



The Coretta Scott King Awards

The Coretta Scott King Awards are presented annually by the American Library Association to honor African-American authors and illustrators who create outstanding books for children and young adults. These awards are given to commemorate the life and work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her continuing efforts in working for peace and civil rights issues.

2013 Author

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. [Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America](#)

This book presents the stories of ten African-American men from different eras in American history, from slavery to the modern day. Ages 9 and up (JB HAND)

2012 Author

Nelson, Kadir. [Heart and Soul: the Story of America and African Americans](#)

Focusing on American history as it intertwines with the lives of African Americans, the story is told from the viewpoint of an elderly woman who shares her life story while highlighting pivotal historical events including abolition, the Great Migration, World War II, and the Civil Rights movement. Ages 9 and up (J 973.04 NEL)

2012 Illustrator

Evans, Shane. [Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom](#)

A pivotal moment in American history is shared with young readers by following a slave family's escape to the North by crawling on the ground, running barefoot through the woods, sleeping beneath bushes and eventually reaching freedom. Ages 5 – 9 (J 973.7115 EVA)

2011 Author

Williams-Garcia, Rita. [One Crazy Summer](#)

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. Ages 8-12 (J WIL)

2011 Illustrator

Collier, Bryan. [Dave the Potter](#)

Chronicles the life of Dave, a nineteenth-century slave who went on to become an influential poet, artist, and potter. Ages 5-10 (J PIC Older Reader HIL)

2010 Author

Nelson, Vaunda Nicheaux. [Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal](#)

Retells the life of Bass Reeves, a former slave who became a deputy U.S. Marshal in the Indian Territory and was exceptional at tracking down fugitives and bringing them to justice. Ages 8-12 (JB Reeves)

2010 Illustrator



Longwood Public Library



800 Middle Country Road, Middle Island, New York 11953

Hughes, Langston; photographs by Charles R. Smith, Jr. [My People](#)
Langston Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Charles R. Smith Jr. interprets this beloved poem in sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today. Ages 4-8 (J 811.52 HUG)

2009 Author

Nelson, Kadir. [We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball](#)
Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through the decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Ages 8 and up (J 796.3576 NEL)

2009 Illustrator

Thomas, Joyce Carol; illustrated by Floyd Cooper. [The Blacker the Berry](#)
A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and Afro-American identity. Ages 4 -8 (J 811.54 THO)

2008 Author

Curtis, Christopher Paul. [Elijah of Buxton](#)
In 1860, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. Ages 9 - 12 (J CUR)

2008 Illustrator

Bryan, Ashley. [Let it Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals](#)
Illustrated versions of three well-known hymns: This little light of mine -- When the saints go marching in -- He's got the whole world in His hands. Ages 4- 8 (J 782.253 LET)

2007 Author

Draper, Sharon. [Copper Sun](#)
Two fifteen-year-old girls--one a slave and the other an indentured servant--escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves. Ages 13 and up (YA DRAPER)

2007 Illustrator

Weatherford, Carole Boston; illustrated by Kadir Nelson. [Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led her People to Freedom](#)
Describes Tubman's spiritual journey as she hears the voice of God guiding her north to freedom on that very first trip to escape the brutal practice of forced servitude. Tubman would make nineteen subsequent trips back south, never being caught, but none as profound as this first one. Ages 5 - 10 (JB TUBMAN)

2006 Author

Lester, Julius. [Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue](#)
Emma has taken care of the Butler children since Sarah and Frances's mother, Fanny, left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, Pierce Butler wants to cash in his slave "assets", possibly including Emma. Ages 9 - 13 (YA LESTER)

2006 Illustrator

Giovanni, Nikki; illustrated by Bryan Collier. [Rosa](#)



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Provides the story of the black woman whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama set in motion all the events of the civil rights movements that resulted in the end of the segregated South.
Ages 5 – 10 (JB Parks)

2005 Author

Morrison, Toni. [Remember: the Journey to School Integration](#)

A fictional tale based on factual events captures the spirit, sadness, and struggle of the time as children tell what it was like to live during the era of school desegregation. Ages 8 – 14 (J 379.263 MOR)

2005 Illustrator

Shange, Ntozake; illustrated by Kadir Nelson. *Ellington Was not a Street*

In a reflective tribute to the African American community of old, noted poet Ntozake Shange recalls her childhood home and the close knit group of innovators that often gathered there. Ages 8 – 12 (J PIC Older Reader SHA)

