

Harlem by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers

J 811 Mye

A poem celebrating the people, sights and sounds of Harlem.

Reading Level: 1st - 4th grade

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

JE Rin

Eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot has a dream: to be free to go wherever she wants for the rest of her life. One night when she is on the rooftop of her family's apartment building ("tar beach"), her dream comes true when the stars lift her up and she flies over the city, claiming all she sees for herself and her family.

Reading Level: Preschool - 3rd grade

Also by Faith Ringgold: *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky*

Talking Eggs, The by Robert San Souci, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

J398.21 San

This is the tale of two sisters: Rose, who is spoiled and lazy, but her mother's favorite and Blanche, who is forced to fetch and carry and do all the hard work for her mother and sister. Blanche is rewarded for her kindness by an old witch woman.

Rose does not show the old woman the same kindness and respect and is therefore duly rewarded for her actions.

Reading Level: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Also illustrated by Jerry Pinkney: *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman*

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe

JE Ste

An African folktale about two beautiful daughters: Manyara, who is always in a bad temper and Nyasha, who is sweet and kind. The Great King has to choose a wife. Who will be his wife?

Reading Level: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

J Fic Taylor/J AUD CD Fic Taylor

The story of an African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the South during the 1930's. Nine-year-old Cassie Logan, growing up in the protection of her family, is unprepared for the discrimination that she meets. This is the story of a family struggling with physical survival, as well as survival of the human spirit.

Reading Level: 3rd - 7th grade

Also by Mildred Taylor: *The Land, Let the Circle Be Unbroken* and *The Friendship*



African American Authors & Illustrators

This is a list of suggested works by African American authors and illustrators. All of the following are available at the Vineland Public Library. Please see the librarian for exact location.



Vineland Public Library
Children's Department
1058 East Landis Avenue
Vineland, NJ 08360
(856) 794-4244 ext. 4246
www.vinelandlibrary.org

Uptown by Bryan Collier

JE Col

A tour of the sights of Harlem, including the Metro-North Train, brownstones, shopping on 125th Street, a barber shop, summer basketball, the Boy's Choir, and sunset over the Harlem River.

Reading Level: Kindergarten - 3rd grade

Also illustrated by Bryan Collier: *Martin's Big Words*

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

J Fic Curtis/YA Fic Curtis/J Aud CD Curtis

During the time of the Great Depression, ten-year-old Bud, from Flint, Michigan, escapes a bad foster home and sets out to search for the man he believes to be his father, the famous bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Reading Level: 4th grade & up

Also by Christopher Paul Curtis: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963*

Francie by Karen English

J Fic English

Thirteen-year-old Francie Weaver has one goal: to get out of Noble, Alabama. Her father, working up north for the railroad, promises to bring her family to Chicago. In the meantime, Jesse, a sixteen-year-old determined to learn how to read, becomes Francie's special project. When Jesse is accused of attacking a white man, Francie and her family become endangered.

Reading Level: 3rd - 6th grade

Patchwork Quilt, The by Valerie Flournoy

JE Flo

Using scraps cut from the family's old clothing, Tanya helps her grandmother and

mother make a beautiful quilt that tells the story of her family's life.

Reading Level: Kindergarten - 2nd grade

Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales by Virginia Hamilton

J 398.2082 Ham

A collection of twenty-five African American folktales focuses on strong female characters and includes "Little Girl and Bruh Rabby," "Catskinella," and "Annie Christmas."

Reading Level: 3rd - 6th grade

Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)

JE How

by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

Sunday afternoons are Sarah and Susan's favorite time of the week because they get to visit their great-great-aunt Flossie and share tea, cookies and crab cakes while they listen to her stories of long ago.

Reading Level: Preschool - 3rd grade

Also by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard: *Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys*

Heaven by Angela Johnson

J Fic Johnson/YA Fic Johnson

Fourteen-year-old Marley lives in the southern town of Heaven, which is actually the perfect place to live, until Marley makes a startling discovery and learns that everything is not as it seems.

Reading Level: 6th - 10th grade

Goin' Someplace Special by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

JE McK

'Tricia Ann is excited because she gets to go across town on the bus by herself to Someplace Special. Join 'Tricia Ann on her

journey and discover where all are welcome, no matter what the color of your skin.

Reading Level: 1st - 4th grade

Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Fredrick McKissack

JB Truth

A moving biography which captures the strength, steadfastness and perseverance of a powerful woman determined to be free.

Reading Level: 4th - 7th grade

Also by Patricia McKissack: *Mirandy and Brother Wind, The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural and A Picture of Freedom: the Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl*

Uncle Jed's Barbershop by Margaree King Mitchell

JE Mit

In the segregated South of the 1920's, Sarah Jean's Uncle Jed is the only black barber in the county. He travels all over the county cutting his customers' hair. His one dream is to one day open up his own barber shop and he is saving his money for this goal. Will his dream come true?

Reading Level: 1st - 4th grade

Black Cat by Christopher Myers

JE Mye

A black cat travels along quiet city streets, over rooftops and into the subway, seemingly intent on some destination it alone knows.

Reading Level: Preschool - 3rd grade

Also by Christopher Myers: *Wings*