



## SCHOOLS Volusia County, Florida

On August 31, Volusia County School District removed the book *Rosa Parks* by Eloise Greenfield from elementary school classrooms after a teacher complained about it. The book was part of the state-approved curriculum. Concerns over it were raised after Florida's Board of Education voted unanimously to ban the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT).

Volusia United Educators President Elizabeth Albert explained that the teacher was concerned about how parents would react to a book that points out the harms the Ku Klux Klan and Jim Crow Laws did to Black people.

Once Albert was made aware of the teacher's concerns, she reached out to district staff members to ask what protections are in place for teachers "if a student makes an inaccurate statement at home about a teacher talking about the Ku Klux Klan." Albert also asked if a different book could be used in the curriculum.

Rene Clayton, assistant superintendent for elementary schools, then emailed all the principals asking them to remove the book from classrooms "until given further direction." All references to the book were also removed from teachers' curriculum resources.

The move surprised Mike Buchanan who was in the middle of teaching the book in his third grade class. "The kids loved it," Buchanan said. "There were no complaints from parents."

In response to the district's request for guidance, State Vice Chancellor for Literary Achievement Cari Miller responded that the book is one of 27 optional texts about civics for third-grade English language arts. Miller said there was no question that the book was age appropriate.

On September 9, principals were notified that *Rosa Parks* was being returned to classroom libraries and would remain an optional text for third grade teachers.

Albert said the question regarding protections for teachers remained unanswered and this was relevant given the state's ban on CRT.

Buchanan was unconcerned. "It's actual historical facts. It just tells the history of what happened." He characterized the book's temporary removal as an attempt to "whitewash history."

Reported in: *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, September 29, 2021.

## Chelsea, Michigan

The Chelsea School District Board of Education voted 6-1 to retain Toni Morrison's novel *The Bluest Eye* in its high school library, pending further review. Tammy Lehman was the one vote favoring removal of the book until it could be reviewed.

Lehman said she found it "disgusting" that there were four copies of the book available at Chelsea High School.

The book came under scrutiny after parents and community members spoke out against it and read excerpts from it at the August 9 board meeting.

Their objections stemmed from the novel's depiction of incestuous sexual violence perpetrated against the character Pecola Breedlove. The title refers to Pecola's belief that she would be free from abuse and racism if she had blue eyes.

Morrison won the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature, and *The Bluest Eye* was part of the reason she received this accolade. Morrison also won a Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Beloved*.

*The Bluest Eye* was one of 13 books donated to the district by Chelsea's One World One Family Task Force. The books were selected from

a list vetted by the district's Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Committee. Their work is evaluated by the Board of Education's Diversity, Belonging, Equity, and Inclusion (DBEI) committee.

In response to the book challenge, the district removed the ESJ resource list from their website.

Board member Shawn Quilter said removing the book would send the wrong message to students. "I think the main point is getting rid of the book is getting rid of the opportunity to access it. I get worried when you start doing that."

Chelsea School District Superintendent Julie Helber said that the book is not used in classes and is not part of the high school curriculum. She said that the book has been available from the library for 20 years.

Helber noted that an excerpt from *The Bluest Eye* is on the College Board's Advanced Placement test.

Quilter said that *The Bluest Eye* has "been controversial since it was published, but there's so much of that book that does deal with understanding racism, oppression and inferiority, and all of those other things."

Theresa Plank, a parent, spoke in support of the book and the work of the DBEI.

"I'm well aware that the people making these difficult decisions have the safety and wellbeing of our kids at the forefront of their minds every single day," Plank said. "Not to mention that I believe trained educators are able to navigate through these obstacles much better than I am as a parent alone."

Reported in: *Michigan Live*, August 24, 2021.

## York, Pennsylvania

On November 9, 2020, the all-White board of Central York Schools suspended use of approximately 300



books, articles, and videos included on their Diversity Committee's Summer Meeting Resource List (see the appendix on page 47 for the full list of titles).

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/ questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) materials, books about indigenous peoples, and books about autism and disabilities were included on the list of newly-prohibited resources.

