REPORT RESUMES

ED 011 904

BOOKS TO ENHANCE THE SELF-IMAGE OF NEGRO CHILDREN.

BY- ROSENFIELD, HARRIET

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.09  HC-$0.72  18P.


WORKS FOR CHILDREN WHICH PRESENT NEGROES AS POSITIVE CENTRAL CHARACTERS WHO SHOW SELF-ESTEEM, DIGNITY, AND SELF-RESPECT ARE LISTED IN THIS ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY. OTHER CRITERIA FOR A BOOK'S INCLUSION ARE THE PRESENCE OF NONSTEREOTYPED CHARACTERS, SPEECH PATTERNS, OR ILLUSTRATIONS, AND AN ATTRACTIVE FORMAT. THE BOOKLIST HAS A SECTION ON AMERICAN LIFE IN THE PAST AND PRESENT AND ONE ON AFRICA AND THE WEST INDIES. WITHIN EACH HEADING THE BOOKS ARE CLASSIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS (KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 2), INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 3 AND 4), AND ADVANCED (GRADE 5 AND 6). ALL BOOKS WERE IN PRINT AS OF DECEMBER 1966. (NH)
BOOKS TO ENHANCE THE SELF-IMAGE OF NEGRO CHILDREN
by Harriet Rosenfeld, M.A.*

The poor self-image exhibited by many Negro children, especially those living in the urban slums, is daily reinforced by their school experience. School systems and administrators in general seem unaware that feelings of worthlessness are widespread among Negro children and that such feelings drastically affect their school performance. They also seem unaware of the school's culpability in the development of the children's low self-image or the steps they can take to change this picture positively.

All too often, the very materials of education—the textbooks—serve to lower the self-esteem of Negro children by their total exclusion of Negroes or their distortion of the roles of Negroes in American life and history. Here presented, therefore, is a list of trade books which teachers of Negro elementary-school children can use in the effort to enhance their self-image.

Criteria for inclusion are: Does the book present a Negro as the central character in such a way as to establish him as a functioning and esteemed member of society? Does it show him as a person of merit, worthy of respect? Does it present him as one who will stand up for his rights? Are the characters, speech patterns, and illustrations good, or are they stereotypic? Is the format attractive? Is the book suitable for the specified age group?

Excluded are books in which only Negro characters speak dialect, books with poor or stereotypic illustrations, books that are denigrating, books that counsel servility or meekness or a turn-the-other-cheek policy in the face of discrimination. Also excluded are books in which Negroes are secondary characters.

The bibliography is organized in two parts: A. Books on American Life--Past and Present; and B. Books on Africa and the West Indies. Within each part, the items are classified as Beginning Books, kindergarten through second grade; Intermediate Books, third and fourth grades; and Advanced Books, fifth and sixth grades. Criteria for grading include difficulty of words and concepts, readability, size of print, suitability of topic for age-group, and quality of illustrations. All books were in print as of December 1966.

*This list of books is reproduced from a larger report prepared for a seminar of the Project Beacon Training Program (which is designed to prepare elementary-school teachers of disadvantaged children, and leads to the Master of Science degree), Ferkauf Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Yeshiva University.
Legend - 
beg.-readers in kindergarten through grade 2.
int.-those reading on grade levels 3 & 4.
beg-int.-easy books that are also suitable for
grades 3 and 4.
adv.-those reading on grade levels 5, 6, and
above.

A. Books on American Life - Past and Present

1. Beginning Books

Aliki - Weed is a Flower. Prentice Hall, 1965. np. beg-int.
A life of George Washington Carver that can be read
to beginners or that intermediates can read themselves.

Arkin, David.- Black and White. A song that is a story beg-int.
about freedom to go to school together. Ward Ritchie, 1966. np.
The words of a song with pictures.

Morrow, 1950. np.
Integration in a country pond.

Beim, Jerrold and Lorraine- Two is a Team. Illus. by beg.
Two little boys, Negro and white, play together, fight, and make up.

64 p. (An "I can read" book.)
A quartet of small boys, one of whom is Negro, has many adventures solving the problem of the mysterious cat.

64 p.
Further adventures of the fearsome four, this time with a missing pie.

64 p.
The same four boys are detectives once more.

Poetry for young children, with illustrations showing Negro children.
Ronnie, a little Negro boy, wishes to be grown up, but decides after a visit to the Children's Zoo that being little has its uses. Illustrations show mainly Negro characters.

Photos of many different children's faces showing sadness, smiles, love, tears, friendship.

