

PreK-2nd Gr.

“Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.”

—Psalm 70.5

Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation. Patrice Sherman. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2010.

Young Benjamin Holmes, a slave in Charleston who has taught himself to read, recites Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to his fellow slaves in prison.

The Bus Ride that Changed History: The Story of Rosa Parks. Pamela Duncan Edwards. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

In 1955, a young African-American woman named Rosa Parks took a big step for civil rights when she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger.

Busing Brewster. Richard Michelson. New York: Knopf, 2010.

Bused across town to a school in a white neighborhood of Boston in 1974, a young African-American boy named Brewster describes his first day in first grade. Includes historical notes on the court-ordered busing.

Doctor All-Knowing: a Folk Tale from the Brothers Grimm. Doris Orgel. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008.

Desperate to provide enough food for himself and his daughter, a poor man sets himself up as Doctor All-Knowing and is soon called upon by a rich man to find a thief.

Freedom on the Menu: the Greensboro Sit-Ins. Carole Boston Weatherford. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2005.

The 1960 civil rights sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, are seen through the eyes of a young, Southern black girl.

The Greedy Sparrow: An Armenian Tale. Lucine Kasbarian. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children's Books, 2011.

A sparrow receives kindness from strangers and repays each act of kindness with a trick to get more, but at last, in a surprising twist, the sparrow is back with his original problem.

Hiromi's Hands. Lynne Barasch. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2007.

The biography of one of the first female sushi chefs in New York City celebrates Hiromi Suzuki's Japanese-American roots and her achievements in the U.S.

Josephine's Dream. Joan Betty Stuchner. Sandy, UT: Silverleaf Press, 2008.

"Josephine Baker was a famous singer, dancer, and entertainer. After moving to France to break free of prejudice, she eventually helped with the French resistance as a spy in World War II and won a medal for her service..."--Jacket.

Lily and the Paper Man. Rebecca Upjohn. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2007.

At first, Lily is afraid of the paper man whom she sees on the way home from school, but when winter comes and she sees that he has no warm clothes, she tells her mother and father that she has an idea.

The Little Matador. Julian Hector. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008.

A young matador who would rather draw pictures than fight bulls finds a new way to entertain the townsfolk.

Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer. Bill Wise. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2007.

"A biography of Penobscot Indian Louis Sockalexis, who pursued his childhood love of baseball and eventually joined the Major Leagues, where he faced racism and discrimination with humility and courage as the first Native American to play professional baseball."

Mama Panya's Pancakes: A Village Tale from Kenya. Mary Chamberlin. Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books, 2005.

Mama Panya has just enough money to buy ingredients for a few pancakes, so when her son Adika invites all their friends to join them, she is sure there will not be enough to go around.

Nothing but Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson. Sue Stauffacher. New York: Knopf, 2007.

A biography of Althea Gibson, the first Black tennis player to ever compete in what is now known as the U.S. Open, and in the Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, England.

Priscilla and the Hollyhocks. Anne Broyles. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2008.

A young African-American girl is sold away from her mother as a slave, and then later is sold to a Cherokee Indian, but eventually she is bought by a white man who not only sets her free, but adopts her into his family of fifteen children.

Ruth and the Green Book. Calvin A. Ramsey. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2010.

When Ruth and her parents take a motor trip from Chicago to Alabama to visit her grandma, they rely on a pamphlet called "The Negro Motorist Green Book" to find places that will serve them. Includes facts about "The Green Book."

Side by Side: the Story of Dolores Herta and Cesar Chavez. Monica Brown. New York: Rayo, 2010.

Something special happened when Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez met. Together, they fought for the rights of countless farmworkers. Side by side, inspiring hope, they changed history.

Signed, Abiah Rose. Diane Browning. Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 2009.

In pioneer days, a young girl, who is a talented artist, is encouraged to paint portraits, Bible scenes, and other pictures, but told never to sign her work, either because it would be a sign of pride or because artists are expected to be men.

Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride. Andrea Davis Pinkney. New York: Jump at the Sun Books, 2009.

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery, but became a free woman. Freedom meant so much to Sojourner that she used the power of speech to help end slavery.

The Yankee at the Seder. Elka Weber. Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 2009.

As a Confederate family prepares for Passover the day after the Civil War has ended, a Yankee arrives on their Virginia doorstep and is invited to share their meal, to the dismay of ten-year-old Jacob.

“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.”

—Deuteronomy 15:11