Most of the books banned were by Black or Latinx authors. They primarily dealt with racism and Black history.

The banned items included a picture book about Rosa Parks, *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles, PBS documentaries, an episode of *Sesame Street*, and a litany of award-winning children's books.

"This seems pretty egregious," said Natalia Mehlman Petrzela, associate professor of history at the New School. "The kind of texts that are being banned here make me feel that there is now just sort of an allergy to anything that mentions race or racism."

The list of forbidden resources was distributed to faculty at the middle and high school in early September of 2021.

School librarians were required to pull the books from their shelves. Teachers' lesson plans were undermined and needed to be recreated.

When news of the ban broke, push-back and protests ensued.

Students and parents alike raised complaints that the school board was not addressing the needs of a multicultural student body.

"I don't think that a board that lacks diversity is the appropriate authority to determine what qualifies as appropriate material to address race in this community," said parent Brandi Miller.

Senior Edha Gupta said, "This is a board that after hearing their students' concerns about diversity in the district, hearing my struggle with race . . .

and consistently feeling like I didn't belong, after hearing those conversations for weeks on end, they still pursued the book ban."

In addition to speaking out against the board's actions, Gupta wrote an op-ed for the *York Dispatch* and started a Change.org petition urging the board to reverse the ban. His petition was endorsed by more than 5,000 signatories.

At the September 13 school board meeting, Ellis, a Black senior, said "Why is a *Sesame Street* episode threatening the education of children? If anything, this school board is threatening education."

Central York High School teacher Ben Hodge spoke to the chilling effect created by the resource ban. He said he has to "think twice about whether or not I should or could use a James Baldwin quote as an opening for my class."

Patricia Jackson, who has taught in the district for more than 20 years, said "There are teachers looking over their shoulders wondering if someone's going to be . . . darkening their door, saying you said something, or you mentioned something, or used something that you were not supposed to."

Some parents in attendance supported the board's action, however, wielding their misappropriation of the term "critical race theory" (CRT) as a weapon.

"The community is 100% against an [*sic*] critical race theory indoctrination agenda," said one mother. Since August of 2020, CRT has been used nationwide as a catch-all term encompassing all conservative culture war issues.

The Panther Anti-Racist Union, a student organization, organized a protest in front of the school before the board meeting. Around 100 people participated.

Olivia Pituch, one of the student protesters said, "I want to learn genuine history. I don't want to learn a whitewashed version. I want to hear all of it."

In a written statement in response to the protests, Jane Johnson, the school board president, said officials would form a curriculum committee to review the banned materials.

Johnson said they would wait to form the committee until a new superintendent replaced Michael Snell, who retired in October. The ban will remain in effect until this review occurs.

JJ Sheffer and Hannah Shipley wanted to make sure that York students and community members retained access to the banned materials. To that end, they organized a book drive of titles from the diversity resource list for distribution to little free libraries. They were soon overwhelmed as nearly 7,000 books were delivered to their homes.

Recognizing the capacity limits of little free libraries, Sheffer and Shipley announced a read-aloud event and book giveaway at nearby Cousler Park. They distributed more than 5,000 of the banned titles in less than half an hour.

The controversy soon received national media attention, prompting the school board to change course. They announced they would hold a vote on reinstating the banned materials at an emergency meeting on September 20.

The board unanimously voted to lift the ban.

Johnson said, "We are committed to making this long delay right." She declined to be interviewed.

Recognizing that the board only lifted their nearly year-long book ban after sustained student protests and national condemnation, Pituch observed, "We know that they did not



temporarily reverse out of the goodness of their hearts.”

“It took five high schoolers organizing a peaceful walk-in protest for each day . . . to help make sure that our district heard that they and many others did not feel represented,” said Hodge. “They are heroes and should be celebrated as bastions of American freedom and democracy. I want to be clear: these kids did this.”

**Reported in: FOX 43, September 7, 2021; CNN, September 16, 2021; York Dispatch, September 10, 2021; September 20, 2021; September 24, 2021; and October 1, 2021; Yahoo! Life, September 21, 2021; The New York Times, October 2, 2021.**

## Katy, Texas

At the beginning of the school year, the Katy Independent School District (ISD) promoted an October 4 virtual visit with award-winning children’s author Jerry Craft for all third through fifth graders.

