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ABSTRACT

This bibliography of books for children and adolescents was developed primarily from "The New York Times Book Review" and the "Christian Science Monitor" over the past several years. Fiction and biography are listed separately. Publisher, reading level, source of the listing, and a brief annotation are given for each title. (AA)

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BLACK FICTION AND BIOGRAPHIES: CURRENT BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

compiled and annotated by

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Keeping up with current publications is a task for all teachers, particularly to fulfill special needs. The following list of fiction and biography, primarily developed from a survey of *The New York Times Book Review* Sunday supplement and the *Christian Science Monitor* of the past several years, is suggested as augmentation of standard bibliographies. Publishers (in abbreviated form), reading levels and source are noted.

FICTION

Agle, Van Hayden, *Maple Street*, Archway, Ages 8-12.

Moving in for a deep look at the relations between white and black neighbors, *Maple Street* examines the likenesses that bring the two races together in this story of racial friendship. (11/11/71 - CSM)

Armstrong, William, *Souder*, Harper and Row, Ages 11 and up.

In the words of June Jordan, the reviewer, "This is an awesome account of childhood pain, adult violence and terrible varieties of hunger." The setting: the South in the '30's; the people: a nameless family; the events: a young boy's search for his father after he is imprisoned for stealing so that the family could eat. (10/26/69 - NYT)

Bambara, Toni Code, *Tales and Stories for Black Folks*, Doubleday, All ages.

A collection of short stories that are alive to the black people and culture. Some are new, some are retellings. They are real, remarkable, beautifully written. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Bernheim, Marc and Evelyne, *A Week in Aya's World: The Ivory Coast*, Crowell-Collier, Elementary.

Photographs by the authors illustrate this story of the daily life of a modern African child. (11/6/69 - CSM)

Blume, Judy, *Iggy's House*, Bradbury Press, Ages 9-12.

The black Garber family's arrival into an all-white community is known to two people: a racial bigot and a twelve-year-old do-gooder. (5/24/70 - NYT)

Bonham, Frank, *Cool Cat*, E. P. Dutton, Ages 10-11.

A group of teenage boys in a ghetto suburb of Los Angeles includes Buddy who struggles for survival in a brutal environment which includes dope pushers and takers, racist gangs and policemen. (8/8/71 - NYT)

Bonham, Frank, *The Nitty Gritty*, Dutton, Ages 9-12.

Charlie's efforts to get out of Dogtown on the coattails of his fast-talking uncle backfire but he learns something about himself and his goals in the process. Despite its solid theme, there is a light, humorous touch. (1/9/69 - NYT)

Carson, Natalie, *Ann Aurelia and Dorothy*, Harper, Ages 8-12.

Friendship - the support of acceptance and affection - helps a white foster child handle her problems and decisions. Integration is an accepted value both in the friendship and the school situation. The black girl's family is a source of happiness and strength. (5/2/68 - CSM)

Coles, Robert, *Dead End School*, Little, Ages 8-12.

Mr. Coles deals with the problems of ghetto education and busing realistically with the focus on the children who are meeting the crisis. (5/2/68 - CSM)

Connor, James, *I, Dwayne Kleber*, Addison-Wesley-Scott, Ages 13-15.

This book focuses on 13 days in the life of a youth from North Philadelphia. A good student interested in writing, he is required by his father to find a job. (11/28/70 - NYT)

Coolidge, Olivia, *Come By Here*, Houghton Mifflin, Ages 11-15.

Upon the loss of her parents, Minty Lou is sent from the home of one cruel relative to another; the hostile experiences and meager life are devastating in their effect on her. Set in early 1900's. (11/29/70 - NYT)

Dean, Leigh, *The Looking Down Game*, Funk, Ages 5-8.

Edgar is a little boy in a big city and finds his treasures on the sidewalks where he plays. (5/2/68 - CSM)

Gaines, Ernest, *A Long Day in November*, Dial, Ages 10-14.

Set in Louisiana in the '40's, focusing on a sharecropper's family, this story relates the life of a family through the eyes of a six-year-old. Very human, it is told with humor and passion. (2/13/72 - NYT)

Gill, Joan, *Hush, Jon*, Doubleday, Ages 5-8.

Jon looks for happiness in his big-city world. The author avoids the usual stereotype of a city boy longing for the country or suburb, and Jon adjusts to his problems rather than escaping them. (5/2/68 - CSM)

Hamilton, Virginia, *The Planet of Junior Brown*, Macmillan, Ages 11-15.

