

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

This is a selected list of titles available at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Check our catalog at BuffaloLib.org for many more title options.



The Poet X Elizabeth Acevedo

A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world.

On the Come Up Angie Thomas

Insightful, unflinching, and full of heart, 'On the Come Up' is an ode to hip-hop from one of the most influential literary voices of a generation. It is the story of fighting for your dreams, even as the odds are stacked against you.

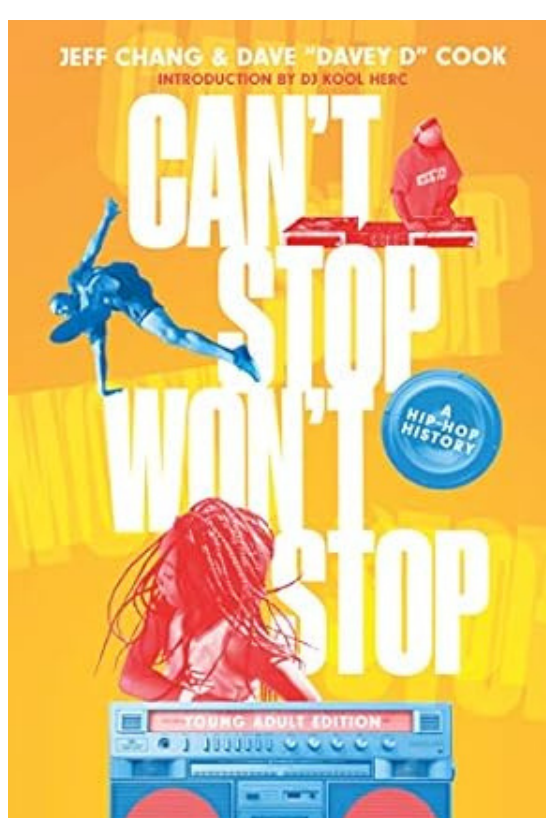
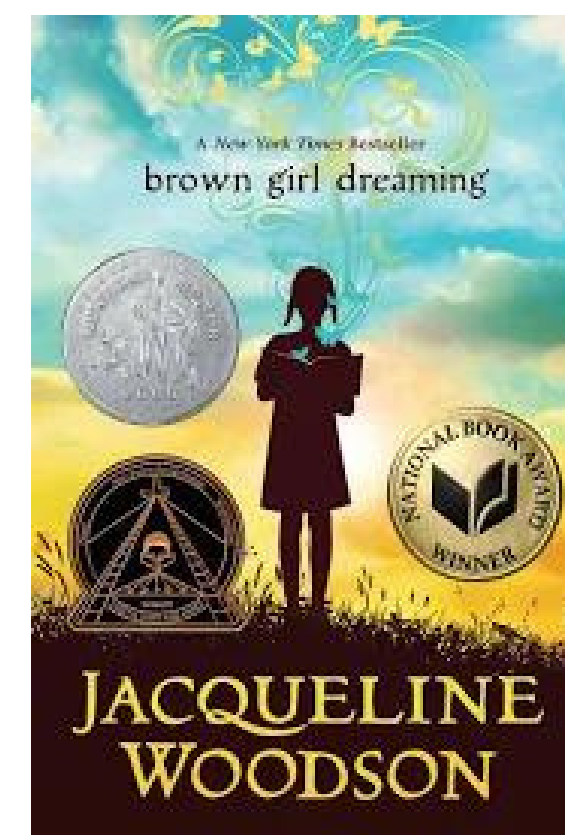


Bitter Akwaeke Emezi

National Book Award finalist Akwaeke Emezi shows both the importance and cost of social revolution in a novel that explores the power of youth, protest, and art.

Brown Girl Dreaming Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson's National Book Award and Newbery Honor winner is a powerful memoir that tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.

