

# BLACK

HISTORY MONTH

## A SALUTE TO LABOR PIONEERS

FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2025



## myON Digital Read-In Challenge

During February, Hillsborough County Public Schools will host a virtual reading challenge, encouraging students to read as many books as possible throughout the month.

The featured books celebrate the contributions and history of African Americans.

Please see the flyer below for more information. On the following page, you will find additional resources that are available for educators, whose students will be participating in the challenge.



### The Challenge

Hillsborough County Public Schools is hosting a special reading challenge designed to celebrate the contributions and history of Black Americans.

Curated lists of age-appropriate myON titles are available. All students are encouraged to participate by reading as many books as they can during the month of February!

Time spent reading will be recorded automatically within the myON platform. *If students are reading offline, they should be sure to log back into myON with WiFi before February 28, so their reading activity is included in their school's total minutes read.*

### School Winners in Each Regional Area

The school in each of the regional areas with the highest average minutes read on myON during February will be recognized with a school banner.



[www.ReadonmyON.com](http://www.ReadonmyON.com)

## African American Read In

The National African American Read-In (**AARI**) is a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to read together, centering on African American books and authors.

Hillsborough County Public Schools will host a district wide African American Read-In (AARI) in support of this national initiative in order to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month.

### Tools for Implementation

#### HCPS African American Read-In Resource

This resource, developed by the Office of Family & Community Engagement, consists of materials to help schools host an in-person or virtual event. The included texts are written by African American authors and/or highlight the African American experience.

The resource contains recordings from the following notable individuals:

- Mayor Jane Castor
- Thaddeus Bullard (aka Titus O'Neil),
- Florida Representative Fentrice Driskell
- Civil Rights Attorney Benjamin Crump and his wife Genae Crump

Link: [HCPS African American Read-In Resource](#)

Additionally, recordings of City of Tampa employees are available for students to enjoy.

Link: [City of Tampa Virtual library](#)

#### National African American Read-In Toolkit

For additional resources to help with the planning and implementation of a read-in at your site, please visit the National Council of Teachers of English website below:

- Link: [National AARI](#)

#### HCPS Leaders Read Aloud

During the month of February, prerecorded readings of School Board Members and a variety of District Leaders are available for use. HCPS leaders participated by reading a book or poetry that is written by an African American author that elevates African American experiences (old/new, fiction or non-fiction).

- Link: [AARI District Leadership Read Aloud](#)

**myON Reading List by grade level:**

PreK – Grade 2

<https://renaissance.widen.net/s/zpbpqqdplln/847849-romo-hillsborough-bhm-booklist-pre-k-2>

Grade 3 – Grade 5

<https://renaissance.widen.net/s/xqpdhphgmw/847849-romo-hillsborough-bhm-booklist-3-5>

Grade 6 and up

<https://renaissance.widen.net/s/w8tzkcvjsj/847849-romo-hillsborough-bhm-booklist-6up>

**Award:** Winners will be announced March 2025.

- The school within each of our district regions, that has the highest average of minutes read from Feb 1 – 28 will be recognized.

For More Information, please visit the myON website:

<https://hillsborough.renaissance.com/reading-campaign/black-history-month-digital-read-in/>

**myON Challenge - Tips & Tricks**

Students who are reading offline, should log in to the myON platform via wifi before February 28, 2025. This is to ensure that their reading activity is included in the school’s total minutes read.

Teachers and media specialists may also download / assign projects on the platform. To do so, go to the myON project cloud, search “2025blackhistorymonth” and copy the project.

Below are links to step-by-step instructions on how to download projects and assign them to students in myON.

- Link: [How to Copy a Project from the Cloud](#)
- Link: [How to Assign Projects](#)

## Black History Month: Suggested Reading List for Students in Grades K – 3

TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR
Something Beautiful	Sharon Wyeth	C.L.O.U.D.S.	Pat Cummings
The Quilt	Ann Jonas	My Mama Needs Me	Mildred Pitts Walter
Bill Pickett: Rodeo-Riding Cowboy	Andrea Pinkney & Brian Pinkney	Black Child	Peter Mugabane
Drylongso	Virginia Hamilton	Just Us Women	Jeanette Caines
I Am Rosa Parks	Rosa Parks & James Haskins	Mother Crocodile: An Uncle Amadou Tale from Senegal	Rosa Guy
Stories Huey Tells	Ann Cameron	I Have a Sister, My Sister is Deaf	Jean W. Peterson
Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt	Deborah Hopkinson	Africa Dream	Eloise Greenfield
Duey's Tale	Pearl Bailey	Mary McLeod Bethune	Eloise Greenfield
Ray Charles	Sharon Bell Mathis	The Moon Ring	Randy DuBurke
Jazzy Miz Mozetta	Brenda C. Roberts	The Piano Man	Debbie Chocolate
Family Plays Music	Judy Cox	Everett Anderson's Good- bye	Lucille Clifton
Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story	Ruby Bridges	Sojourner Truth's Step- Stomp-Stride	Andrea Davis Pinkney
If You Were a Kid During the Civil Rights Movement	Gwendolyn Hooks	Delivering Justice: W.W. Law and the Fight for Civil Rights	James Haskins
Great Black Heroes: Five Notable Inventors	Wade Hudson	28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World	Charles R. Smith Jr.
Gordon Parks: How a Photographer Captured Black and White America	Carole Boston Weatherford	Great Black Heroes: Five Brave Explorers	Wade Hudson
Henry's Freedom Box	Ellen Levine	Amistad	Patricia McKissack
Granddaddy's Gift	Margaree King Mitchell	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba
Great Black Heroes: Five Brilliant Scientists	Lynda Jones	50 Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington	Jabari Asim