An explanation, with integrated illustrations, of what hair is and why it is straight or curly.

Beautifully illustrated story of how an integrated group of city boys discover the different rhythms of the city.

Seven-year-old Lennie has just moved to Nashville where he is the only Negro boy in his new school.

Peter, a little Negro boy, has fun in the snow in this book suitable for kindergarteners.

This time Peter wants to learn to whistle so he can call his dog Willie.

Galumph is the name that Tony, a little Negro boy, has given to the cat that visits him every morning before school. The cat also visits others in this city neighborhood.

A bashful little Negro boy searches for his grandmother's missing earring and in the process loses his shyness.

Cartoon-type story of a boy, who is Negro, who has so many mishaps one day that he concludes, "I should have stayed in bed."

Hark, a Negro boy, and Peter, a white boy, get into all sorts of adventures in their quest for a four-leaf clover.


Willie, a little Negro farm boy, visits his neighbors looking for his lost hen.

Miles, Miska - Mississippi Possum. Illus. by John beg-int.


A little possum flees to safety with the Jackson family (Negroes) when the Mississippi River floods its banks.

Palmer, Candida - Snowstorm Before Christmas. Illus by beg.-int.


Two little Negro boys—Eddie and Jason—go Christmas shopping downtown and emerge to find a snowy world.


Lewis, Lothrop. 1965. np.

Martin, a little Negro boy, gets a cowboy suit as a present but has a hard time convincing his neighbors in the city project that he is a cowboy.

Selsam, Millie cent - Tony's Birds. Illus by Kurt Werth. beg-int.


Tony, a Negro boy, discovers all the different birds with his father's help, and shares his finds with a friend.

Sharpe, Stella - Tob. Photos by Charles Farrel. Univ. beg.


A photo essay (with reader-like text) of the life of a little Negro boy, his family, and friends on a North Carolina farm.


Crowell, 1967. np.

All about your eyes, with the main character a little Negro boy waiting in a car for his mother.

Showers, Paul - Your Skin and line. Illus by Paul Galdone. beg-int.

Crowell. 1965. np.

A scientific explanation of skin color, hair color, and nails for young children. Integrated illustrations.

Stanley, John - It's Nice to be Little. Rand McNally. beg.

1965. 32p.

Four children—two white, one Negro, one Chinese—and all the things you can see and do only when you are little.
Mary Jo thought of something different to bring to school to share with her classmates. Suitable for reading to kindergarten children.

Two Henrys, one white and one Negro, meet in the supermarket and have a wonderful time.

A lame little boy in Harlem sits at his window and listens to the man across the way play the piano.

Timothy, a Negro boy, and his friends finally succeed in teaching Top to bark.

2. Intermediate Books

Bacmeister, Rhoda - The People Downstairs and Other City Stories. Coward-McCann. 1964. 120p.
Stories about different children—Negro, Puerto Rican, Italian, Chinese, Jewish—living in the city.

Little girls (Negro and white) in a city housing project, find, care for, and finally get to keep their cat and her kittens.

Carruth, Ella Kaiser - She Wanted to Read; The Story of Mary McLeod Bethune. Illus by Herbert McClure. Abingdon. 80p.
The biography of Mary Bethune, outstanding Negro educator, founder of Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, and a member of the U. S. delegation at the founding of the United Nations.

Stories about Negro, Chinese, Puerto Rican, etc., children living in the city.


A group of boys—Negro, Italian, Jewish—decide to build their own swimming pool when they find out that Negroes aren't allowed to use the downtown pool.
De Angeli, Marguerite - Bright April. Doubleday. 1946. 88p. int.
   Somewhat saccharine story of a Philadelphia Negro family after World War II. April, a Brownie scout, has some brushes with prejudice, as well as happier adventures.

   Fanciful tale about a mythical French island in the Atlantic and a young Negro boy who becomes its emperor.

   The legend of John Henry, a steel-drivin' man.

   Lincoln Farnum, a young Negro boy with a vivid imagination, gets to go to Washington and visit the Lincoln Memorial, but who will ever believe him?

Hughes, Langston - The Dream Keeper, and Other Poems. int-adv.
   Illus by Helen Sewell, Knopf. 1932. 77p.

   Based on the folk tale about the man who was "born with a hammer in his hand."

Lerner, Marguerite - Red Man, White Man, African Chief. int.
   The Story of Skin Color. Illus by George Overlie.
   Color in general and skin color in particular—what it is and why it is—as explained by a physician.