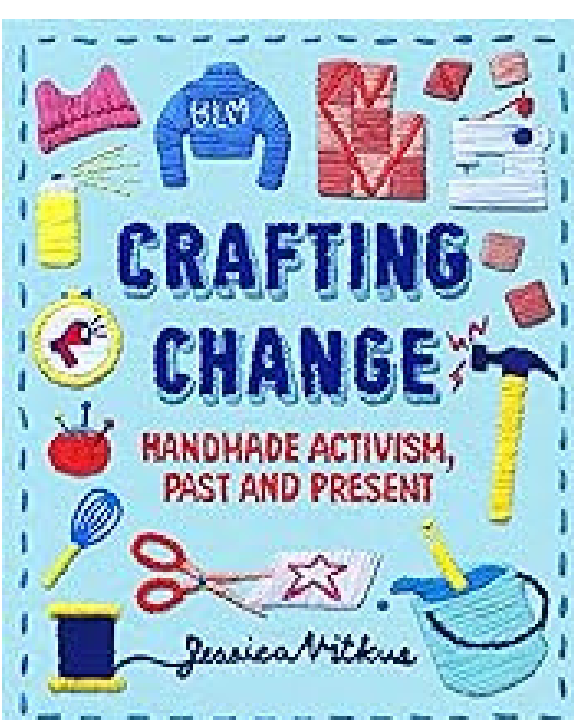
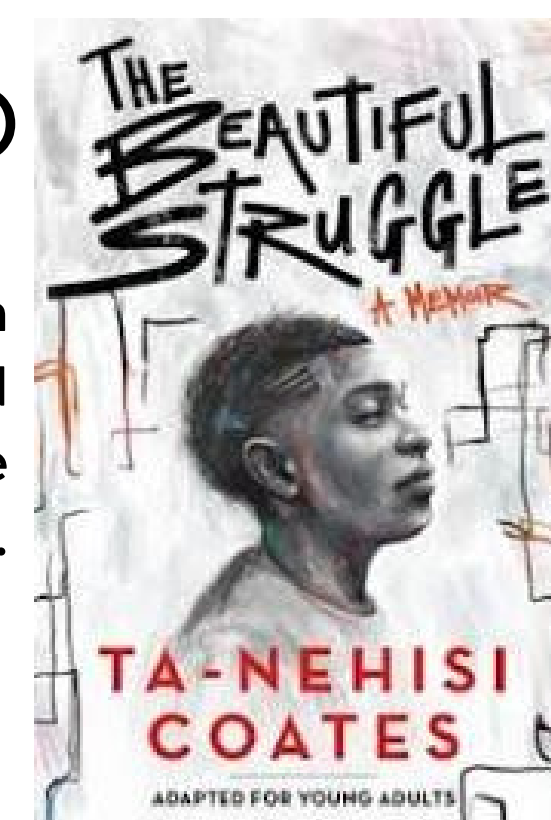


Can't Stop Won't Stop (Young Adult Edition): A Hip-Hop History Jeff Chang

From award-winning author Jeff Chang, 'Can't Stop Won't Stop' is the story of Hip-Hop, a generation-defining movement and the music that transformed American culture and politics forever.

The Beautiful Struggle (Adapted for Young Adults) Ta-Nehisi Coates

An adapted memoir from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of 'Between the World and Me', this father-son story explores how boys become men, and quite specifically, how Ta-Nehisi Coates became Ta-Nehisi Coates.



Crafting Change: Handmade Activism, Past and Present Jessica Vitkus

An informative and inspiring exploration of Craftivism — the intersection of handicraft and activism — designed to encourage young creators while providing meaningful historical context.

PICTURE BOOKS

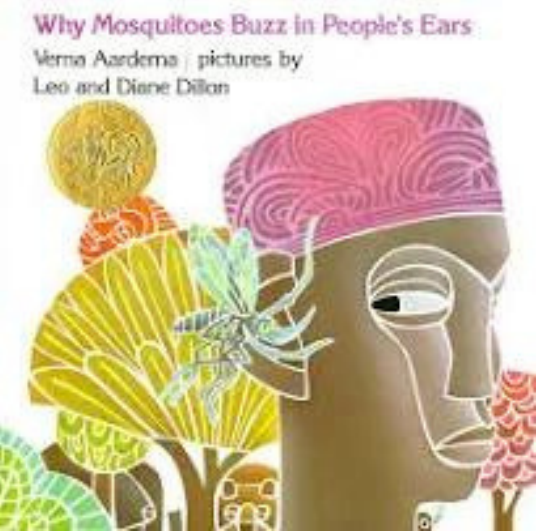
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Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale (Caldecott Winner)

