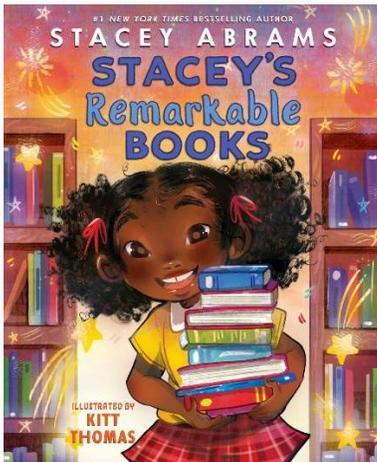


Happy Black History Month!

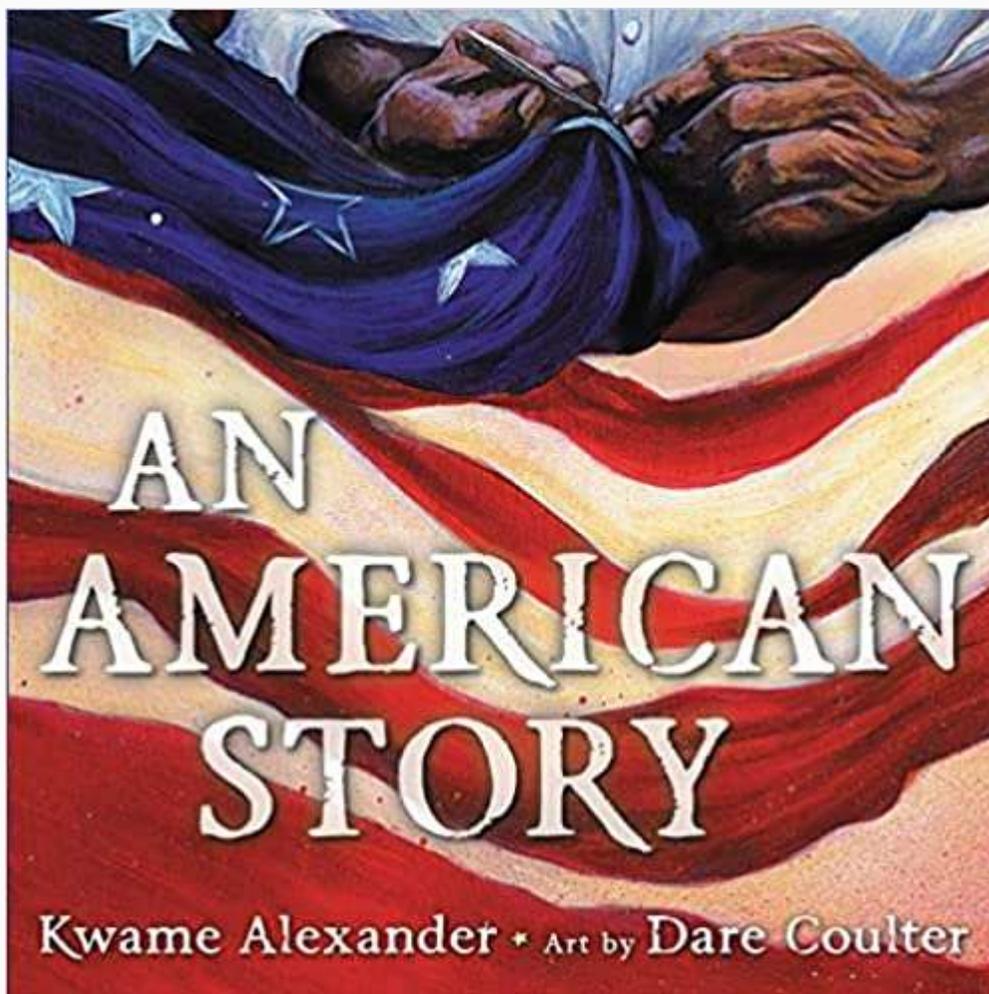
Since February is Black History Month, and February 1 is World Read Aloud day, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to highlight some books that I believe are wonderful examples of children's literature that put a spotlight on African-Americans. The purpose of Black History month is to showcase the 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:**

