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Coretta Scott King Book Awards: 2020 Discussion Guide

By: LaKeshia Darden, Irene L. Briggs, **Jewel Davis**, Jason Miles Driver, Sr., Susan H. Polos, Maegen J. Rose, and Christina Vortia

Abstract

Discussion guide for books awarded and honored by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards. An Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table by the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. -- *American Library Association*

Darden, L., Briggs, I., **Davis, J.**, Driver, J., Polos, S., Rose, M., & Vortia, C. (2020). Coretta Scott King Book Awards: 2020 Discussion Guide. *American Library Association Institutional Repository*, HarperCollins. Publisher version of record available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/14837>



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

2020 DISCUSSION GUIDE

American Library Association
Ethnic and Multicultural
Information Exchange Round Table
Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee





AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ETHNIC AND MULTICULTURAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE ROUND TABLE

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide was prepared by the 2020 Coretta Scott King Book Award Jury Chair LaKeshia Darden, Irene L. Briggs, Jewel Davis, Jason Miles Driver, Sr., Susan H. Polos, Maegen J. Rose, and Christina Vortia.

The activities and discussion topics are developed to encompass state and school standards. These standards apply equally to students from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Students will demonstrate their proficiency, skills, and knowledge of subject matter in accordance with national and state standards. Please refer to the US Department of Education website, www.ed.gov, for detailed information.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards seal was designed by artist Lev Mills in 1974. The symbolism of the seal reflects both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy and the award's ideals.

The basic circle represents continuity in movement, revolving from one idea to another. Within the image is an African American child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child

represent nonsectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength and Atlanta University, the award's headquarters when the seal was designed. At the apex of the pyramid is a dove, symbolic of peace. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards seal image and award name are solely and exclusively owned by the American Library Association.

The discussion guide has been generously provided by HarperCollins.



THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD: A LIVING LEGEND

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards have grown since their conception in the late 1960s. At a dinner gala of the New Jersey Library Association in May 1970, Lillie Patterson was honored for her biography *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace*. In 1972, the first Coretta Scott King Book Awards breakfast was held at an ALA conference site. Official affiliation with the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) came in 1980, and in 1982, the American Library Association recognized the Coretta Scott King Award as an association award. During the 2003 ALA Midwinter meeting, the Coretta Scott King Task Force joined the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). The affiliation with EMIERT gave the group a new name: the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. Success of the committee can be attributed to the work of tireless volunteers and visionary founders. For a more complete history, consult *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book: From Vision to Reality*, edited by Henrietta M. Smith, American Library Association, 1994; and *The Coretta Scott King Awards: 1970–2009*, fourth edition, by Henrietta M. Smith, American Library Association, 2009.

For more than fifty years, books by African American writers and artists have been honored by receiving the Coretta Scott King Book Award. This award promotes understanding and appreciation

of African American culture and the culture of all peoples. The award is designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood. The multidimensional characteristics of the authors' and illustrators' works reflect the African American experience from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Opportunities to celebrate the rich and powerful experiences depicted in these books lie in the hands of the adults in children's and young adults' lives.

This discussion guide is, therefore, dedicated to those teachers, parents, librarians, booksellers, and caregivers who are committed to enriching the lives of children and young adults through quality literature. Among their many other functions, book awards provide a simple means for casual browsers in bookstores, libraries, and schools to find material that is engaging, well crafted, and satisfying both emotionally and intellectually. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards particularly introduce the best in African American literature to all children. The award now graces dozens of titles, from picture books for the smallest children to novels and nonfiction for teenagers. In this guide, we have examined some of these titles from different angles and perspectives.

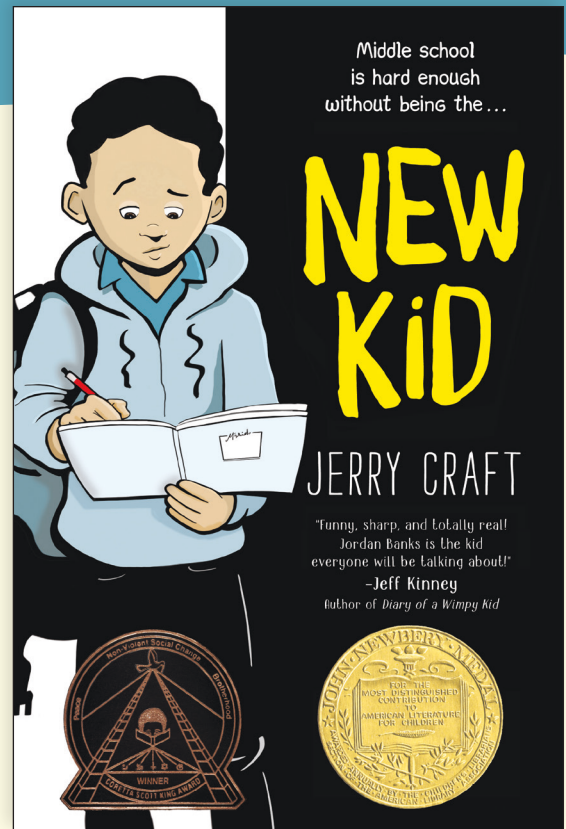


2020 AUTHOR AWARD WINNER NEW KID

Written and Illustrated By

JERRY CRAFT

Published by Quill Tree Books,
a division of HarperCollins Publishers.



