



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

2017 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
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This Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide is prepared by the 2017 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury Chair Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop and members Kacie Armstrong, Sam Bloom, Erica Marks, Martha Parravano, April Roy, and Ida W. Thompson.

The activities and discussion topics are developed to encompass state school standards. These standards equally apply 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.



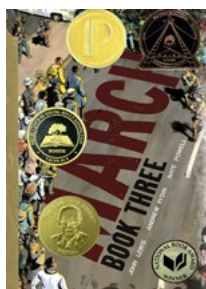
THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD: A LIVING LEGEND

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 Smith, American Library Association, 1999; and *The Coretta Scott King Awards: 1970–2014, Fifth Edition*, edited by Carole J. McCullough and Adelaide Poniatowski Phelps, American Library Association, 2015.

For more than forty-five 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 with 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.

2017 AWARD WINNER & HONOR BOOKS



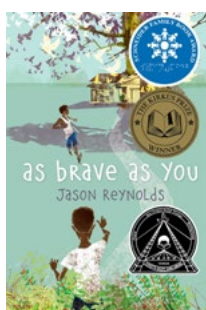
CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR WINNER

MARCH: BOOK THREE

Written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

Illustrated by Nate Powell

Top Shelf Productions, an imprint of IDW Publishing

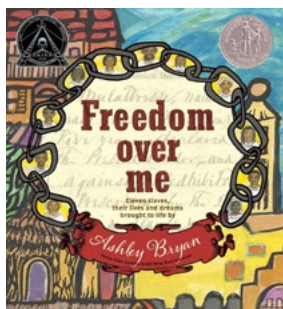


CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

AS BRAVE AS YOU

Written by Jason Reynolds

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

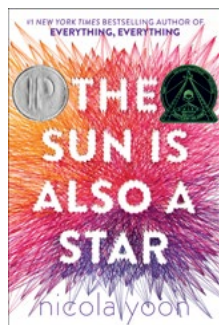


CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY ASHLEY BRYAN

Written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan

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

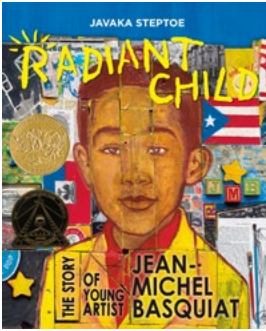


2017 JOHN STEPTOE AWARD FOR NEW TALENT AUTHOR WINNER

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR

Written by Nicola Yoon

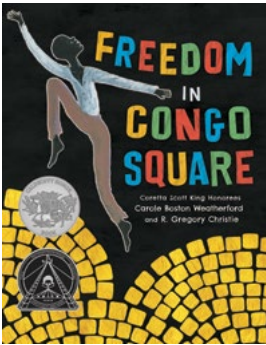
Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR WINNER

RADIANT CHILD: THE STORY OF YOUNG ARTIST JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

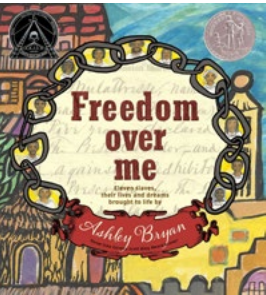
Illustrated and written by Javaka Steptoe
Little, Brown and Company, a division of
Hachette Book Group



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

FREEDOM IN CONGO SQUARE

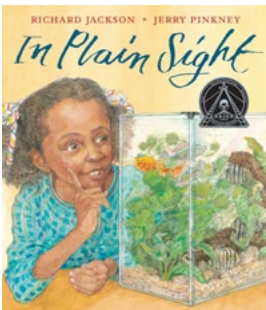
Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
Written by Carole Boston Weatherford
Little Bee Books, an imprint of Bonnier Publishing Group



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY ASHLEY BRYAN

Written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan
A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books
for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

IN PLAIN SIGHT

Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
Written by Richard Jackson
A Neal Porter Book / Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of
Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