Into the unhappy life of Junior Brown, a fat-300 pounds, hopeless musical prodigy come two friends who try to help him when he breaks down. (10/24/71 - NYT)

Hamilton, Virginia, *The Time Ago Tales of Jahdu*, Macmillan, Ages 8-11.

Four tales are spun here in a story-telling-to-a-little boy situation. Impressively told, they express in effect the changing role of the blacks in American society, ending in a sense of pride. (10/12/69 - NYT)

Hildreth, Richard, *Memoirs of a Fugitive*, Crowell, Ages 12 and up.

America's first antislavery novel has been adapted and shortened by Barbara Ritchie. She has preserved the original purposes, word order, and style. (2/13/72 - NYT)

Hunter, Kristen, *The Soul Brothers and Sister Lou*, Scribners, Ages 12-16.

A vital and expressive account of growing up in Harlem; lonely and self-conscious Louretta seeks acceptance and identity, meets people of all types, faces tragedy and violence--all believably and excitingly written, except for an unfortunate conclusion. (1/26/69 - NYT)

Jackson, Jesse, *The Sickest Don't Always Die the Quickest*, Doubleday, Ages 9-12.

One sad-funny week in the tempestuous life of twelve-year-old Stoney in Columbus, Ohio. The "background" includes tensions within the black community and between the black-white world. (2/14/71 - NYT)

Jordan, June, *His Own Where*, Crowell, Ages 12-16.

This is the story of the life and trials of Buddy Rivers, sixteen-year-old: his alienation, his agitation and problems at school, his first love. (11/7/71 - NYT)

Keats, Ezra Jack, *Goggles*, Macmillan, Ages 4-8.

Another adventure for Peter, this time in the streets with a friend. Some tough older boys threaten them but they save themselves. (11/9/69 - NYT)

Kristoff, Jane, *Steal Away Home*, Bobbs-Merrill, Ages 9-12.

The adventure of two young slave boys traveling the underground railroad. (11/9/69 - NYT)

Lester, Julius, *Black Folk Tales*, Baron.

These tales of both Africa and Afro-America have been retold here in fresh "street" language. Their universality shines through. (11/9/69 - NYT)

Lester, Julius, *Long Journey Home*, Dial, Ages 12-16.

Six stories recalling the era of slavery and its effect on black men and women proclaim the heritage of Afro-Americans. Authentic recapturing of the past blends with informative experience. (7/23/72 - NYT)

Lexau, Joan, *Benjie on His Own*, Dial, Ages 6-9.

In this sequel to *Benjie*, the shy Harlem boy must take action to help his grandmother. (11/8/70 - NYT)

Mathis, Sharon B., *Sidewalk Story*, Viking, Ages 9-12.

Lilly Etta decides to do something about her friend's eviction. The situation and the people are real; the book, warmly written. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Mathis, Sharon Bell, *Teacup Full of Roses*, Viking, Ages 12-15.

In the author's words, the book is "a salute to black kids," but its message can reach to all. Joe and his family struggle under the oppression of inner city life, portraying deep personal tragedy and the tragedy of a minority situation. (9/10/72 - NYT)

Micklish, Rita, *Sugar Bee*, Delacorte, Ages 8-12

A black girl from a ghetto visits a farm and awakens to a sense of values about herself and her world. (5/7/72 - NYT)

Murphy, Barbara, *Home Free*, Delacorte, Ages 8-12.

Violence in a Southern town. (5/7/72 - NYT)

Myers, Walter, *The Dragon Takes a Wife*, Bobbs-Merrill, Ages 4-8.

A "new" fairy tale written in contemporary urban idiom (1971).

Norris, Gunilla, *The Good Morrow*, Atheneum, Ages 8-11.

Josie, a child of the ghetto, spends a month in a predominantly white camp away from the secure and the familiar. (6/8/69 - NYT)

Panetta, George, *The Shoeshine Boys*, Grosset, Ages 9-12.

Two eight-year-olds, an Italian and a black, set out to earn money in an indifferent New York. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Randall, Florence, *The Almost Year*, Atheneum, Ages 11-15.