NEW KID is a middle-grade graphic novel following aspiring cartoonist Jordan Banks as he begins the school year at a prestigious private school. Jordan and his other classmates of color encounter various challenges, from code-switching to experiencing microaggressions from their white classmates and teachers. Jordan must figure out how to navigate fitting in at this new school environment, while also keeping his friends from home, without losing sight of who he is.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jordan uses drawing as a means to express and sort through his feelings. What activities do you do to help you sort through your feelings (nervousness, sadness, fear, anger)?
- Dr. Derald Wing Sue defines microaggressions as “The everyday slights, put-downs, or invalidations that people of color experience in their day-to-day

interactions with well-intentioned people who are unaware of their put-down invalidations.” Give two examples of when Jordan or any of his classmates of color experience microaggressions.

- *New Kid* is a graphic novel. A graphic novel is composed using both text and images within story panels. Draft your own graphic tale using comic panels. Be sure to use both text and images to tell your story.

RELATED CSK TITLES

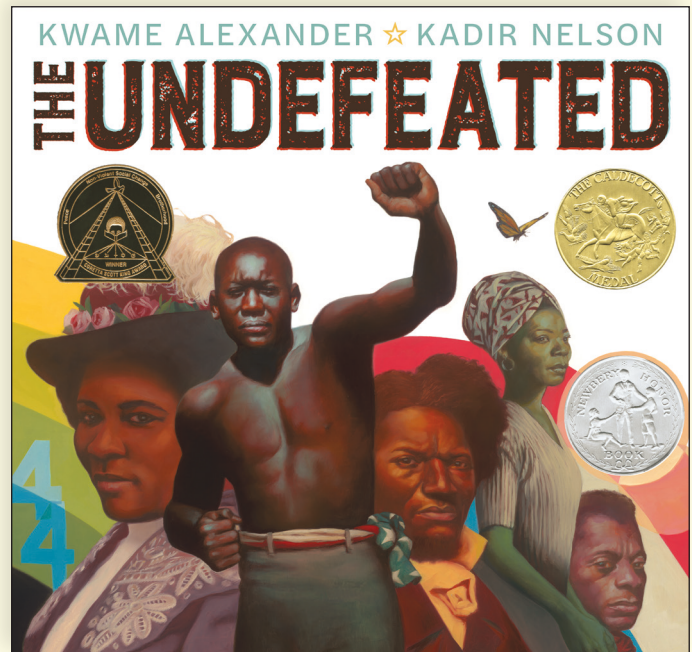
Look Both Ways, by Jason Reynolds, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division, a Caitlyn Dlouhy Book; **The Stars Beneath Our Feet**, by David Barclay Moore, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC; **Brendan Buckley’s Universe and Everything In It**, by Sundee T. Frazier, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children’s Books.

2020 ILLUSTRATOR
AWARD WINNER
THE UNDEFEATED

Illustrated By
KADIR NELSON

Written By
KWAME ALEXANDER

Published by Versify, an imprint of
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



THE UNDEFEATED is a poetic picture book that celebrates the persevering spirit of Black Americans. The powerful words take the reader through various moments throughout history that Black people had to endure and/or overcome. Nelson's beautiful oil illustrations highlight the power and sometimes the trauma of Alexander's moving poem. *The Undeclared* is a beautiful love letter to Black people that pays tribute to what they have endured and honors the contributions of heroes from both the past and the present.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- *The Undeclared* celebrates various historical figures in the illustrations. Choose one of the figures featured and write a poem that highlights their contribution(s) to Black history.

- One of Nelson's illustrations is a heart-breaking depiction that features the framed photographs of the four young girls killed in the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church, their faces shown behind shattered glass. Research the significance of this church during the civil rights era.
- It can be argued that one of the most moving "illustrations" in the text was the spread that was left blank. What was the artist trying to say here? Was this effective? Why or why not?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans, by Kadir Nelson, published by Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins; ***We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball***, words and paintings by Kadir Nelson, published by Jump at the Sun, Hyperion, an imprint of the Disney Book Group; ***The Middle Passage: White Ships Black Cargo***, by Tom Feelings, published by Dial Books for Young Readers.