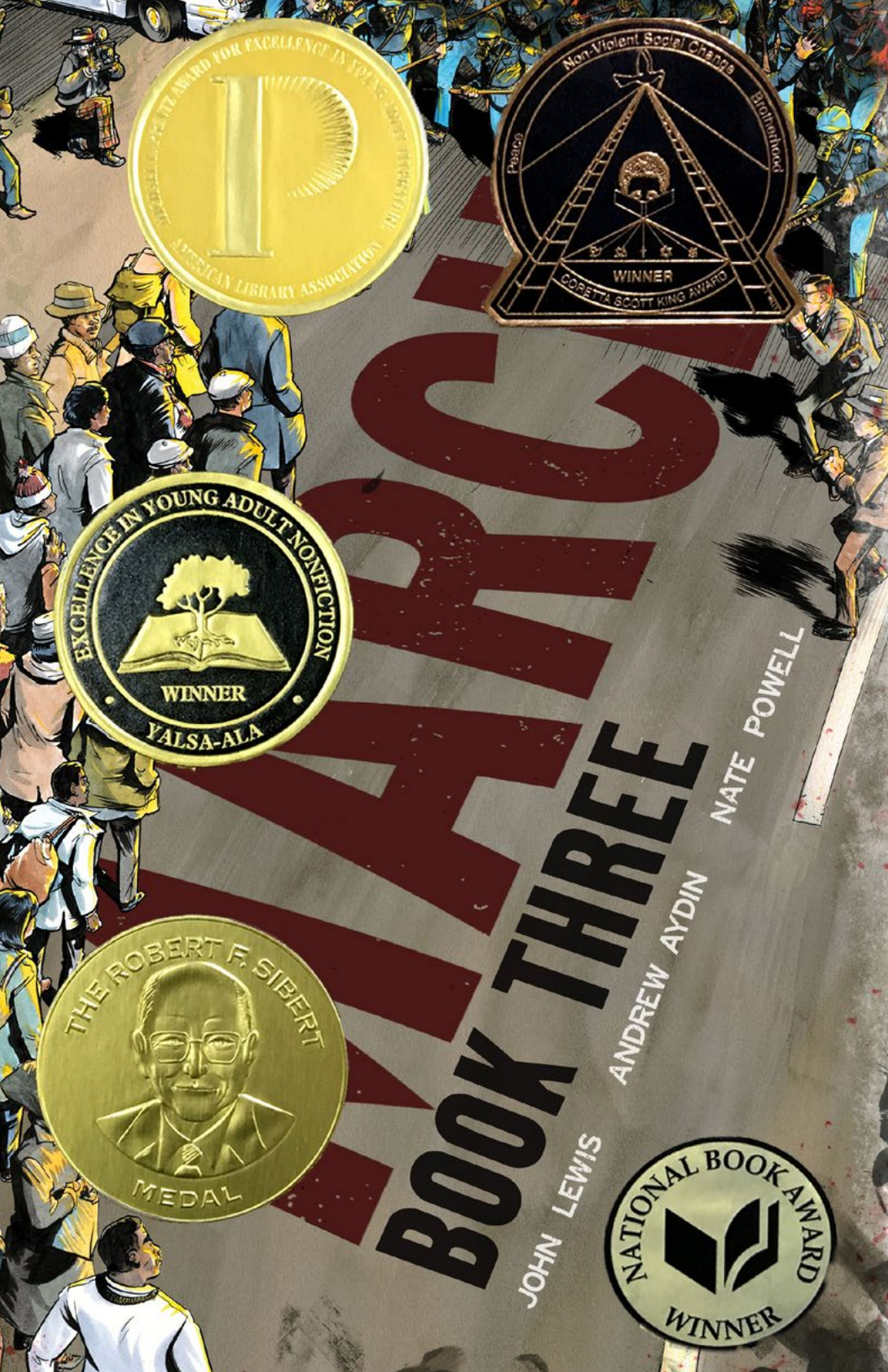


BOOK THREE

JOHN LEWIS

ANDREW AYDIN

NATE POWELL



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS AUTHOR WINNER



PHOTO BY ERIC FETHERIDGE

MARCH: BOOK THREE

By John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

Illustrated by Nate Powell

Top Shelf Productions, an imprint of IDW Publishing

Before he became a congressman, John Lewis was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Here Lewis shares his experiences with a new generation of readers in the culminating volume of this epic graphic novel series. Along with co-author Aydin and illustrator Powell, Lewis takes readers inside the major moments of the movement, from the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, with the Selma to Montgomery march at the story's heart. Through it all, Lewis, Aydin, and Powell create a deeply moving reading experience using immersive storytelling to describe a crucial period in our country's history.



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What do you know about some of the key figures in the story (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; President Johnson; George Wallace; Fannie Lou Hamer; Robert F. Kennedy)? Choose one person from *March: Book Three* and further research their life and role in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Why does one part of the story take place on January 20, 2009? What is the significance of that date for Lewis and the Civil Rights Movement?
- Why do you think the authors chose to make *March* into three books? Why do you think they decided to make the story a graphic novel instead of a prose book?
- George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." What do you think young people today can learn from Congressman Lewis's experiences in the 1960s?

RELATED CSK TITLES

March: Book One, written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, published by Top Shelf Productions, an imprint of IDW Publishing.