Lewis, Mary - The Halloween Kangaroo. Illus by Richard Lewis. int.
   Ives Washburn. 1964. np.
   Richard, a Negro boy, wears a kangaroo suit to the class party, and the zipper gets stuck.

   Ross, a Negro boy living on a farm, decides to make his own zoo.

Palmer, Candida - Ride on High. Illus by H. Tom Hall. int.
   Lippincott. 1966. np.
   Tony and Chester, two young Negro boys, go for a ride on the elevated in Chicago.

3. **Advanced Books**

Reference book on African and American Negroes past and present, and their contributions to art, music, literature, science, etc.

Patricia Harley, a Negro girl, helps to desegregate a formerly all-white school under New York City's open enrollment plan.

Joel, the first Negro boy to make the West Austin Little League team, has difficulties at first, but later gets all problems—including fielding—straightened out.

From Satchel Paige to Jimmy Brown, portraits of outstanding Negro athletes.


The biography of the famous Negro scientist.

The history of Negroes in America, from the beginning of slavery to 1960, including stories of famous men and women.

The operations and heroes and heroines of the underground railroad helping slaves to escape.

Ten-year-old Lullah Royall is the only pupil in a newly desegregated Catholic school in Louisiana until reason prevails.

The stories of six Negro Americans and their roles in the founding of the United States.

About the more than 5,000 Negro cowboys who rode the range during the years after the Civil War.

A horse story featuring Little Vic and the Negro boy who rides him to victory.

An adult book on civil rights activities from the first sit-ins through 1965. Valuable for grade 6 & up.

A biography of the Negro poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

David Williams and his family leave South Town and move to the North, where he goes to an integrated high school and eventually becomes a football hero.

Life story of the founder of Tuskegee Institute.

The life story of the first Indian Negro who became a trapper and hunter in the wilderness of North America, a friend of the Indians, and founder of the city of Chicago.

About Phillis wheatley, the Boston slave who became poetess of the American Revolution.

Frederick Douglass's life—how he escaped from slavery to become a leading abolitionist, writer, and statesman.

Biography of Benjamin Banneker, free-born grandson of an African Chieftain who became a mathematician, an astronomer, and one of the planners of Washington, D.C.

Lives of famous American Negroes from Phillis Wheatley to Jackie Robinson.

Jazz musicians as well as concert bassos, "from Congo Square to Carnegie Hall."
Reference-type book that should be in every classroom.

'weaves into one fabric the history of America and the story of the Negro in America.'


'Corrie, a little Negro slave girl, finds an escaped Yankee prisoner and helps him to rejoin the Union Army.'


'From letters, notebooks, diaries, journals, and speeches, a history of the Negroes in America in their own words.'

The life of American Negroes during the period between the wars.

A brief pictorial essay and text on the Negro in America from the first slave to the Selma march.


The story of Harriet Tubman, who escaped from slavery and helped many others to gain freedom.

The life of Matthew Henson, a Negro, who was Peary's companion in the first successful attempt to reach the North Pole.
The life of Frederick Douglass in his own words.


Short Biographies of prominent American Negroes of former days.

Roosevelt, the son of a migrant worker, helps to get his family settled for the winter so that he can go to school in one place for a while.

The story of slavery in America from its beginnings to the Emancipation Proclamation.

The life of Harriet Tubman, "General Harriet," an escaped slave who engineered the flight to freedom of more than 300 others.


The first Negro girl at Wilson Junior High, Mary Jane faces hostility bravely and makes friends at school.

Vignettes of people living at various times in our history give the story of the American Negro, through World War II.

The development of the present-day civil rights movement and some of its antecedents.


240p.
Although her family's lease keeps her from having a dog of her own, Almena, a young Negro girl, gets satisfaction in caring for other people's pets.

The story of Amos Fortune, who was taken a slave in Africa and purchased his freedom in Massachusetts.

Young, Margaret B. - First Book of American Negroes. Franklin adv.
Some historical data, but mostly about ordinary and famous American Negroes today.
E. Books on Africa and the West Indies

1. Beginning Books

Pantheon, 1960. np.
A lonely little West Indian girl draws a series of animals that come to life and play with her.

Josefina, a little Haitian girl, finds a baby burro and gets to take care of him.

Sutherland, Efua - Playtime in Africa. Photos by Willia Bell. beg.int.
Photo essay of African children playing various games.

2. Intermediate Books

Anderson, Joy - Hippolyte—Crab King. Illus by Peter Spier. int.
The adventures of a Negro boy in Trinidad.

