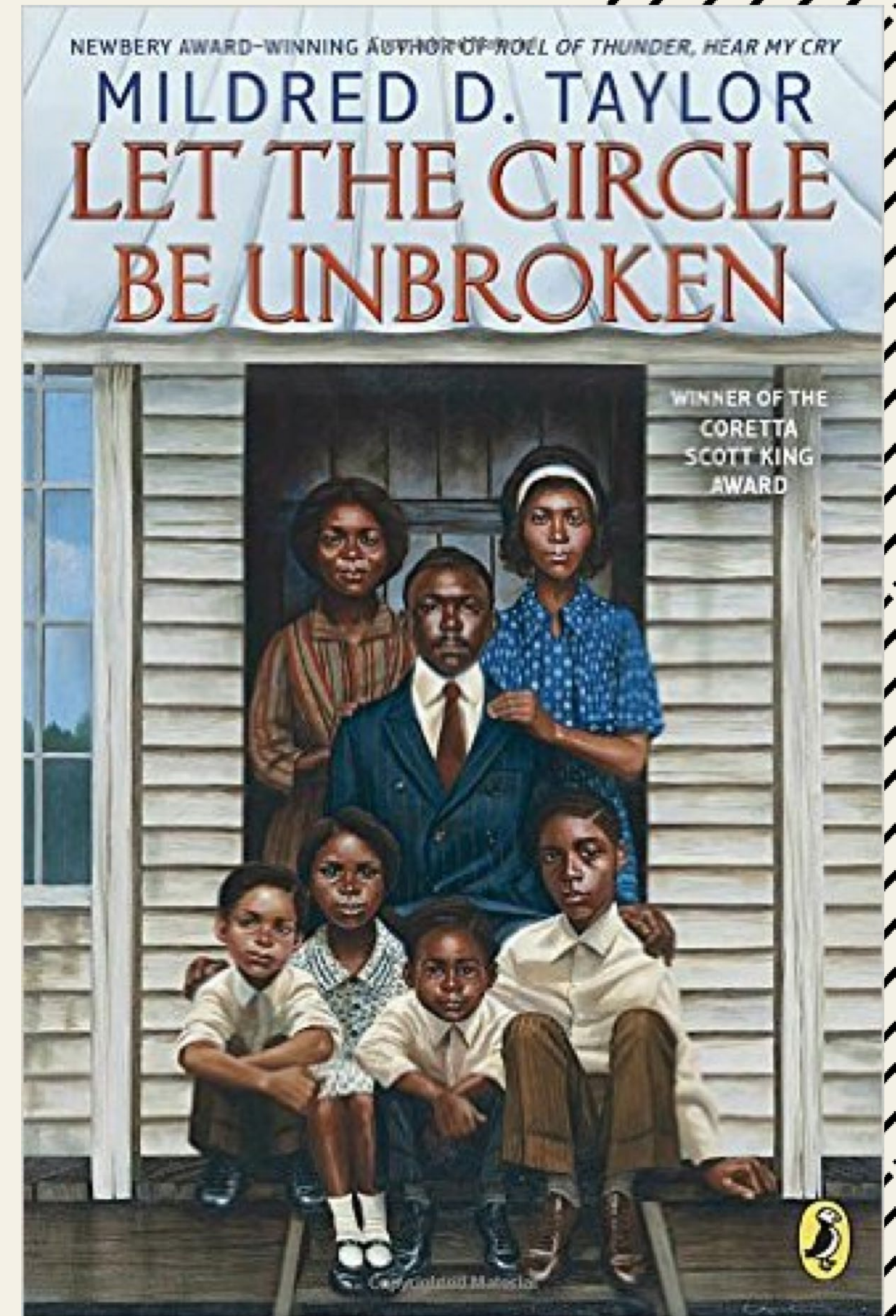


5TH GRADE & UP

## Let the Circle Be Unbroken

By Mildred D. Taylor

Novel about a young girl growing up in the southern Mississippi during the 1930's. Won the Coretta Scott King Award. Part two of six in the Logan Family Saga book series.



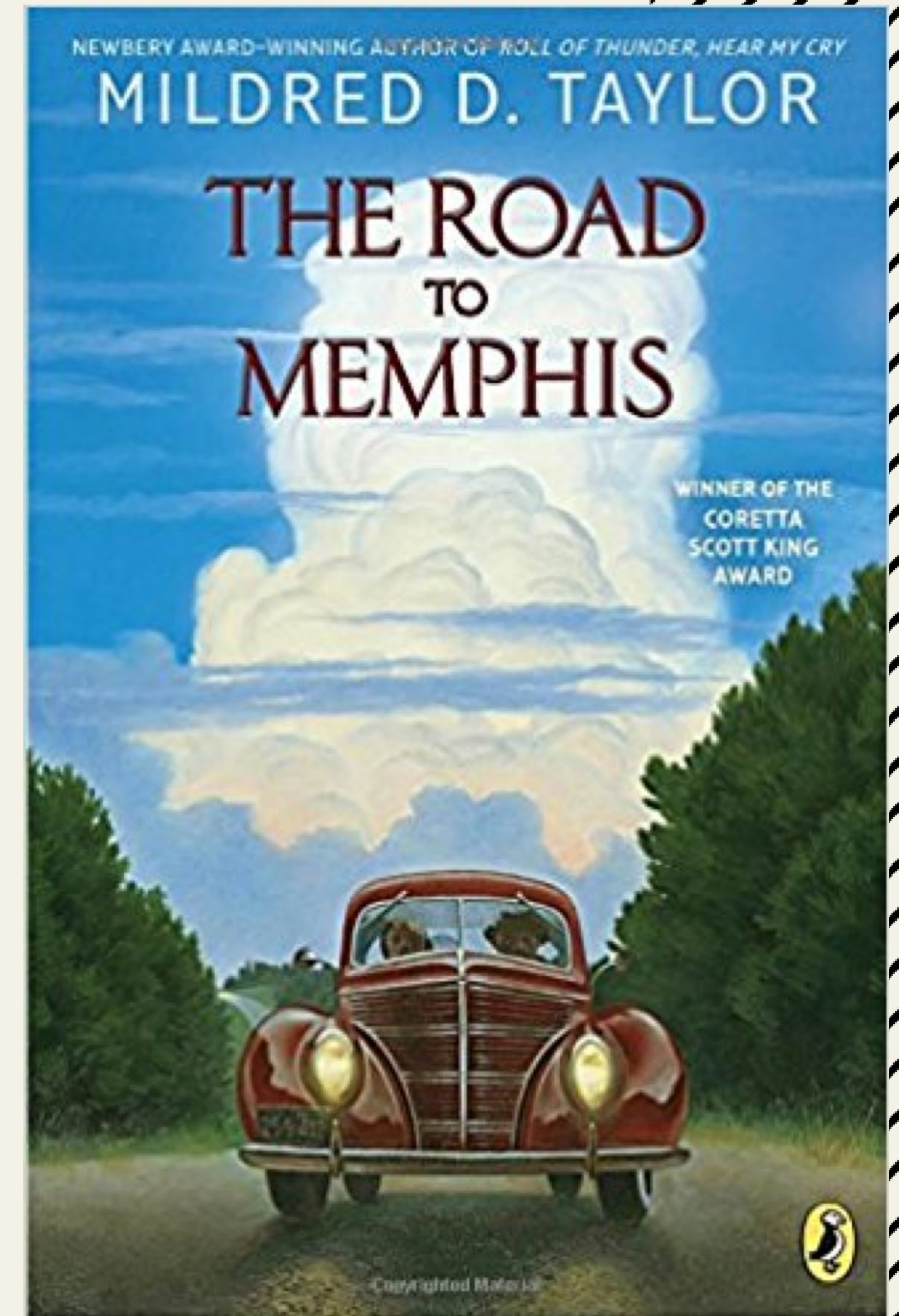


5TH GRADE & UP

## The Road to Memphis

By Mildred D. Taylor

Novel about a girl going into 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Jackson, Mississippi in 1941. Won the Coretta Scott King Award. Part three of six in the Logan Family Saga book series.



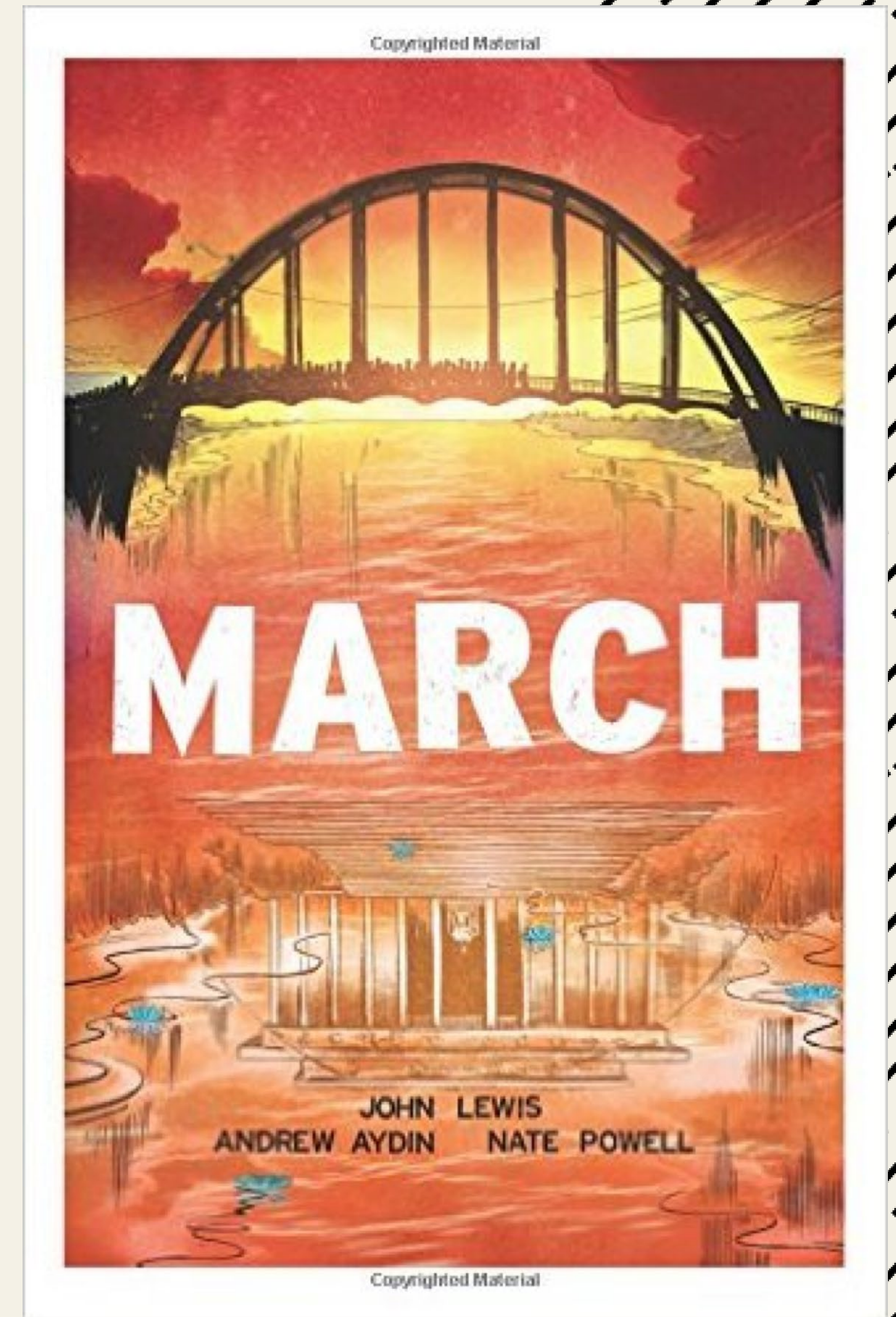


5TH - 12TH GRADE

# March (Graphic Novel Trilogy)

By John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell

This is non-fiction and a biography. Brilliant trilogy of Graphic Novels, it's worth getting all 3! Innovative and unique approach to sharing the Civil Rights Movement, as seen through the eyes of John Lewis, as a young activist.



