

# Black History Month

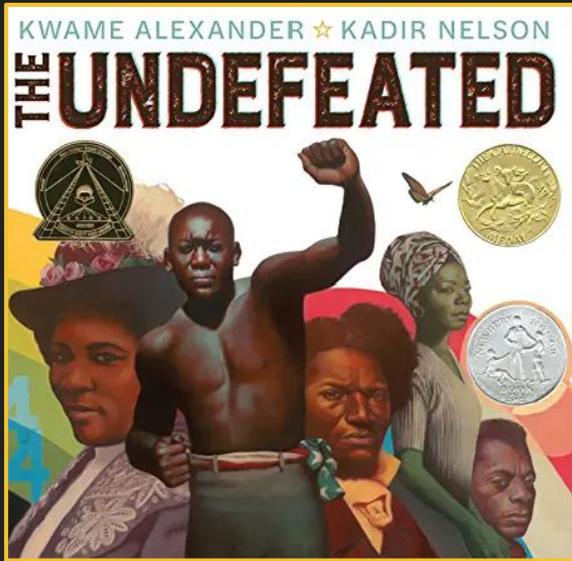


**JEDI Book List**

List Curated from: <https://www.theconsciouskid.org/bhm/>

# The Undefeated

By: Kwame Alexander & Kadir Nelson

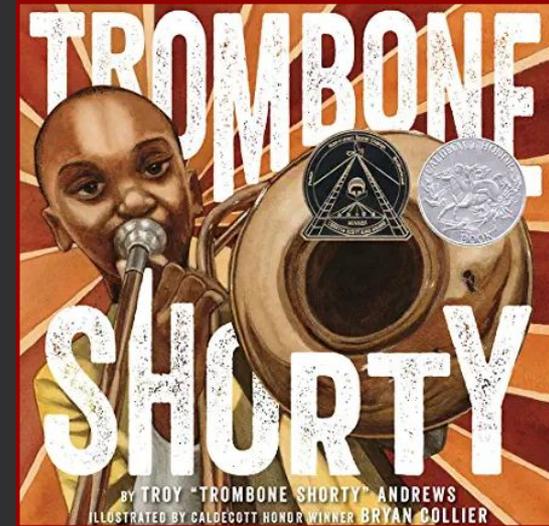


This poem is a love letter to Black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. The text is also peppered with references to the words of Martin Luther King Jr, Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and others, offering deeper insights into the accomplishments of the past, while bringing stark attention to the endurance and spirit of those surviving and thriving in the present. Robust back matter at the end provides valuable historical context and additional detail for those wishing to learn more. Ages 6 - 9.

Hailing from the Treme neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band at age 6, and today the Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Festival. Along with esteemed illustrator Bryan Collier, Andrews has created a lively picture book autobiography about how he followed his dreams of becoming a musician, despite the odds, until he reached international stardom. Trombone Shorty is a celebration of the rich cultural history of New Orleans and the power of music. Ages 4-8.

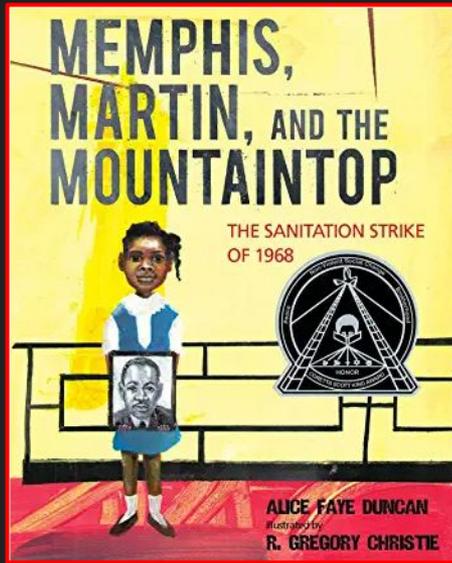
## Trombone Shorty

By: Troy “Trombone Shorty”  
Andrews



# Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop

By: Alice Fay Duncan



In February 1968, two African American sanitation workers were killed by unsafe equipment in Memphis, Tennessee. Outraged at the city's refusal to recognize a labor union that would fight for higher pay and safer working conditions, sanitation workers went on strike. The strike lasted two months, during which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was called to help with protests. While his presence was greatly inspiring to the community, this unfortunately would be his last stand for justice. He was assassinated in his Memphis hotel the day after delivering his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" sermon in Mason Temple Church.