Verna Aardema & Leo and Diane Dillon

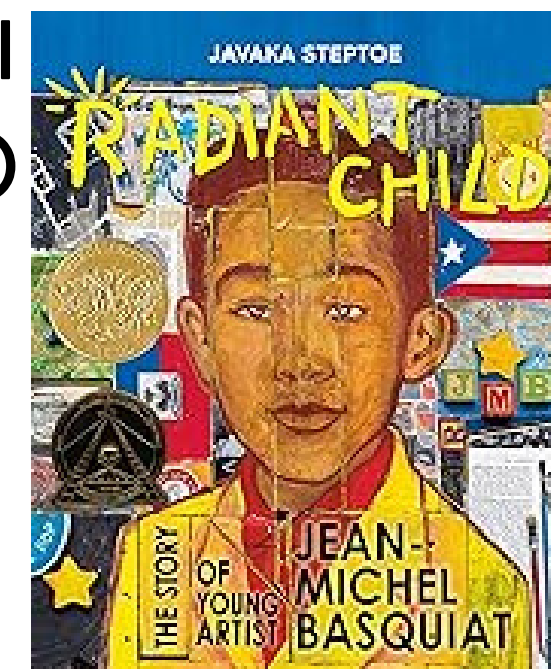
In this retelling of a West African tale, a mosquito's lie sets off a series of reactions in the jungle that results in the owl's refusal to wake the sun and the lion's decision to call a meeting of the animals.



Radiant Child: the Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (Caldecott Winner)

Javaka Steptoe

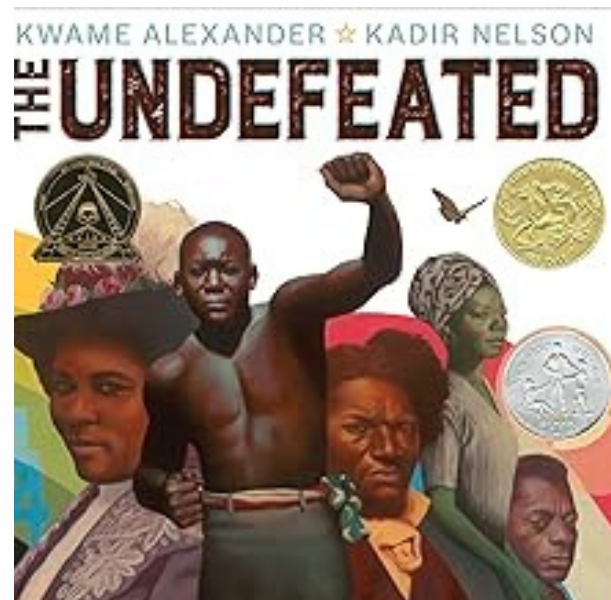
Award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork, echoing Basquiat's own, brings young readers the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean--and definitely not inside the lines--to be beautiful.



The Undefeated (Caldecott Winner)

Kwame Alexander & Kadir Nelson

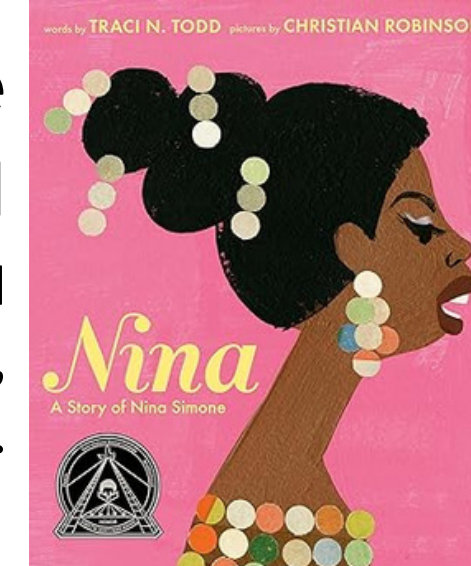
This illustrated poem is a love letter to black life in the United States, highlighting the faith and fire of the Civil Rights Movement.



Nina: A Story of Nina Simone

Traci Todd

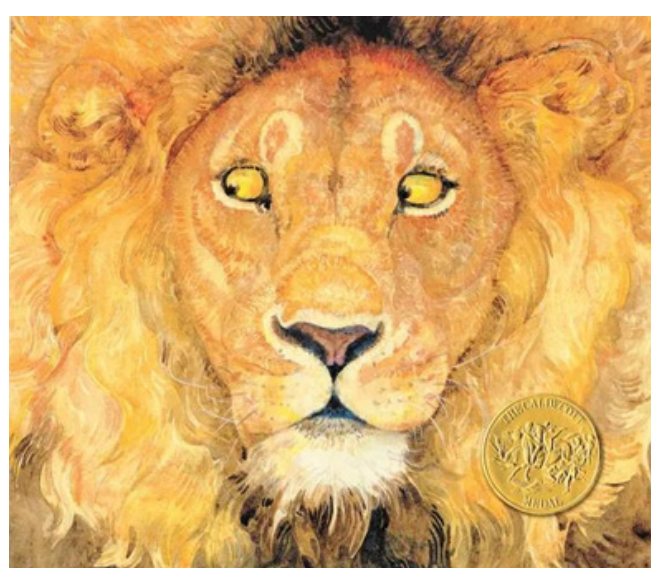
A Coretta Scott King Book Award Honoree, 'Nina' tells the remarkable and inspiring story of how acclaimed singer Nina Simone crafted a bold, defiant, and unique legacy in the fight for racial equality.