2004 Author

Johnson, Angela. [The First Part Last](#)

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter. Ages 12 and up (YA JOHNSON)

2004 Illustrator

Bryan, Ashley. [Beautiful Blackbird](#)

In a story of the Ila people, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew." Ages 3 – 8 (J 398.2960 BRY)

2003 Author

Grimes, Nikki. [Bronx Masquerade](#)

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates. Ages 12 and up (YA GRIMES)

2003 Illustrator

Grimes, Nikki; illustrated by E.B. Lewis. [Talkin' About Bessie: the Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman](#)

A biography of the woman who became the first licensed Afro-American female pilot. Ages 8 – 12 (JB COLEMAN)

2002 Author

Taylor, Mildred. [The Land](#)

After the Civil War, Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between the two worlds of colored folks and white folks as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own. Ages 12 and up (J TAY)

2002 Illustrator

McKissack, Patricia C.; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. [Goin' Someplace Special](#)

In segregated 1950s Nashville, a young African American girl braves a series of indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.

Ages 5 – 8 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

**2001 Author**

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Miracle's Boys](#)

Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother. Ages 10 and up (YA WOODSON)

2001 Illustrator

Collier, Bryan. [Uptown](#)

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. Ages 4 – 8 (J PIC COL)

2000 Author

Curtis, Christopher Paul. [Bud, Not Buddy](#)

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. Ages 9 – 12 (J CUR)

2000 Illustrator

Siegelson, Kim L.; illustrated by Brian Pinkney. [In the Time of the Drums](#)

Mentu, an American-born slave boy, watches his beloved grandmother, Twi, lead the insurrection at Teakettle Creek of Ibo people arriving from Africa on a slave ship. Ages 6 – 10 (J PIC Older Reader SIE)

1999 Author

Johnson, Angela. [Heaven](#)

Fourteen-year-old Marley's seemingly perfect life in the small town of Heaven is disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents. Ages 11- 14 (YA JOHNSON)

1999 Illustrator

Igus, Toyomi; illustrated by Michele Wood. [I See the Rhythm](#)

A visual and poetic introduction to the history of African-American music takes youngsters from the roots of black music in Africa through the development of Southern plantation work songs, New Orleans jazz, the Harlem Savoy Club, and more. Ages 8 – 12 (J 780.899 IGU)

1998 Author

Draper, Sharon. [Forged by Fire](#)

Teenage Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father, faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved. Ages 12 and up (YA DRAPER)

1998 Illustrator

Step toe, Javaka. [In Daddy's Arms I am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers](#)

A collection of poems celebrating African-American fathers by Angela Johnson, E. Ethelbert Miller, Carole Boston Weatherford, and others. Ages 8 and up (J 811.008 IN)

1997 Author

Myers, Walter Dean. [Slam!](#)



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Sixteen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently. Ages 12 and up (YA MYERS)

1997 Illustrator

Schroeder, Alan; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. [Minty: a Story of Young Harriet Tubman](#)
Young Harriet Tubman, whose childhood name was Minty, dreams of escaping slavery on the Brodas plantation in the late 1820s. Ages 5 – 9 (JB TUBMAN)

1996 Author

Hamilton, Virginia. [Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales](#)
A collection of twenty-five African American folktales focusing on strong female characters. Ages 6 and up (J 398.22 HAM)

1996 Illustrator

Feelings, Tom. [The Middle Passage: White Ships / Black Cargo](#)
A brutally frank and stunningly illustrated history of the slave trade shows the horrors of the middle passage, the tragic journey that captive Africans endured on their way to be sold as slaves in the New World. Ages 14 and up (759.13 FEE)

1995 Author

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fred L. [Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters](#)
Describes the customs, recipes, poems, and songs used to celebrate Christmas in the big plantation houses and in the slave quarters just before the Civil War. Ages 8 – 13 (J 975.03 MCK)

1995 Illustrator

Johnson, James Weldon; illustrated by James Ransome. [The Creation](#)
An adaptation of a 1927 poem by a famous member of the Harlem Renaissance tells of God's creation of the world up to the making of man, in the style of African-American folktales and country sermons. Ages 4 – 9 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1994 Author