Inspired by the memories of a teacher who participated in the strike as a child, author Alice Fay Duncan reveals the story of the Memphis sanitation strike from the perspective of a young girl with a riveting combination of poetry and prose. Ages 9 - 12.

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

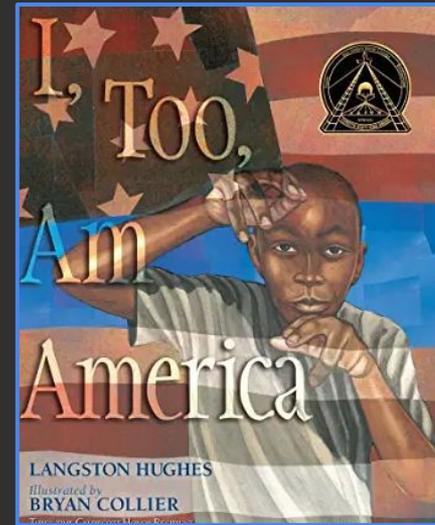
And eat well,

And grow strong.

Langston Hughes was a courageous voice of his time, and his authentic call for equality still rings true today. Beautiful paintings from illustrator Bryan Collier accompany and reinvent the celebrated lines of the poem, “I, Too,” creating a breathtaking reminder of the place and contributions of Black people in and to America.  
Ages 4 - 8.

# I, Too, Am America

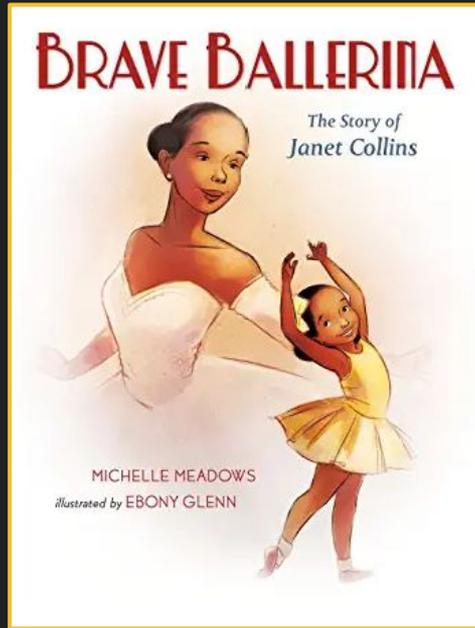
By: Langston Hughes



# Brave Ballerina

## The Story of Janet Collins

By: Michelle Meadows

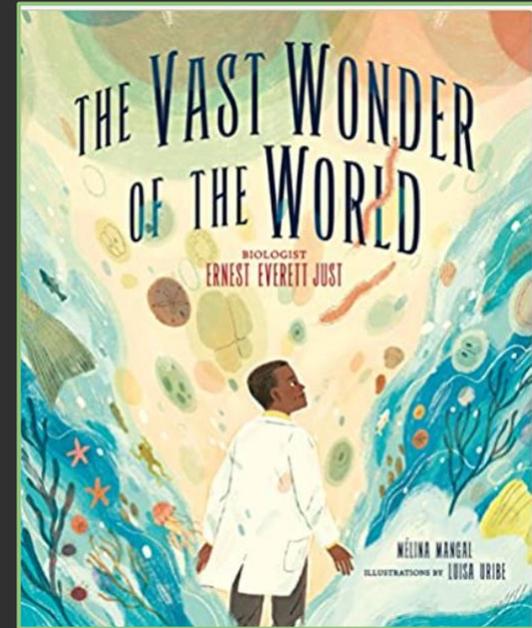


Janet Collins wanted to be a ballerina in the 1930s and 40s, a time when racial segregation was widespread in the United States. Janet pursued dance with a passion, despite being rejected from discriminatory dance schools. When she was accepted into the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo as a teenager on the condition that she paint her skin white for performances, Janet refused. She continued to go after her dreams, never compromising her values along the way. From her early childhood lessons to the height of her success as the first African American prima ballerina in the Metropolitan Opera, *Brave Ballerina* is the story of a remarkable pioneer as told by Michelle Meadows, with fantastic illustrations by Ebony Glenn. Ages 4 - 8.