The Lion and the Mouse (Caldecott Winner)

Jerry Pinkney

In award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted.



There Was a Party for Langston

Jason Reynolds

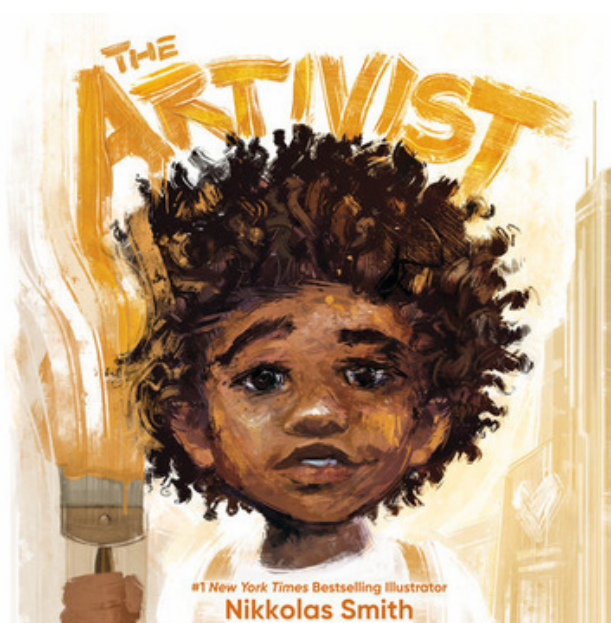
New York Times bestselling and award-winning author Jason Reynolds's debut picture book is a snappy, joyous ode to Word King, literary genius, and glass-ceiling smasher Langston Hughes and the luminaries he inspired.



The Artist

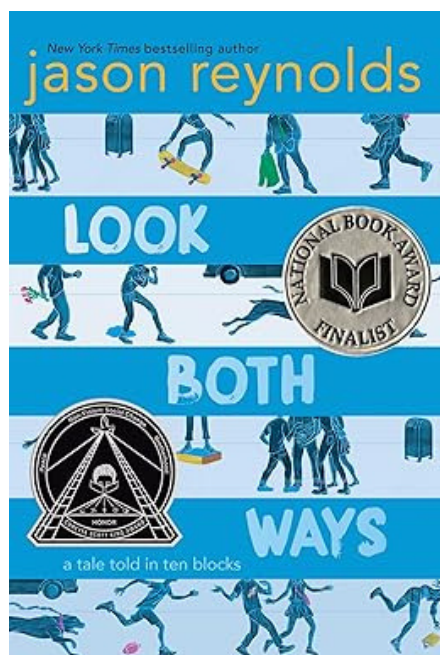
Nikkolas Smith

An inspiring picture book about how children can combine art and activism in their daily lives.



CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks

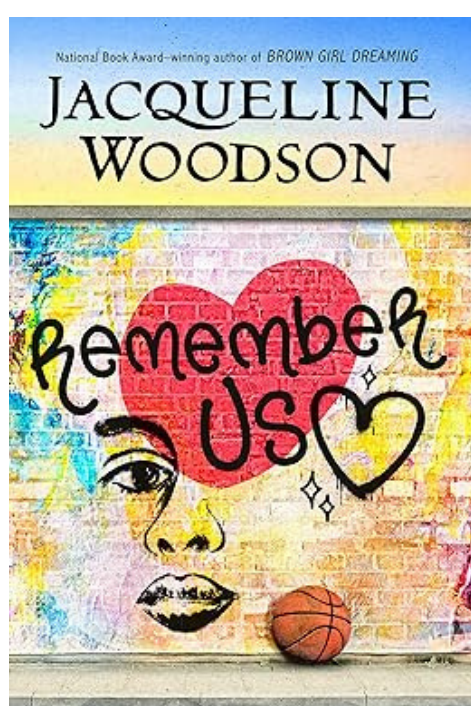
Jason Reynolds

From National Book Award finalist and #1 New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds comes a novel told in ten blocks, showing all the different directions kids' walks home can take.

Swim Team: A Graphic Novel

Johnnie Christmas

In this inspiring graphic novel, a courageous young girl confronts one of her biggest fears and discovers new resilience while defining her own success.