A girl from the ghetto is sent to live with a white suburban family. Hostile, she resists their well-intentioned advances; their abundance is too much for her. At the very last, a warming touch banishes fear. (4/11/71 - NYT)

Rinkoff, Barbara, *Member of the Gang*, Crown, Ages 9-12.

Beyond the title, this story traces the growing dismay of its young hero with his life. He joins a gang, gets into trouble and faces his failure. (11/19/69 - NYT)

Roberts, Nancy and Bruce, *A Week in Robert's World: The South*, Crowell-Collier, Elementary.

The story of seven-year-old Robert in an integrated South; the Roberts give a record of his day-by-day life and the people who share it. (11/6/69 - CSM)

Shearer, John, *I Wish I Had An Afro*, Cowles, Ages 9-12.

Focuses through little John on a family's day-by-day life situation. Little John himself is concerned about his chores and school and having an Afro. (5/24/70 - NYT)

Sorensen, Virginia, *Around the Corner*, Harcourt-Brace-Jovanovich, Ages 8-12.

Miss Sorensen explores the world of a child faced with the prejudices of adults. Events lead to a new meaning to neighborliness and friendship. (11/11/71 - CSM)

Stephoe, John, *Train Ride*, Harper, Ages 6-9.

A group of boys go downtown via subway. A sequel to *Stevie* and *Uptown*. (11/7/71 - NYT)

Tanner, Louise, *Reggie and Nilma*, Farrar, Ages 11-15.

Reggie, a gifted boy, turns to crime because nobody has faith in him, not even Nilma, his mother. Whites figure in the story through the liberal Bonneys for whom Nilma is housekeeper. (8/8/71 - NYT)

Thompson, Mozelle, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, Hawthorn.

In picture book format the words and music of what has become the Negro National Anthem is presented. The historical background is outlined in the introduction. (1/24/71 - NYT)

Wagner, Jane, *J. T.*, Reinhold, Ages 8-12.

The hero is a lonely boy who gets into trouble, is threatened by a gang but is helped by his mother, grandmother, a neighbor, and a cat. A warmly evocative book. (12/28/69 - NYT)

Wilkes, Alfred, *Little Boy Black*, Scribner.

Nine-year-old Alf faces the world of white racism in the South and must live his experiences while trying to realize himself as a person. (11/11/71 - CSM)

Williams, Edward, *Not Like Niggers*, St. Martin's, Ages 12-16.

Growing up black in the South during the depression is developed realistically and persuasively in this book. The young narrator is caught between conflicting attitudes of his parents toward "niggers." The resolution, however, seems inappropriate. (11/11/71 - CSM)

Wojciechowska, Maia, *Through the Broken Mirror with Alice*, Harcourt, Ages 10-15.

Unhappy Alice, kicked out of her twelfth foster home in Harlem, converts her world--and its people--into that of Lewis Carroll. She is pushed and pulled by those around her, including Sam, the Pusher Man. (4/23/72 - NYT)

Yesbach, Steven, *Pumpkinseeds*, Bobbs-Merrill, Ages 4-8.

Left alone by a working mother, this young hero tries to share his pumpkin-seeds but is rejected or ignored. (11/9/69 - NYT)

Young, Al, *Snakes*, Dell, Ages 12-16.

Music is dominant in M.C.'s sixteen-year-old life in Detroit. It motivates him, it sustains him through setbacks among which is the dispersal of his group after a local success. (1970)

AND BIOGRAPHY

Adoff, Arnold, *Malcolm X*, Crowell, Ages 7-10.

The events and forces of this remarkable man's life are clearly and effectively presented from the disintegration of his family to his assassination. (5/24/70 - NYT)

Bertol, Roland, *Charles Drew*, Crowell, Ages 7-10.

This is the story of the black doctor who fought back when the blood plasma he helped to develop, and figured out how to store, was segregated at the Army's insistence. (5/24/70 - NYT)

Bruner, Richard, *Black Politicians*, McKay.

Sketches of the lives of current political figures. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Booker, Simeon, *Susie King Taylor: Civil War Nurse*, McGraw-Hill, Ages 12-16.

A black teenager who, given her freedom when the Yankees invaded, joined Higginson's famous slave regiment. (6/22/69 - NYT)

Buckley, Peter, *Oklo of Nigeria*, Simon and Schuster.