Extraordinary illustrations and lyrical text present pioneering African American scientist Ernest Everett Just. Ernest Everett Just was not like other scientists of his time. He saw the whole, where others only saw parts. He noticed details others failed to see. He persisted in his research despite the discrimination and implications imposed on him as an African American. His keen observations of sea creatures revealed new insights about egg cells and the origins of life. Through stunning illustrations and lyrical prose, this picture book presents the life and accomplishments of this long overlooked scientific pioneer. Ages 4 - 8.

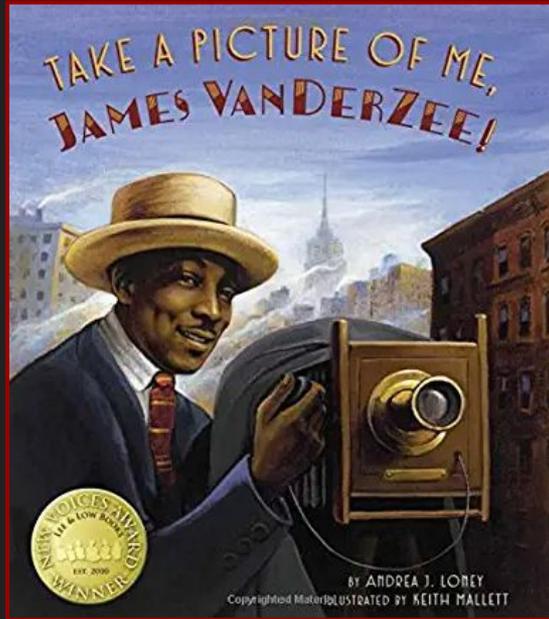
# The Vast Wonder of the World

By: Melina Mangala



# Take a Picture of Me James Van Der Zee!

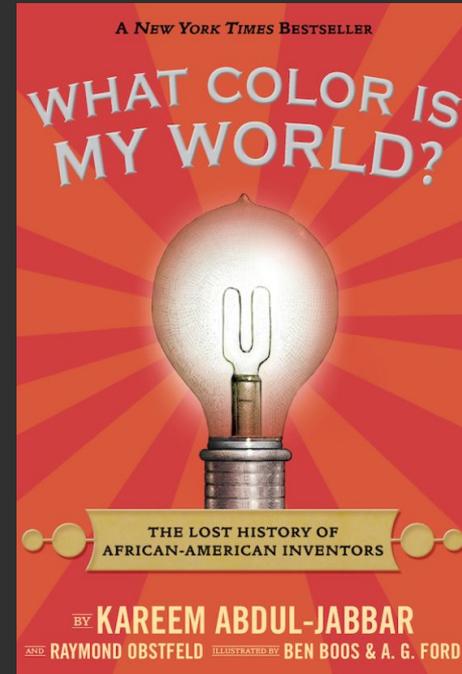
By: Andrea J. Loney



James Van Der Zee was just a young boy when he saved enough money to buy his first camera. He took photos of his family, classmates, and anyone who would sit still for a portrait. By the fifth grade, James was the school photographer and unofficial town photographer. Eventually he outgrew his small town and moved to the exciting, fast-paced world of New York City. After being told by his boss that no one would want his or her photo taken by a Black man, - James opened his own portrait studio in Harlem. He took photographs of legendary figures of the Harlem Renaissance and ordinary folks in the neighborhood. Everyone wanted fancy portraits by James Van Der Zee. This is the story of a groundbreaking artist who chronicled an important era in Harlem and showed the beauty and pride of its people. Ages 7 - 11.

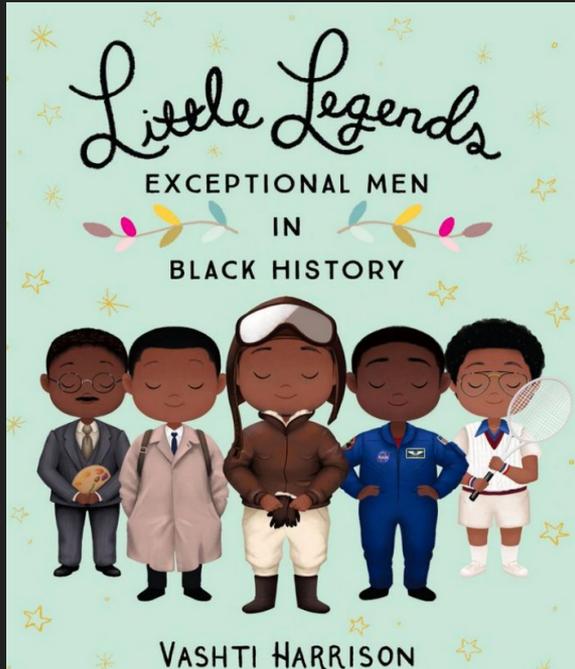
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, basketball legend and the NBA's all-time leading scorer, champions a lineup of little-known African American inventors in this lively, kid-friendly book. Offering profiles with fast facts and framed by a funny contemporary story featuring two feisty twins, here is a tribute to Black inventors whose ingenuity and perseverance against great odds made our world safe, better, and brighter. Ages 8 - 12.

