African American Authors and Illustrators

Jerry Pinkney

The Grasshopper & the Ants
Child Lit Ctr PZ8.2.P456 Gr 2015
Juvenile PZ8.2.P456 Gr 2015
Preschool-Gr 2
This retelling of the classic Aesop fable, hardworking ants stock up for the winter while a fun-loving grasshopper plays all year long, until the cold weather arrives and he realizes his mistake in not planning ahead.

The Tortoise & the Hare
Child Lit Ctr PZ8.2.P456 Tor 2013
Juvenile PZ8.2.P456 Tor 2013
Preschool-Gr 3
Illustrations and minimal text relate the familiar fable of the race between a slow tortoise and a quick but foolish hare, which nonetheless exhibits good sportsmanship at the end of the race.

Puss in Boots
Child Lit Ctr PZ8.P575 Pu 2012
Preschool - 3
A clever cat wins for his master a fortune and the hand of a princess

The Lion & the Mouse
Child Lit Ctr PZ8.2.P456 Li 2009
Juvenile PZ8.2.P456 Li 2009
Preschool-Grade 3
In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable set in the African Serengeti, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when she rescues the King of the Jungle.
**The Moon over Star**  
By: Dianna Hutts Aston  
Juvenile PZ7.A8483 Moo 2008  
Child Lit Ctr PZ7.A8483 Moo 2008  
Kindergarten-Grade 3  
On her family's farm in the town of Star, eight-year-old Mae eagerly follows the progress of the 1969 Apollo 11 flight and moon landing and dreams that she might one day be an astronaut, too.

**The All-I'll-ever-want Christmas Doll**  
By: Pat McKissack  
Juvenile PZ7.M478693 All 2007b  
Preschool - 3  
During the Depression, three young sisters get one baby doll for Christmas and must find a way to share.

**The Little Red Hen**  
Juvenile PZ8.1.L72 2006  
Preschool-Grade 4  
A newly illustrated edition of the classic fable of the hen who is forced to do all the work of baking bread and of the animals who learn a bitter lesson from it.

Jerry Pinkney studied at the Philadelphia College of Art. He has been illustrating children's books since 1964, illustrating over one hundred titles. His books have been translated into sixteen languages and published in fourteen countries, and he has been the recipient of a Caldecott Medal, five Caldecott Honors, and five New York Times “Best Illustrated Books.”

http://www.jerrypinkneystudio.com/frameset.html
Walter Dean Myers

Darius & Twig
Juvenile PZ7.M992 Dap 2013
Gr 8- up
Two best friends, a writer and a runner, deal with bullies, family issues, social pressures, and their quest for success coming out of Harlem.

Lockdown
Juvenile PZ7.M992 Lo 2011
Grades 7-10
Teenage Reese, serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.

Jazz
Juvenile PZ8.3.M9954 Jaz 2006
Grade 5-9
Illustrations and rhyming text celebrate the roots of jazz music.

Monster
Juvenile PZ7.M992 Mon 1999
Grade 7-12
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Harlem: A Poem
Juvenile PS3563.Y48 H37 1997
Grade 6 Up
A poem celebrating the people, sights, and sounds of Harlem.
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.

Walter Dean Myers was a New York Times bestselling and critically acclaimed author who has garnered much respect and admiration for his fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for young people. Winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award, he is considered one of the preeminent writers for children. He died on July 1, 2014, following a brief illness. He was 76 years old.

Ballet Theater soloist Misty Copeland encourages a young ballet student, with brown skin like her own, by telling her that she, too, had to learn basic steps and how to be graceful when she was starting out, and that some day, with practice and dedication, she will become a firebird too.

On the roof of his building, lonely Jawanza meets a homeless man who teaches him how to make friends with the sparrows and pigeons up there.
**Wings**  
Juvenile PZ7.M9825 Wi 2000  
Grades Preschool-3  
Ikarus Jackson, the new boy in school, is outcast because he has wings. But his resilient spirit inspires one girl to speak up for him in this thought provoking story about celebrating individuality.

**Black Cat**  
Juvenile PZ7.M9825 Bl 1999  
Grades PreK - 3  
A black cat wanders through the streets of a city

**Monster**  
By Walter Dean Myers  
Juvenile PZ7.M992 Mon 1999  
Grade 7-12  
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

**Harlem: A Poem**  
By Walter Dean Myers  
Juvenile PS3563.Y48 H37 1997  
Grade 6 Up  
A poem celebrating the people, sights, and sounds of Harlem

The son of author Walter Dean Myers, award-winning illustrator Christopher Myers, began his children's book career doing research to help his father illustrate his books. Both collaborated on *Harlem*, a Caldecott Honor Book as well as a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. Myers' solo effort, *Black Cat*, was also a Coretta Scott King Honor Book.
Jacqueline Woodson

**Brown Girl Dreaming**
Child Lit Ctr PS3573.O64524 Z46 2014
Juvenile PS3573.O64524 Z46 2014
Grade 5 and up
The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

**This is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration**
Child Lit Ctr PZ7.W868 Th 2013
K-Gr 3
A rope passed down through the generation’s frames an African American family’s story as they journey north during the time of the Great Migration.

**Each Kindness**
Child Lit Ctr PZ7.W84945 Ea 2012
Gr 2-5
When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

**Peace, Locomotion**
Juvenile PZ7.W868 Pe 2009
Grade 4-6
Through letters to his little sister, who is living in a different foster home, sixth-grader Lonnie, also known as "Locomotion," keeps a record of their lives while they are apart, describing his own foster family, including his foster brother who returns home after losing a leg in the Iraq War.
In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

Jacqueline Woodson's awards include 3 Newbery Honors, a Coretta Scott King Award and 3 Coretta Scott King Honors, 2 National Book Awards, a Margaret A. Edwards Award and an ALAN Award both for Lifetime Achievement in YA Literature. She is the author of more than 2 dozen books for children and young adults and lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.
Faith Ringgold

**Harlem Renaissance Party**
Juvenile  PZ7.R4726 Ha 2015
Gr 1–4
Accomplished artist, educator, and activist Ringgold, gives readers a grounding in the Harlem Renaissance in this follow-up to her Dinner at Aunt Connie's House. Lonnie and his uncle journey back in time to the Harlem Renaissance.

**Bronzeville Boys and Girls**
By: Brooks, Gwendolyn
Juvenile  PZ8.3 .B78 2007
Kindergarten-Grade 4
A collection of poems that celebrate the joy, beauty, imagination, and freedom of childhood

**The Invisible Princess**
Juvenile  PZ7.R4726 In 1999
Mama and Papa Love have a child, the Invisible Princess, who saves them and the other plantation slaves from their cruel master so that they can all find happiness in the Invisible Village of Peace, Freedom, and Love.

**Tar Beach**
Juvenile  PZ7.R4726 Tar 1996
Grade 1 Up
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 In a story based on a quilt painting by the author, eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family.
An award-winning artist internationally renowned for her painted story quilts; Faith Ringgold is also the author of thirteen children's picture books, including the 1992 Caldecott Honor Award-winning *Tar Beach*. Her artwork is in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art. She also has had exhibitions in major museums in the United States, Europe, South America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. She lives in Englewood, New Jersey, with her husband. 