Bonnie Anderson, a former candidate for the Katy ISD school board and a party in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the district’s mask mandate, started a Change.org petition calling on the district to cancel the event and ban all of Craft’s books.

The petition was taken down for violating Change.org’s community guidelines, but Anderson claims it got around 400 signatures before that happened.

Despite its illegitimacy, Anderson’s petition had the intended effect.

On October 1, parents were given the choice to opt their children out of attending the event. The district serves nearly 89,000 students. The parents of 30 children opted out.

On the day of the event, the district announced they were postponing it and removing two of Craft’s books from school libraries. They cited the

illegitimate petition and HB 3979, Texas’s law banning the teaching of critical race theory (CRT) in schools, as the motivations for their action.

Habikia Eney, a 12th grader at Katy ISD’s Cinco Ranch High School, said “If you’re going to say things like ‘we’re inclusive’ and then not let someone who’s trying to add racial awareness into schools speak, it looks very contradictory.”

The books removed from school libraries for review were *New Kid* and its sequel, *Class Act*.

The semi-autobiographical graphic novels tell the story of a Black 12-year-old’s experiences after enrolling in a private school. They explore cross-racial friendships, the effects of microaggressions, and how well-meaning adults can make a school uncomfortable for minorities.

*New Kid* was the first graphic novel to be awarded the Newbery Medal and it also won the 2020 Kirkus Prize and Coretta Scott King Award. Craft is one of only five African American writers to receive the Newbery.

In a statement on the Office for Intellectual Freedom’s website, Craft said the goals for his books are “helping kids become the kind of readers that I never was; letting kids see themselves on my pages; and showing kids of color as just regular kids.”

“I almost never saw kids like me in any of the books assigned to me in school. Books aimed at kids like me seemed to deal only with history or misery,” wrote Craft. “I hope that readers of all ages will see the kindness and understanding that my characters exhibit and emulate those feelings in their day-to-day lives.”

Brandon Mack, lead organizer for Black Lives Matter Houston, said Craft’s books do not include CRT. “Critical race theory is not inherently automatically taught when trying to

discuss racism or the Black Experience,” said Mack.

“Katy ISD is not giving our students the ability to see themselves in literature and to know inherently that their lives matter. This sends the message that learning about the Black experience is somehow dangerous,” said Mack.

The district’s policy governing removal of library materials states that, “Students’ First Amendment rights are implicated by the removal of books from the shelves of a school library. A district shall not remove materials from a library for the purpose of denying students access to ideas with which the district disagrees.”

Their policy governing reconsideration states that if a “complainant wishes to make a formal challenge, the principal or designee shall provide the complainant a copy of this policy and a form to request a formal reconsideration of the resource.”

While the policy does cover an informal challenge process, as well, access to materials can only be restricted if a formal challenge has been received. Since that did not happen in this case, the board’s actions were not consistent with their policy.

“People need to understand that this is not a small issue,” said Mack. “It sends a message to Black students that their lives don’t matter and it sends a message to White students that it’s OK to devalue people who are not like them.”

Jeynelle Branch, mother of a sixth-grade student in Katy ISD, said “Kids should be able to pick up a book and learn about another person’s perspective and they’ve taken that off the shelves.” She called it “a stain on the district,” and said, “It’s sending a message that there are people in the community that don’t matter.”

Omerly Sanchez, mother of two biracial students, said her kids were



fans of the books and were looking forward to a virtual author visit with someone who “looks like them.”

Sanchez expressed disappointment and frustration with the district’s handling of the situation. “They want to live in this bubble. They’re uncomfortable with touching the subject. They’re uncomfortable knowing that they’re part of the problem.”

After reviewing the books, the district returned them to school libraries and held Craft’s virtual visit on October 11.