2020 JOHN STEPTOE NEW TALENT AUTHOR AWARD GENESIS BEGINS AGAIN

Written By

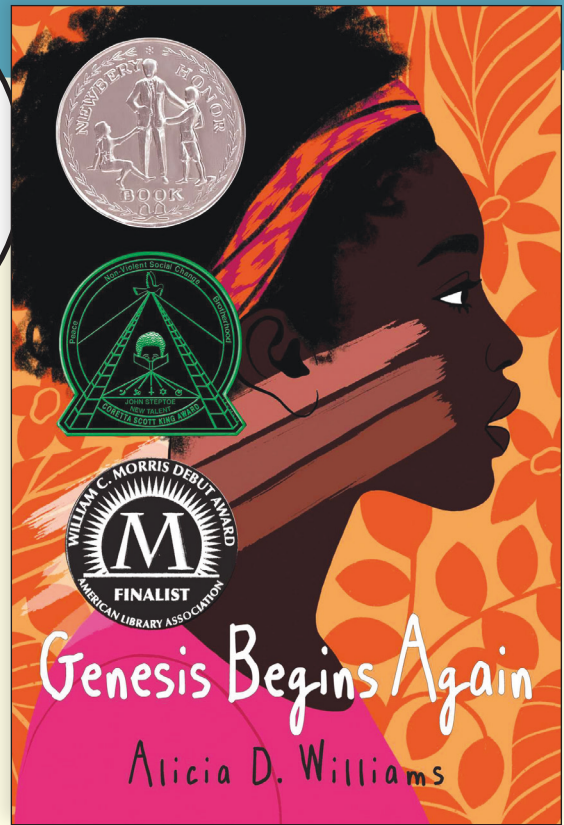
ALICIA D. WILLIAMS

A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing.

Thirteen-year-old Genesis Anderson is struggling with her identity. Her father drinks too much and lets her know that he wishes she'd been born light-skinned like her mother instead of dark like him. Her grandmother reinforces this, as do classmates who taunt her and call her "charcoal" and "eggplant." When school "friends" hand her their list of "100 Things We Hate about Genesis," Genesis, filled with self-loathing, continues to add to the list. After she moves to a new school, however, Genesis finds real friends and is helped by a teacher who recognizes her talent. Genesis comes to understand that the grown-ups in her life have their own problems. With the realization that all those around her are fighting their own battles, she begins to recognize and value instead the things she is learning to love about herself. This coming-of-age story will motivate readers to examine their own beliefs and behaviors and explore the social implications of colorism.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Genesis is caught up in others' ideas of beauty. How have her father and grandmother influenced her thinking, and how can she move away from these ideas and come into her own?



- Genesis makes two very different friends at her new school: Troy and Sophia. How do each of them help her and how do their experiences compare to hers?
- How does Genesis find her voice? How do you think the music that her chorus teacher introduces her to helps her?
- What is the realization that Genesis comes to that helps her understand her father and allows her to let go of her list and truly begin again?

RELATED CSK TITLES

The Skin I'm In, written by Sharon Flake, published by Hyperion; **Piecing Me Together**, written by Renée Watson, published by Bloomsbury; **Sulwe**, written by Lupita Nyong'o and illustrated by Vashi Harrison, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

2020 JOHN STEPTOE NEW TALENT ILLUSTRATOR AWARD

WHAT IS GIVEN FROM THE HEART

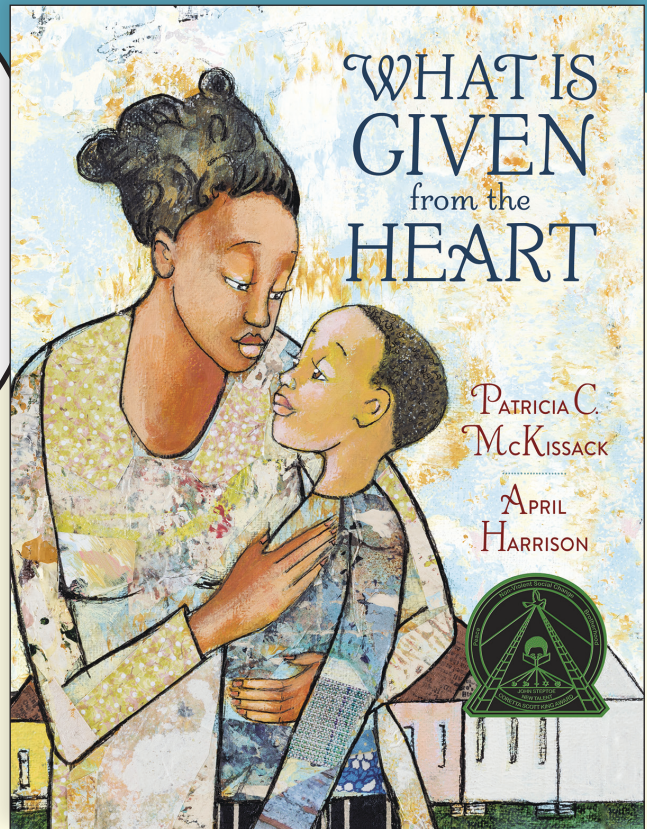
Illustrated By

APRIL HARRISON

Written By

PATRICIA C. MCKISSACK

Published by Schwartz & Wade,
an imprint of Penguin Random House.