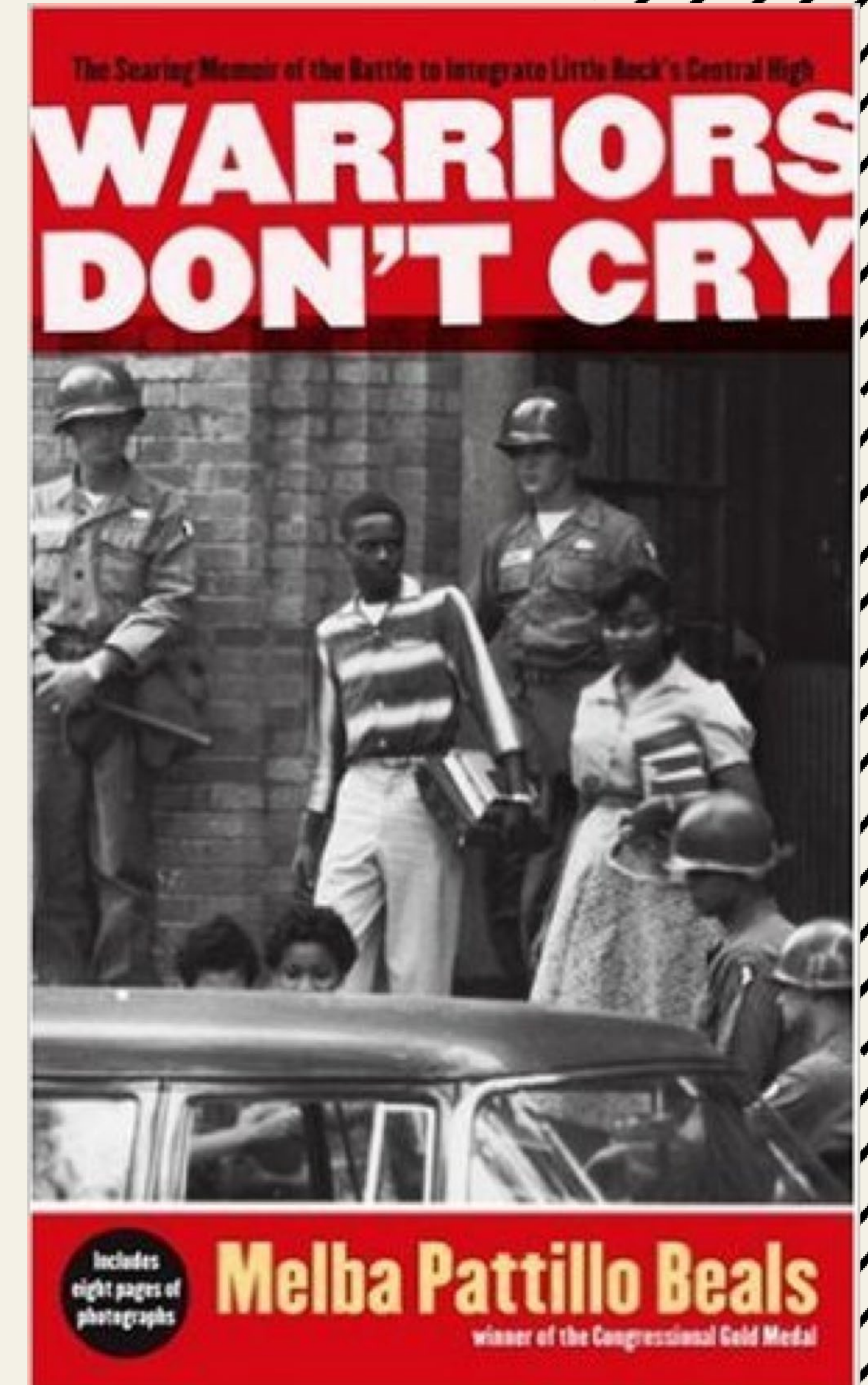


6TH - 12TH GRADE

## Warriors Don't Cry: The Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High School

By Melba Patillo Beals

Autobiography of 15-year-old Melba Patillo Beals.  
She recounts her experiences desegregating Central  
High School in 1957, as a member of the Little Rock Nine.  
Won Congressional Gold Medal.





5TH - 7TH GRADE

## March Forward, Girl: From Young Warrior to Little Rock Nine

By Melba Patillo Beals

Autobiography of Beals growing up in 1940's Arkansas. A true story of her life before the Little Rock Nine desegregates Central High in 1957.





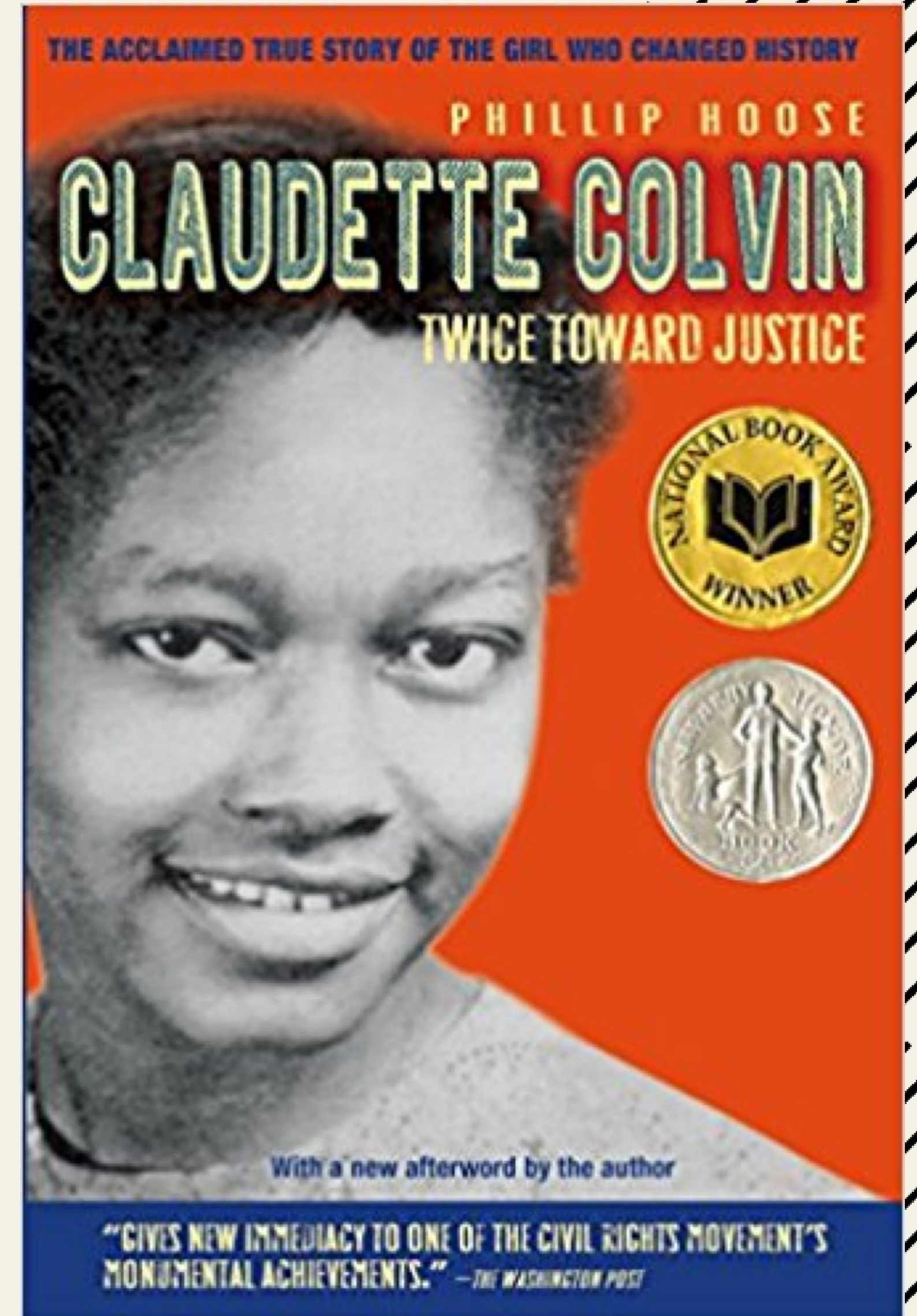


7TH - 12TH GRADE

# Claudette Colvin Twice Toward Justice

By Phillip Hoose

Biography of young Colvin's courageous resistance and arrest. Contains interviews & quotes from the unsung young heroine. A true story from Montgomery, which predates Rosa Parks' arrest.



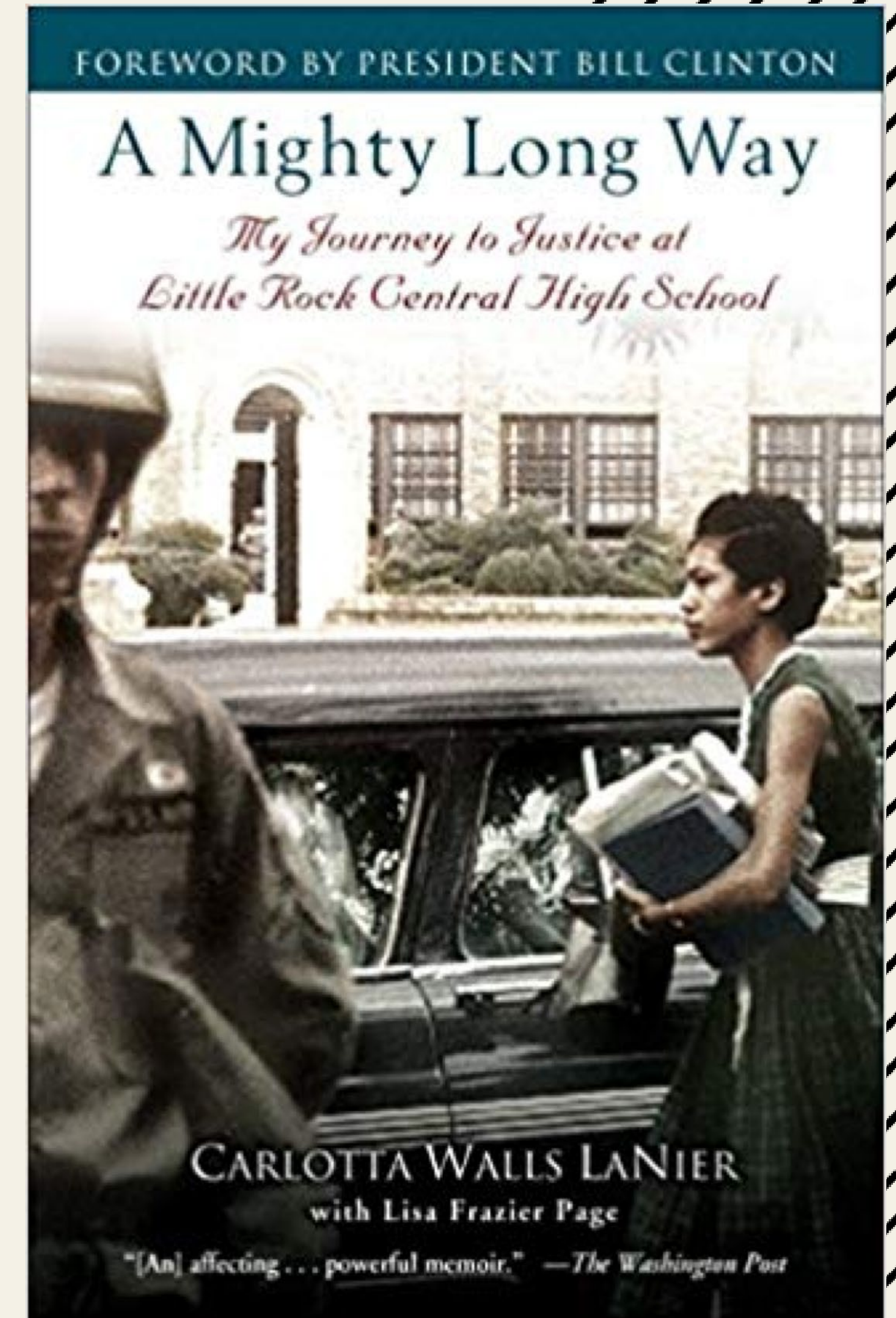


10TH GRADE & UP

## A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School

By Carlotta Walls LaNier with Lisa Frazier Page

Autobiography of Carlotta Walls LaNier's bravery and her experiences leading up to desegregation in Little Rock, in 1957. She recalls being a member of the Little Rock Nine.