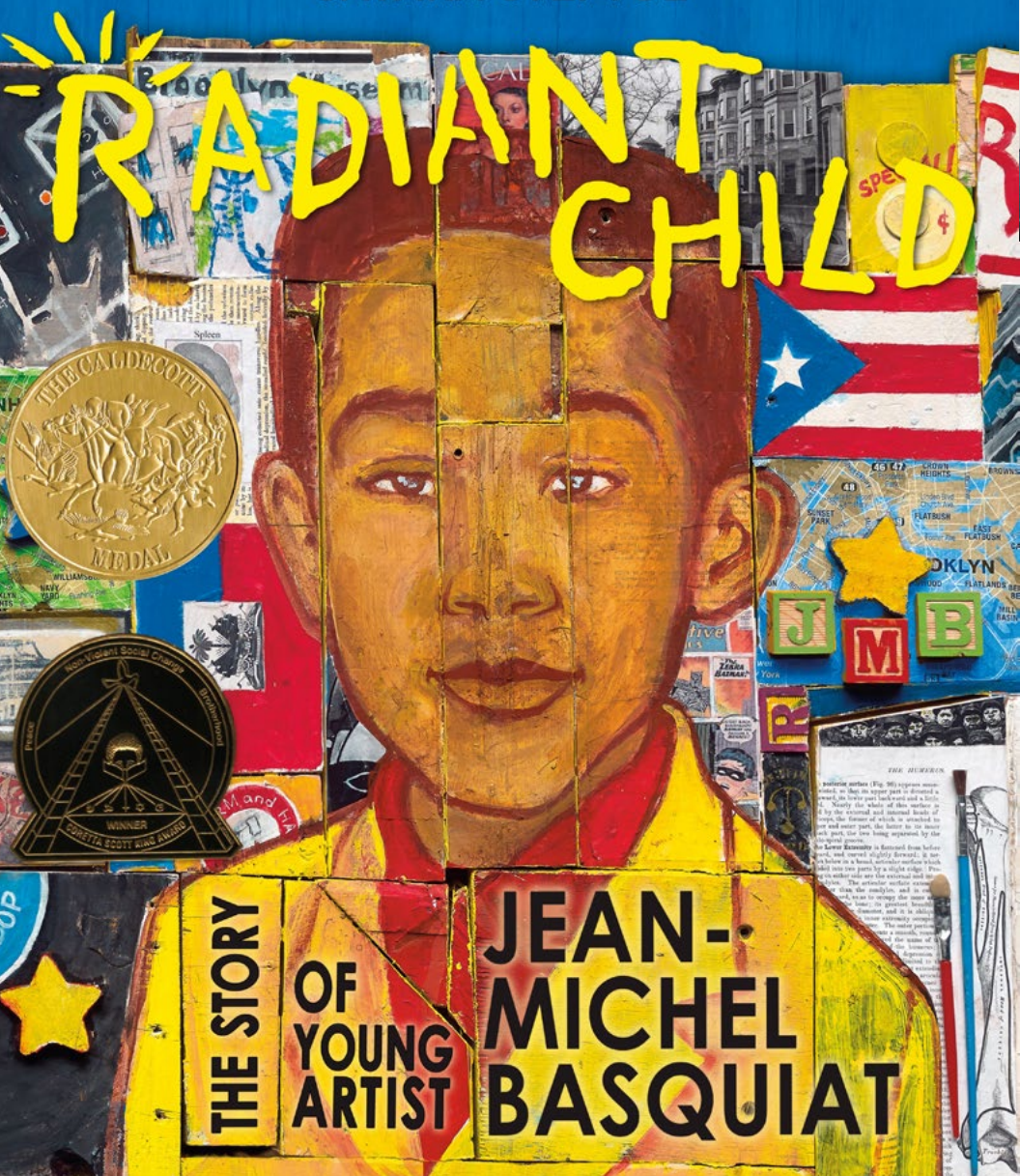
Remember: The Journey to School Integration, written by Toni Morrison, published by HMH Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, written by Carole Boston Weatherford, published by Candlewick Press.

The Watsons go to Birmingham—1963 written by Christopher Paul Curtis, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Books.

JAVAKA STEPTOE

RADIANT CHILD



THE STORY

OF
YOUNG
ARTIST

JEAN-
MICHEL
BASQUIAT

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS ILLUSTRATOR WINNER



PHOTO BY HIDDEN CHAPEL STUDIOS

RADIANT CHILD: THE STORY OF YOUNG ARTIST JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

Illustrated and written by Javaka Steptoe

Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group

Javaka Steptoe tells the inspiring story of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat in this beautifully illustrated biography. From his early childhood, Basquiat found inspiration in New York City and the museums that his mother took him to visit. Steptoe's mixed media illustrations in bright colors and Basquiat-like style blend with simple and honest text to create a stunning book for young readers.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Javaka Steptoe tells the story of an artist that inspired him in this book. Who inspires you? How would you tell their story?
- The illustrations in this book contain numerous symbols or motifs. What motifs represent you and your life?
- Jean-Michel Basquiat was inspired by the world around him and used found objects to create art. Look around your environment. What could be made into art?
- Javaka Steptoe and Jean-Michel Basquiat both dreamed of being artists. What is your dream?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Uptown, illustrated and written by Bryan Collier, published by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Jazz, written by Walter Dean Myers and illustrated by Christopher Myers, published by Holiday House, Inc.

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave, illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Laban Carrick Hill; published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Trombone Shorty, illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews and Bill Taylor, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING



THE SUN IS A STAR

nicola yoon

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

2017 JOHN STEPTOE AWARD FOR NEW TALENT



THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR

By Nicola Yoon

Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC

Fate leads to love for Jamaican-American teen Natasha, who is fighting deportation. As her battle to remain in the United States begins, Natasha meets Daniel—a Korean-American who despises his overachieving brother and is torn between his chosen career path and where his heart lies, with poetry. Finding comfort in each other's presence, Natasha and Daniel spend the next twelve hours hoping the universe has a future for their relationship. Yoon's dexterous writing creates an intricately woven novel, including themes of diversity, immigration, first love and social and family issues.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