James Otis' father has recently died and subsequently he and his mother have lost their farm. James and his mother have to move to a smaller home and now have very little. When they hear about the Temple family who have lost everything they own in a fire, James sincerely wants to contribute something worthy to the "love box," although he's not quite sure if he has anything of value to give. James soon learns that the best gifts come from the heart.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- James' mother teaches him how to give from the heart by donating her best tablecloth to the love box for the Temple family. Do you have any items that mean a lot to you that you would donate to someone in need?

- What gifts can you give that are not objects that could help others?
- Create a story map depicting the main events of the plot. What event was the climax of the story? Why do you feel this way?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Thank You, Omu!, by Oge Mora, published by Little, Brown Young Readers; **Last Stop on Market Street**, by Matt de la Peña, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group; **Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters**, by Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack, published by Scholastic.

2020 AUTHOR HONOR TRISTAN STRONG PUNCHES A HOLE IN THE SKY

Written By

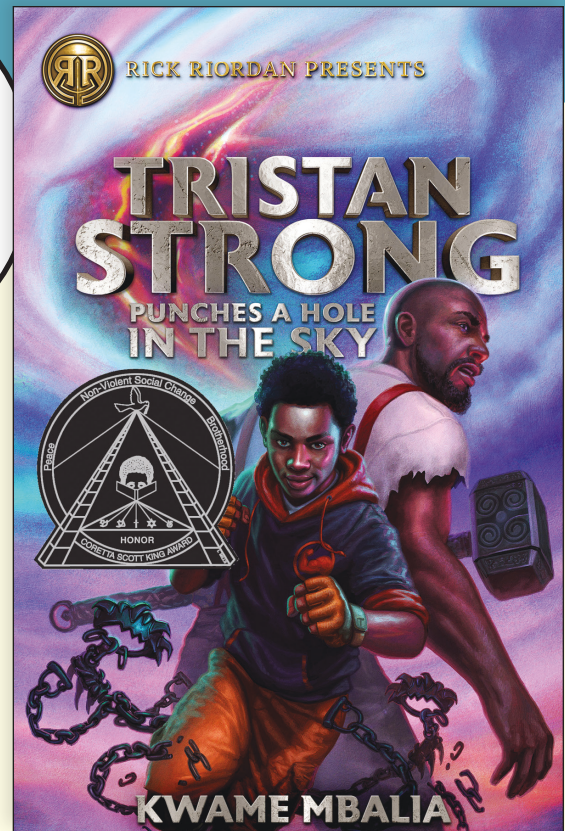
KWAME MBALIA

Published by Rick Riordan Presents,
an imprint of Disney-Hyperion.

After suffering the tragic loss of his best friend, Eddie, Tristan is sent down south to stay with his grandparents for the summer. On Tristan's first night, the legendary sticky Gum Baby shows up and steals Tristan's most prized possession, Eddie's journal. While in pursuit of Gum Baby, Tristan inadvertently punches a hole into Alke, a world where African American and African legends exist and are in need of help. An evil force is capturing and enslaving the people of Alke, and Tristan, a grieving and reluctant hero, must find a way to save his new friends and come to terms with the one he lost. Kwame Mbalia's action packed, humorous, fantasy adventure provides an emotional and uplifting narrative that highlights the power of Black stories old and new.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/ ACTIVITIES

- Adinkras border the endpaper maps and are present at the beginning of each chapter. Tristan is bestowed three special adinkras for his bracelet. Explore the meanings of the adinkras and discuss their connections to Tristan's journey and the legends he encounters.
- Explore past African and African American folklore. Compare the tales you find to the characters and stories present in the narrative.
- A variety of cultural allusions are present to represent elements in Black history (ex. Midpass, fetterlings, brand flies, etc.). Discuss the included allusions and create your own cultural allusion that could play a part in providing a historical reference in the story.



- Alke is described as a land divided and is representative of the tension within the African diaspora. Research a current or past cultural division among two groups. Report on the conflicts that arose from the division and the actions carried out to help bridge and resolve the conflict.
- An Anasesem is a powerful storyteller who can increase the strength of the gods by telling their story. Why is it important for stories about different groups to be told and remembered? What is a story about you or your family that you want to be remembered?