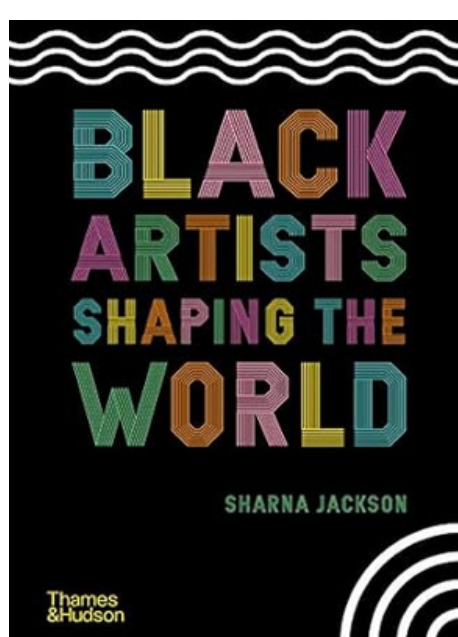
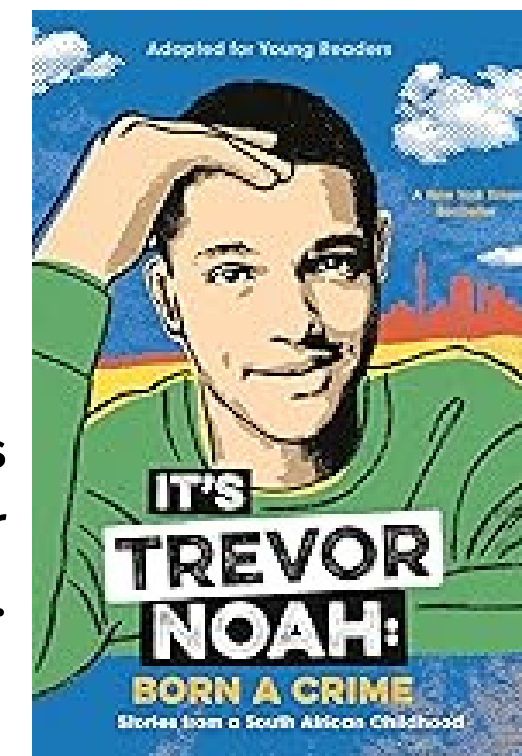
Remember Us

Jacqueline Woodson

National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson brings readers a powerful story that delves deeply into life's burning questions about time, memory, and what we take with us into the future.

It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (Adapted for Young Readers)

Comedian Trevor Noah shares his personal story and the injustices he faced while growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid.



Black Artists Shaping the World

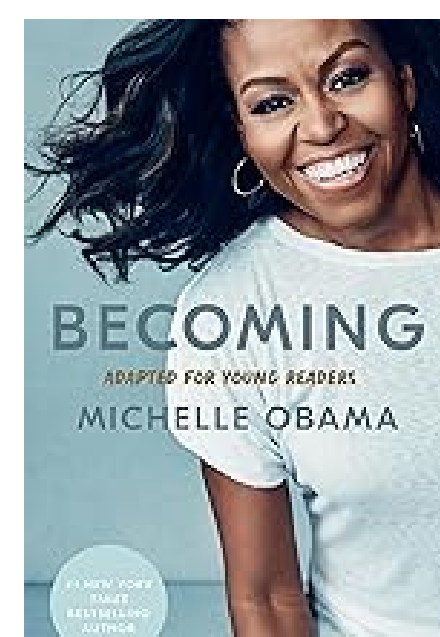
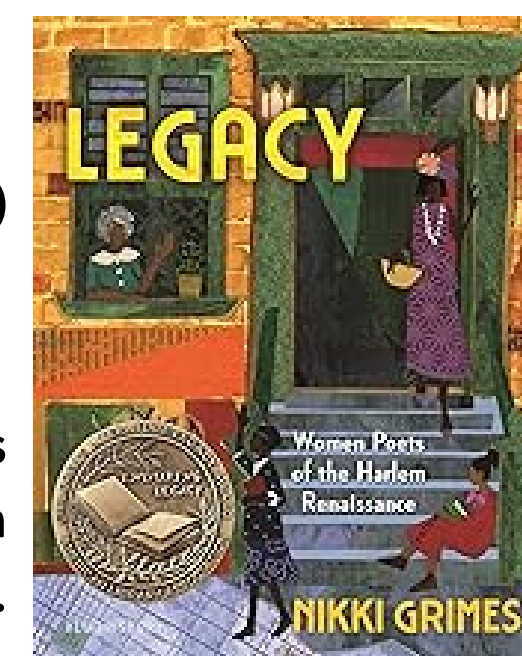
Sharna Jackson

Designed for young readers, this book provides an exuberant introduction to the diverse work of international contemporary Artists of African descent.

Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance (Illustrated)

Nikki Grimes

This feminist-forward collection of poetry celebrates the women poets of the Harlem Renaissance--paired with full-color, original art from today's most talented female African-American illustrators.



Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers

Michelle Obama

In this fascinating account of a life led by example, Michelle Obama shares her views on how all young people can help themselves as well as others, no matter their status.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

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DC Power: A Celebration Evan Narcisse & Henry Clayton

Cyborg, John Stewart, Aqualad, Kid Flash, Batwing, Vixen, Amazing-Man, and more take center stage to highlight the power of Black excellence across the DC Universe, in stories created by a variety of Comics' finest Black artists and writers.

Black Panther: World of Wakanda Ta-Nehisi Coates & Alitha E. Martinez

The first six volumes of Ta-Nehisi Coates's epic run as 'Black Panther' author present a deep dive into Wakanda's lore.



Marvel-Verse: Miles Morales: Spider-Man Brian Michael Bendis & Sara Pichelli

Get to know Miles - the Spider-Man of two worlds - with these ultimately marvelous adventures! With the passing of Peter Parker, brave, young Miles steps forward with his own incredible abilities to carry on the Spider-Man legacy.

Maybe an Artist, a Graphic Memoir Liz Montague

A heartfelt and funny memoir from one of the first Black female cartoonists to be published in the New Yorker, Liz Montague shows how she found the confidence to break barriers and pursue her passion.

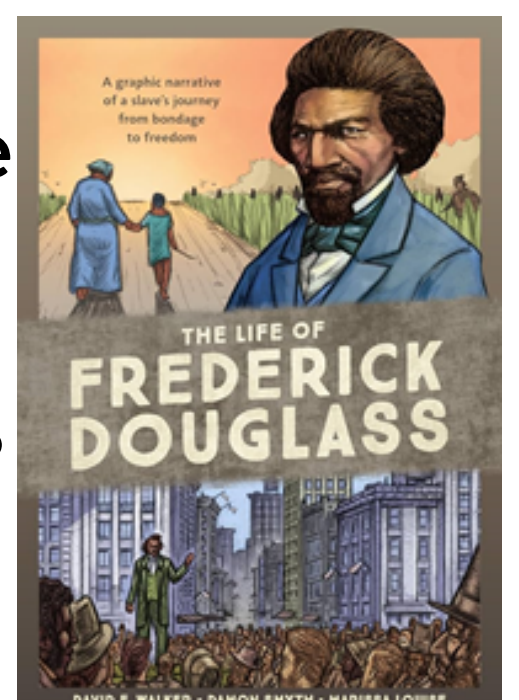


March: Book One John Lewis & Nate Powell

Congressman John Lewis's first-hand account of his lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation.

The Life of Frederick Douglass: A Graphic Narrative of a Slave's Journey from Bondage to Freedom David Walker & Marissa Louise

Taking you from Douglass's life as a young slave through his forbidden education to his escape and growing prominence as a speaker, abolitionist, and influential cultural figure.



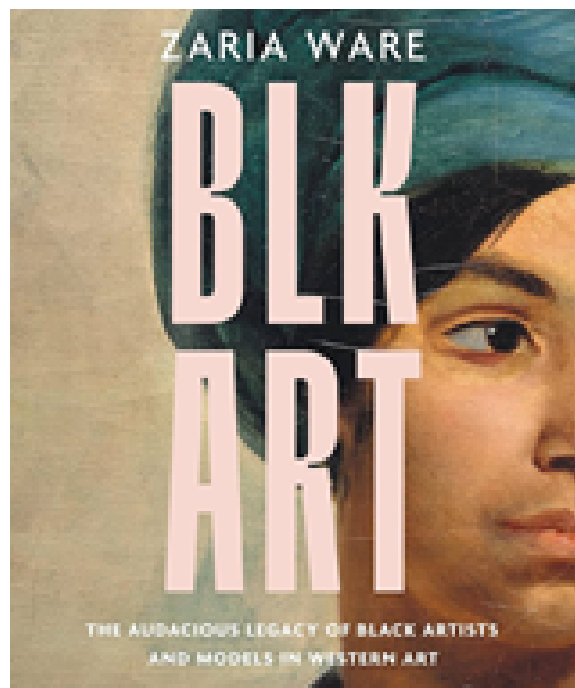
Stamped from the Beginning: A Graphic History of Racist Ideas in America

Ibram X Kendi & Joel Christian Gill

This stunning illustrated adaptation of Dr. Kendi's groundbreaking book explores the living history of America with vivid clarity and dimensionality, showing how we can learn from the past to work toward a more equitable, antiracist future.