***Stacey's Remarkable Books* by Stacey Abrams**



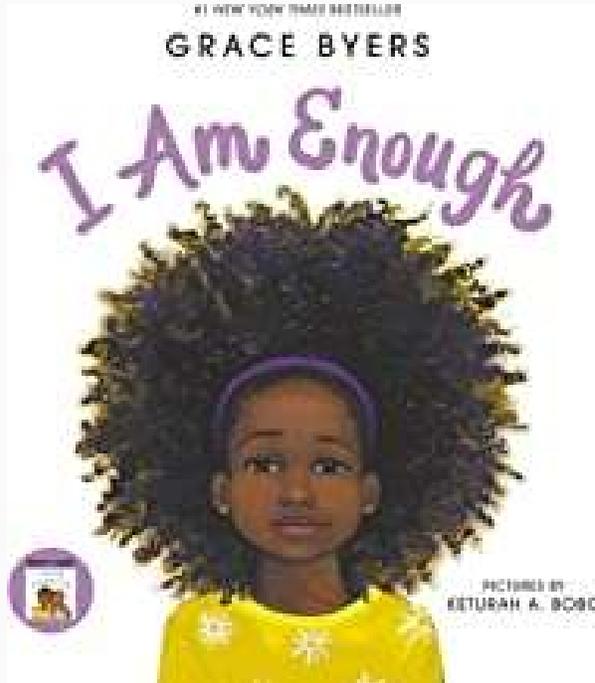
Stacey's Remarkable Books, is new picture book by Stacey Abrams and a companion to her first children's book ***Stacey's Remarkable Words***. This book, which is based on her childhood, highlights Stacey's love for books and how she used them to help one of her classmates learn English. This heartwarming book is aimed at children 4-8 years old, but can certainly be enjoyed by all elementary-aged students.

An American Story by Kwame Alexander



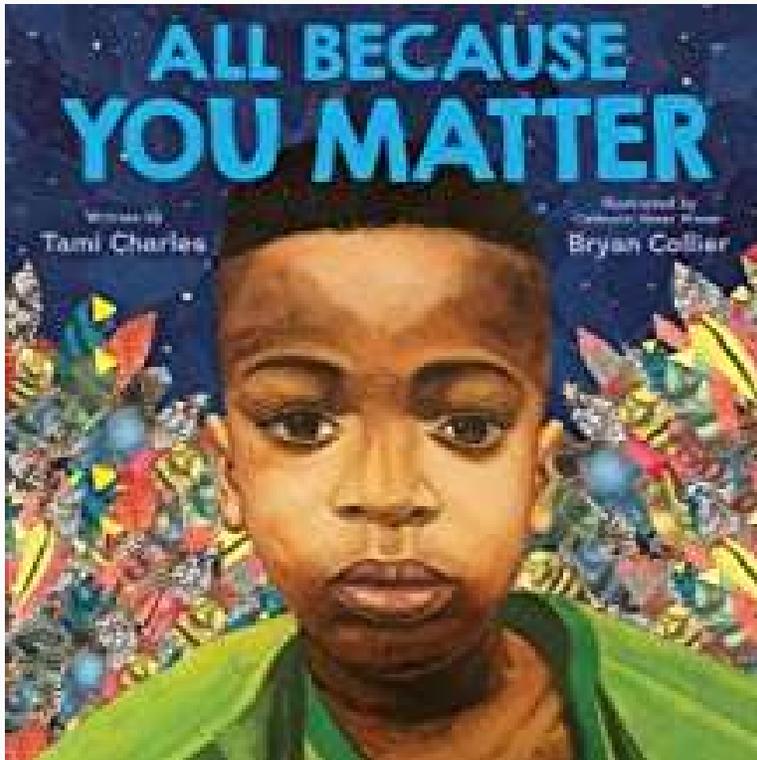
This powerful book written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Dare Coulter starts with fireside talks in an African village and tells the African-American story in a moving and compelling way. The audio version of this book is extremely compelling as well. Although the target audience is 4–8-year-olds, it is a must read (or hear) for anyone who wants a comprehensive account of African-American history.