## Black History Month: Suggested Reading List for Students in Grades K – 3

TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR
I Dream of Trains	Angela Johnson	Uptown	Bryan Collier
I've Seen the Promised Land: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.	Walter Dean Myers	In Daddy's Arms I am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers	Alan Schroeder
Little Eight John	Jan Wahl	Freedom River	Doreen Rappaport
Papa's Mark	Gwendolyn Battle Lavert	Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys	Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard
The Hard-Times Jar	Ethel Footman Smothers	My Rows and Piles of Coins	Tololwa M. Mollel
What's the Hurry, Fox? And the Other Animal Stories	Zora Neale Hurston	Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles - Think That	Leon and Diane Dillon
Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl	Virginia Hamilton	Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman	Alan Schroeder
Almost to Freedom	Vaunda Micheaux Nelson	Neeny Coming, Neeny Going	Karen English
Thunder Rose	Jerdine Nolen	The Faithful Friend	Robert San Souci
Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Doreen Rappaport	The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children	Gregorie Christie
Goin' Someplace Special	Patricia McKissack and Jerry Pinkney	Sukey and the Mermaid	Robert San Souci
Working Cotton	Sherley Anne Williams	The Patchwork Quilt	Valerie Flournoy
When I Am Old With You	Angela Johnson	A Chair for My Mother	Vera Williams
An Enchanted Hair Tale	Alexis De Veaux	Anansi The Spider: A Tale from Ashanti	Gerald McDermott
Half a Moon and One Whole Star	Crescent Dragonwagon	Big Mama's	Donald Crews
Bright Eyes, Brown Skin	Cheryl Hudson & Bernette Ford	The Dream Keeper and Other Poems	Langston Hughes & Brian Pinkney
Daddy and I	Eloise Greenfield	Grandmama's Joy	Eloise Greenfield
Nina Bonita	Ana Machado	The Talking Eggs	Robert San Souci

## Black History Month: Suggested Reading List for Students in Grades 4 - 5

TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR
Freedom Summer	Deb Wiles	The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth	David A. Anderson
Against All Odds: Artist Dean Mitchell's Story	Betty R. James	Night on the Neighborhood Street	Eloise Greenfield
Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman	Nikki Grimes	Tar Beach	Faith Ringgold
Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth	Anne Rockwell	The Road to Memphis	Mildred Taylor
In the Time of the Drums	Kim L. Siegelson	Nathaniel Talking	Eloise Greenfield
I Have Heard of a Land	Joyce Carol Thomas	Mirandy and Brother Wind	Patricia McKissack
Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra	Andrea Davis Pinkney	Under the Sunday Tree	Eloise Greenfield
The Hunterman and the Crocodile	Baba Waguè Diakité	Storm in the Night	Mary Stolz
The Singing Man	Angela Shelf Medearis	Lion and the Ostrich Chicks and Other African Folk Tales	Ashley Bryan
Soul Looks Back in Wonder	Phyllis Fogelman	All the Colors of the Race	Arnold Adoff
The Bat Boy and His Violin	Gavin Curtis	A Little Love	Virginia Hamilton
Uncle Jed's Barbershop	Margaree Mitchell	Beat the Story Drum	Ashley Bryan
Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea	Carol Thomas	Skates of Uncle Richard,	Carol Fenner
The Great Migration: An American Story	Jacob Lawrence	Something on My Mind,	Nikki Grimes
Harlem,	Dean Myers	Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan	R. Gregory Christie

## Black History Month: Suggested Reading List for Students in Grades 4 - 5

TITLE	AUTHOR	TITLE	AUTHOR
Circle of Gold	Dawson Boyd	Great Black Heroes: Five Brilliant Scientists	Lynda Jones
Great Black Heroes: Five Notable Inventors	Wade Hudson	Great Black Heroes: Five Brave Explorers	Wade Hudson
Henry's Freedom Box	Ellen Levine	28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World	Charles R. Smith Jr.
Granddaddy's Gift	Margaree King Mitchell	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	William Kamkwamba
Amistad	Patricia McKissack	Rosa	Nikki Giovanni
Get On Board: The Story of the Underground Railroad	Jim Haskins	50 Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington	Jabari Asim
Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule	Harriette Gillem Robinet	Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra	Andrea Davis Pinkney
Champion	Jim Haskins	Martin Rising: Requiem for a King	Andrea Davis Pinkney
The Mighty Miss Malone	Christopher Paul Curtis	Black Eagles: African Americans in Aviation	Jim Haskins
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	Through My Eyes	Ruby Bridges
Daniel Alexander Payne: Great Black Leader	Rudine Sims Bishop	Portraits of African American Heroes	Tonya Bolden