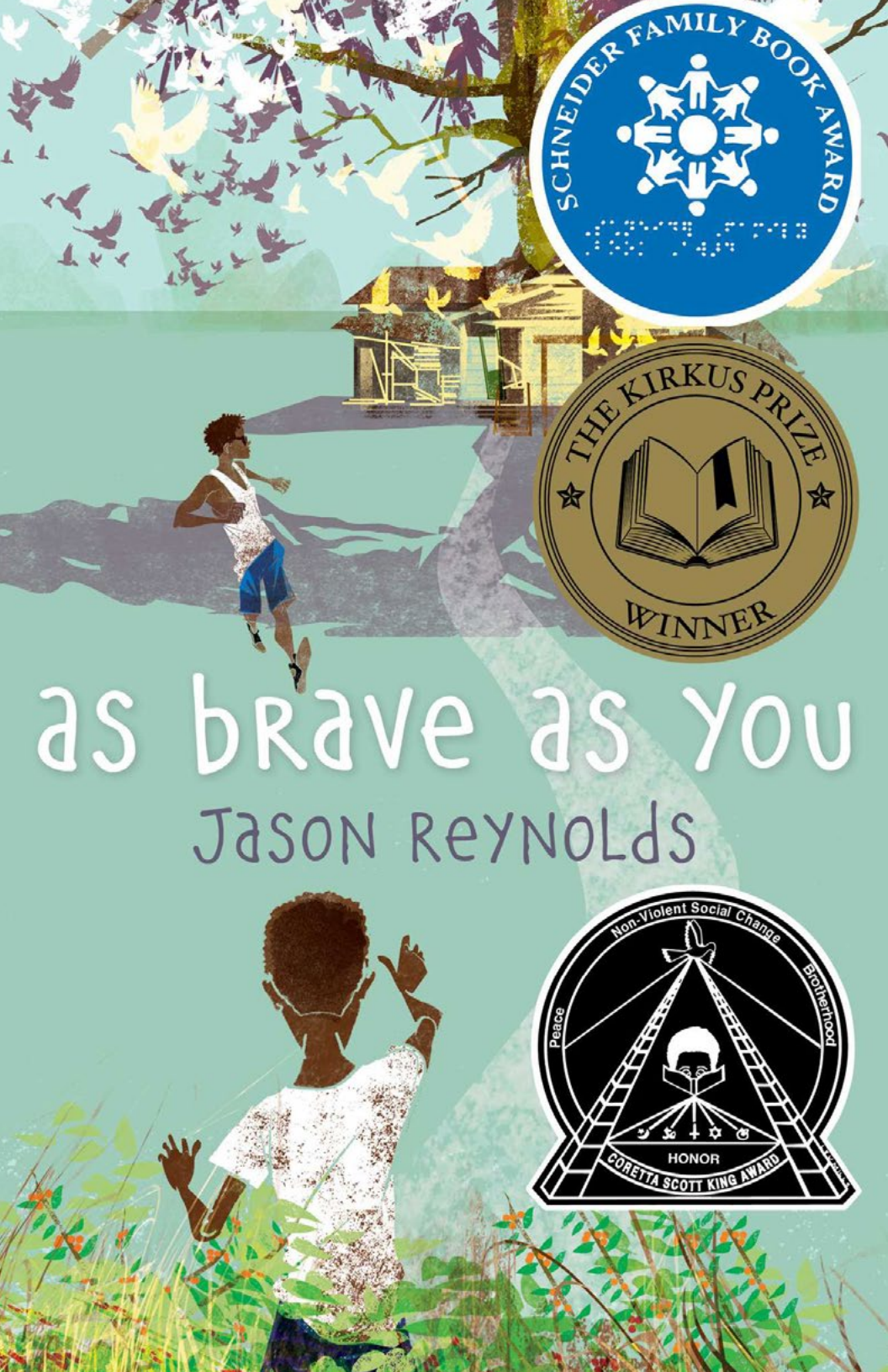
- Natasha's father, Samuel Kingsley, made a harmful decision, leading to his family's deportation. Do you think the entire family should have been included in this decision? Why or why not?
- How does *The Sun Is Also a Star* address current issues in today's society? If applicable, provide credible documentation to support your answer.
- Coincidence and fate play big roles in *The Sun Is Also a Star*. Think about the ways in which the random connections we make determine our futures. Have there been circumstances of coincidence or random connections in your life that you feel have been determined by fate or the universe? In what ways did fate play a role in the lives of Natasha and Daniel?
- How would you describe the relationship between Daniel and his father, Mr. Bae? Do you think his father is wrong for choosing a career path for him? Why or why not?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Motown and Didi: A Love Story, written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Viking.

Who Am I Without Him?: Short Stories About Girls and the Boys in Their Lives, written by Sharon Flake, published by Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children.

Like Sisters on the Homefront, written by Rita Williams-Garcia, published by Delacorte.



as brave as you

JASON REYNOLDS



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS AUTHOR HONOR



PHOTO BY KACHENSELLE

AS BRAVE AS YOU

Written by Jason Reynolds

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

Eleven-year-old Brooklyn-born Genie and his older brother Ernie spend the summer in rural Virginia with grandparents they barely know. Curious-about-the-world Genie fills notebooks with questions, and this summer brings many questions. Why don't Grandpop and his father get along? What is in Grandpop's secret room? What happened to their uncle Wood? Why does blind Grandpop own a gun? The summer unfolds, revealing a complicated family history and eventually leading to the beginning of healing and renewed connection. With humor and with authentic characters, situations, and dialogue, Reynolds explores the nature of family, guilt, and responsibility; acknowledges the hold the past has over the present; and paints a memorable, strong portrait of intergenerational friendship between Genie and his grandfather.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Nat Life in the country in the South is very different from life at home in Brooklyn. What do Genie and Ernie like, and dislike, about the country? What do they learn about themselves, each other, and their extended family?
- Throughout the novel, Genie adds questions to his notebook. ("How many stars are in the sky? And whose job is it to count them?") (page 250) Start your own research notebook, listing all the questions that occur to you over the course of a week. Research (you can use the Internet, like Genie does!) and answer five of your own questions. Share your findings with your class.
- Grandpop refers to the "early Jim Crow days" while telling some family history, and Genie learns that the local tradition of boys learning to shoot a rifle when they turn 14 started after the murder of Emmett Till. Genie knows only some of the history of racism and slavery: "Question for later: Who was Jim Crow?" (page 391) How much do you know? Look into the Jim Crow laws and do research about Emmett Till.
- Genie grows very close to Grandpop over the course of the novel, partly by asking him questions. Choose an elderly relative, neighbor, or family friend to interview about their life.