Teffera, an Abyssinian boy, learns about the different cultures of the modern world from an American (white) who has come to the village to teach new methods of farming.

New Okolo, a Nigerian village boy, struggles to earn money for his tuition in the city school.

Politically dated, but still a valuable book on West African history, culture, economy.

Life in the British and French West Indies, with history and economics, too.

History, culture, everyday life and politics of this area of Africa. Racist nature of S. Rhodesia stated.

Craz, Albert - Getting to Know Liberia. Illus by Dom Lambo. int.
Coward-McCann, 1956. 64p.
Liberia, its history and what it is like to live there.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fax, Elton</td>
<td><em>West African Vignettes</em></td>
<td>Amer. Soc. of African Culture</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>63p.</td>
<td>Sketched and drawings of West Africans and their lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franck, Frederick</td>
<td><em>Friend in Africa</em></td>
<td>Bobbs-Merrill</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>94p.</td>
<td>When Bolo, an African boy, goes to Dr. Schweitzer's hospital, he decides he wants to become a doctor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goetz, Lee</td>
<td><em>A Camel in the Sea</em></td>
<td>McGraw-Hill</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>60p.</td>
<td>Mohamed, a Somali boy, has to lead a camel to the sea to fulfill a prophecy and bring his village needed rain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gudmundson, Shirley</td>
<td><em>Getting to Know the British West Indies</em></td>
<td>Coward McCann</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>65p.</td>
<td>Something of the history and life of the people in the British West Indian islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holbrook, Sabra</td>
<td><em>Getting to Know the Virgin Islands, U.S.A.</em></td>
<td>Coward McCann</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>64p.</td>
<td>Another book in the &quot;Getting to Know&quot; series, this time about an American possession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holbrook, Sabra</td>
<td><em>The Goat That Made a Boy Grow Big</em></td>
<td>Coward McCann</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>95p.</td>
<td>Corney Shinnery, a young Negro boy on St. John in the Virgin Islands, saves a baby goat from drowning and goes on to many adventures with it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes, Langston</td>
<td><em>The First Book of the West Indies</em></td>
<td>Franklin Watts</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>62p.</td>
<td>History and description of the West Indies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenworthy, Leonard</td>
<td><em>Profile of Nigeria</em></td>
<td>Doubleday</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>96p.</td>
<td>History of the country and what it is like to live there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauber, Patricia</td>
<td><em>The Congo River into Central Africa</em></td>
<td>Garrard</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>96p.</td>
<td>Early explorations of the Congo River and life along its banks today.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All about Ghana and the life of the people there.

History, daily life, culture of the countries of East Africa.

Nomusa, a young Zulu girl, finally gets to go on an elephant hunt with her father. Zulu life is abundantly depicted.

Nomusa is fascinated with the witch doctor's "magic," and finally decides to study to become a nurse.

History, customs, and life in Nigeria.

Olden, Sam - Getting to Know Africa's French Community. Illus. int. by Harris Petie. Coward McCann. 1961. 64p.
Continuing the "Getting to Know series, this time in the countries of French-speaking Africa.

A photographic study of the life of the Bushmen.

In this picture of Nigerian village life, Taiwo convinces her father that going to school is a good thing for a girl.

Photo essay of the life of a 12-year-old boy in Ghana.

What it's like to be a young boy growing up in a Liberian village.

When eight-year-old Boloji, a Congolese boy, goes back to his home village for a visit, he helps capture the old hippo.
The story of an African boy, Toki, who encounters the great lion Simba.

The life of the nomadic Masai herders and warriors.

The story of a young girl growing up in a village in Belgian Congo; old and new ways of life are contrasted.

Kalena, now married to Sana, lives in the capital of the Congo on the eve of independence from Belgium.

How Macheera, a 12-year-old Kenyan girl, and her family live, and how she persuades her father to let her go to school.

The history of three great Central African civilizations—Ghana, Mali, and Songhay—from the 3th to 16th centuries.

Life in the equatorial forests, as seen by Bemba, a nine-year-old boy in the French Congo.

Emphasizes the early history of Africa, and its exploration by Europeans.

The new countries of West Africa and how life is lived there.

Reference book, with excellent photos and drawings, of African musical instruments.
The lives of five African rulers who headed their empires from 1312 to 1617.

Tom Peters, son of an African chieftain, escapes from slavery in America and eventually goes back to Africa a free man and a chief.

Colorful book on what you would see on a trip to these two African countries.

A collection of stories about children in the different countries in Africa.

The lives of the hunters, herders, and cultivators of Africa.