Johnson, Angela. [Toning the Sweep](#)
On a visit to her grandmother Ola, who is dying of cancer in her house in the desert, fourteen-year-old Emmie hears many stories about the past and her family history and comes to a better understanding of relatives both dead and living. Ages 11 and up (YA JOHNSON)

1994 Illustrator

Feelings, Tom. [Soul Looks Back in Wonder](#)
Artwork and poems by such writers as Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Askia Toure portray the creativity, strength, and beauty of their African American heritage. Ages 7 and up (J 811.508 SOU)

1993 Author

McKissack, Patricia C. [Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural](#)



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A collection of ghost stories with African American themes, designed to be told during the Dark Thirty--the half hour before sunset--when ghosts seem all too believable. Ages 8 - 12
***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1993 Illustrator

Anderson, David A.; illustrated by Kathleen Atkins Wilson. [The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth](#)

Retells the Yoruba creation myth in which the deity Obatala descends from the sky to create the world. Ages 6 - 11 (J 299.6 AND)

1992 Author

Myers, Walter Dean. [Now is Your Time: the African American Struggle for Freedom](#)

A history of the African-American struggle for freedom and equality, beginning with the capture of Africans in 1619, continuing through the American Revolution, the Civil War, and into contemporary times. Ages 11 and up (J 973.0496 MYE)

1992 Illustrator

Ringgold, Faith. [Tar Beach](#)

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name. Ages 4 - 8 (J PIC RIN)

1991 Author

Taylor, Mildred. [The Road to Memphis](#)

Sadistically teased by two white boys in 1940's rural Mississippi, a black youth severely injures one of the boys with a tire iron and enlists Cassie's help in trying to flee the state. Ages 10 - 14 (J TAY)

1991 Illustrator

Price, Leontyne; illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. [Aida](#)

Retells the story of Verdi's opera in which the love of the enslaved Ethiopian princess for an Egyptian general brings tragedy to all involved. Ages 9 and up

***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1990 Author

McKissack, Patricia C. and Fred L. [A Long Hard Journey: the Story of the Pullman Porter](#)

A chronicle of the first black-controlled union, made up of Pullman porters, who after years of unfair labor practices staged a battle against a corporate giant resulting in a "David and Goliath" ending. Ages 11 and up ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1990 Illustrator

Greenfield, Eloise; illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. [Nathaniel Talking](#)

In brief poems, a nine-year-old boy shares his views on his mother's death, knowledge, friends, school, his father, and the future. Ages 9 - 12 (J 811 GRE)

1989 Author

Myers, Walter Dean. [Fallen Angels](#)



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Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army in the summer of 1967 and spends a devastating year on active duty in Vietnam.
Ages 14 and up (YA MYERS)

1989 Illustrator

McKissack, Pat; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. [Mirandy and Brother Wind](#)
To win first prize in the Junior Cakewalk, Mirandy tries to capture the wind for her partner.
Ages 4 – 8 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1988 Author

Taylor, Mildred. [The Friendship](#)
Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s. Ages 7 – 12 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1988 Illustrator

Steptoe, John. [Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: an African Tale](#)
Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife. Ages 4 – 8 (J 398.2960 STE)

1987 Author

Walter, Mildred Pitts. [Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World](#)
Suffering in a family full of females, ten-year-old Justin feels that cleaning and keeping house are women's work until he spends time on his beloved grandfather's ranch.
Ages 8 – 11 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1987 Illustrator

Dragonwagon, Crescent; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. [Half a Moon and One Whole Star](#)
The summer night is full of wonderful sounds and scents as Susan falls asleep. Ages 5 – 8
***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1986 Author

Hamilton, Virginia. [The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales](#)
Retold African-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope. Ages 9 – 12
***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1986 Illustrator

Flournoy, Valerie; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. [The Patchwork Quilt](#)
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. Ages 4 – 8 (J PIC FLO)

1985 Author

Myers, Walter Dean. [Motown and Didi: a Love Story](#)
Motown and Didi, two teenage loners in Harlem, become allies in a fight against Touchy, the drug dealer whose dope is destroying Didi's brother, and find themselves falling in love with each other. Ages 14 and up (YA MYERS)

1984 Author

Clifton, Lucille. [Everett Anderson's Goodbye](#)
Everett Anderson has a difficult time coming to terms with his grief after his father dies.
Ages 5 – 8 (J Parents Coll 155.937 CLI)



