



# Glenfield's Top 10 Books

## TOP TEN BOOKS ABOUT OR BY AFRICAN AMERICANS

A Bi-weekly Recommended List for Middle School Readers  
Curated by Mrs. Virginia Weaver, Glenfield School Librarian  
Week of January 22, 2018

**Alexander, Kwame. *Solo. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Blink, 2017.***

Blade never asked for a life of the rich and famous. In fact, he'd give anything not to be the son of Rutherford Morrison, a washed-up rock star and drug addict with delusions of a comeback. Or to no longer be part of a family known most for lost potential, failure, and tragedy, including the loss of his mother. The one true light is his girlfriend, Chapel, but her parents have forbidden their relationship, assuming Blade will become just like his father.

**Bolden, Tonya. *George Washington Carver. New York: Abrams Books, 2008.***

A picture biography of George Washington Carver; known famously as "the Peanut Man," George Washington Carver brought sensible and life-saving concepts to people across the country, making a difference in the world despite the adversity he faced in his time and place.

**Bolden, Tonya. *Portraits of African American Heroes. New York: Dutton Books, 2003.***

A collection of portraits, matched with strong text and a beautiful design.

**Bolden, Tonya. *The Stories of Ten African American Women. New York: Scholastic, 1998.***

Biographical portraits of ten African American Women, including Leontyne Price.

**Bolden, Tonya. *Searching for Sarah Rector: The richest black girl in American. New York: Abrams, 2014.***

When Oklahoma became a state in 1907, young Sarah Rector was among the African American members of the Creek nation who were granted allotments of land. From a poor farming family, Sarah was 12 years old when an oil well drilled on her land became a gusher. A guardian was appointed to manage her rapidly increasing fortune until she came of age, and newspapers began to print poorly investigated and sometimes alarming stories about her. Rector's biography takes some unexpected turns as Bolden follows leads that slant the story one way, only to discover that the truth lies in another direction.

**Freedman, Russell. *Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The story behind an American Friendship. New York: Clarion Books, 2012.***

While Douglas hailed the onset of the war between the states as the beginning of the end of slavery. Lincoln saw the war as a threat to the survival of the United States, to be managed decisively, but with great care. Despite their difference, and the fact that they met face-to-face only three times, Lincoln and Douglas forged a friendship based on mutual respect and understanding.

**Hudson, Wade. *Powerful Word: More than 200 years of extraordinary writing by African Americans. New York: Scholastic, 2004.***

A collection of speeches and writings by African Americans, with commentary about the time period in which each person lived, information about the speaker/writer and public response to the words.

**Partridge, Elizabeth. *Marching for Freedom: Walk together children, and don't you grow weary. New York: Viking 2009.***

Selma to Montgomery Rights March (1965). 323.11 PAR

**Robinson, Sharon. *How Jackie Robinson Changed America. Promises to Keep. New York: Scholastic, 2004.***

Sharon Robinson shares memories of her famous father in this warm loving biography of the man who broke the color barrier in baseball. Jackie Robinson was an outstanding athlete, a devoted family man and a dedicated civil rights activist. The author explores the fascinating circumstances surrounding Jackie Robinson's breakthrough. She also tells the off-the-field story of Robinson's hard-won victories and the inspiring effect he had on his family, his community. . . his country! Includes never-before-published letters by Jackie Robinson, as well as photos from the Robinson family archives.

**Sullivan, Charles, ed. *Children of Promise: African American Literature and Art for Young People. New York, Harry N. Abrams, 1991***

Poems, prose, photography and paintings explore the African American experience as seen through art and literature by black or about black subjects.

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\*Descriptions taken from publishers