RELATED TITLES

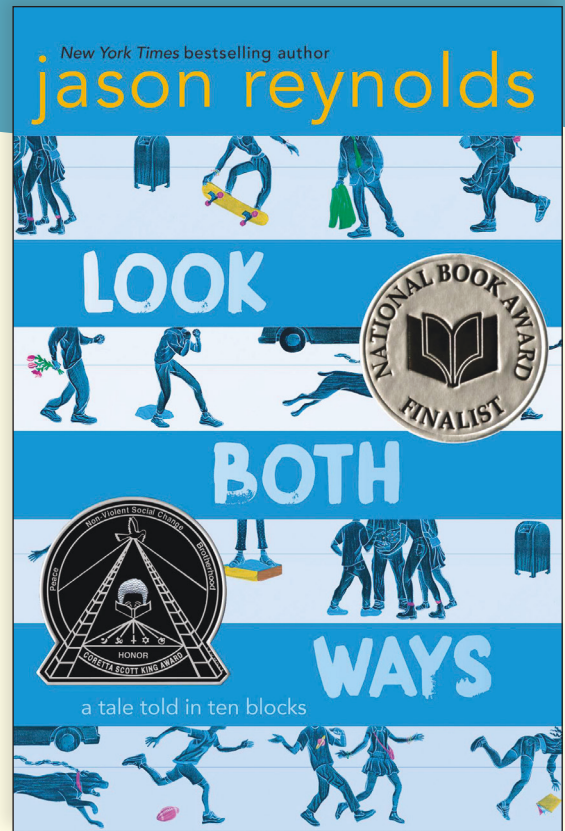
Lion and the Ostrich Chicks and Other African Folk Tales written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division. ***The People Could Fly: The Picture Book***, written by Virginia Hamilton and illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's. ***The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit*** written by Julius Lester and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House.

2020 AUTHOR HONOR LOOK BOTH WAYS: A TALE TOLD IN TEN BLOCKS

Written By

JASON REYNOLDS

A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing.



In ten stories told over the course of the walk home from school, Jason Reynolds weaves the triumphs and challenges of a community of young people who trek 10 city blocks over the course of one afternoon. As these students embark on their respective way home, readers journey with them through strong friendships, scary routes home, terminally ill parents, bullying, homophobia, and the philosophical highlights of water booger bears. Reynolds expertly delves beyond the surface of the mundane, and reveals a deeper humanity and strength of the human spirit through the eyes of ordinary kids just trying to get home from a day at school.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you get home from school? Are you a walker? A car or bus rider? Share an incredible story that you've experienced on your way home from school.

- Recreate a map of the community in which *Look Both Ways* is set. Include the 10 blocks, and capture people, places and events you can recall from the story on the map.
- Which character did you identify with the most and why? Write that character an encouraging letter.

RELATED CSK TITLES

The New Kid, by Jerry Craft, published by HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers; ***The Stars Beneath Our Feet***, by David Barclay Moore, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC; ***The Parker Inheritance***, by Varian Johnson, published by Arthur A. Levine Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.

2020 AUTHOR HONOR THE STARS AND THE BLACKNESS BETWEEN THEM

Written By

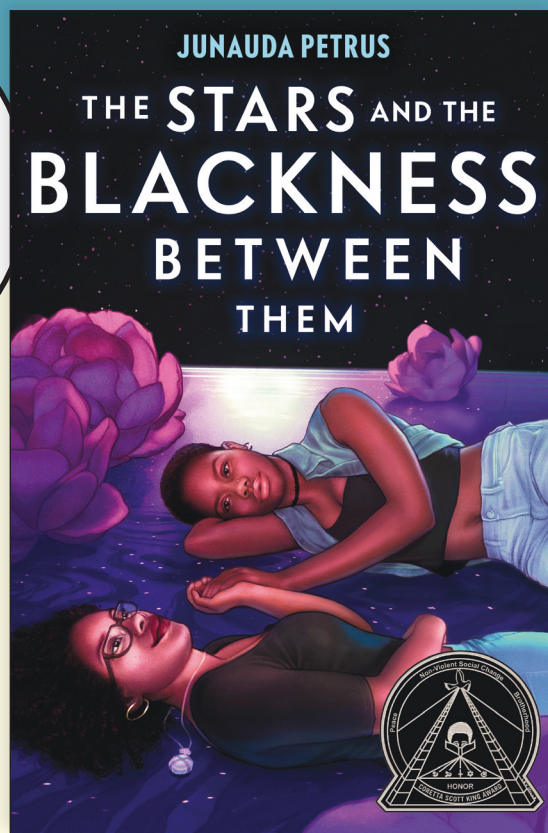
JUNAUDA PETRUS

Published by Dutton Books, an imprint of
Penguin Young Readers, a division of
Penguin Random House.

Audre and Mabel are two sixteen-year-olds from different worlds. Audre, from Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Mabel, from Minneapolis, Minnesota are exploring and coming to terms with feelings and questions about their sexuality. Audre's very religious mother finds her kissing the pastor's granddaughter and sends her to Minneapolis to live with her American father. Mabel is contemplating a mixture of feelings she has for her ex-boyfriend Terrell, her friend Jada, and Whitney Houston, all while feeling "low-key sick." When Audre and Mabel meet, they have an instant connection. Mabel is determined to help Audre navigate school and her new life in Minneapolis. As their friendship blossoms, Mabel's health takes a turn for the worse. It is Audre who then helps Mabel navigate her new reality. Together, they come into their own and fall in love. *The Stars and the Blackness Between Them* is a love letter to profound friendship, love, desire, queerness, and loss. It is a must-read coming-of-age story for everyone.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When Audre learns that she is going to live with her father in Minnesota, why does she tell Queenie that she is afraid she will lose her roots?