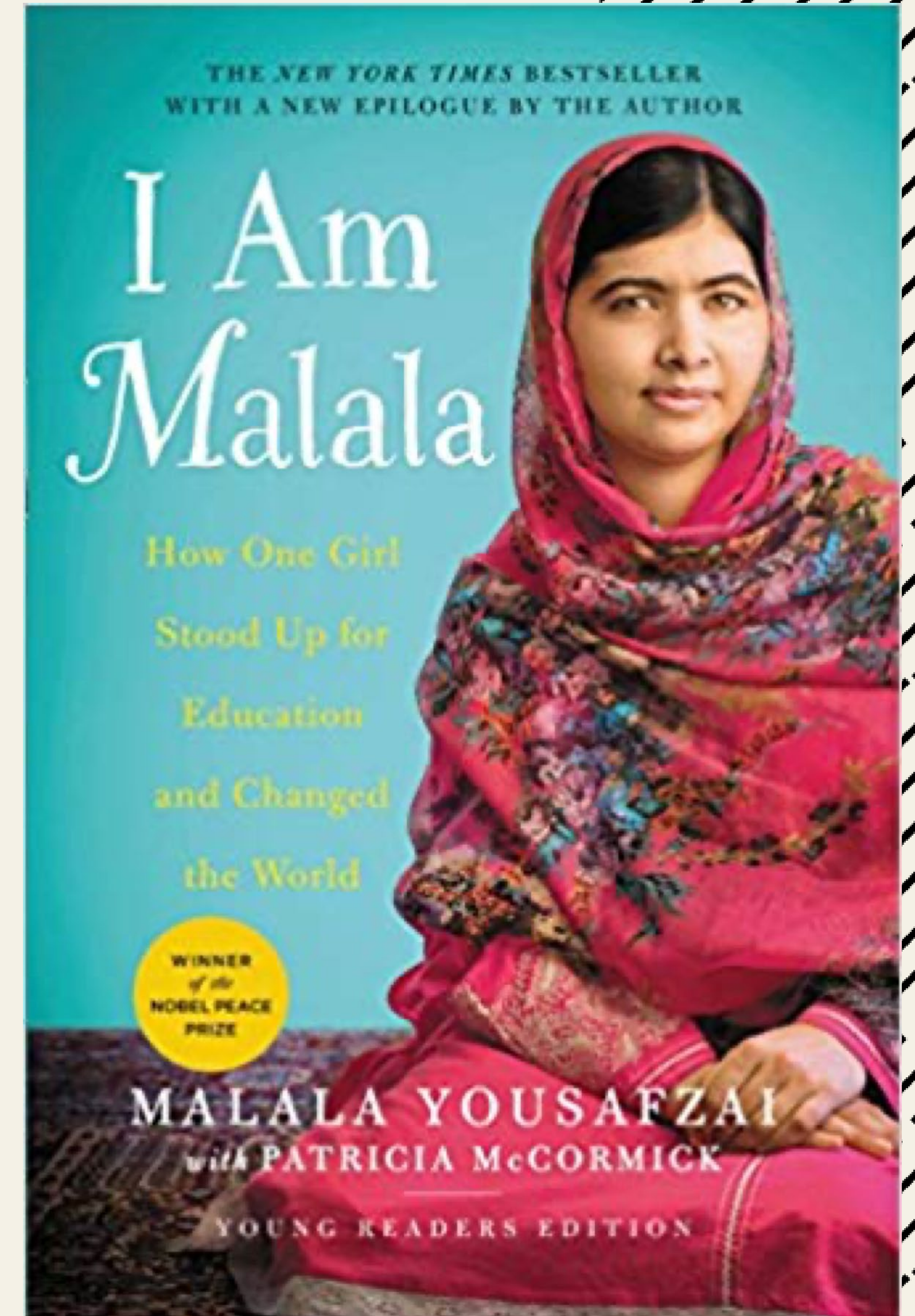


5TH - 12TH GRADE

# I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World

By Malala Yousafzai with Patrick McCormick

Young readers edition. A non-fiction and biography. Best selling memoir by youngest Nobel Peace Prize Winner who advocates for quality education for all children.





5TH GRADE & UP

## Midnight Without a Moon

By Linda Williams Jackson, a native of Mississippi

Novel about a young girl growing up in the southern Mississippi in the mid 1950's at the time Emmitt Till was lynched. Part one of two. Sequel is called *A Sky Full of Stars*.



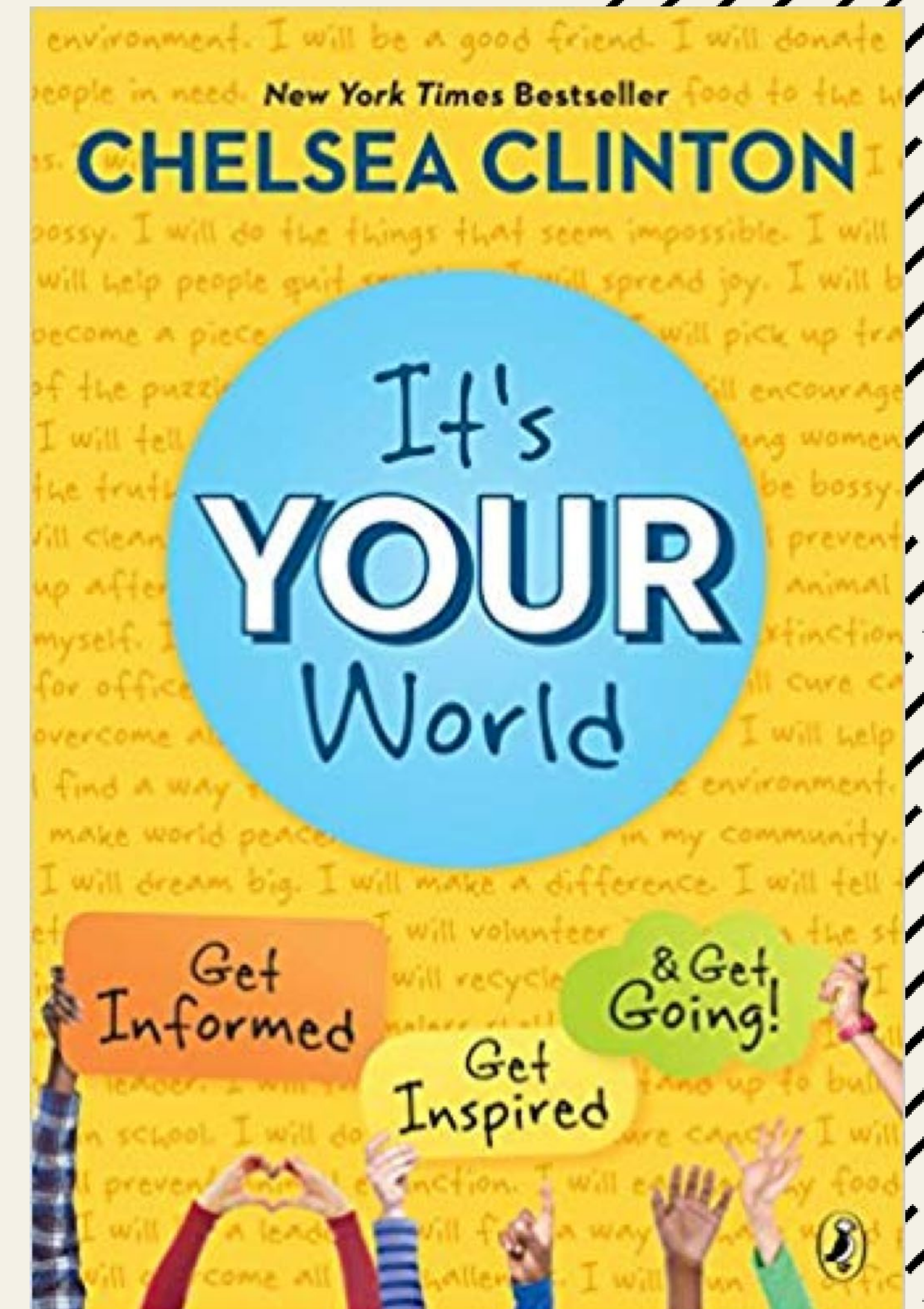


5TH GRADE & UP

## It's YOUR World

By Chelsea Clinton

Offers information on global human rights issues like poverty, conservation, and equal rights. Encourages taking action to create positive change locally or on broader scale.