**Reported in: *Click2Houston*, October 4, 2021, and October 15, 2021; *Houston Chronicle*, October 4, 2021; October 5, 2021; and October 6, 2021; *Reuters*, October 6, 2021.**

## Fairfax, Virginia

*Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe and *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison were returned to the shelves of 18 libraries in the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) following a two-month review by the district, which was initiated by a formal challenge.

Committees composed of school administrators, librarians, parents, and students were convened to review the books and recommend a course of action. The decision to retain the books was unanimous.

The district issued a statement that, “The decision reaffirms FCPS’ ongoing commitment to provide diverse reading materials that reflect our student population, allowing every child an opportunity to see themselves reflected in literary characters. Both reviews concluded that the books were valuable in their potential to reach marginalized youth who may struggle to find relatable literary characters that reflect their personal journeys.”

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Noel Klimenko

said, “I am satisfied that the books were selected according to FCPS regulations and are appropriate to include in libraries that serve high school students.”

The books were initially removed from the library for review after parents disrupted a board meeting to denounce the books as “pedophilia,” “pornography,” and “homoerotic.” They also chanted the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel.

The books’ removal spurred protests by a coalition of students called the Pride Liberation Project (PLP). They released a letter to the school board with over 400 student signatures asking the board to reject attacks against books that uplift the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) community.

“LGBTQIA+ representation in literature is critical to fostering validation, acceptance, and self-affirmation for queer students,” read the PLP’s statement. “Removing two award-winning books that dismantle LGBTQIA+ stereotypes from FCPS libraries only contributes to the dearth of positive representations of queer people, perpetuating an unwelcoming school environment for LGBTQIA+ students.”

“As students, we are tired of being scrutinized and targeted for who we are. We simply want to be treated equally in our schools, including in our libraries. Please reject attacks against LGBTQIA+ literature, and allow *Gender Queer* and *Lawn Boy* to remain in our schools.”

After two months of organized resistance, the PLP’s request was honored.

**Reported in: *The Washington Post*, September 28, 2021; *Patch*, October 7, 2021; *WUSA9*, November 23, 2021.**

## LIBRARIES

### Byron Township, Michigan

At the September 27 meeting of the Byron Township Board, trustee Tom Hooker called for the graphic novel *Check, Please* by Ngozi Ukazu to be withdrawn from the 11 Kent District Library branches that own it.

“Tax dollars are providing trash,” said Hooker.

*Check, Please* is a coming of age story about Eric Bittle, a former junior figure skater turned college hockey player. Bittle comes out during his freshman year on the team. It received starred reviews from *Booklist* and *Kirkus* and was a finalist for the 2019 Morris Award, which is bestowed by the Young Adult Library Services Association.

Don Tillema, Byron Township supervisor said, “Our issue is more, you know, why is this kind of crap even in the building?”

Lance Werner, Executive Director of Kent District Libraries, was informed that a 10-year-old boy at the Caledonia branch selected the book from the teen summer reading prize cart instead of from the children’s summer reading prize cart. While the boy put it back and selected a different title, his mom reviewed the book and complained to the board.

Werner said that the library would not include any “salty” books as future summer reading prize options, but *Check, Please* will remain available for checkout. He said books would be removed from the library if they met the legal definition of obscenity, child pornography, or hate speech, and that Ukazu’s book was none of those.

“You guys are asking us to violate the Constitution and impinge on people’s freedom,” said Werner. “That goes against everything we stand for in this country.”

“And the other thing we can’t do is we can’t step in the shoes of the



parent,” Werner added. “Nor should anybody want the government to raise their kids.”

Tillema responded, “I guess where we’re sitting, I’m not sure how long we want to give you guys \$1.6 million a year and provide you a building for all this legal stuff. ‘Cause I think it’s despicable. Maybe we’ll turn [the library] into a shoe store.”

At the meeting, seven citizens spoke out regarding the book. Two, a husband and wife, wanted the book removed. The other five defended it.

“As a parent or a grandparent of a child, I feel it’s your responsibility to be watching what they’re looking at or what they’re reading,” said Suzanne Snider. “I would hate to see any of those works taken out of that library, because there’s something there for everybody and everybody relates to things in different ways.”

“This country is made up of all different kinds of people from different walks of life and we need to continue to represent that and allow those freedoms to be there,” concluded Snider.