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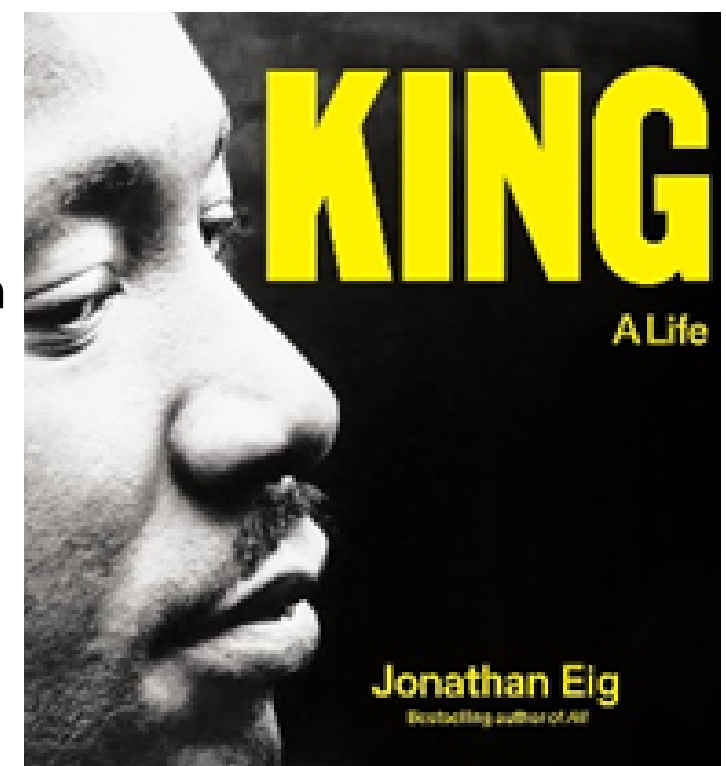


Blk Art: The Audacious Legacy of Black Artists and Models in Western Art Zaria Ware

Captivating and informative, this essential work elevates a globally dismissed legacy to its proper place in the mainstream art canon.

King: A Life Jonathan Eig

This stunning and intimate new portrait mixes revelatory research with accessible storytelling to show us the courageous and often troubled human being whose activism and protest shook the world.

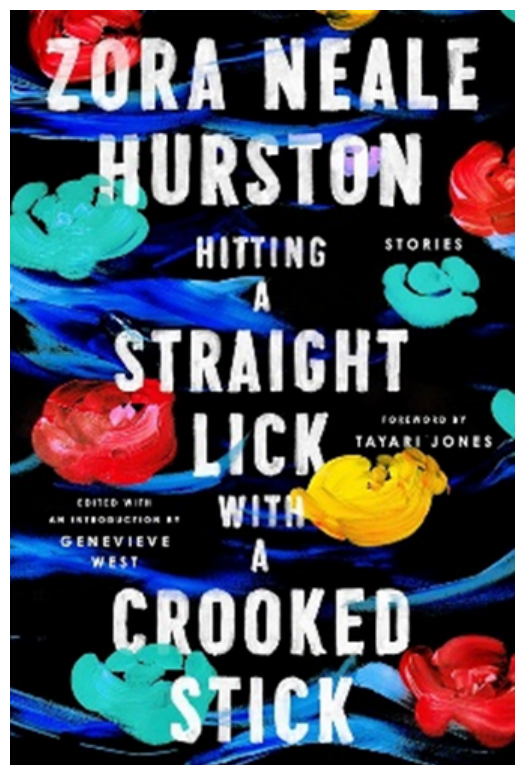
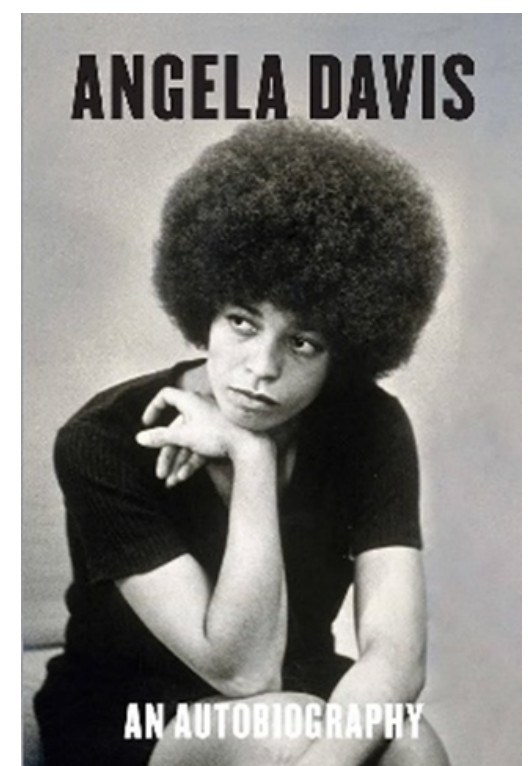