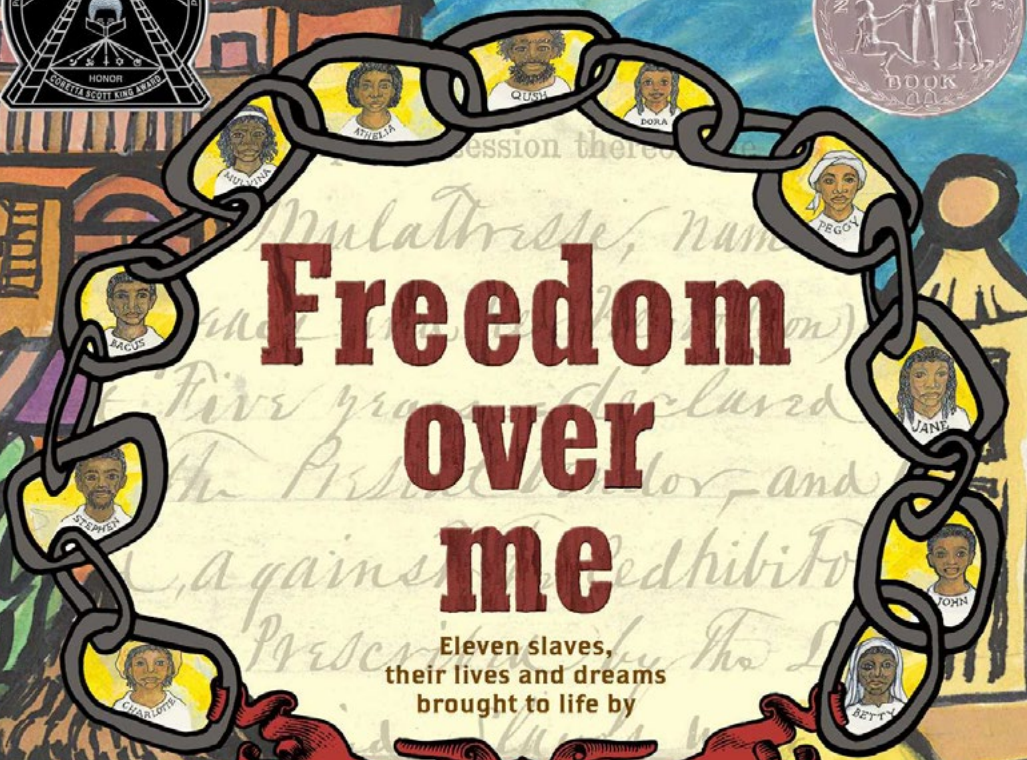
RELATED CSK TITLES

Gone Crazy in Alabama, written by Rita Williams-Garcia, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Children's Books.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963, written by Christopher Paul Curtis, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.

Brown Girl Dreaming, written by Jacqueline Woodson, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Group.

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS
AUTHOR HONOR



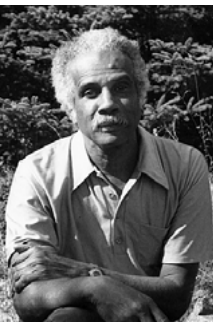
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Freedom over me

Eleven slaves,
their lives and dreams
brought to life by

Ashley Bryan
Three-time Coretta Scott King Award winner

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS
ILLUSTRATOR HONOR



FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE

Written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan

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

In free verse poems and in pictures, Ashley Bryan offers evocative portraits of eleven men, women and children enslaved on a plantation in 1828. Bryan's portraits—both verbal and visual— demonstrate that they are much more than a name, an age and a price, as listed in plantation inventories. Against background collages of slave documents identifying them as property, they are revealed as skilled, complex individuals with dreams of using their considerable knowledge and skills to make a future for themselves as free human beings.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Each enslaved person in the book is represented by two poems. Select two persons from the book, read both their poems, and write about the ways their poems are similar or different. What kinds of things do they talk about in each poem?
- The book title “Freedom Over Me”, comes from a song, “Oh Freedom,” which is a kind of song called a “spiritual”. Search the Internet to find and listen to the song, “Oh, Freedom.” What do the words tell you about how enslaved people felt about being enslaved? How does the song make you feel?
- Do research to learn more about spirituals- where they came from, in what ways they are alike or similar, why they are important in American music.
- Read the poem from Mrs. Mary Fairchild. How do you think she feels about the slaves on her plantation? What kind of “slave master” did she think her husband was? How can you tell? Do you agree with her? Why or why not? Do you think the slaves would agree with her? Why or why not?
- Look closely at the portraits of the eleven slaves. What do you notice about their faces? What do the lines on their faces suggest to you about their characters? Why do you suppose the artist placed those slave documents in the background of the portraits?
- What kind of mood(s) do the dream poems' illustrations seem to suggest? How does the artist set the mood?