- How does Audre and Mabel's friendship help each of them on their journeys?
- How does the author bring Queenie into the story even after Audre leaves Trinidad?
- How do the relationships Audre and Mabel have with their individual parents impact their identities and their sense of belonging in the world?
- How does reading Afua Mahmoud's death row memoir change Mabel's perspective on her illness?

RELATED CSK TITLES:

The Sun is Also a Star, written by Nicola Yoon, and published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC; ***The Stars Beneath Our Feet***, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.; ***Brown Girl Dreaming***, written by Jacqueline Woodson, and published by Nancy Paulson Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.

2020 ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

INFINITE HOPE: A BLACK ARTIST'S JOURNEY FROM WORLD WAR II TO PEACE

Illustrated and Written By

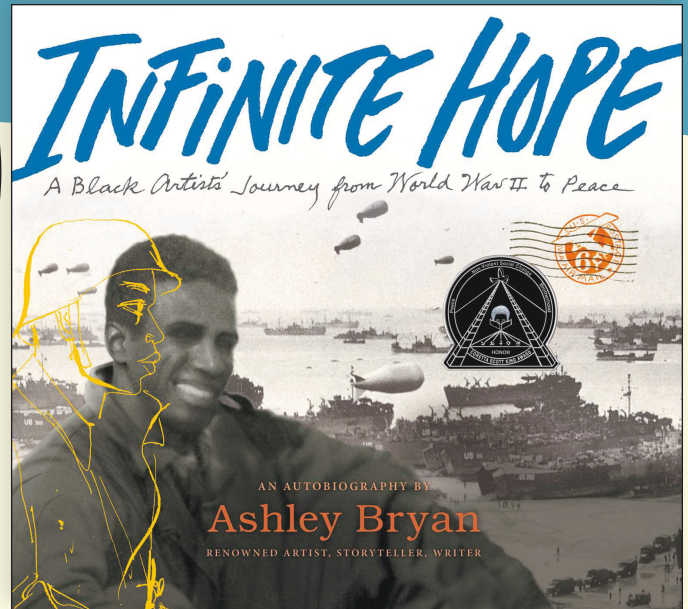
ASHLEY BRYAN

A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book. published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. an imprint of Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing.

In *Infinite Hope*, Ashley Bryan, world-renowned artist, illustrator and storyteller writes about his early path to attending Cooper Union College, the only academic institution in the New York area that would accept him in the 1940s. As a resident of Harlem, his goal was to become an artist. His plans were interrupted by the start of World War II, when he was drafted into the segregated military. Filled with primary resources of his life as a student who has had to defer his dream, he brings to light the plight of the African American soldier in rich detail. Photographs, journal entries, letters, sketches and gorgeous paintings of his experiences fill this book with little known information about the African American soldier during World War II.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- During World War II, African American soldiers were not allowed to serve with white soldiers. After basic training Ashley was assigned the rank of technical sergeant. What did you learn that was unique about this? How does that make you feel? Do you know anyone who is an African American soldier today? Discuss their experiences and how different it was when Ashley Bryan was a soldier.
- In 2019, the United States celebrated the 70th Anniversary of D-Day, when the United States and its Allies landed on Omaha Beach. Did you see or read



anything about the anniversary? If you did, how many African American soldiers did you see represented? Were African American soldiers present at the time of D-Day? What did Ashley Bryan say about this event? Discuss how D-Day was presented in the media in 2019 and the reality represented in *Infinite Hope*.

- Talk about the difference between how the African American soldiers were treated by whites as compared to the German soldiers during World War II. How do you think you would have felt if you were there at the time? Discuss a situation that you think is unfair today and what you think should be done about it?
- There are many photographs and illustrations in the book. Select one of each and talk about them. Is there a career that you are interested in and would like to acquire more information?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers, by Patricia C. and Frederick L. McKissack, published by Scholastic, Inc.; **We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball**, words and paintings by Kadir Nelson, published by Jump at the Sun, Hyperion, an imprint of the Disney Book Group; Hand in Hand: **Ten Black Men Who Changed America**, by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney, published by Disney, Jump at the Sun Books. **Rosa**, written by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Henry Holt and Company.



2020 ILLUSTRATOR HONOR THE BELL RANG

Illustrated and Written By

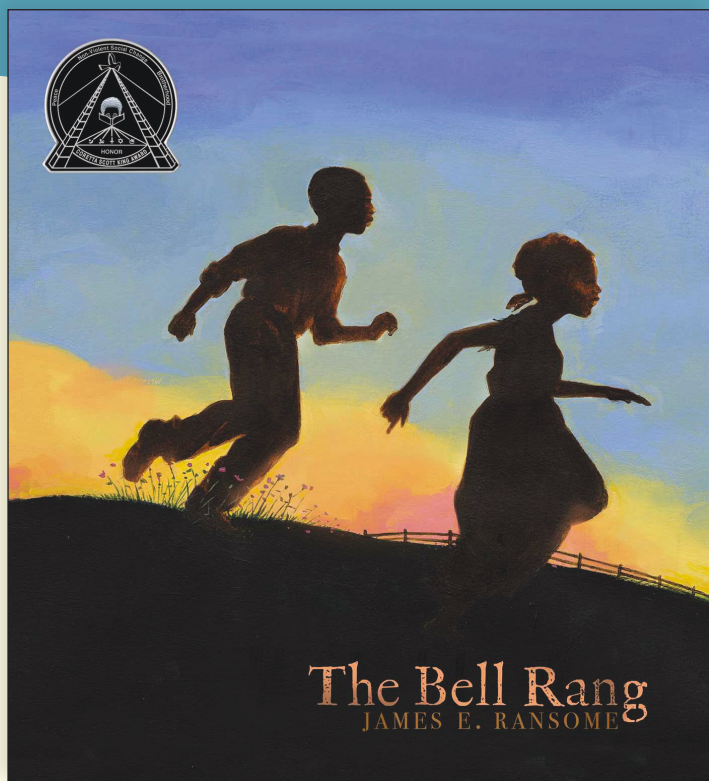
JAMES E. RANSOME

A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing.

Every day the bell rings on the slave plantation to the same mundane scenery and chores; Daddy gathers the wood, Mama cooks, they eat, then out to the fields. The seemingly predictable life on the plantation changes one day for a little girl and her family when her brother runs away. This simply told and brilliantly illustrated book poignantly captures the emotions of the girl and her family as they hope of her brother's safety and a brighter future for them all.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Talk about your daily ritual. What similarities do you see between the slave family and your own?
- Courage is a big part of the story in the book as the little girl's brother decides to run away to freedom. What does courage mean to you? Write down synonyms for courage.



- When have you been brave? Write down all of the times when you had the courage to do something that you felt strongly about.
- On the plantation, there are many chores that have to be done on a daily basis. Talk about the chores that you do with your family. How different or the same are they from the family's chores in the book?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan, Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and written by Mary Williams, Published by Lee & Low Books.

Before She Was Harriet, illustrated by James E. Ransome, and written by Lesa Cline Ransome, published by Holiday House. **Elijah of Buxton**, written by Christopher Paul Curtis, published by Scholastic Press. **Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: the Sanitation Strike of 1968**, written by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Highlights Press.

2020 ILLUSTRATOR HONOR SULWE

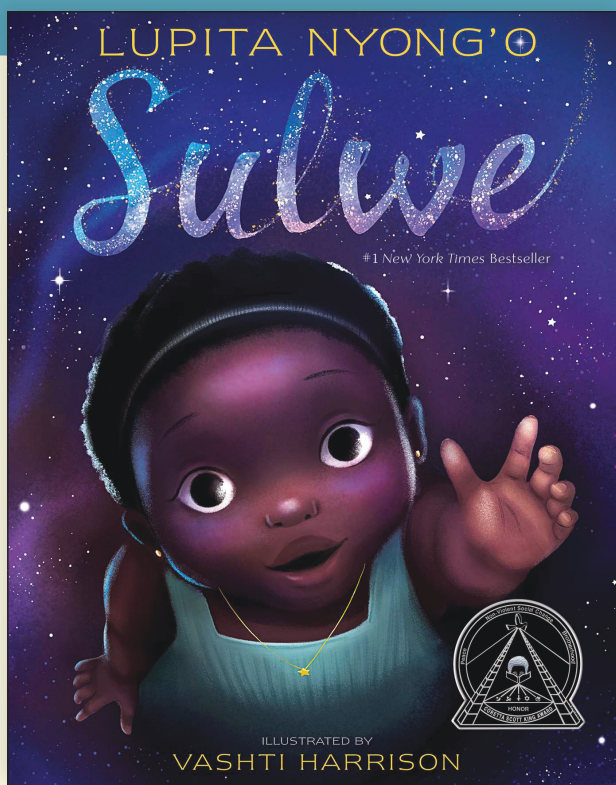
Illustrated By

VASHTI HARRISON

Written By

LUPITA NYONG'O

Published by Simon & Schuster
Books for Young Readers,
an imprint of Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing.



Little Sulwe whose name means star is the color of midnight. She is the darkest person in her family and in her school. This makes her feel like she is not beautiful. Sulwe's schoolmates call her names, she can't make friends, and she tries everything she can think of to lighten her complexion. One night, a shooting star carries her out from her bedroom into the world of the mythical origin story of night and day where Sulwe learns that all skin tones have meaning and purpose. Sulwe wakes up from her slumber with a new purpose and a new attitude.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever felt different from everyone else? Write a poem about how you felt.
- Celebrate YOU! Make a list of all the things you like about yourself.

- Acceptance and belonging are key themes in the story. What does acceptance mean to you?
- Why do you think it is important to love and accept yourself?
- Sulwe's attitude about her appearance changes after her dream. Have you ever felt different about something after an important event or learning discovery? Make a before list and after list based on your attitude change.

RELATED CSK TITLES

Beautiful Blackbird, Illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan, Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. **Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea**, written by Joyce Carol Thomas and illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by HarperCollins. **Africa Dream**, Written by Eloise Greenfield and illustrated by Carole Byard, published by Crowell Books.