Werner said the library system has received four book challenges so far this year.

“I think we’ve had kind of an increase, an uptick, lately in challenges to materials, and I think it’s largely due to the fact that everybody in society is super-duper stressed right now,” said Werner. “Between COVID-19, between the caustic political environment and all the things that are going on, I think everybody is under duress.”

**Reported in: WOOD TV, October 22, 2021.**

## Appendix: Titles Challenged at Central York Schools

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|--|---|--|
| <i>25 Women Who Dared to Go</i> by Allison Lassieur  | <i>Always My Dad</i> by Sharon Dennis Wyeth   | <i>Chasing Space: Young Readers' Edition</i> by Leland Melvin                                    |
| <i>25 Women Who Fought Back</i> by Jill Sherman  | <i>Amal Unbound</i> by Aisha Saeed  | <i>Chocolate Milk, Por Favor!</i> by Maria Dismondy  |
| <i>25 Women Who Ruled</i> by Rebecca Stanborough   | <i>Amazing Grace</i> by Mary Hoffman  | <i>Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire</i> by Susan Tan                              |
| <i>25 Women Who Thought of it First</i> by Jill Sherman                                      | <i>Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World</i> by Cynthia Chin-Lee                                 | <i>Cilla Lee-Jenkins: The Epic Story</i> by Susan Tan  |
| <i>47,000 Beads</i> by Kojia Adeyoha   | <i>American as Paneer Pie</i> by Supriya Kelkar   | <i>Cilla Lee-Jenkins: This Book is a Classic</i> by Susan Tan                                    |
| <i>A Big Mooncake for Little Star</i> by Grace Lin   | <i>An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People</i> by Jean Mendoza                       | <i>Clap When You Land</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo   |
| <i>A Bike Like Sergio's</i> by Maribeth Boelts   | <i>Anna Hibiscus</i> by Atinuke   | <i>Come with Me</i> by Holly McGhee  |
| <i>A Boy Called Bat</i> by Elana K. Arnold   | <i>Another</i> by Christian Robinson  | <i>Condoleezza Rice: Being the Best</i> by Mary Dodson Wade                                      |
| <i>A Good Kind of Trouble</i> by Lisa Moore Ramée  | <i>Around Our Way on Neighbors' Day</i> by Tameka Fryer Brown   | <i>Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Put Astronauts on the Moon</i> by Helaine Becker |
| <i>A is for Activist</i> by Innosanto Nagara   | <i>As Brave As You</i> by Jason Reynolds  | <i>Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut</i> by Derrick Barnes  |
| <i>A is for Audra: Broadway's Leading Ladies from A to Z</i> by John Robert Allman           | <i>Bat and the End of Everything</i> by Elana K. Arnold   | <i>Daddy, There's a Noise Outside</i> by Kenneth braswell  |
| <i>A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin</i> by Jen Bryant                      | <i>Bat and the Waiting Game</i> by Elana K. Arnold  | <i>Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol</i> by Andres Miedoso   |
| <i>Accidental Trouble Magnet [Planet Omar]</i> by Zaniab Mian                                | <i>Bayou Magic</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes  | <i>Don't Touch My Hair!</i> by Sharee Miller   |
| <i>Ada</i> byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine by Laurie Wallmark                        | <i>Because</i> by Mo Willems  | <i>Drawn Together</i> by Minh Lê   |
| <i>African American Cowboys: True Heroes of the Old West</i> by Jeffrey B Fuerst             | <i>Before the Ever After</i> by Jacqueline Woodson  | <i>Dream Drum Girl</i> by Margarita Engle  |
| <i>All American Boys</i> by Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely                                    | <i>Being the Change: Lessons and Strategies to Teach Social Comprehension</i> by Sara Ahmed                       | <i>Dreamers</i> by Yuyi Morales  |
| <i>All Are Welcome</i> by Alexandra Penfold  | <i>Big Hair, Don't Care</i> by Crystal Swain-Bates  | <i>Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and his Orchestra</i> by Andrea Davis Pinkney                |
| <i>All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto</i> by George M. Johnson                         | <i>Bilal Cooks Daal</i> by Aisha Saeed  | <i>Each Kindness</i> by Jacqueline Woodson   |
| <i>All the Colors We Are: The True Story of How We Get Our Skin Color</i> by Katie Kissinger | <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson  | <i>Early Sunday Morning</i> by Denene Millner  |
| <i>All the World</i> by Elizabeth Garton Scanlon   | <i>Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship</i> by Irene Latham, Charles Waters             | <i>El Eia en que Descubres Quien Es</i> by Jacqueline Woodson                                    |
| <i>Alma and How She Got Her Name</i> by Juana Martinez-Neal                                  | <i>Can We Talk About Race?: And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation</i> by Beverly Daniel Tatum | <i>Elizabeth Blackwell: The First Woman Doctor</i> by Liza Burby                                 |
|  | <i>Carmela Full of Wishes</i> by Matt de la Peña  | <i>Encounter</i> by Jane Yolen   |
|  | <i>CeceLovesScienceKD</i> by Kimberly Derting   |  |
|  | <i>Changing the Equation: 50+ US Black Women in Stem</i> by Tonya Bolden  |  |



