

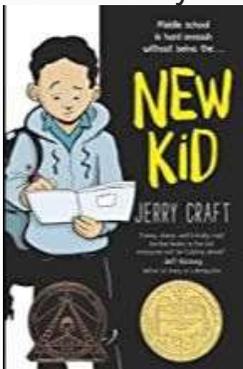
Dr. Toughlove's Book Club Selections

February 2021

Happy Black History Month!

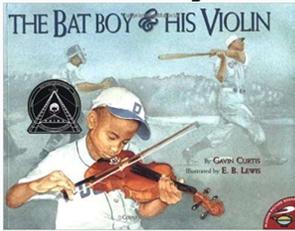
Since February is Black History Month, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to highlight some books that I believe are wonderful examples of children's literature that put a spotlight on African-Americans. The purpose of Black History month is to showcase the accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans, and what better way than through literature? There are literally thousands of books that exist that could be listed as books to read during February, but below is my (or should I say Dr. Toughlove's) **Top Ten List**:

New Kid by Jerry Craft



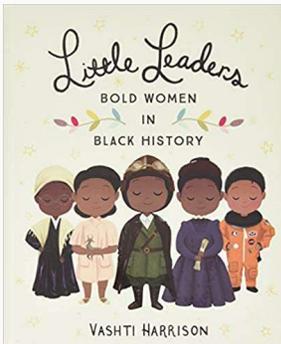
New Kid, aimed at upper elementary and middle school students, got a thumbs up from my granddaughter Zoë and received a John Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award and the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature. It is a graphic novel about the culture shock the protagonist, who is black, experiences when he enrolls in a private school. Ages 8-12.

The Bat Boy and His Violin by Gavin Curtis



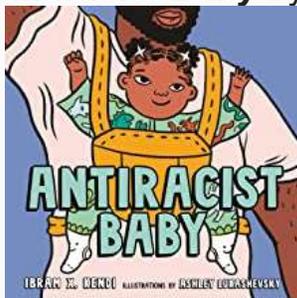
This is a charming picture book about a boy who plays his violin while serving as a bat boy on his dad's baseball team. This story highlights the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues, which was a precursor to Jackie Robinson's breakthrough integration of Major League Baseball. Ages 4-8 years.

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison



This book provides brief biographies and pictures of many Black women who have altered history in their respective fields. In the back of the book there are additional resources available. Ages 8-12 years.

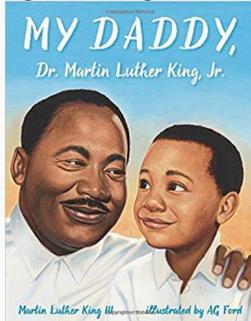
Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi



This picture book provides specific steps for parents and children to employ to raise culturally competent children. The simple language and

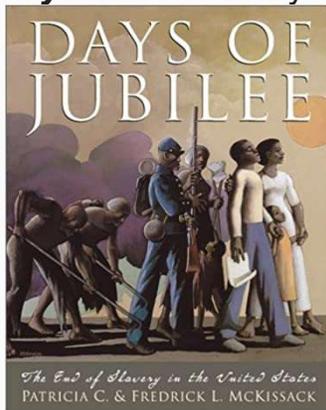
wonderful illustrations make this book appealing and engaging for adults and children. Ages 0-3.

My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King III



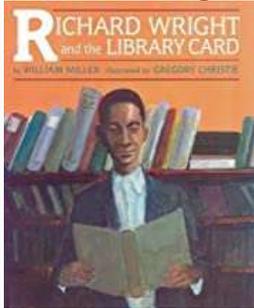
This wonderful picture book depicts the work of Civil Rights icon, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in child-friendly language. The illustrations are beautiful and enhance the story in numerous ways. Ages 4-8 years.

Days of Jubilee by Patricia C. and Fredrick L. McKissack



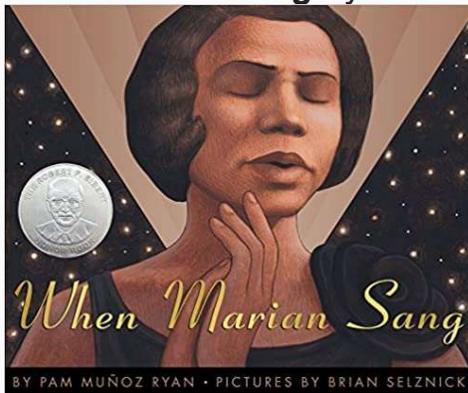
This non-fiction volume teaches the reader about the long journey between when Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860 to the date when slaves in Texas learned slavery ended on June 19, 1865 (also known as Juneteenth). This book received the Coretta Scott King Book award and provides historical information as well as pictures of how slavery ended. A must read for anyone aged 8 and up.

Richard Wright and the Library Card by William Miller



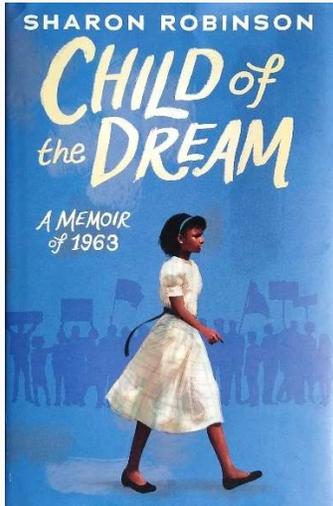
This book tells the story of how Richard Wright, a renowned writer during the 20th century, with the help of his white employer, took out books from the library because he could not get a library card of his own. Ages 6-9 years.

When Marian Sang by Pam Muñoz Ryan



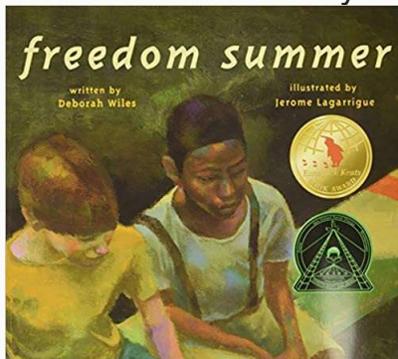
Brian Selznick's beautifully illustrated book about Marian Anderson's life and her historic career is elegantly depicted in this book. The back of this picture book provides additional information about Marian's life. Ages 7-10 years.

***A Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963* by Sharon Robinson**



Sharon Robinson is the daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson and relates a series of historical events that occurred in 1963 that include but are not limited to the March on Washington and the Birmingham, Alabama church bombing that killed four innocent girls. Ages 8 and up.

***Freedom Summer* by Deborah Wiles**



I wish I had kept track of how many times I have read this book aloud to students when I was a practicing educator. This fiction book tells a touching story of two boys, one white and one black living in the south during the summer of 1964, when the Civil Rights Act was passed. Ages 4-8 years.

Happy Reading!
