

BKLYN Picture Books to Celebrate Black History Month

Check-out these picture books celebrating the history, contributions, and personal stories of African-Americans.

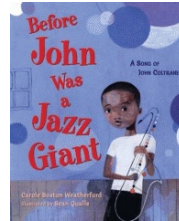
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Back of the bus

Aaron Reynolds ; illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

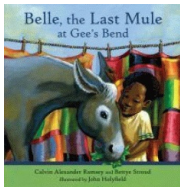
From the back of the bus, an African American child watches the arrest of Rosa Parks.



Before John was a jazz giant

Carole Boston Weatherford ; illustrated by Sean Qualls.

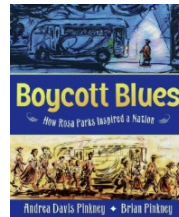
This lyrical picture-book biography of John Coltrane focuses on his childhood and how he interpreted sounds before he made his music.



Belle, the last mule at Gee's Bend

Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud ; illustrated by John Holyfield.

In Gee's Bend, Alabama, Miz Pettway tells young Alex about the historic role her mule played in the struggle for civil rights led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Includes factual information about the community of Gee's Bend and Martin Luther King, Jr.



Boycott blues

by Andrea Davis Pinkney ; illustrated by Brian Pinkney.

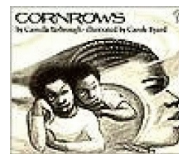
Illustrations and rhythmic text recall the December, 1955, bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.



Bring me some apples and I'll make you a pie

by Robbin Gourley.

From the whippoorwill's call on the first day of spring through the first snowfall, Edna and members of her family gather fruits, berries, and vegetables from the fields, garden, and orchard on their Virginia farm and turn them into wonderful meals. Includes facts about the life of Edna Lewis, a des...



Cornrows

by Camille Yarbrough ; illustrated by Camille Byard.

Explains how the hair style of cornrows, a symbol in Africa since ancient times, can today in this country symbolize the courage of outstanding African-Americans.

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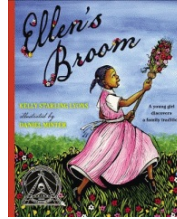
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Duke Ellington's Nutcracker suite

Anna Harwell Celenza ; illustrated by Don Tate.

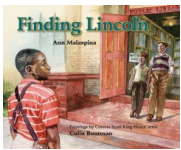
Tells the story of how jazz composer and musician Duke Ellington, along with Billy Strayhorn, created his jazz composition based on Tchaikovsky's famous Nutcracker Suite ballet. Includes author's note.



Ellen's broom

Kelly Starling Lyons ; illustrated by Daniel Minter.

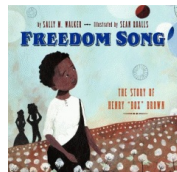
Cherishing the special broom resting above her hearth for its representation of the slave heritage that once forbade legal marriages, Ellen prepares for her parents' triumphant registry at a Reconstruction-era courthouse as lawful husband and wife and proudly carries the broom so that they can repea...



Finding Lincoln

Ann Malaspina ; paintings by Colin Bootman.

In segregated 1950s Alabama, Louis cannot use the public library to research a class assignment, but one of the librarians lets him in after hours and helps him find the book that he needs. Includes an author's note with historical information about library segregation in the South.



Freedom song

by Sally M. Walker ; illustrated by Sean Qualls.

Henry Brown copes with slavery by singing, but after his wife and children are sold away he is left with only his freedom song, which gives him strength when friends put him in a box and mail him to a free state.