The Come Up: An Oral History of the Rise of Hip-Hop Jonathan Abrams

The essential oral history of hip-hop, from its origins on the playgrounds of the Bronx to its reign as one of the most influential forces in music and pop culture.

Angela Davis: An Autobiography

The political activist who's spent decades at the cutting edge of the Black Liberation, feminist, queer, and prison abolitionist movements delivers a powerful commanding account of her early years in struggle.

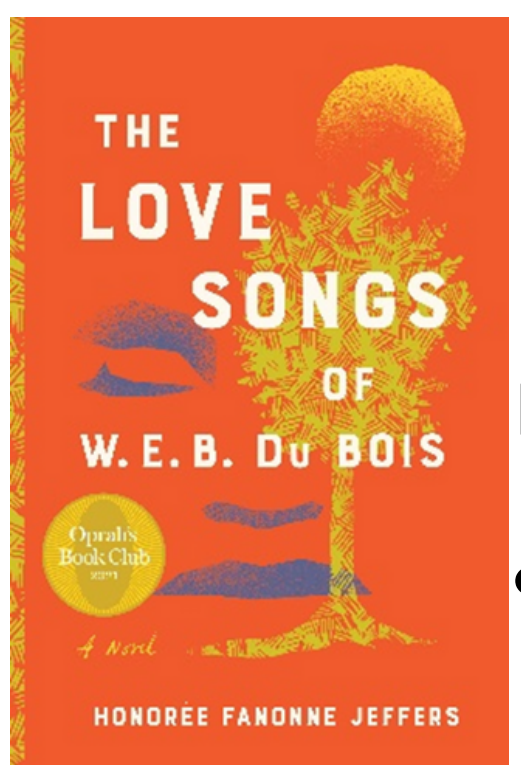
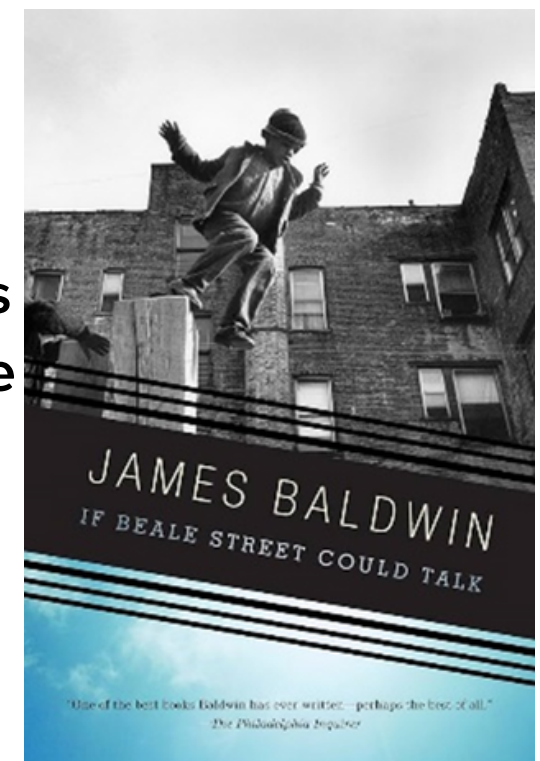


Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick: Stories from the Harlem Renaissance Zora Neale Hurston

This outstanding collection of stories, found in archives, explores the African American folk culture of Harlem in the 1920s, with eight of Hurston's "lost" Harlem gems included.

If Beale Street Could Talk James Baldwin

In a love story that evokes the blues, where passion and sadness are inevitably intertwined, Baldwin creates two of the most alive and profoundly realized characters in 20th century literature.



The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

This magisterial epic chronicles the journey of one American family, from the centuries of the colonial slave trade through the Civil War to our own tumultuous era, with a sweeping yet intimate force.