- Enough!: 20 Protesters who Changed America* by Emily Easton
- Escuchando con Mi Corazon: Un Cuento de Bondad y Autocompasion* by Gabi Garcia
- Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks* by Suzanne Slade
- Faith Ringgold* by Mike Venezia
- Fishing Day* by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- For Black Girls Like Me* by Mariama Lockington
- Freedom in Congo Square* by Carole Boston Weatherford
- From the Stars in the Sky to the Fish in the Sea* by Kai Cheng Thom
- Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
- Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Maillard
- Full, Full, Full of Love* by Trish Cooke
- Get Up, Stand Up* by Cedella Marley
- Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- Girls Who Code 2: Team BFF: Race to the Finish!* by Stacia Deutsch
- Girls Who Code: The Friendship Code* by Stacia Deutsch
- Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code* by Laurie Wallmark
- Grandpa Cacao: A Tale of Chocolate, from Farm to Family* by Elizabeth Zunon
- Hair Love* by Matthew Cherry
- Hands Up!* by Breanna J McDaniel
- Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug* by Evan Kuhlman
- Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* by Kathleen Krull, Yuyi Morales
- Henry's Freedom Box* by Ellen Levine
- Hey Black Child* by Useni Eugene Perkins
- Hey, Charleston!: The True Story of the Jenkins Orphanage Band* by Anne F Rockwell
- Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- Home of the Brave: An American History Book for Kids: 15 Immigrants Who Shaped U.S. History* by Brooke Khan
- Hot Day on Abbott Avenue* by Karen English
- How Many Stars in the Sky?* by Lenny Hort
- I Am Enough* by Grace byers
- I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes
- I Am Human: A Book of Empathy* by Susan Verde, Peter H. Reynolds
- I Am Not Your Negro* by Raoul Peck
- I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez
- I am Rosa Parks* by Brad Meltzer
- I Promise* by LeBron James
- I'm a Pretty Little Black Girl* by Betty K bynum
- Imani's Moon* by JaNay Brown-Wood
- Incredible Rescue Mission [Planet Omar]* by Zanib Mian
- Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManis
- Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All* by Chelsea Johnson
- Islandborn* by Junot Diaz
- Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- Jack (Not Jackie)* by Erica Silverman
- Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest. Episode 1: The Quest for Screen Time* by Marti Dumas
- Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest. Episode 2: The Ladek Invasion* by Marti Dumas
- Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest. Episode 3: Muffin Wars* by Marti Dumas
- Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest. Episode 4: Attack of the Swamp Thing* by Marti Dumas
- Jasmine Toguchi, Drummer Girl* by Debbi Michiko Florence
- Jasmine Toguchi, Flamingo Keeper* by Debbi Michiko Florence
- Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen* by Debbi Michiko Florence
- Jasmine Toguchi, Super Sleuth* by Debbi Michiko Florence
- Julian is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love
- Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up* by Melissa Thomson
- King & Kayla [series]* by Dori Hillestad Butler
- Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* by Daniel Beaty
- Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña
- Leila in Saffron* by Rukhsanna Guidroz
- Let the Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson
- Like the Moon Loves the Sky* by Hena Khan
- Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart
- Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison
- Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison
- Little Melba and her Big Trombone* by Kathryn Russell-Brown
- Locked Up for Freedom: Civil Rights Protesters at the Leesburg Stockade* by Heather Schwartz
- Lola Levine [series]* by Monica Brown
- Lola Reads [series]* by Anna McQuinn
- Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks* by Jason Reynolds
- Lubna and Pebble* by Wendy Meddour
- Lucky Broken Girl* by Ruth Behar
- Luis Munoz Marin: Father of Modern Puerto Rico [Community Builder series]* by Linda George
- Lulu and the Duck in the Park* by Hilary McKay
- Mae Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed
- Malala Yousafzai* by Robin S Doak
- Malala: My Story of Standing Up for Girls Rights* by Malala Yousafzai
- Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai
- Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina
- Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match* by Monica Brown
- Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans* by Phil Bildner
- Max and the Tag-Along Moon* by Floyd Cooper
- Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F. Saad
- Melissa (previously published as George.)* by Alex Gino
- Milo's Museum* by Zetta Elliott
- Mindy Kim and the Birthday Puppy* by Lyla Lee
- Mindy Kim and the Lunar New Year Parade* by Lyla Lee
- Mindy Kim, Class President* by Lyla Lee
- Mixed Me!* by Taye Diggs
- Mommy Sayang* by Rosana Sullivan
- Monster Trouble* by Lane Fredrickson
- Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress* by Christine Baldacchino
- Mrs. Katz and Tush* by Patricia Polacco
- My Family Plays Music* by Judy Cox
- My Friend Maya Loves to Dance* by Cheryl Willis Hudson
- My Hair is a Garden* by Cozbi Cabrera
- My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero
- Nelson Beats the Odds* by Ronnie Sidney
- New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- Nikki & Deja* by Karen English
- Nino Wrestles the World* by Yuyi Morales
- Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- Noah Chases the Wind* by Michelle Worthington
- Not Norman: A Goldfish Story* by Kelly Bennett
- Not Quite Snow White* by Ashley Franklin
- Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain* by Cheryl Bardoe
- On Our Street: Our First Talk About Poverty* by Jillian Roberts
- On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas
- One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting



- Ouch!: That Stereotype Hurts: Communicat- ing Respectfully in a Diverse World* by Joel Leskowitz
- Our Class is a Family* by Shannon Olsen
- Parachutes* by Kelly Yang
- Patina* by Jason Reynolds
- Peanut Goes for the Gold* by Jonathan Van Ness
- Peeny Butter Fudge* by Toni Morrison
- Pele, King of Soccer = Pele, el Rey del Futbol* by Monica Brown
- Pink is for Boys* by Robb Pearlman
- Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rain- bow Flag* by Rob Sanders
- Prince and Knight* by Daniel Haack
- Rainbow Revolutionaries: 50 LGBTQ+ People Who Made History* by Sarah Prager
- Ramadan Around the World* by Ndaa Hassan
- Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles: Think of That* by Leo Dillon
- Read the World: Rethinking Literacy for Empa- thy and Action in a Digital Age* by Kristin Ziemke
- Red Kite, Blue Kite* by Ji-li Jiang
- Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- Reparations Yes!: The Legal and Political Rea- sons Why New Afrikans, Black People in the United States, Should be Paid Now for the Enslavement of Our Ancestors and for War Against Us After Slavery: Articles by Chokwe Lumumba*
- Ruby and the Booker Boys [series]* by Derrick Barnes
- Same But Different* by Tessa Dahl
- Saturday* by Oge Mora
- Saving Ruby King* by Catherine Adel West
- Say Something* by Peter H. Reynolds
- Shades of People* by Shelley Rotner
- Shining Legacy: A Treasury of "Storypoems and Tales for the Young so Black Heroes Forever Will be Sung"* by Nkechi Taifa
- Sing a Song: How "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Inspired Generations* by Kelly Starling Lyons
- Skin Like Mine* by LaTashia M Perry
- Smoky Night* by Eve Bunting
- Sofia Martinez: Hector's Hiccups* by Jacqueline Jules
- Sofia Valdez, Future Prez* by Andrea Beaty
- Solo Pregunta: Se Diferente, Se Valiente, Se Tu* by Sonia Sotomayor
- Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx* by Jonah Winter
- Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanks- giving* by Joseph Bruchac
- Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!: A Sonic Adventure* by Wynton Marsalis
- Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi
- Starstruck: The Cosmic Journey of Neil deGrasse Tyson* by Kathleen Krull
- Stella Diaz has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez
- Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o, Vashti Harrison
- Tameka's New Dress* by Ronnie Sidney
- Teach Us Your Name* by Huda Essa
- Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora
- The 5 O'clock Band* by Troy Andrews
- The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross [PBS series]* by Sabin Streeeter, Henry Louis Gates
- The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story* by Aya Khalil
- The Boy Who Didn't Believe in Spring* by Lucille Clifton
- The Butterfly* by Patricia Polacco
- The case for Loving : the fight for interracial mar- riage* by Selina Alko
- The Colors of Us* by Karen Katz