Oklo is a thirteen-year-old Nigerian boy who must overcome the severe poverty of his city life to obtain his high school education. Photographs illustrate this African story. (11/6/69 - CSM)

Clayton, Ed, *Martin Luther King: The Peaceful Warrior*, Prentice-Hall, Ages 9-12.

This work focuses on King's boyhood and suggests well the nature of his "home environment." Also included are chapters on his career as a civil rights leader and his assassination. (5/4/69 - NYT)

Cortesi, Lawrence, *Jim Beckwourth*, Criterion.

An extremely interesting and well-written account of the mountain man, one of the black men who opened the West. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Felton, James W., *James Waldon Johnson*, Dodd, Mead.

The author of "Creation" and the Negro National Anthem is broadly represented in this new biography. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Hamilton, Virginia, W. E. B. DuBois, Crowell, Ages 10 and up.

This work follows DuBois through his years with NAACP and outlines the great struggles that threatened the civil rights movement. (5/4/72 - CSM)

Kaye, Barbara, *Forward March to Freedom: Biography of A. Philip Randolph*, Greenleaf.

(5/2/71 - NYT)

Kennerly, Karen, adaptor, *The Slave Who Bought His Freedom*, Dutton-Buron, Ages 11-15.

An autobiography of Olaudah Equiano, published in 1789, tells the story of a kidnapped eleven-year-old African who finally buys his freedom at the age of twenty-one. (8/22/71 - NYT)

Killens, John O., *Great Gittin' Up Morning*, Doubleday, Ages 12 and up.

Denmark Vesey, as a freedman in South Carolina, organized an insurrection against the slaveowners. (5/4/72 - CSM)

Knight, Michael, adaptor, *In Chains to Louisiana*, Dutton-Baron, Junior High.

This autobiography expresses the experience of a blackman born a free citizen of New York who was kidnapped into slavery in 1841 and waited 12 years for rescue. Valuable as accurate black history and poignant black experience. (8/22/71 - NYT)

McKee, Don, *Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Putnam's, Ages 12-16.

Details King's career as a civil rights leader within a perspective of the events of the 1960's. (5/4/69 - NYT)

Petrone, Jean M., *Trailblazer: Negro Nurse in the American Red Cross*, McGraw-Hill, Ages 12-16.

Frances Elliott Davis was the first Negro-nurse to be officially enrolled in the American Red Cross. Her career record is explored in this book but equally fascinating is her childhood. (6/22/69 - NYT)

Roberts, Eric B., *From Football to Finance*, Harcourt, Ages 10 and up.

Traces the life of Brady Heys from poverty in Texas through professional football to business. (11/7/71 - NYT)

Rollins, Charlemae, *Black Troubadour*, Rand McNally.

A smooth, competent biography of Langston Hughes. (11/8/70 - NYT) and (5/2/71 - NYT)

Rundeen, Kenneth, *Jackie Robinson*, Crowell, Ages 4-8.

While there are many biographies of this sports hero, there are few - of anyone - for this age group. A very good one, too. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Rundeen, Kenneth, *Wilt Chamberlain*, Crowell, Ages 7-10.

Sports and social relevance. (5/24/70 - NYT)

Schaff, A. E., *Black Courage*, Macrae-Smith.

This collection brings the little known black heroes of America's historic western adventures to the spotlight and breaks through our conventional stereotypes while telling their tales. (11/6/69 - CSEI)

Shepherd, Elizabeth, *The Discoveries of Esteban the Black*, Dodd, Ages 10-14.

An early black explorer among the Zuni Indians, Esteban, a Moorish slave, in 1539 became the first man of the Old World to enter our southwest. (10/4/70 - NYT)

Shepherd, Betty, Editor. *Mountain Man, Indian Chief*, Harcourt, Ages 12-16.

A shortened version of Jim Beckwourth's famous autobiography. (10/4/70 - NYT)

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An exhaustive, skillful, retelling of the life of one of the major figures among black abolitionists. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Stevenson, Janet, *Soldiers in the Civil Rights War*, Reilly.

Early fighters for civil rights are brought into focus along with background for their activities. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Stull, Edith, *Unsung Black Americans*, Grosset.

Short, encyclopedic sketches of historic figures. (5/2/71 - NYT)

Williams, John A., *The Most Native of Sons: Richard Wright*, Doubleday, Ages 12-16.

Wright's childhood in Mississippi is especially well detailed as to physical and emotional terrors. The book spans his later years as well. (9/6/70 - NYT)

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