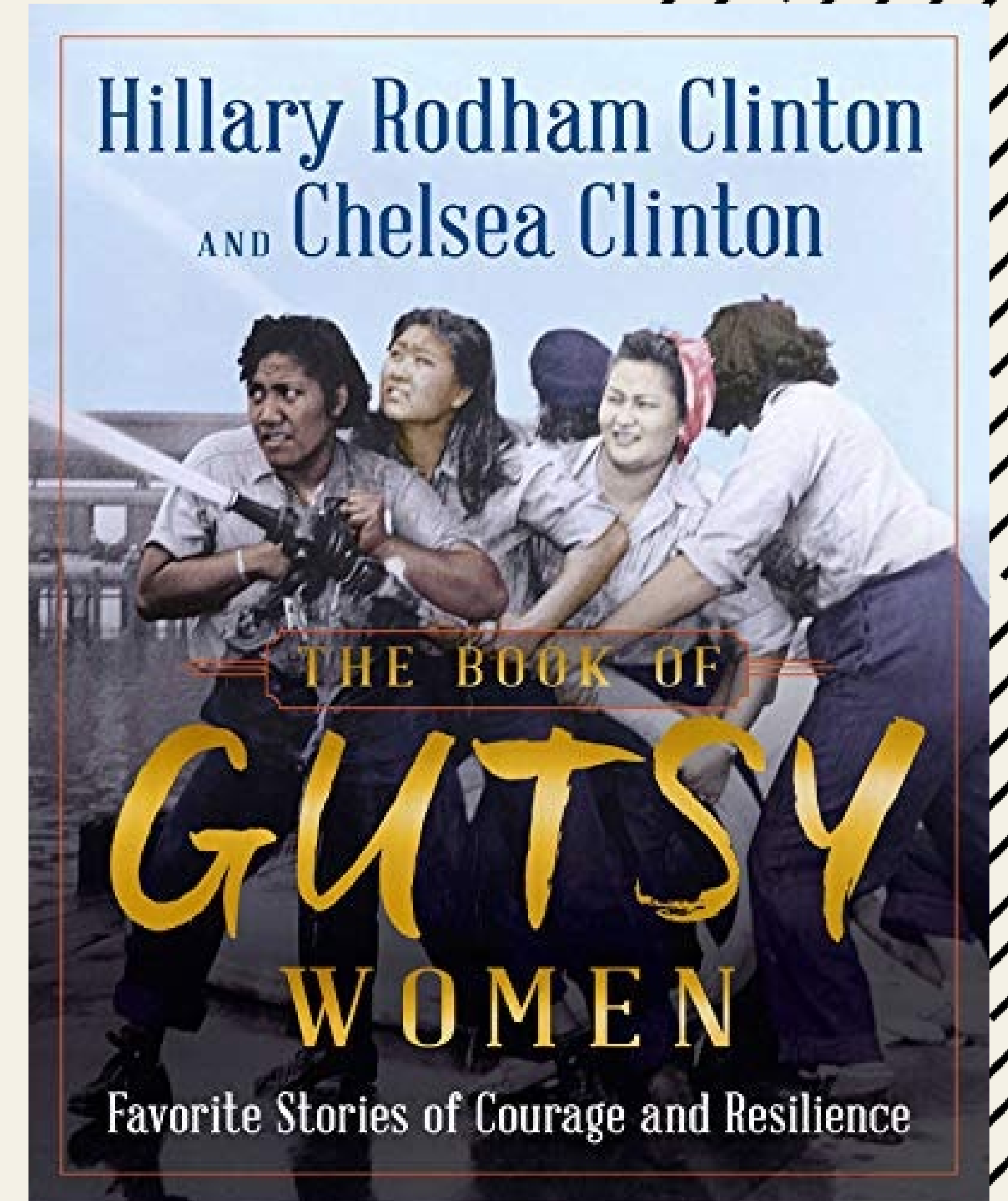


FOR TEACHERS & 9TH -12TH

# The Book of Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience

By Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton

Learn about some of the authors' she-roes like Civil Rights activist Dorothy Height, LGBTQ trailblazer Edie Windsor, young activist Malala Yousafzai, and freedom fighter Harriet Tubman.





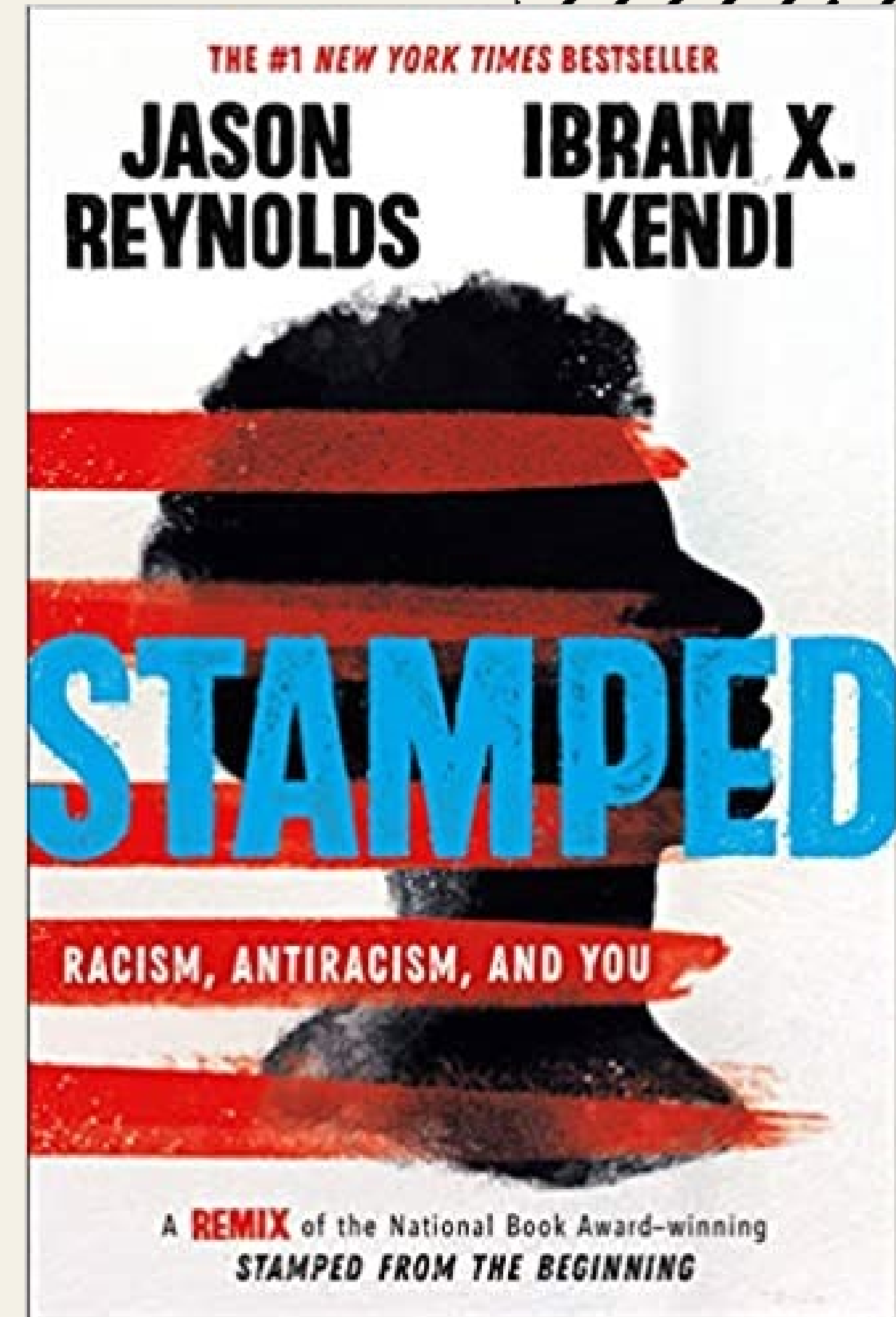
FOR TEACHERS & 9TH -12TH

## Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

By Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

An approachable and abbreviated remix of Kendi's book, *Stamped From the Beginning*. This is an important read for anyone who wants to start a foundation for understanding racism and antiracism.

*A New York Times* and *USAToday* Bestseller.



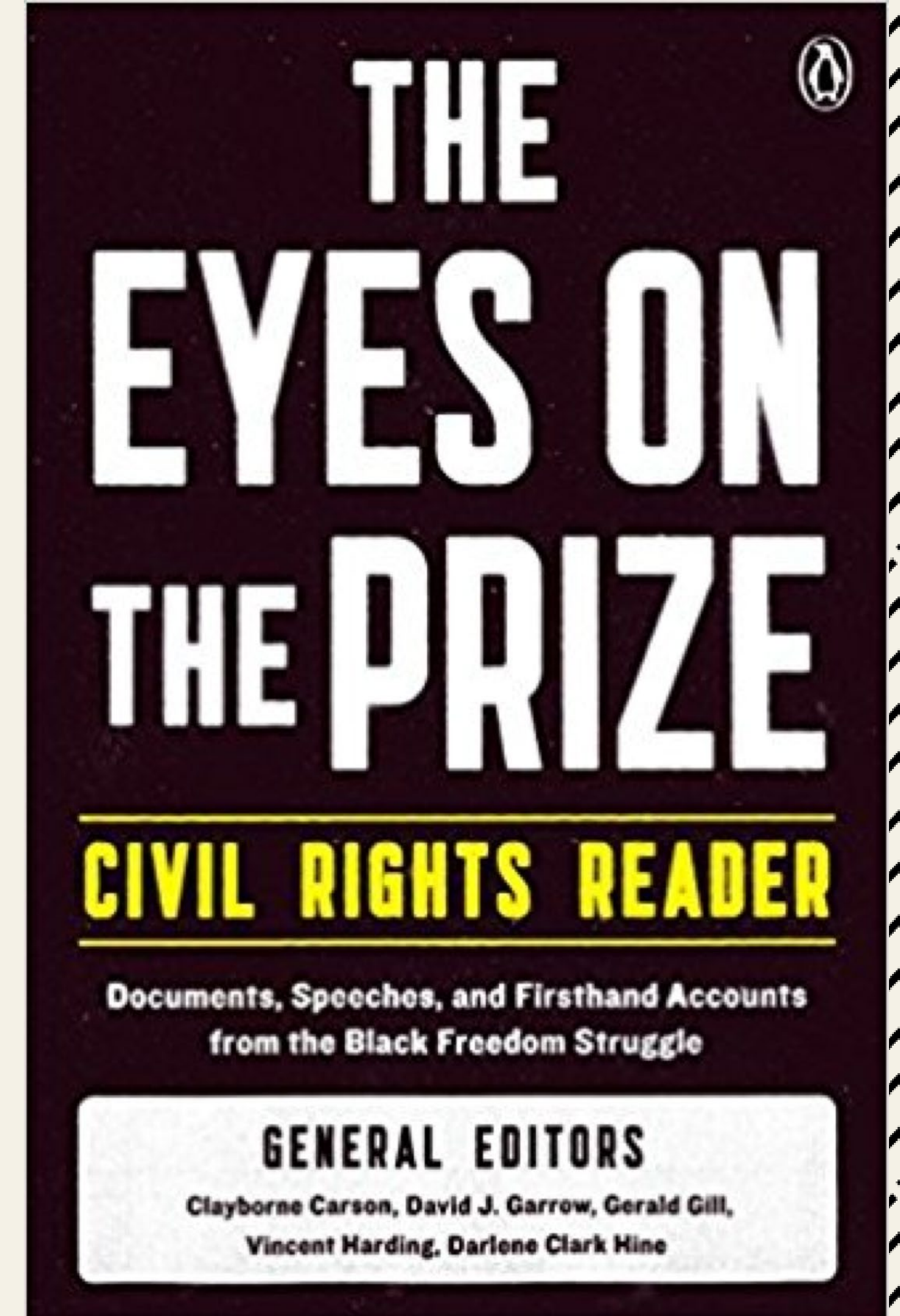


FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCE FOR 6TH GRADE & UP

# The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader

Editors: Clayborne Carson, David J. Garrow, Gerald Gill,  
Vincent Harding, Darlene Clark Hine

A MUST HAVE resource. Can be used to prepare for teaching civil rights to any age. Comprehensive anthology of primary resources and is companion book to the 14-part documentary series available at [youtube/eyesontheprize](https://www.youtube.com/eyesontheprize).