## What Color is My World? By: Kareem Abdul Jabbar



# Little Legends Exceptional Men in Black History

By: Vashi Harrison



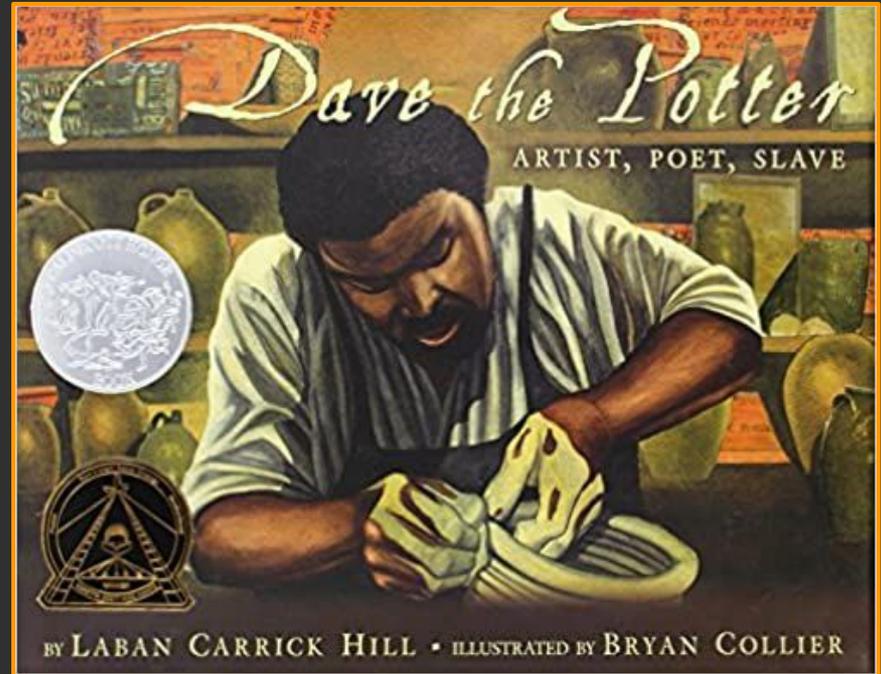
An important book for readers of all ages, this beautifully illustrated and engagingly written volume brings to life true stories of Black men in history. Among these biographies, readers will find aviators and artists, politicians and pop stars, athletes and activists. The exceptional men featured include writer James Baldwin, artist Aaron Douglas, filmmaker Oscar Devereaux Micheaux, lawman Bass Reeves, civil rights leader John Lewis, dancer Alvin Ailey, and musician Prince. The legends in Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History span centuries and continents, but each one has blazed a trail for generations to come. Ages 7 - 12.

# Dave the Potter

## By: Laban Carrick Hill

Dave was an extraordinary artist, poet, and potter living in South Carolina in the 1800s. He combined his superb artistry with deeply observant poetry, carved onto his pots, transcending the limitations he faced as a slave. In this inspiring and lyrical portrayal, National Book Award nominee Laban Carrick Hill's elegantly simple text and award-winning artist Bryan Collier's resplendent, earth-toned illustrations tell Dave's story, a story rich in history, hope, and long-lasting beauty. Ages 4 - 8.

A Caldecott Honor  
A Coretta Scott King Award Winner



# Black History Month

The JEDI Committee, along with the help of PTC and The Book Catapult have added many of these titles to the McKinley School Library.

Visit the Conscious Kid Link below for even more titles!!

Curated from:

<https://www.theconsciouskid.org/bhm/>