1984 Illustrator

Walter, Mildred Pitts; illustrated by Pat Cummings. [My Mama Needs Me](#)
Jason wants to help, but isn't sure that his mother needs him at all after she brings a new baby home from the hospital. Ages 2 – 6 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1983 Author

Hamilton, Virginia. [Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush](#)
Fourteen-year-old Tree, resentful of her working mother who leaves her in charge of a retarded brother, encounters the ghost of her dead uncle and comes to a deeper understanding of her family's problems. Ages 14 and up (YA HAMILTON)

1983 Illustrator

Magubane, Peter. [Black Child](#)
Photographs vividly portray the effects of apartheid on the daily life and social conditions of black children in South Africa. Ages 12 and up ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1982 Author

Taylor, Mildred. [Let the Circle be Unbroken](#)
Four black children growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression experience racial antagonisms and hard times, but learn from their parents the pride and self-respect they need to survive. Ages 12 and up (YA TAYLOR)

1982 Illustrator

Diop, Birago; illustrated by John Steptoe. [Mother Crocodile: An Uncle Amadou Tale from Sengal](#)
Because Mother Crocodile tells stories of the past, the little crocodiles choose to believe she is crazy until almost too late they learn otherwise. Ages 4 – 8 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1981 Author

Poitier, Sidney. [This Life](#)
A candid, outspoken autobiography of the noted actor and film star Sidney Poitier
Ages 14 and up ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1981 Illustrator

Bryan, Ashley. [Beat the Story Drum, Pum-Pum](#)
A collection of African tales, one about a man with bad habits, and three animal stories involving a frog and a hen, a cow and an elephant, a frog and a snake, and a rabbit.
Ages 8 – 12 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1980 Author

Myers, Walter Dean. [The Young Landlords](#)
Five devoted friends become landlords and try to make their Harlem neighborhood a better place to live. Ages 10 – 14 (YA MYERS)

1980 Illustrator

Yarbrough, Camille; Illustrated by Carole Byard. [Cornrows](#)



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Explains how the hair style of cornrows, a symbol in Africa since ancient times, can today in this country symbolize the courage of outstanding Afro-Americans. Ages 6 – 12 (J PIC YAR)

1979 Author

Davis, Ossie. [Escape to Freedom](#)

Born a slave, young Frederick Douglass endures many years of cruelty before escaping to the North to claim his freedom. Ages 10 – 14 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1979 Illustrator

Grimes, Nikki; illustrated by Tom Feelings. [Something on My Mind](#)

Poems expressing the hopes, fears, joys, and sorrows of growing up. Ages 8 – 12
***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1978 Author/Illustrator

Greenfield, Eloise; illustrated by Carole Bayard. [Africa Dream](#)

A black child's dreams are filled with the images of the people and places of Africa. Ages 4 – 8 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1977 Author

Haskins, James. [The Story of Stevie Wonder](#)

A biography of the blind composer, pianist, and singer who was a child prodigy that went on to win nine Grammy awards. Ages 6 – 12
***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1976 Author

Bailey, Pearl. [Duey's Tale](#)

A maple seedling becomes separated from his mother tree, makes friends with a bottle and a log, and searches for his own place in life. Ages 6 – 10 ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1975 Author

Robinson, Dorothy. [The Legend of Africana](#)

An allegorical tale of Africa's struggle against the ravishment of its people and country. Ages 6 - 10

1974 Author/Illustrator

Mathis, Sharon Bell. [Ray Charles](#)

A biography of the Black musician who became famous despite his blindness. Ages 6 – 10
***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1973 Author

Duckett, Alfred. [I Never Had it Made: The Autobiography of Jackie Robinson, as Told to Alfred Duckett](#)

Jackie Robinson's own candid, hard-hitting autobiographical account of what it took to become the first black man in American history to play in the major leagues. Ages 14 and up (B ROBINSON)



1972 Author

Fax, Elton C. [17 Black Artists](#)

Discusses the lives of seventeen African American artists who succeeded against the odds. Ages 14 and up ***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1971 Author

Rollins, Charlemae. [Black Troubadour: Langston Hughes](#)

A biography of the poet Langston Hughes, whose poetry and prose captured the rhythms of the blues and the richness of African American speech.

***This book can be inter-library loaned through the county catalog.**

1970 Author

Patterson, Lillie. [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace](#)

A young reader's introduction to the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his nonviolent approach to achieving racial equality. Ages 8 - 12



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