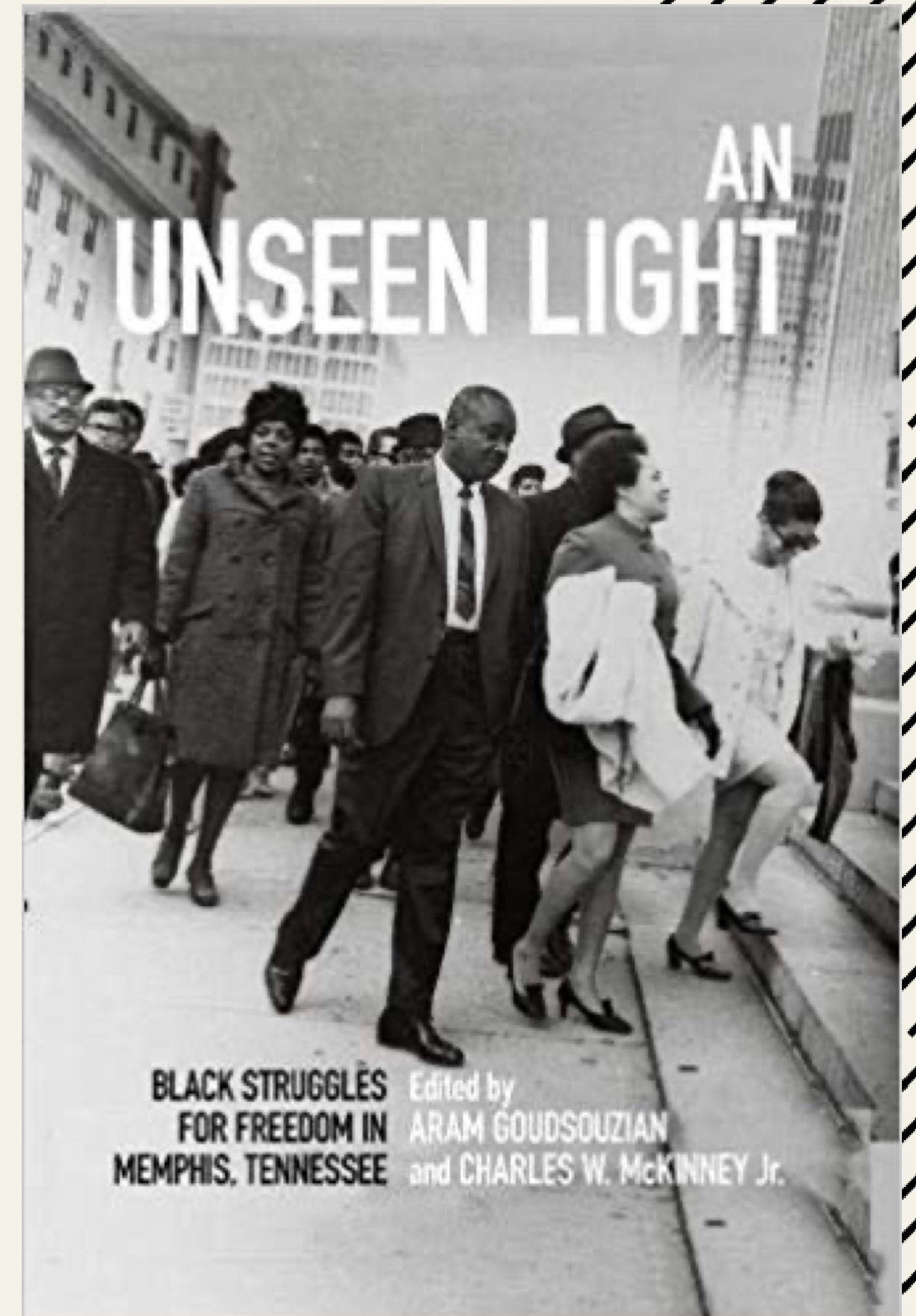


FOR TEACHERS & ADULT READERS

# An Unseen Light: Black Struggles for Freedom in Memphis, Tennessee

Editors: Aram Goudsouzian and Charles W. McKinney, Jr.

A multidisciplinary examination of African American history in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Memphis including the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike. This comprehensive set of essays has a regional focus on sports, religion, music, politics, and activism.



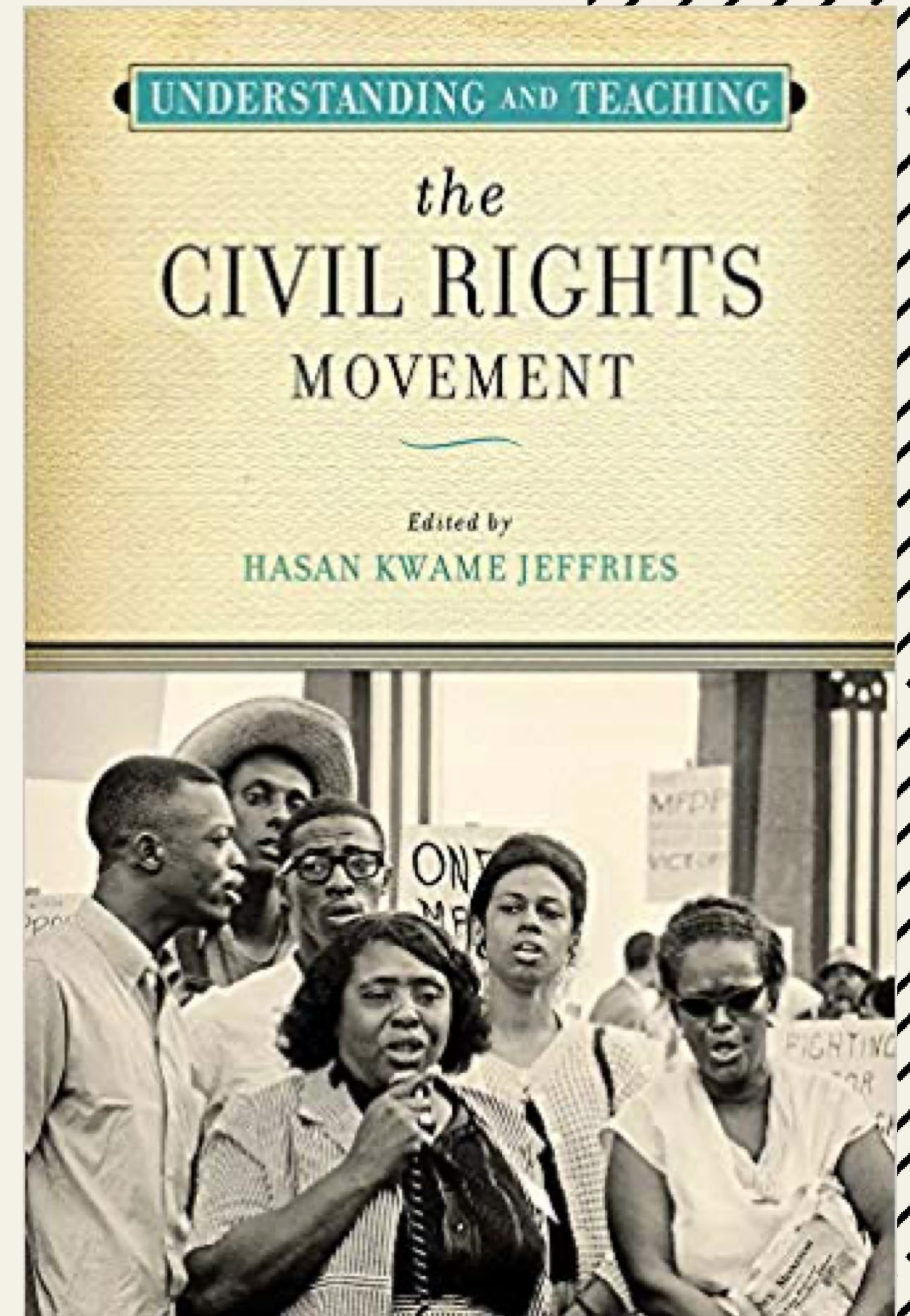


FOR TEACHERS & ADULT READERS

# Understanding and Teaching the Civil Rights Movement

Editor: Hassan Kwame Jeffries

A MUST HAVE resource all who teach about the Movement.  
A set of essays from thought leaders and foremost scholars  
about teaching civil rights through music, oral histories,  
digital resources, literature, films and documentaries



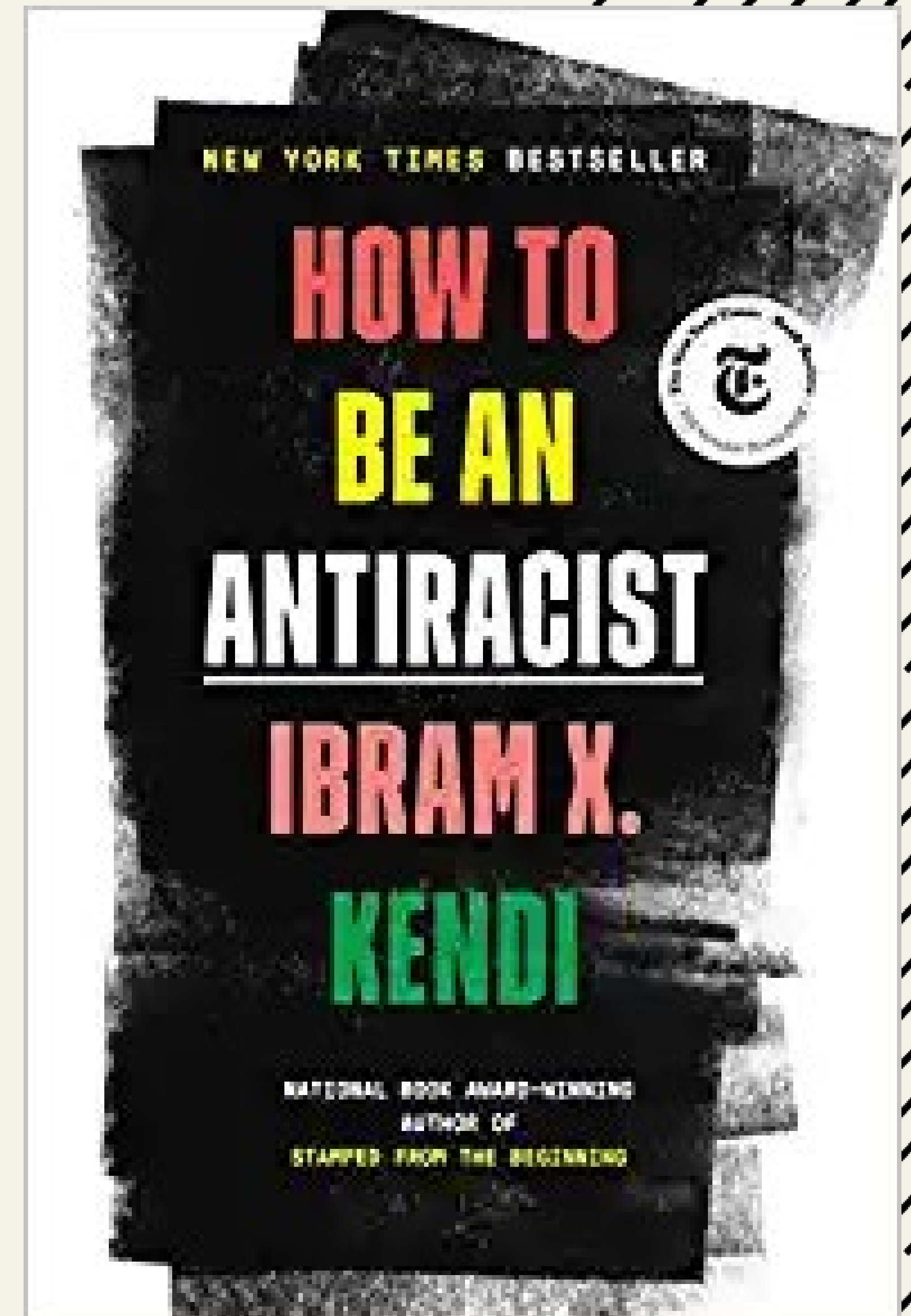


FOR TEACHERS & ADULT READERS

## How to Be an Antiracist

By Ibram X. Kendi

A guide to understanding the constructs of race and racism in America. This text will help the reader to process and understand racism and its broad effects on society. It encourages the reader to be proactive by taking antiracist actions, in order to participate in creating a more just society.



