

PICTURE THE DREAM

The Story of the Civil Rights Movement through Children's Books



Picture the Dream: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement through Children's Books delves into the events, people, and themes of the civil rights movement through children's literature.

The exhibit features beloved children's book authors and artists as well as talented newcomers who come together to encourage discussion and inspire young people to be tomorrow's agents of change. The picture books' topics bridge the past and present, emphasizing how historical moments and leaders continue to inspire the struggle for equal rights.

The original exhibition was curated by award-winning children's book author Andrea Davis Pinkney as a collaboration between the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Books on this list are included in the exhibit reproduction at Kansas Children's Discovery Center in Topeka, Kansas.

EXHIBIT BOOK LIST

A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara, illustrated by Innosanto Nagara, 2012, grade levels PreK - 2

[Spanish version available](#)

Why Am I Me? by Paige Britt, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko, 2017, grade levels PreK - 2

[Spanish version available](#)

All Because You Matter by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier, 2020, grade levels PreK - 3

Child of the Civil Rights Movement by Paula Young Shelton, illustrated by Raul Colón, 2010, grade levels PreK - 3

Goin' Someplace Special by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, 2001, grade levels PreK - 3

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly, illustrated by Laura Freeman, 2018, grade levels PreK - 3

I Am Human: A Book of Empathy by Susan Verde, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds, 2018, grade levels PreK - 3

[Spanish version available](#)

I, Too, Am America by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Bryan Collier, 2012, grade levels PreK - 32

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson, illustrated by Frank Morrison, 2018, grade levels PreK - 3

Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment by Parker and Jessica Curry, illustrated by Brittany Jackson, 2019, grade levels PreK - 3

Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Jared Andrew Schorr, 2018, grade levels PreK - 3

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"At first I thought that Jim Crow was a big black crow that squawked whenever a black person tried to get a good seat."

Artwork from *Child of the Civil Rights Movement* by Paula Young Shelton, illustrated by Raul Colón.

the
Kansas
Children's
Discovery
Center

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o, illustrated by Vashti Harrison, 2019, grade levels PreK - 3

The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage by Selina Alko, illustrated by Sean Qualls, 2015, grade levels PreK - 3

We Dream a World by Yolanda Renee King, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell, 2024, grade levels PreK - 3

What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?: The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan by Chris Barton, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, 2018, grade levels PreK - 3

If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks by Faith Ringgold, illustrated by Faith Ringgold, 1999, grade levels PreK - 4

Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration of Rosa, Barack, and the Pioneers of Change by Michelle Cook, illustrated by multiple illustrators, 2009, grade levels PreK - 5

This Is the Dream by Diane Z. Shore and Jessica Alexander, illustrated by James Ransome, 2006, grade levels PreK - 5

Hey Black Child by Useni Eugene Perkins, illustrated by Bryan Collier, 2017, grade levels K - 2

I Am Enough by Grace Byers, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo, 2018, grade levels K - 2

A Sweet Smell of Roses by Angela Johnson, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, 2005, grade levels K - 3

Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, 2008, grade levels K - 3

Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights by Jim Haskins, illustrated by Benny Andrews, 2008, grade levels K - 3

White Water: Inspired by a True Story by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, 2011, illustrated by Shadra Stickland, grade levels K - 3

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James, 2017, grade levels K - 5

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier, 2001, grade levels K - 5

[Spanish version available](#)

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"Each took a seat at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. David, Joseph, Franklin, and Ezell sat quiet and still. With hearts full of hope."

Artwork from *Sit-in: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney.



The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton, 2017, grade levels K - 5

Always, Jackie by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by John Thompson, 2020, grade levels 1 - 3

Milo's Museum by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Purple Wong, 2016, grade levels 1 - 3

My Daddy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Martin Luther King III, illustrated by AG Ford, 2013, grade levels 1 - 3

When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson: The Voice of a Century by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick, 2002, grade levels 1 - 3

As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March toward Freedom by Richard Michelson, illustrated by Raul Colón, 2008, grade levels 1 - 4

Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn, 2000, grade levels 1 - 4

The Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Tim Ladwig, 2009, grade levels 1 - 4

The Patchwork Bike by Maxine Beneba Clarke, illustrated by Van Thanh Rudd, 2018, grade levels 1 - 4

Sit-in: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, 2010, grade levels 1 - 5

My Country 'Tis of Thee: How One Song Reveals the History of Civil Rights by Claire Rudolf Murphy, illustrated by Bryan Collier, 2014, grade levels 2 - 3

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles, illustrated by George Ford, 1993, grade levels 2 - 3

[Spanish version available](#)

A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation by Barry Wittenstein, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, 2019, grade levels 2 - 5

Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968 by Alice Fay, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, 2018, grade levels 2 - 5

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"We were determined to do something, and we did it. If you are determined, you can overcome your fears, and then you can change the world."

Artwork from *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, illustrated by Elspeth Leacock, Susan Buckley, and PJ Loughran, grade levels 7 - 9



Malcolm X: A Fire Burning Brightly by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Leonard Jenkins, 2000, grade levels 3 - 5

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy by Tony Medina, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, R. Gregory Christie, Ekua Holmes, and Floyd Cooper, 2018, grade levels 3 - 6

She Stood for Freedom: The Untold Story of a Civil Rights Hero by Loki Mulholland and Angela Fairwell, illustrated by Charlotta Janssen, 2016, grade levels 3 - 7

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, illustrated by multiple illustrators, 2018, grade levels 3 - 7

Martin Rising: Requiem for a King by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, 2018, grade levels 4 - 7

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: The Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, 2015, grade levels 5 - 6

Freedom Like Sunlight: Praisesongs for Black Americans by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by John Thompson, 2000, grade levels 5 - 8

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, illustrated by Elspeth Leacock, Susan Buckley, and PJ Loughran, 2015, grade levels 7 - 9

March: Book One by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, 2013, grade levels 8 - 12

March: Book Two by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, 2013, grade levels 8 - 12

March: Book Three by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, 2013, grade levels 8 - 12

Picture the Dream: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement through Children's Books is co-organized by the High Museum of Art, Atlanta and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. Curated by Andrea Davis Pinkney, Independent Curator. This presentation features reproductions of the artworks from the touring exhibition.

The Kansas Children's Discovery Center is a nonprofit children's museum. Since opening in 2011 in Topeka, Kansas, the Discovery Center has become a special place where children can explore, create, discover and learn through play. Learn more at www.kansasdiscovery.org