

African-American Children's Books for K – 3

Read-Alouds for K - 3

Amazing Grace (Picture Books/E/Hof) by Mary Hoffman. Everyone says that Grace can't be Peter Pan. After her Nana takes her to see a beautiful ballerina, she knows that she can be anything she wants.

Be Boy Buzz (Picture Books/E/Hoo) by Bell Hooks. A poem-song that celebrates being a boy.

Brothers of the Knight (Juvenile Nonfiction/J398.21/All) by Debbie Allen. In this contemporary retelling of the fairy tale "Twelve Dancing Princesses," an African-American reverend in Harlem endeavors to discover why the shoes of his twelve sons are worn to pieces every morning.

The Blues of Flats Brown (Picture Books/E/Mye) by Walter Dean Myers. The story of a blues playing dog who runs away to strum guitar in the big city.

The Chicken Chasing Queen of Lamar County (Picture Books/E/Harrington) by Janice Harrington. She tried hard to be good but she couldn't do it. Charlette just loooooooves chasing chickens.

My Big Brother (Picture Books/E/Coh) by Miriam Cohen. Life changes when a young boy's big brother joins the army.

Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life (Picture Books/E/NoI) by Jerdine Nolen. His parents are giants but Hewitt is very, very, very small. His parents are worried about their son. They don't think he'll find a place in this big world. Hewitt will surprise them.

Hot City (Picture Books/E/Joo) by Barbara Joose. On a really hot day, two kids discover that the best place to be is the library.

I Love My Hair! (Picture Books/E/Tar) by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley. Ouch! Keyana does not love her hair. But then her mother tells her all the reasons why her hair is wonderful.

Thunder Rose (Picture Books/E/NoI) by Jerdine Nolen. She rides a bull. She wrestles tornadoes. She carries a thunder bolt made out of barbed wire. Let's just say, she's different.

Read Alones for First Grade

Corduroy Makes a Cake (Easy Readers/E/Inc) by Alison Inches. Corduroy wants to make a special present for Lisa, but instead he makes a mess.

A Day With Daddy (Easy Readers/E/Gri) by Nikki Grimes. A young boy knows that there's *nothing* better than getting to do things with his dad.

The Girls in the Circle (Easy Readers/E/Gio) by Nikki Giovanni. Three little girls paint their noses and have lots of girl fun.

Hamster Chase (Easy Readers/E/Sue) by Anastasia Suen. The class hamster gets loose and it's up to Peter, Amy, and Archie to find him.

Lights Out! (Easy Readers/E/Med) by Angela Shelf Medaris. She should be asleep but she just can't help it. She just loves the night.

The Mystery of the Missing Dog (Easy Readers/E/Hoo) by Gwendolyn Hooks. Jet is missing. Where is he? Alex looks everywhere for his lost dog.

Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles – Think of That! (Picture Books/E/Dil) by Leo and Diane Dillon. The story of one of America's greatest dancers, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson.

Ready? Set. Raymond! (Easy Readers/E/Nel) by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Raymond never goes slow. He always goes f-a-s-t!

Wagon Wheels (Easy Readers/E/Bre) by Barbara Brenner. A father and his sons face the dangers of the wilderness.

What do you Know? Snow! (Easy Readers/E/Hud) by Cheryl Willis Hudson. Sydney enjoys a wintry day and has lots of fun in the snow.

Grades 2 – 3 Books for Girls

Celia Cruz, Queen of Salsa (Juvenile Biographies/J782.4216/Cruz) by Veronica Chambers. She looked like a girl, but she sang as if she were a bird.

Coming On Home Soon (Picture Books/E/Woo) by Jacqueline Woodson. Although Mama loves Ada Ruth more than rain and snow, she must leave her daughter to take a job in Chicago during World War II.

Danitra Brown Class Clown (Juvenile Nonfiction/J811.54/Gri) by Nikki Grimes. Danitra Brown is one special girl and a terrific friend. If you read about her, chances are you're going to like her too.

Gloria Rising (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Cam) by Ann Cameron. Gloria meets a real astronaut, and now there's only one thing she wants to do: go into space.

Hot Day on Abbott Avenue (Picture Books/E/Eng) by Karen English. Renée is mad at Kishi. Kishi is mad at Renée. There's no way they're going to talk to each other. There's no way they're going to spend the day together. They're never going to be friends again – well, maybe.

Loved Best (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Mck) by Patricia McKissack. Carolyn will do anything to prove she's loved best.

The Real Lucky Charm (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Ric) by Charisse K. Richardson. Thinking that luck, rather than hard work, has helped her succeed on the basketball court, ten-year-old Mia panics and turns to her twin brother for help when her lucky gold basketball goes missing from her charm bracelet.

Rosetta, Rosetta, Sit by Me! (Juvenile Fiction/J/Wal) by Linda Walvoord. The year is 1848 and Rosetta discovers that the teachers at her new school will not allow her to attend class or recess with the other children because of the color of her skin.

Solo Girl (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Pin) by Andrea Davis Pinkney. After moving to a new place, Cass longs to jump rope with the girls in the neighborhood.

A Sweet Smell of Roses (Picture Books/E/Joh) by Angela Johnson. Two sisters join a Civil Rights March and get to hear the inspiring leader, Martin L. King, Jr.

Grades 2 – 3 Books for Boys

The Adventures of Sparrowboy (Picture Books/E/Pin) by Brian Pinkney. He delivers papers. He saves birds. He flies!

From Slave to Soldier: Based on a True Civil War Story (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Hop) by Deborah Hopkinson. The true story of a runaway slave who became a mule-team driver for the Union Army.

Jackson Jones and the Curse of the Outlaw Rose (Juvenile Fiction/J/Quattlebaum) by Mary Quattlebaum. Uh oh! They took a rose from the cemetery – a cursed rose!

Major Taylor Champion Cyclist (Juvenile Biographies/J796.62/Taylor) by Lesa Cline-Ransom. No one could beat him. He was the fastest man alive on a bicycle.

A Million Fish . . . More or Less (Paperback Picture Books/E/M) by Patricia McKissack. Raccoons! Crocodiles! You'd be amazed the trouble that Hugh Thomas runs into when he tries to bring home a million fish . . . more or less.

More Stories Julian Tells (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Cam) by Ann Cameron. Short stories about Julian's life, including a bet with his best friend, a secret project, and what happens when his brother decides to be Superboy.

Perfect Timing: How Isaac Murphy Became one of the World's Greatest Jockeys (Juvenile Biographies/J798.4/Murphy) by Patsi B. Trollinger. The story of one of history's greatest athletes.

Speak to Me (And I Will Listen Between the Lines) (Juvenile Nonfiction/J371/Eng) by Karen English. Through poetry, six third-graders tell about their lives and day at school.

The Stories Huey Tells (Juvenile First Chapters/J/Cam) by Ann Cameron. It isn't easy being a younger brother but Huey proves that he is not just a little kid. He's an adventurer, a chef, a tracker, and a scout.

Wiley and the Hairy Man (Juvenile Nonfiction/J398.20976/Sie) retold by Judy Sierra. The Hairy Man is big, ugly, mean, and really stinky. He's also out to catch Wiley!