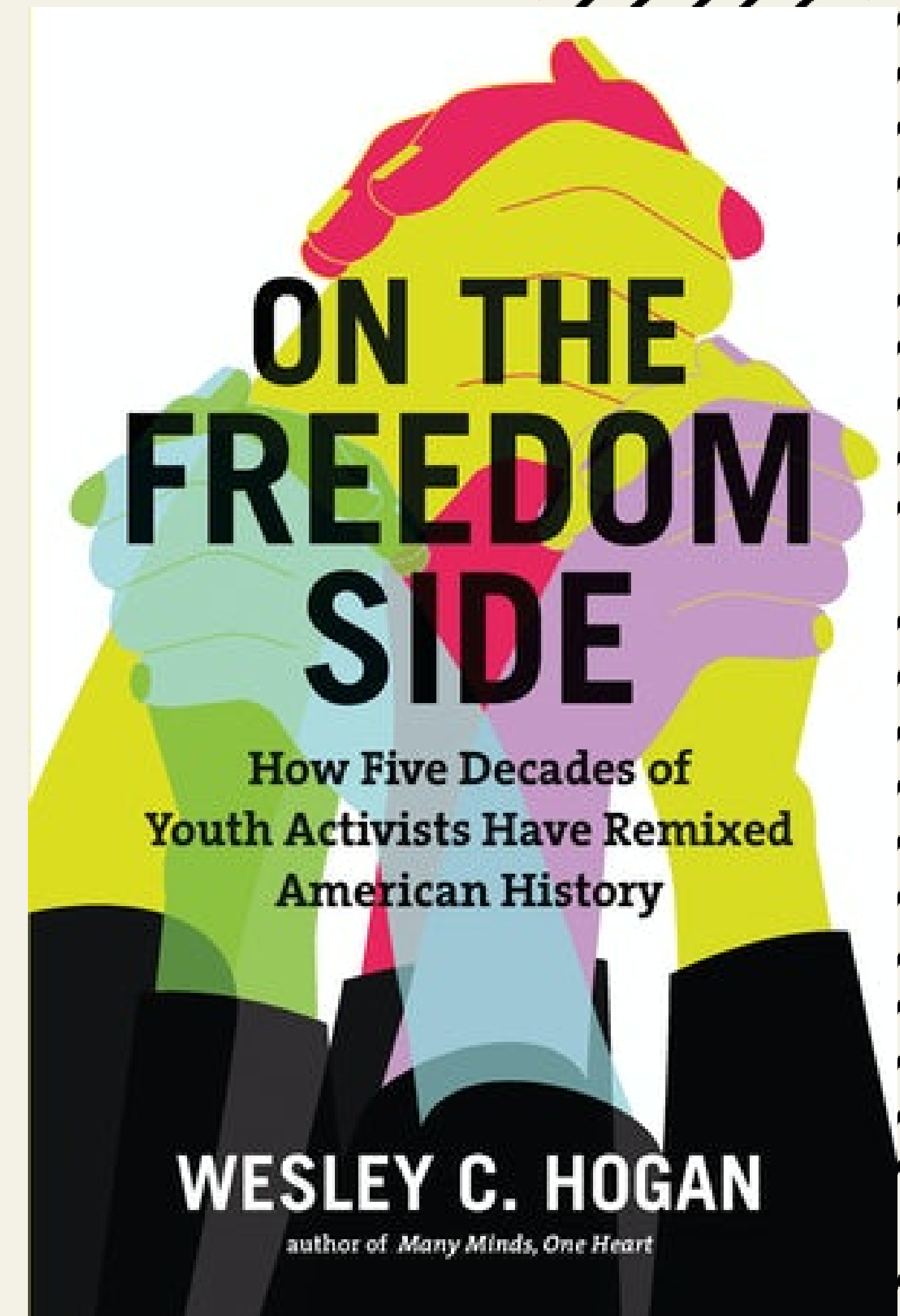


FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCE FOR 9TH GRADE & UP

## On the Freedom Side: How Five Decades of Young Activists Have Remixed American History

By Wesley C. Hogan

Highlights history of young resistance and activism, from Ella Baker and SNCC to Black Lives Matter, to Standing Rock, to immigration reform protests. The author claims “the future of democracy belongs to young people.” Another fantastic book by Dr. Hogan is *Many Minds, One Heart*.



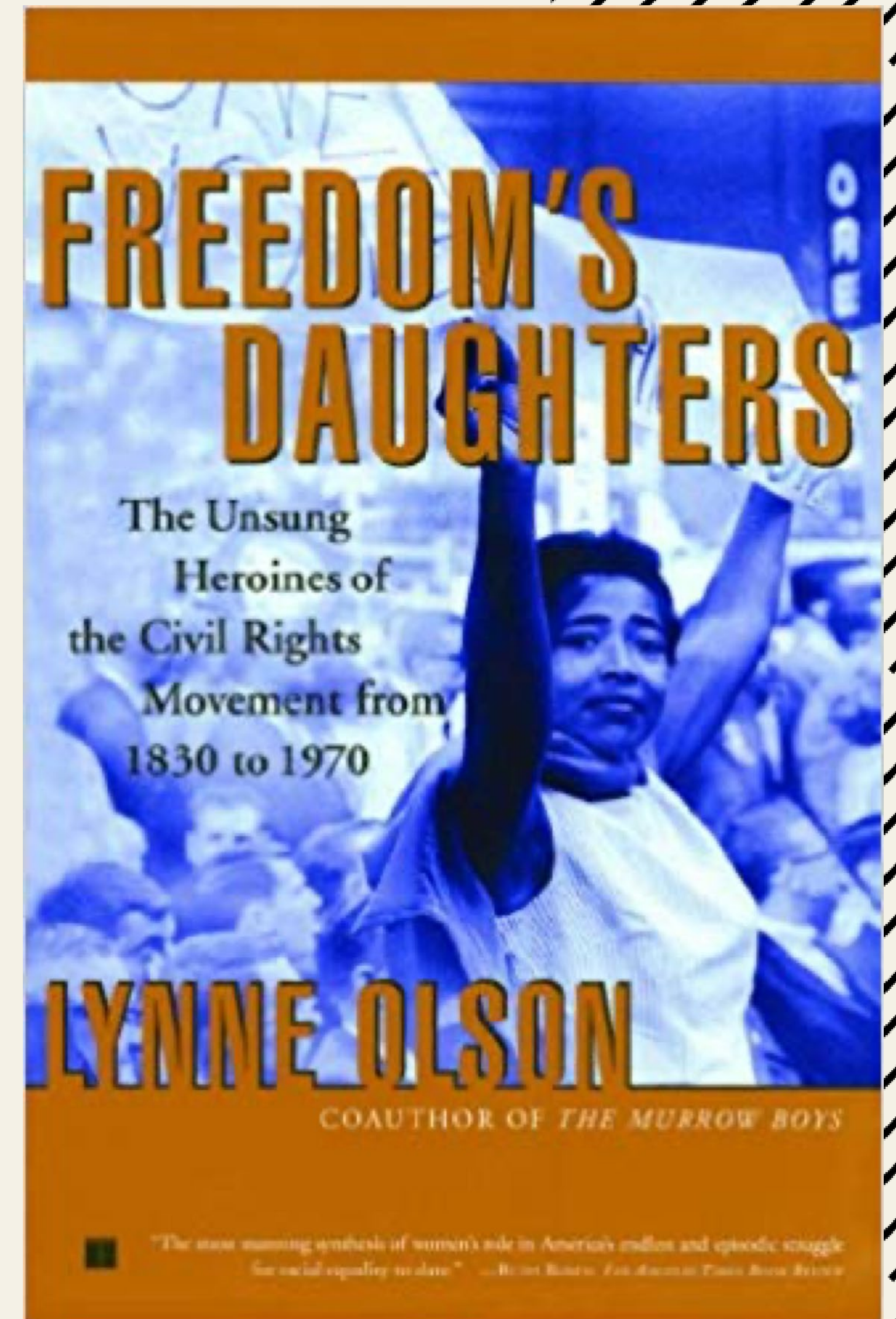


FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCE FOR 9TH GRADE & UP

## Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970

By Lynn Olson

Honors many “she-roes” who rose and stood for freedom in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Helps the reader reconsider the master narrative that the Movement was led only by men. Re-centers women’s, and particularly African American women’s integral role in fighting for racial equality.



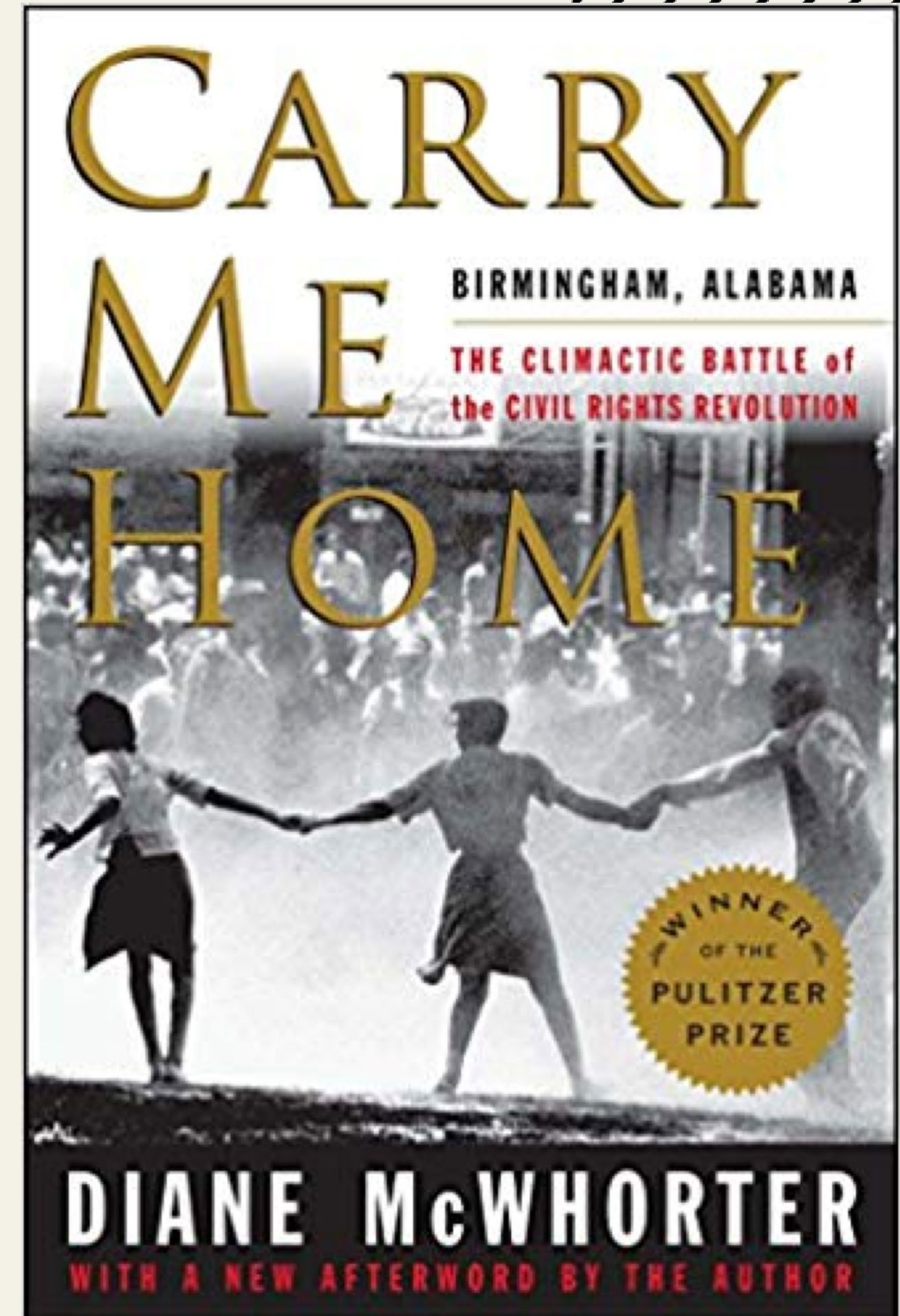


FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCE FOR 9TH GRADE & UP

## Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution

By Diane McWhorter

Details the Birmingham Children's Crusades and the bombing of the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church, which tragically killed four little girls. This resource discusses the role that the Jewish community played in the Movement in Birmingham.