- The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson
- The Deaf Musicians* by Pete Seeger
- The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath* by Julia Finley Mosca
- The Girl with a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague* by Julia Finley Mosca
- The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- The Magical Yet* by Angela DiTerlizzi
- The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson
- The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson
- The People Shall Continue* by Simon J Ortiz
- The Power of One: Every Act of Kindness Counts* by Trudy Ludwig
- The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Fam- ily* by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles
- The Sunday Outing* by Gloria Jean Pinkney
- The Undeclared* by Kwame Alexander
- The Year of the Book* by Andrea Cheng
- They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei
- Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts
- Tito Puente, Mambo King = Tito PUente, Rey del Mambo* by Monica Brown
- Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto
- Trombone Shorty* by Troy Andrews
- Twisted: The Tangled History of Black Hair Cul- ture* by Emma Dabiri
- Under My Hijab* by Hena Khan
- Unexpected Super Spy [Planet Omar]* by Zanib Mian
- Up, Up, Down!* by Robert Munsch
- Vamos! Let's Go!* by Rene Colato Lainez
- Ven a Mi Casa* by Dr Seuss
- We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell
- WeirDo [series]* by Anh Do
- What is the Women's Rights Movement?* by Deborah Hopkinson
- What Was Stonewall?* by Nico Medina
- What Was the March on Washington?* by Kath- leen Krull
- What Was the Underground Railroad?* by Yona Zeldis McDonough
- What Were the Negro Leagues?* by Varian Johnson
- When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson
- When the Beat was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop* by Laban Carrick Hill
- Who are Venus and Serena Williams?* by James Buckley, Jr.
- Who is Aretha Franklin?* by Nico Medina
- Who is Barack Obama?* by Roberta Edwards
- Who is Derek Jeter?* by Gail Herman
- Who is Malala Yousafzai?* by Dinah Brown
- Who is Michelle Obama?* by Megan Stine
- Who is Sonia Sotomayor?* by Megan Stine
- Who was Cesar Chavez?* by Dana Meachen Rau
- Who was Eleanor Roosevelt?* by Gare Thompson
- Who Was Frida Kahlo?* by Sarah Fabiny
- Who was Harriet Beecher Stowe?* by Dana Meachen Rau
- Who was Jesse Owens?* by James Buckley, Jr.
- Who was Lucille Ball?* by Pam Pollack
- Who was Maria Tallchief?* by Catherine Gourley
- Who was Marie Curie?* by Megan Stine
- Who was Maya Angelou?* by Ellen Labrecque
- Who was Rachel Carson?* by Sarah Fabiny
- Who was Sojourner Truth?* by Yona Zeldis McDonough
- Who was Susan B. Anthony?* by Pam Pollack
- Yasmin [series]* by Saadia Faruqi
- Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present* by Jamia Wilson
- Your Name is A Song* by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow