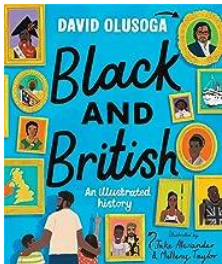

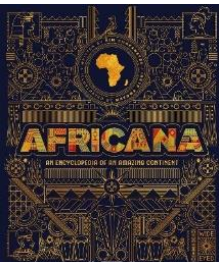


# Black History Book List - Upper School

A **selection** of books which highlight Black History across the world. The list has four sections: History, Biographies, Collection of Stories and Poems and Traditional Tales.

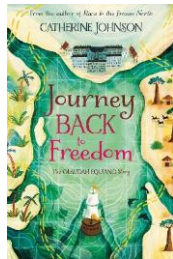
## History

<p><u><i>Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies</i> by Mireille Harper</u> A non-fiction book about notable contemporary and historical black people and events. Age 9-11</p> 	<p><u><i>Brilliant Black British History</i> by Atinuke</u> This book, beautifully illustrated by Kingsley Nebechi, is full of fascinating information. Age 9-11</p> 	<p><u><i>Black and British: An Illustrated History</i> by David Olusoga</u> A visual journey through Black British history for younger readers by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga. Age 7-11</p> 
<p><u><i>Windrush Child</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah</u> The story of Leonard, who at 10 years old makes the journey with his mother from Jamaica to join his father in England. Age 9-11</p> 	<p><u><i>The Story of the Windrush</i> by K.N. Chibiri</u> Describing the story of the Windrush generation who came to Britain from the Caribbean in the late 1940s and 1950s. Age 8+</p> 	<p><u><i>The Place for Me. Stories about the Windrush Generation</i></u> This book presents 12 moving tales of sacrifice and bravery, inspired by first-hand accounts of the Windrush generation. Age 8 +</p> 
<p><u><i>Africa Is Not A Country</i> by Margy Burns Knight</u> Countering stereotypes, <i>Africa Is Not a Country</i> celebrates the diversity of this vibrant continent. This edition includes updates to the text, statistics, and illustrations to reflect Africa in the 2020s. Age 8-12</p> 	<p><u><i>Africana: An Encyclopaedia of an Amazing Continent</i> by Kim Chakanetsa</u> This book immerses the reader in the history, landscapes, wildlife, peoples and cultures of the second largest continent in the world. Age 9+</p> 	<p><u><i>Destiny's Quest For Knowledge Exploring Black History</i> by Last Tex</u> A young girl becomes interested in learning about Black History Month. She learns about the bravery, determination, and ingenuity of black people throughout history. Age 7-8</p> 

*Journey Back to Freedom by Catherine Johnson*

Catherine Johnson tells the extraordinary story of Olaudah Equiano in a book that will inform, inspire and fascinate young readers.

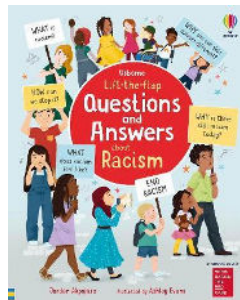
Taking his autobiography as the base, she concentrates on his early life, describing his terrifying capture as a young boy by slavers in Africa, his experiences as a slave working for different masters and how, through his resilience, determination and intelligence he was able to buy his freedom again. Age 7+



*Lift the Flap Questions and Answers About Racism by Jordan Akpojaro*

The questions are grouped under themes from 'What is racism?' to 'Why are people racist?' and finally, 'How can we stop racism?' Throughout, children are encouraged to think for themselves and, while it's clear how damaging and hurtful racism is, there's a positive message that says through understanding, being aware and changing our behaviour, together we can stop racism forever.

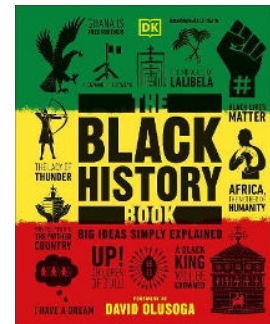
Age 9+



*The Black History Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained by David Olusoga*

A book about the most important milestones in Black history. Part of the fascinating *Big Ideas* series, this book tackles tricky topics and themes in a simple and easy to follow format.