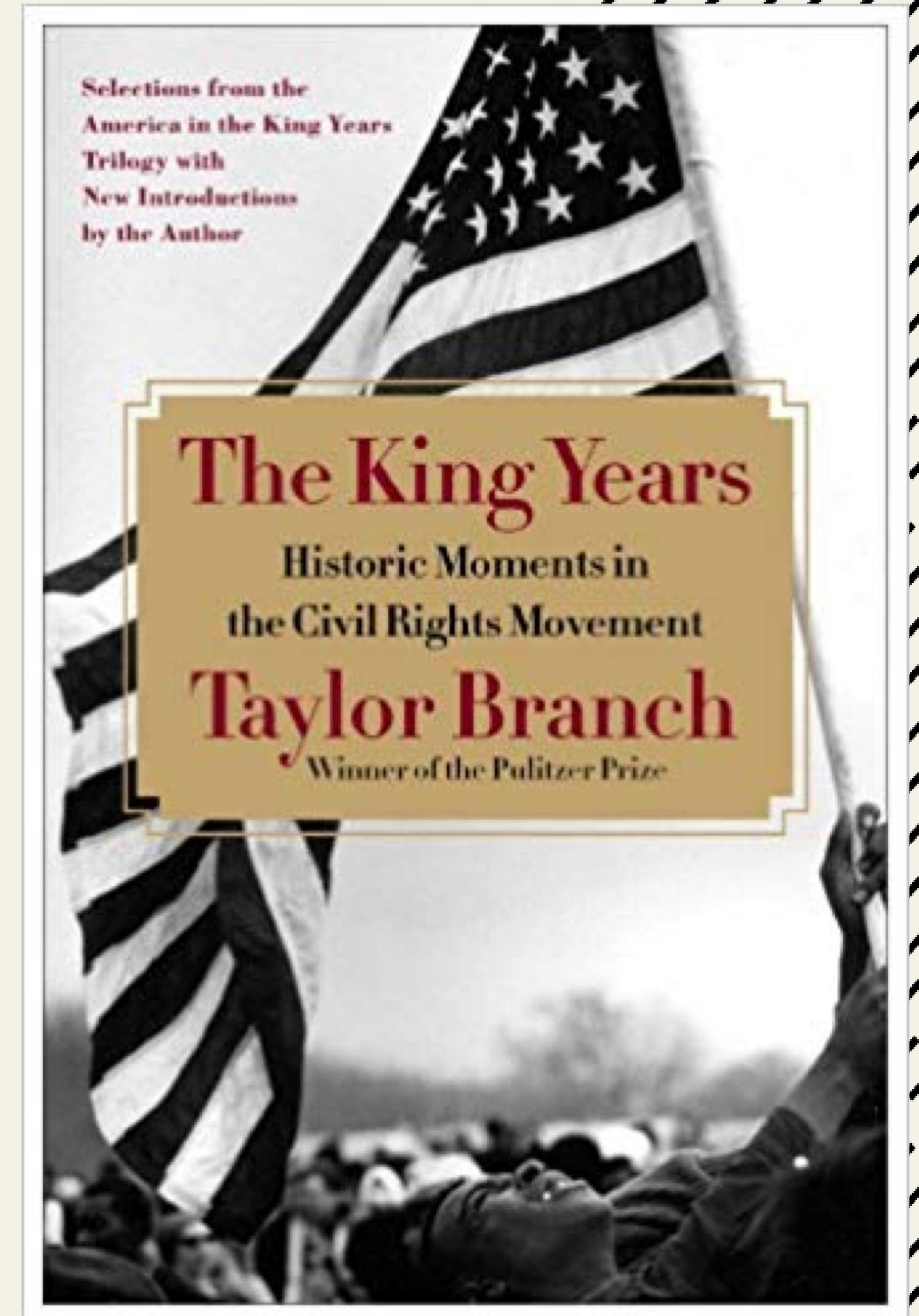


FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCE FOR 9TH GRADE & UP

## The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement

By Taylor Branch

The Pulitzer Prize winning author has written three comprehensive resources about Dr. King: *Parting the Waters*, *Pillar of Fire*, and *At Canaan's Edge*.



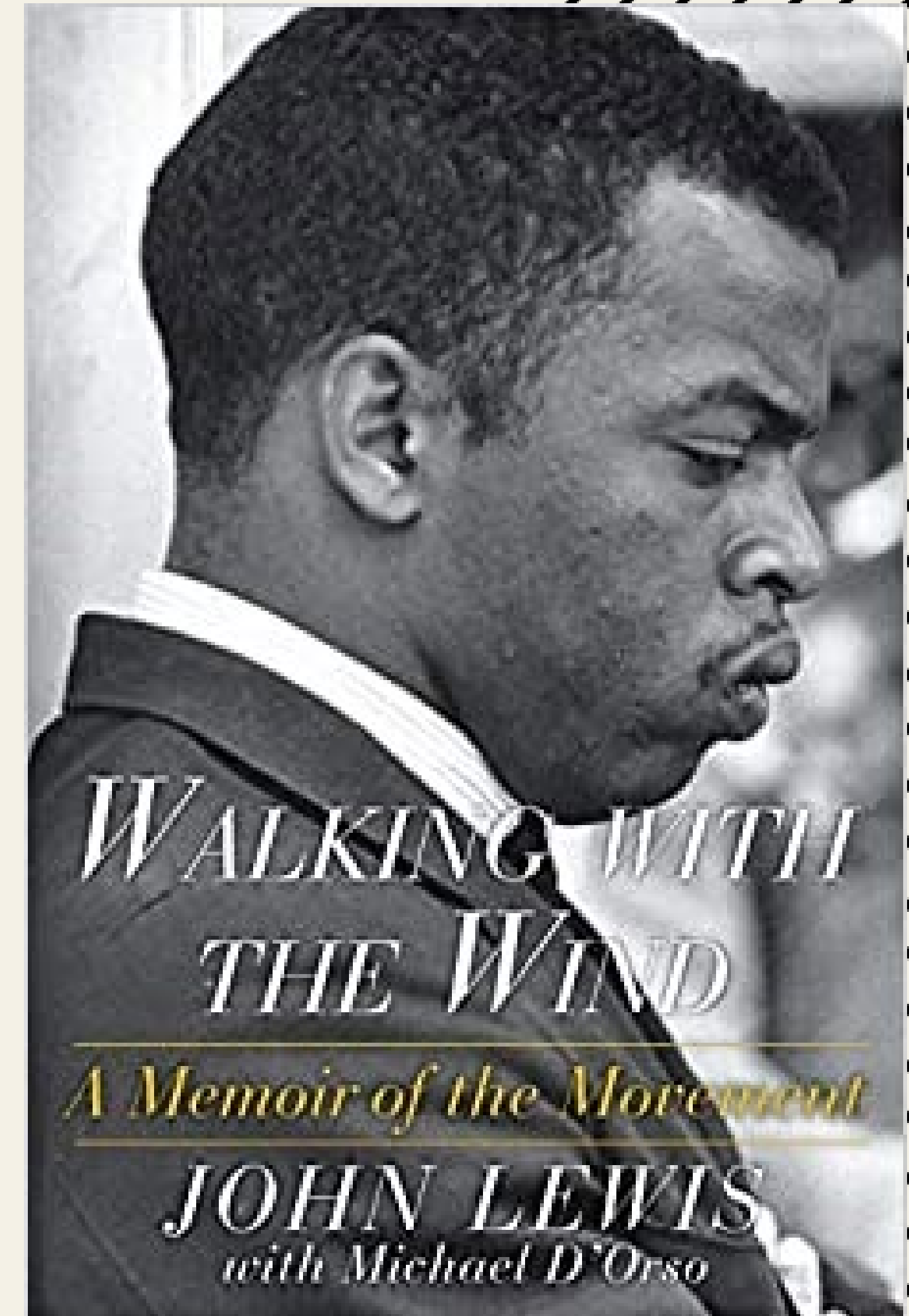


FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCE FOR 9TH GRADE & UP

## Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement

By John Lewis with Michael D'Orso

Autobiography of John Lewis, leader and a founding member of SNCC, and later a Congressman. His commitment to nonviolence guides him through Sit-ins, Freedom Rides, iconic marches, and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. He reminds us to get into “good trouble” as we stand up for justice and equality.