RELATED CSK TITLES

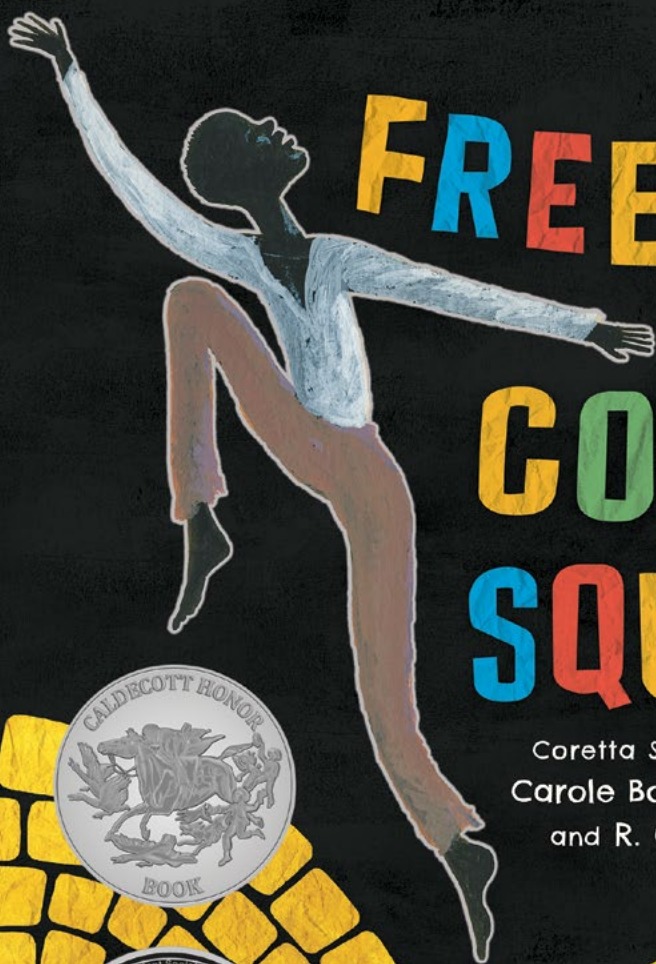
Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave, illustrated by Bryan Collier, written by Laban Carrick Hill, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals, written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters, written by Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick L. McKissack, illustrated by John Thompson, published by Scholastic, Inc.

Africa Dream, written by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Carole Byard, published by HarperCollins Children's Books

Freedom in Congo Square, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, written by Carole Boston Weatherford, published by Little Bee Books, an imprint of Bonnier Publishing Group



FREEDOM IN CONGO SQUARE

Coretta Scott King Honorees
Carole Boston Weatherford
and R. Gregory Christie



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS ILLUSTRATOR HONOR



FREEDOM IN CONGO SQUARE

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, written by Carole Boston Weatherford
Little Bee Books, an imprint of Bonnier Publishing USA

Freedom in Congo Square shines a light on a little-known historic site in Louis Armstrong Park in New Orleans, Louisiana. Enslaved people in New Orleans worked hard all week, Mondays through Saturdays, anxiously anticipating a few hours of freedom on Sunday afternoon in Congo Square. Their hope, resilient spirit, and the free expression they experienced made Congo Square a special place to relax, dance, shop, and communicate. Rhythmic poetry and vibrant illustrations bring a celebrated venue in New Orleans to life in this beautiful picture book.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- The enslaved people's lives were very difficult, but they looked forward to Sunday and their visits to Congo Square. Have there been times when you were anxiously looking forward to a special event? Write a poem or story about how you felt before and after the event.
- Why do you think Mr. Christie drew the enslaved people in the book facing to the right, leading up to Sunday? Why did he draw them bent bent at 90 degree angles? Discuss these features with a friend and make a recording or movie trailer explaining the artist's meaning.
- *Freedom in Congo Square* describes all the work the enslaved people had to do in a week. Keep a journal of your week, listing all the things you do at school and home. What were your favorite tasks? What things did you not enjoy?
- On Sunday in Congo Square, the enslaved people played many different musical instruments to celebrate (tambourines, drums, gourds, bells, banzas, flutes, fiddles and shells). Work with your class and music teacher to assemble these instruments and create an original performance.
- Congo Square has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, preserving its history and significance in the city of New Orleans. Are there places in your community or state that have received this designation? Why were they selected?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave, written by Laban Carrick Hill, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