Age 9+



*Dreams of Freedom by Amnesty International*

Powerful and moving, this collection of some of the most famous quotes about freedom including the words of Aung San Suu Kyi and Nelson Mandela make thoughtful statements about the global fight for human rights. Age 7-9



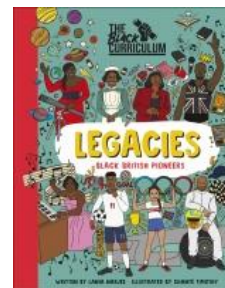
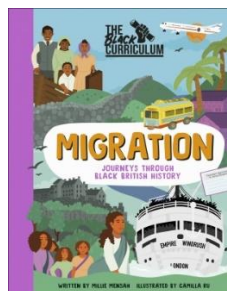
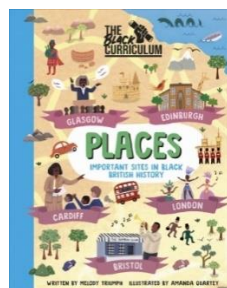
*The Black Curriculum Series by Melody Triumph.*

Age 9+

*Places: Important Sites in Black British History*

*Migration: Journeys Through Black British History*

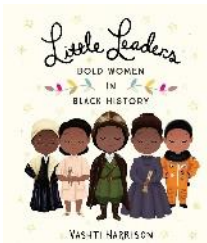
*Legacies: Black British Pioneers*



# Biographies

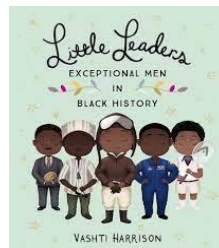
*Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison

Featuring forty trailblazing black women in American history.  
Age 7+



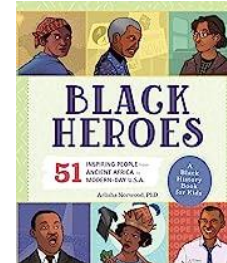
*Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison

Featuring forty trailblazing black men in American history.  
Age 7+



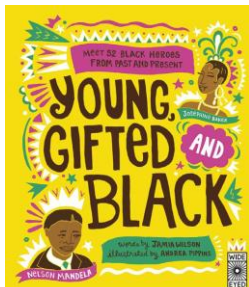
*Black Heroes: A Black History Book for Kids: 51 Inspiring People from Ancient Africa to Modern Day USA* By Arlisha Norwood

Age 8-12



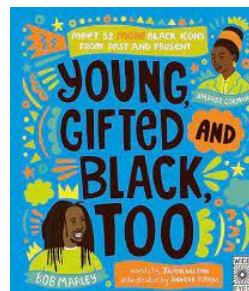
*Young, Gifted and Black* by Jamia Wilson, illustrated by Andrea Pippins

This book highlights 'the talent and contributions of black change-makers from around the world'. They include achievers in a wide range of areas including politics, the arts and sport.  
Age 7 -10



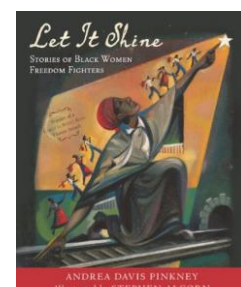
*Young, Gifted and Black Too* by Jamia Wilson, illustrated by Andrea Pippins

Subtitled 'Meet 52 More Black Icons from Past and Present'.  
Age 7 -10



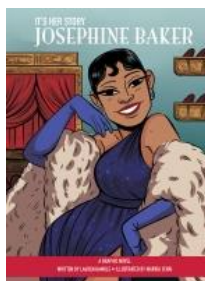
*Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters* by Andrea Davis Pinkney

The stories of ten women who contributed to the struggle for American civil rights from the 18th century to the 20th.  
Age 8-11



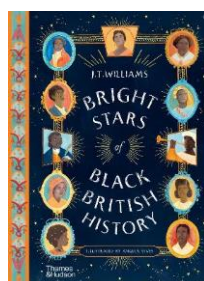
*It's Her Story: Josephine Baker* by Lauren Gamble

Age 7-9+  
Josephine Baker's story is unique and inspiring and, as told in this short **graphic novel**, will capture the interest of young readers.



*Bright Stars of Black British History*

This book delves into the life stories of fourteen bright stars from Black British history - including Tudor trumpeter John Blanke, storytelling freedom fighter Mary Prince, and Notting Hill Carnival founder Claudia Jones - many of whom are only just beginning to get the recognition that they deserve. Age 10+



*Who Was Rosa Parks?* by Yona Zeldis McDonough

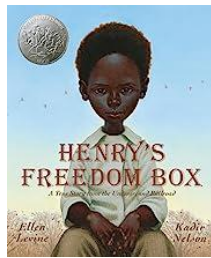
This 112-page biography from the kid-friendly "Who Was ..." series shares lesser-known facts about Rosa Parks, the black woman who bravely refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Alabama in 1955.  
Age 8-10



Henry's Box by Ellen Levine

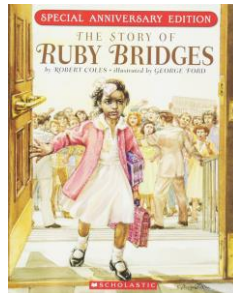
The story of Henry "Box" Brown escaping slavery by shipping himself to the north in a wooden crate. We learn that as a boy, Henry doesn't know his age because nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. As an adult working in a warehouse, he decides to take a major risk and mail himself in a box — to a world where he can have a "birthday" (his first day of freedom).

Age 6-9



The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles

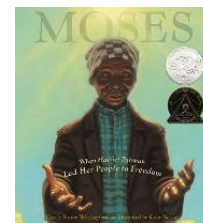
The inspiring story of the six-year-old Black girl who had to endure the racism of white people in her community in order to attend elementary school in New Orleans in 1960. Age 7-8



Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford

The book introduces Harriet Tubman, champion of the Underground Railroad who earned the nickname "Moses" for leading hundreds of slaves to freedom. The text and paintings portray how Tubman's compassion, courage, and deep religious faith helped her lead 19 trips from the south to the north to help fellow African-Americans.

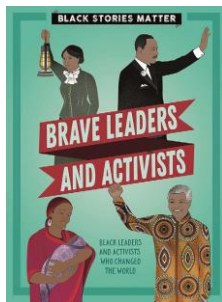
Age 7-10



Black Leaders and Activists by J. P. Miller and Chellie Carroll

Descriptions of the lives of ten significant Black activists past and present, plus eight additional mini-biographies. Included are Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi, who founded the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as familiar names such Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King.

Age 8+



The Extraordinary Lives series.

Titles include:

Nelson Mandela, Katherine Johnson, Michelle Obama, Rosa Parks, Malala Yousafzai, Serena Williams ...

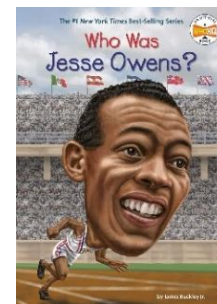
Age 7-10



Who Was Jesse Owens? By James Buckley Jr.

Jesse Owens, track and field star, ran himself straight into international glory by winning four gold medals at the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics. But the life of Jesse Owens is much more than a sports story as this book reveals.

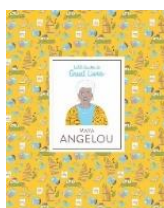
Age 8-12



Maya Angelou - Little Guides to Great Lives by Danielle Jawando

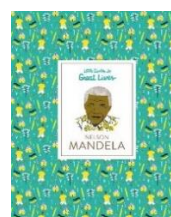
A brief guide capturing the courage and creativity of the African American author, poet, playwright, and civil rights activist.

Age 7-11



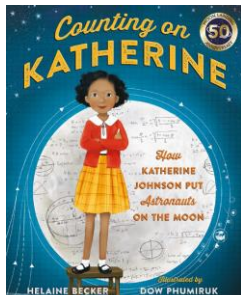
Nelson Mandela - Little Guides to Great Lives by Isabel Thomas

Age 7-11



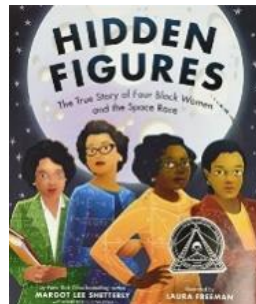
Counting on Katherine by Helaine Becker

An accessible picture book biography of Katherine Johnson, an African American mathematician who is now better known thanks to the film *Hidden Figures*.  
Age 5-9



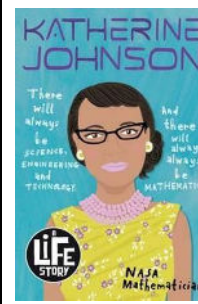
Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

This book tells young readers about four black women whose works was responsible for NASA being able to launch man into space.  
Age 5-8



Katherine Johnson: A Life Story by Leila Rasheed

A biography for older readers.  
Age 9-11



It's Her Story: Shirley Chisholm by Patrice Aggs

A short **graphic novel-style** book telling the Story of the First Black Woman in Congress.  
Age 7-9+



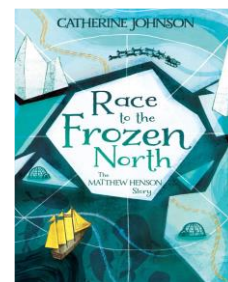
Blast Off into Space Like Mae Jemison by Caroline Moss and Sinem Erkas

The story of scientist Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to be accepted onto NASA's astronaut programme. Illustrated with striking collage pictures and with quotes from Mae Jemison throughout.  
Age 8-11