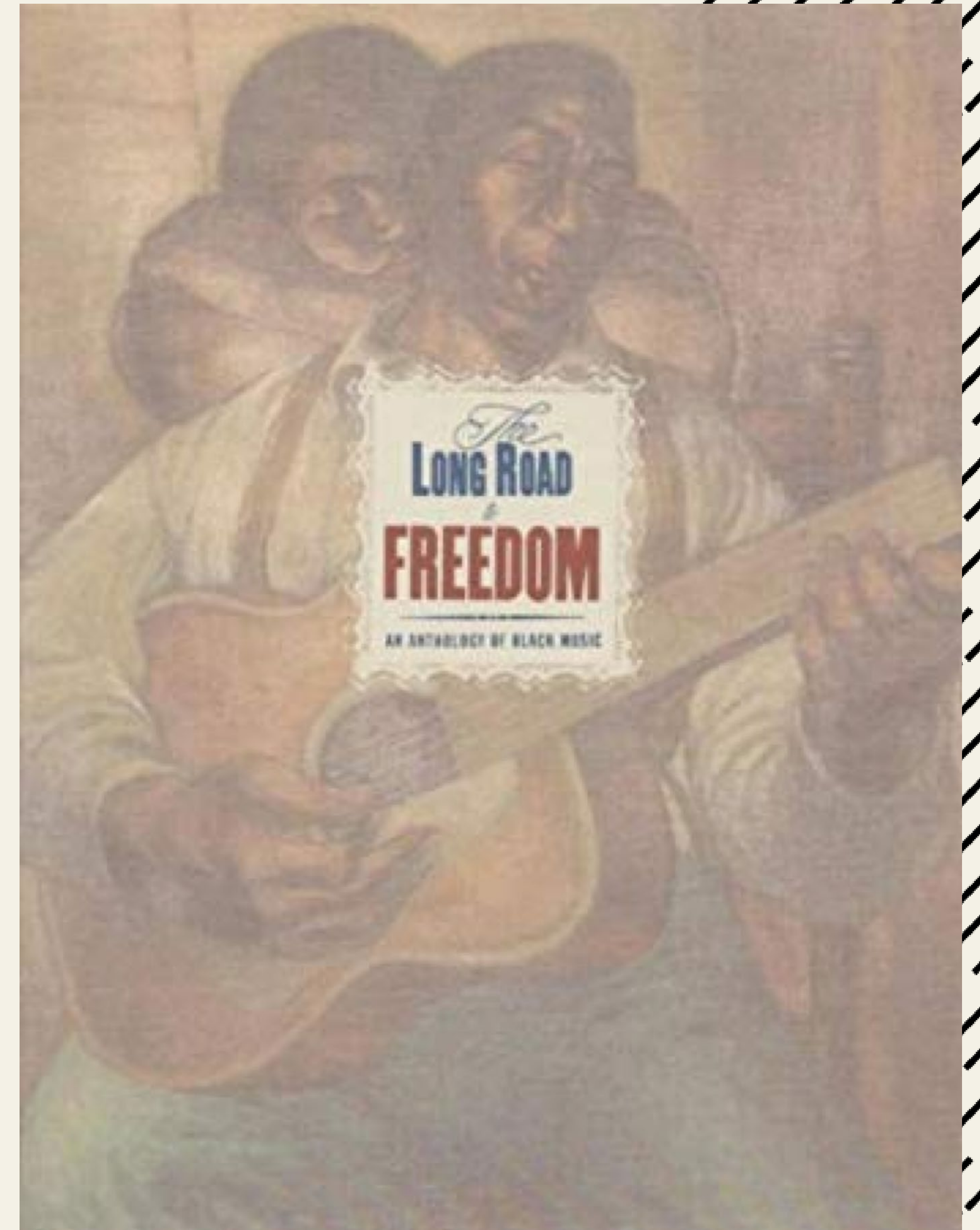




FOR TEACHERS OR REFERENCING FOR ALL AGES

## The Long Road to Freedom: An Anthology of Black Music

5 CD's and 1 DVD. Music from 17<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Spans music from West Africa, Calypso, American Music (R & B, Gospel, Jazz, Blues, Protest songs, etc.)

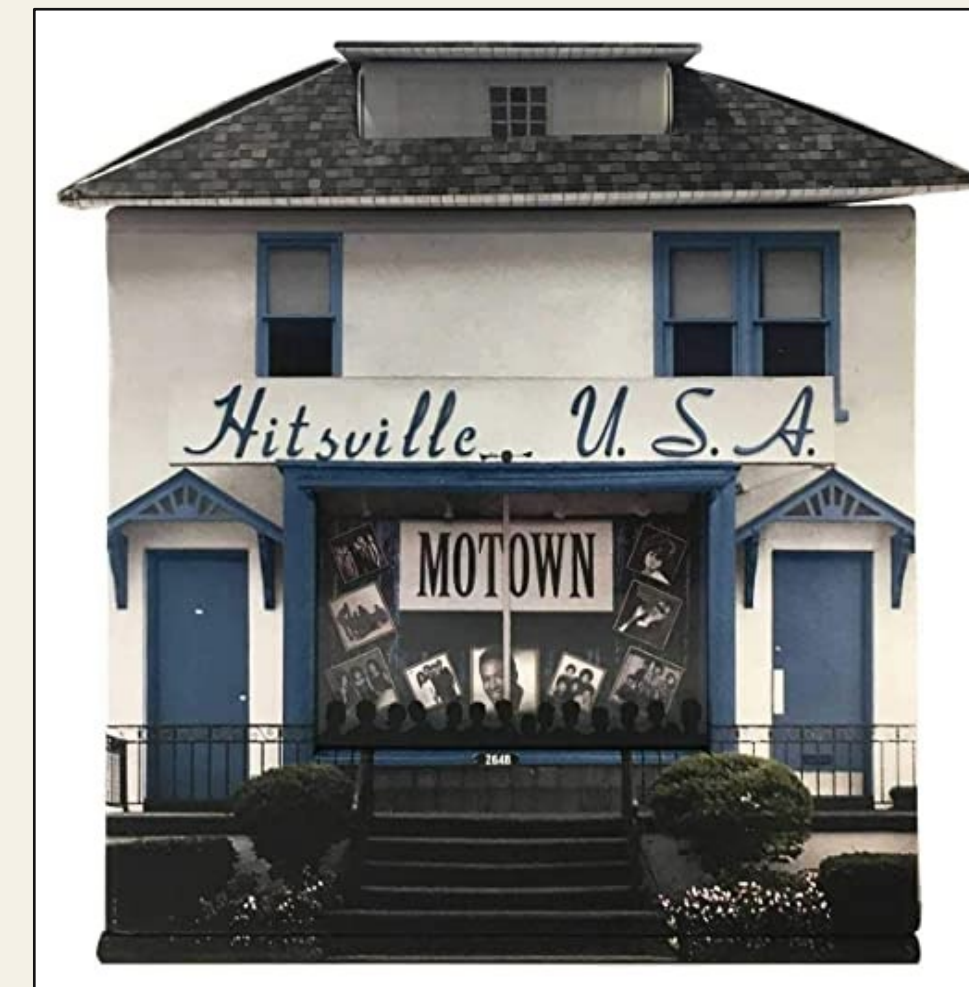


FOR TEACHERS AND LISTENERS OF ALL AGES

The Complete STAX/VOLT Singles: 1959-1968  
9 Volume Box set on Compact Discs



MOTOWN: The Complete Number 1's  
11 Volume Box set on Compact Discs



# Additional Web-based Resources for Teaching or Researching Civil Rights & Social Justice

**FOR TEACHERS OR 6TH-12TH GRADE**

- Teaching Tolerance <https://www.tolerance.org/>
- The Zinn Ed Project <https://www.zinnedproject.org/>
- Facing History and Ourselves <https://www.facinghistory.org/>
- The SNCC Digital Gateway <https://snccdigital.org/>
- Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture <https://nmaahc.si.edu/>
- The National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/>
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute <https://www.bcri.org/>
- The King Institute <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/>
- The King Center [The King Archives](#)
- The 1619 Project <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>
- Obama White House Archives: Selma to Montgomery 50 yrs later <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/issues/civil-rights/selma>



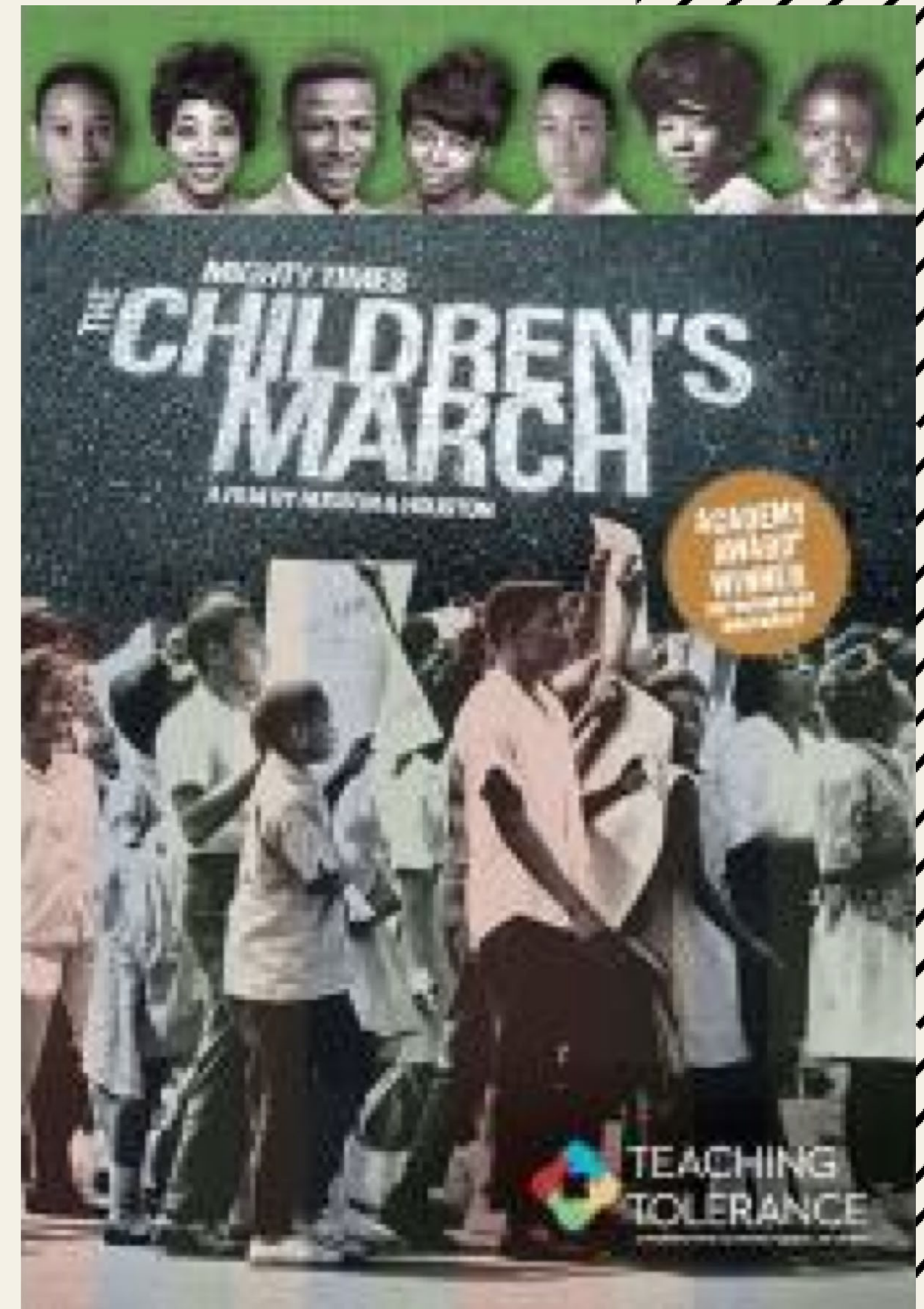
FOR TEACHERS OR 6TH-12TH GRADE

## Mighty Times: The Children's March

### Documentary DVD

Has oral histories from those who marched in the 1963 Birmingham Children's Crusades. This film is short enough to show in one class period.

- Teaching Tolerance [Resource Kit](#)
- Additional Resources [Zinnedproject.org](http://Zinnedproject.org)



# Documentaries & Feature Films

FOR TEACHERS OR 6TH-12TH GRADE

## Documentary footage/Oral Histories:

- *Eyes on the Prize* (American Experience)
- *Freedom Riders* (American Experience)
- *Road to Memphis* (American Experience)
- *The March* (American Experience)
- *1300 Men: Memphis Strike '68* (theroot.com)
- *At the River I Stand* (California Newsreel)
- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Flocabulary)-5-minute video
- *The Memphis 13*
- *I Am Not Your Negro*

## Feature films:

- *Selma*
- *The Long Walk Home*
- *Ruby Bridges*
- *The Rosa Parks Story*
- *Selma, Lord, Selma*
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*
- *Freedom Song*
- *Boycott*
- *Ghosts of Mississippi*



Check these resources out at your school or public library, online, or at the National Civil Rights Museum Store!

[HTTP://SHOP.CIVILRIGHTSMUSEUM.ORG/](http://shop.civilrightsmuseum.org/)