2020 CORETTA SCOTT KING-VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (AUTHOR OR ILLUSTRATOR) MILDRED D. TAYLOR



For over four decades Mildred D. Taylor's books have provided much needed diversity in children's literature in powerful, accessible works exploring intense themes of racism faced by African Americans in the Deep South. Inspired by her own family's stories from Mississippi,

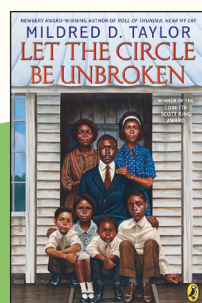
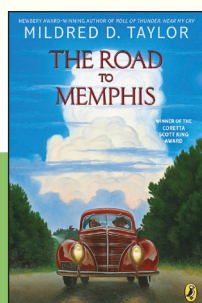
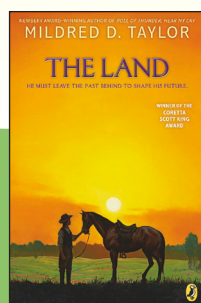
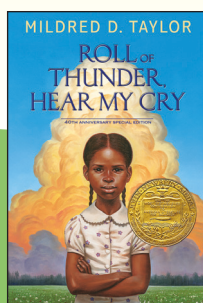
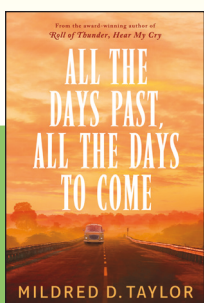
Taylor's Logan family novels have been justifiably central to the canon of writing about the Black experience in America for young people. Through her historical fiction, Taylor essentially takes all the complexities of American history and presents them in a manner that is accessible, emotionally moving, and deeply insightful.

Taylor's legendary novel, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* won the 1977 Newbery Award and a Coretta Scott King Book Award honor. Taylor received the international 2003 inaugural NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature. Her books earned national recognition including four CSK author awards, and two author honors. The 2020 Logan family series conclusion *All the Days Past, All the Days to Come*, continues addressing systemic injustice, entrenched inequality and the roots of racism.

Because of the length of her writing career, she has had an impact on many of the remarkable younger Black writers of today. As Jacqueline Woodson wrote in her introduction to the 40th anniversary edition of *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, "I know that I am a writer because Ms. Taylor wrote this book and I saw myself inside the pages of it..." Angie Thomas named Maverick, Starr's father in *The Hate U Give*, after a description of Cassie Logan: She also said that, although she didn't see herself in many books growing up, she did recognize herself in Cassie Logan of Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, and that the book meant so much to her that a description of Cassie's mother as a "disrupting maverick" inspired the name of Starr's father, Maverick Cater.

Beyond the educational power of her works, they are simply good literature. Above all, while historical fiction is not the preferred genre of many young readers, her books stand as inspiring examples of thrilling, engrossing stories that will draw in even the skeptics who might not expect to enjoy this type of book. Mildred Taylor is an American icon who has written books that challenge the very soul of the United States and gives even the young an opportunity to understand the impact of racism on this country.

Born in Mississippi in 1943 and raised in Ohio, Taylor now resides in Colorado.



Published by Viking Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Penguin Random House

ABOUT THE CORETTA SCOTT KING- VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is named in memory of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton. The annual award is presented in odd years (i.e. 2013, 2015, 2017...), to a practitioner for substantial contributions through active engagement with youth using award winning African American literature for children and/or young adults, via implementation of reading and reading related activities/programs. The recipient may be a public librarian, academic librarian, school librarian (public or private), an educator (pre-K - 12 or any level therein, or higher education) or youth literature advocate whose vocation, work, volunteer service or ongoing promotion of books with and/or on behalf of youth is significant and sustained.

In even years (i.e. 2016, 2018, 2020...), the award is presented to an African American author, illustrator or author/illustrator for a body of their published books for children and/or young adults, and who has made a significant and lasting literary contribution.

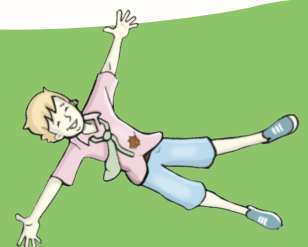
Virginia Hamilton was an award-winning author of children's books. She wrote more than 35 books throughout her career, including *M. C. Higgins, the Great*, for which she won the 1975 Newbery Medal. During her lifetime, Hamilton received numerous

awards including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Atlanta Globe-Horn Book Award and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

Members of the 2020 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement Award Committee are: Chair Ida W. Thompson, Columbia, S.C.; Carolyn L. Garnes, Atlanta; Chrystal Carr Jeter, Willoughby - Eastlake Public Library, Willoughby Hills, Ohio; Marguerite Worth Penick-Parks, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wis.; and Laura Simeon, Kirkus Reviews, Redmond, Washington.

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For more information on the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement Award and other ALA Youth Media Awards, please visit www.ala.org/yma.





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