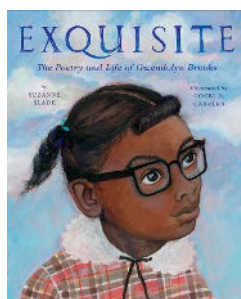
Race to the Frozen North. The Matthew Henson Story by Catherine Johnson

Catherine Johnson gives voice to the first man to reach the North Pole who has received little recognition for his achievement.  
Age 9-12



Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks by Suzanne Slade

A picture-book biography of celebrated poet Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize.  
Age 7-9+



Coming to England by Floella Benjamin

The writer's autobiographical account of her childhood in Trinidad and her family's migration to Britain in 1960.  
Age 9-11



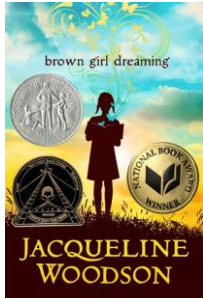
Holding Her Own: The Exceptional Life of Jackie Ormes

A picture book biography about the life of Jackie Ormes, whose cartoons became some of the first empowering depictions of Black women in America.  
Age 7-10



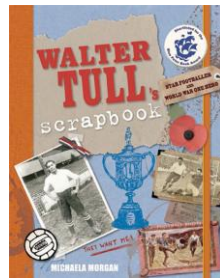
*Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson*

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 book readers get to know her extended family within the wider context of African American history.  
Age 11+



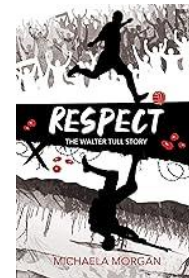
*Walter Tull's Scrapbook by Michaela Morgan*

The story of Black footballer and World War One soldier Walter Tull presented as though it were an autobiography written by Walter himself. It makes use of contemporary photos and documents.  
Age 7-10



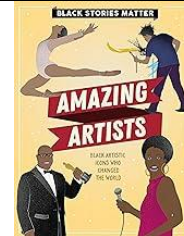
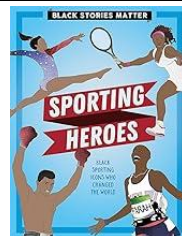
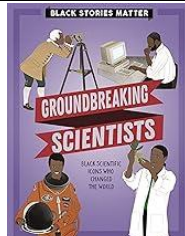
*Respect: The Walter Tull Story by Michaela Morgan*

An inspiring story of courage and resilience based on real-life events. Walter Tull was a true hero and the first black officer in the British Army, but he had to fight for respect throughout his life. The grandson of a slave, Walter was brought up in a children's home.  
Age 9-12



*Black Stories Matter series.*

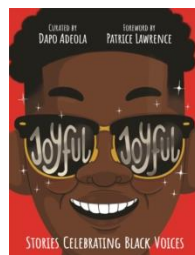
Titles:  
*Amazing Artists*  
*Groundbreaking Scientists*  
*Sporting Heroes*  
Age 8+



## Collection of stories and poems

*Joyful, Joyful: Stories Celebrating Black Voices.*

A book celebrating joy, showcasing 40 talented Black writers and artists from across the world. Curated by British Book Awards Illustrator Dapo Adeola, with a foreword by the acclaimed Patrice Lawrence.  
A large hardback packed full of colourful illustrations, Featuring both exciting new talents and renowned poets, authors and illustrators from the UK and US, to Uganda, the Netherlands, Nigeria and more.  
Age 8-12

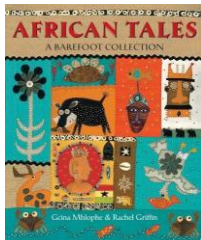


## Traditional Tales

### *African Tales by Gcina Mhlophe*

Traditional stories from the length and breadth of Africa retold by a renowned South African storyteller. Each of the eight stories is prefaced by an introduction to the country from which it comes.

Age 7-10



### *Tales from the Caribbean by Trish Cook*

A collection of tales from all over the Caribbean, retold by an author whose parents came to Britain from Dominica in the 1950s.

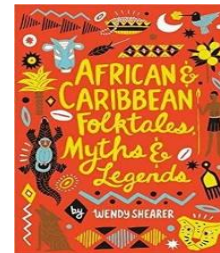
Age 9-11



### *African and Caribbean Folktales, Myths and Legends by Wendy Shearer*

A rich collection of folktales, myths and legends from all over Africa and the Caribbean.

Age 8-12



### *A Story, A Story: An African Tale Retold by Gail E. Hailey*

Age 7+