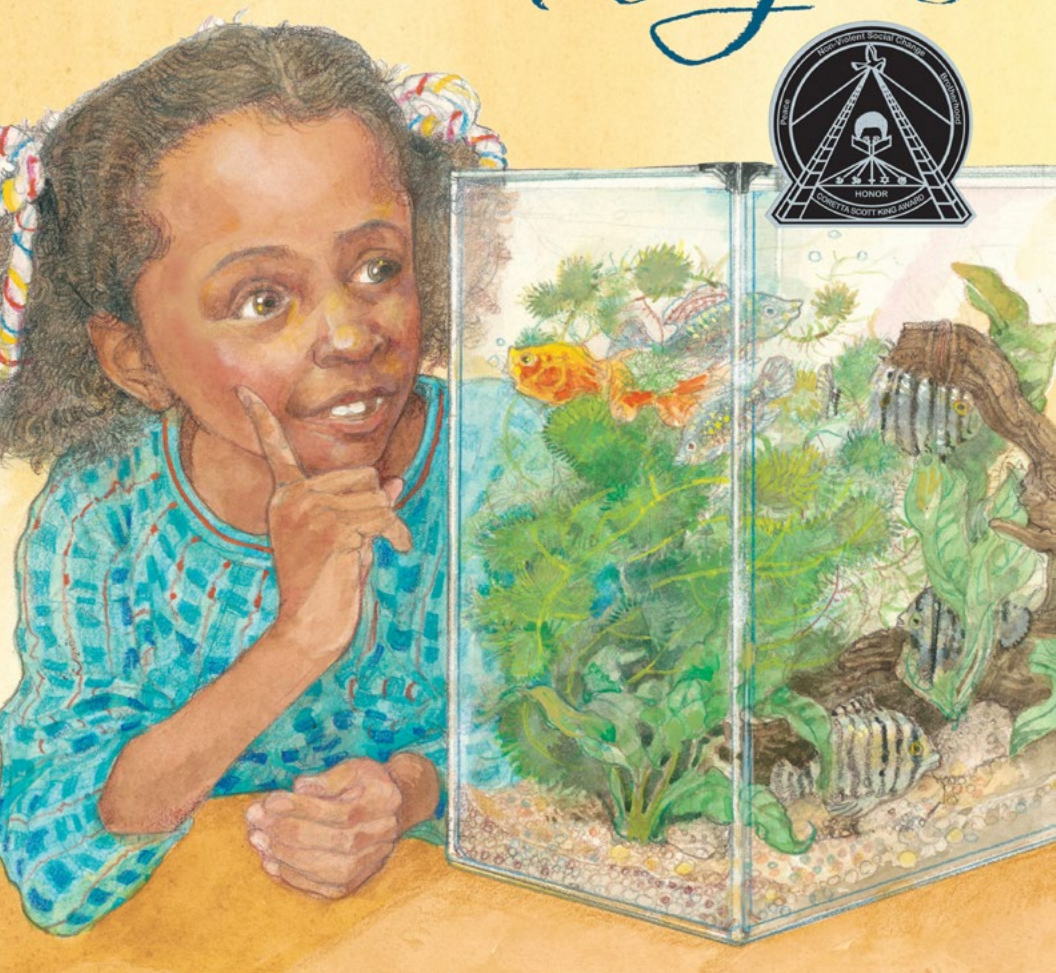
The People Could Fly: The Picture Book, written by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.

Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States, written by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack, published by Scholastic.

Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom, written and illustrated by Shane W. Evans, published by Neal Porter Books / Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

RICHARD JACKSON ♦ JERRY PINKNEY

In Plain Sight



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS ILLUSTRATOR HONOR



IN PLAIN SIGHT

Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, written by Richard Jackson

A Neal Porter Book / Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

Jerry Pinkney uses beautiful, colored illustrations to share Richard Jackson's story *In Plain Sight*. Through vivid drawings, Pinkney brings to life this funny and interesting hide and seek tale of Sophie and her grandfather. Through the pictures, we are challenged along with Sophie to find the different objects that have been "lost" by grandpa. Small things such as a straw, paperclip, and even a lemon drop are creatively hidden in the various picture designs.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Sophie loves to spend time with her grandfather. Each day, she's asked to find something that her grandfather has lost, such as a straw, rubber band, or paperclip. Create a list of unique things in your house to find and ask your family and friends to participate in a scavenger hunt to find the items on your list.
- After graduating from the Philadelphia Museum College of Art (now the University of the Arts), illustrator Jerry Pinkney worked as a greeting card designer. Using construction paper, create a greeting card for a grandparent or grandchild. What greeting card theme did you choose? Birthday, Holiday, or Special Thanks? Why did you choose this theme?
- On Friday, grandpa gives Sophie a sliver dollar that is hidden on his face. He tells her to buy "something with it." What would you do with the money? Would you go shopping or would you save it for college like grandpa recommended? Why?
- Sophie lives with her mom, dad, little brother, grandpa, and cat. Who do you live with? What types of games and traditions do you have in your house?

RELATED CSK TITLES

When I am Old with You, written by Angela Johnson, illus. by David Soman, published by Orchard Books.

Mary Jo's grandmother, written by Udry, Janice May, illus. by Eleanor Mill, published by Albert Whitman & Co; Book Club Edition.

Grandmama's Joy, written by Eloise Greenfield, illus. by Carole M. Byard, published by Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



PHOTO BY OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DR. RUDINE SIMS BISHOP

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita at The Ohio State University, is the recipient of the 2017 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Dr. Bishop's critical assessment and cultural optic has had a profound influence on the ways in which generations of librarians, teachers, and scholars present books to children and young adults. Her research, knowledge and compassion for readers has broadened the development of African American Children's Literature.

Dr. Bishop is a winner of numerous awards and has served as a respected member of many book awards committees over the course of her long and distinguished career. Her influential writing, speaking, and teaching articulates the history and cultural significance of African American children's literature. Her globally cited work, 'Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors', has inspired movements for increased diversity in books for young people, and provides the basis for the best multicultural practice and inquiry for students, teachers, writers and publishing houses.