I Am Enough by Grace Byers



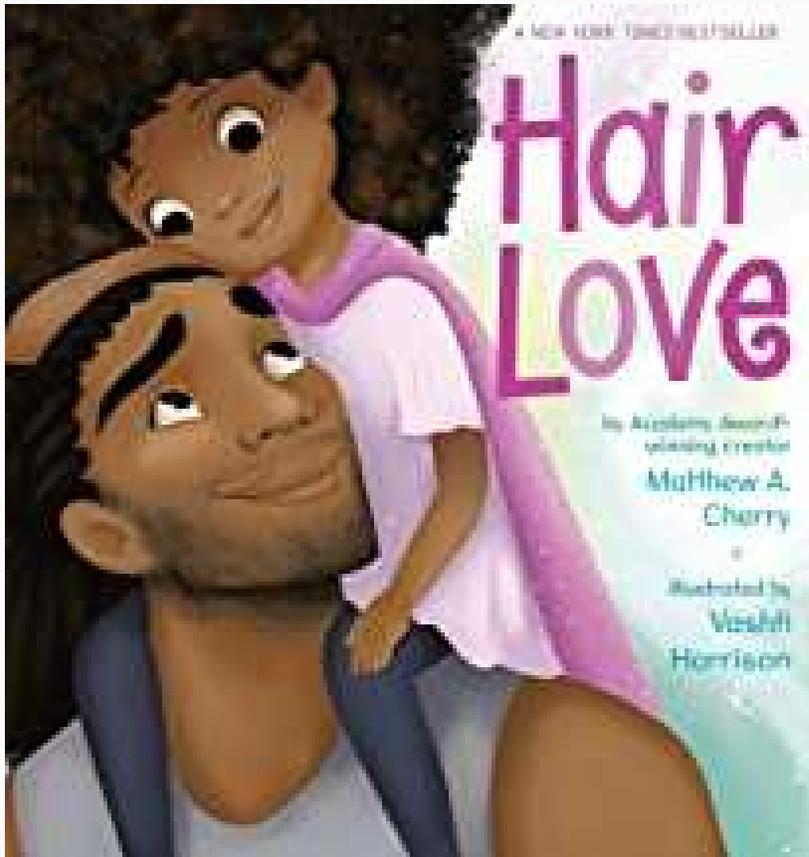
Grace Byers's enchanting, lyrical book uses rhyme and beautiful illustrations to demonstrate that each one of us is exceptional and special. Byers's words teach even the youngest among us that we are unique and ENOUGH, just the way we are. Keturah Bobo's illustrations serve to provide visual representation of the writer's words in an elegant and charming way. For children aged 4-8 years.

***All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles**



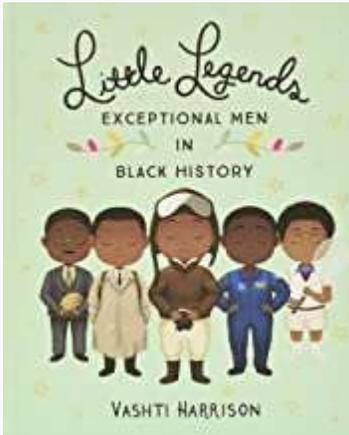
All Because You Matter is a lyrical, beautifully illustrated book that reinforces the concept that regardless of your circumstances, you matter and you are important. While this book does not explicitly teach children about black history, it can be used as a springboard to talk about our country's history and how that history influences our current racial climate. A great read aloud book for children aged pre-school and up.

***Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry**



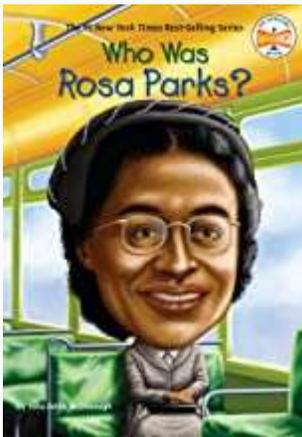
Hair Love is a celebration of black hair with all of its braids, twists, coils and curls. This heartwarming story puts a spotlight on a positive relationship between a black dad and his daughter - something that is rarely seen in children's literature. The target audience for this book is ages 4-8, but it can be enjoyed by younger children as well. A great read aloud choice.

***Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison**



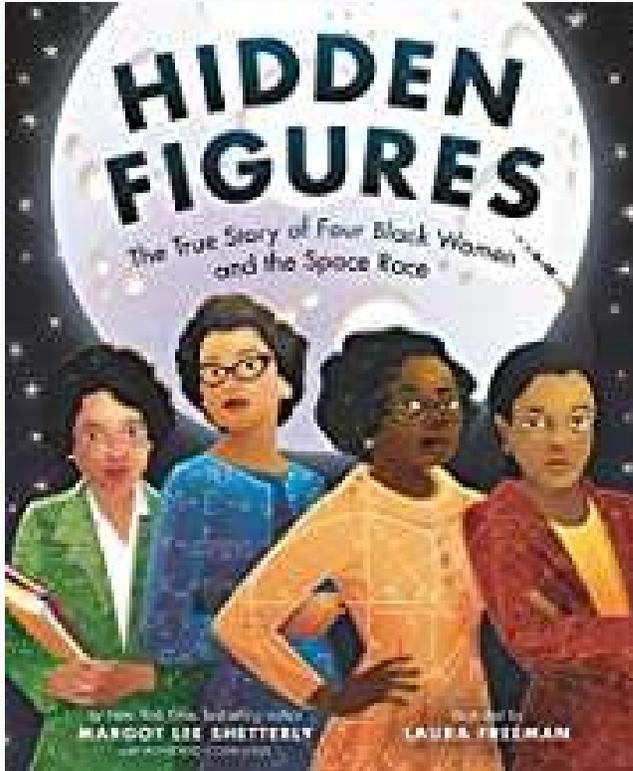
This book is an encyclopedia of exceptional black men who have changed the world in very significant ways. A must read for anyone who is interested in learning about the lives of these groundbreaking men, all in one user-friendly book. Appropriate for children aged 3 and up.

***Who Was Rosa Parks?* By Yona Zeldis McDonough**



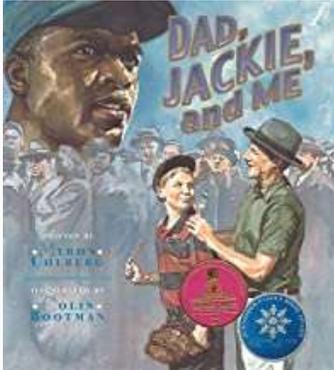
This comprehensive book starts with Rosa's life as a young girl and includes all of her accomplishments – not the least of which was refusing to sit in the back of the bus in 1955. This book is full of little-known information about this extraordinary woman. For ages 7 and up.

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly



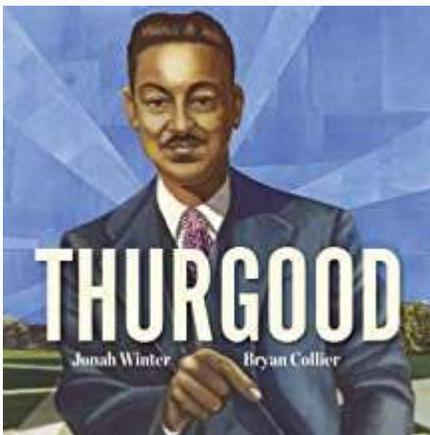
Hidden Figures is a story about four black woman who worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and had a significant impact on our country's space race. While the concepts in this book are complex, Margot Lee Shetterly does an excellent job explaining these women's illustrious careers in a child-friendly way. The illustrations support the author's words well. Written for children aged 6-10.

***Dad, Jackie and Me* by Myron Uhlberg**



Dad, Jackie and Me is written by Myron Uhlberg, who is the child of two deaf parents and an avid baseball fan. While this book is fiction, it is based on his experience as a Brooklyn Dodger fan during the Jackie Robinson era. Jackie Robinson's influence is one of the main themes in this charming book. It is written for children aged 4-8.

***Thurgood* by Jonah Winter**



This book takes the accomplishments of Thurgood Marshall and presents them in an engaging fashion that can appeal to children aged 5-9. The reader learns about Thurgood Marshall's early years, which shaped his groundbreaking career as a civil rights attorney and Supreme Court Justice.