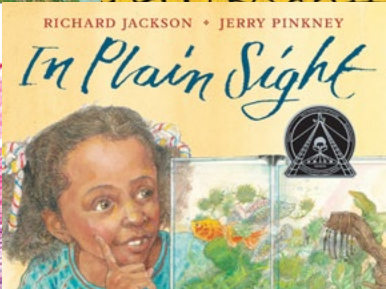
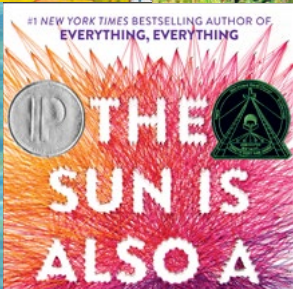
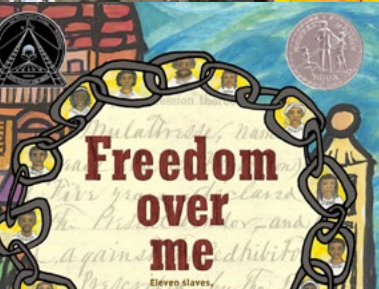
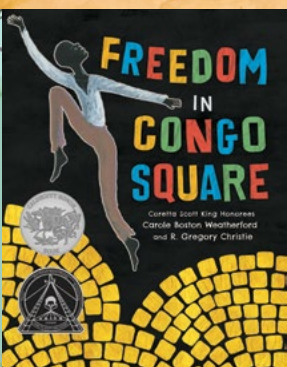
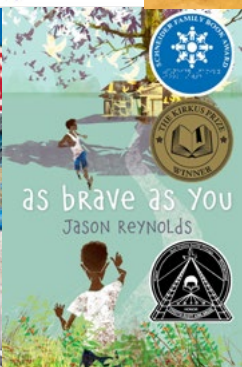
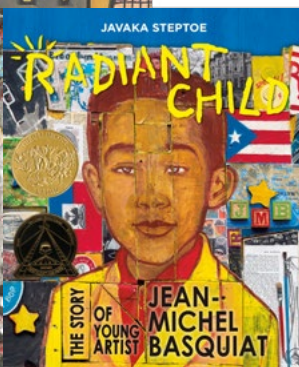
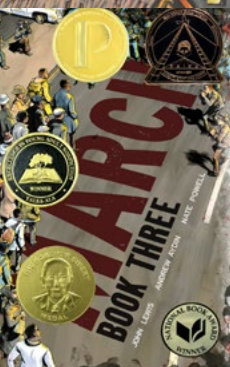
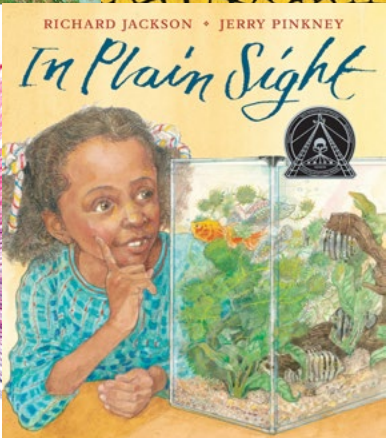
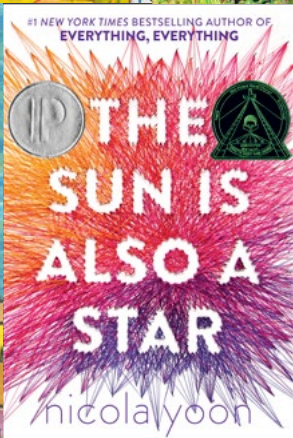
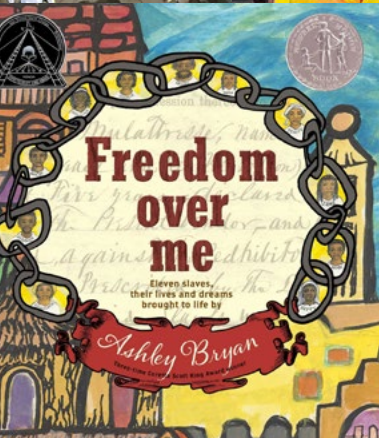
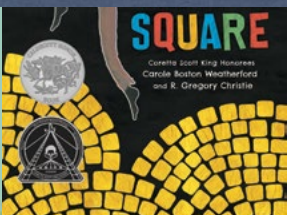
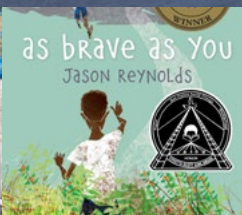
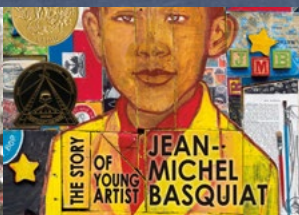
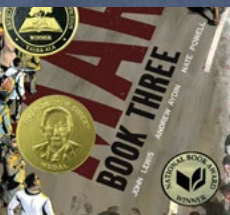
ABOUT VIRGINIA HAMILTON

Virginia Hamilton was an award-winning author of children's books. She wrote more than thirty-five 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 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books.”

—Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop, “Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors.” *Perspectives* 6(3):ix.





THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS SEAL



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

The basic circle represents continuity in movement, resolving from one idea to another. Within the circle is the image of 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 the dove, symbolic of peace. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood.

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