



The African American Experience: Fiction for Elementary School Readers

[See a list of African American Authors & Illustrators](#)

Younger Elementary

The Case of the Elevator Duck by Polly Berrien Berends
Who would leave a pet duck on the elevator of an apartment house? Gilbert is determined to find the duck's owner before the building inspector finds the duck.

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron
Father says, "Leave the pudding alone." Julian and Huey eat most of it anyway and are sure they will be in big trouble. Join Julian for this and five other stories.

Donavan's Word Jar by Monalisa DeGross
Some people collect cards; some collect dolls or stamps or rocks. Donovan collects words, which he keeps in a jar.

Nikki & Deja by Karen English
Nikki and Deja live next door to one another and are very best friends. Things are great until a new girl moves to their block and brings big time trouble.

Henry's Freedom Box by Ellen Levine
He was born into slavery, but Henry was determined to be free, no matter what. This story is based on the life of Henry "Box" Brown.

The Hundred Penny Box by Sharon Bell Mathis
Aunt Dew is one hundred years old. She keeps a box with a penny for each year and a story for each penny.

Scraps of Time a series by Patricia McKissack
Journey back to other times and places in this series where history comes alive.

Sallie Gal and the Wall-a-kee Man by Shelia P. Moses
Sallie Gal wants a set of hair ribbons just like her cousin Wild Cat wears. Even if she had the money, where could she buy them in a little town like the one she lives in?

Solo Girl by Andrea Pinkney
Cass is great at math, but not at Double Dutch jump rope. She loves to watch the Fast Feet Four, but her own feet are just too slow.

Go Fish by Mary Stolz
Thomas tries everything to get Grandfather to stop reading and pay attention to him. Finally, Grandfather agrees to go fishing and Thomas knows his day will be a good one.

Freedom on the Menu by Carole Boston Weatherford
Life is different in 1960. A girl isn't allowed to sit at the lunch counter if she is African American, but times are changing.

Older Elementary

Circle of Gold by Candy Boyd
Nothing has been right since Mattie's father died. Mama is always tired, there is never enough money, and a bully is after her at school. Will she ever feel happy again?

Some Friend by Marie Bradby
Pearl wishes she had a best friend to talk to—someone like Lenore, who always looks good and is the most popular girl in her class.

Bud Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
Bud runs away from the terrible foster home where he was living. Join him as he sets out on a journey to find his father.

Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It by Sundee T. Frazier
One summer day, 10 year old Brendan has a chance encounter with the white grandfather he has never met and his mother refuses to talk about it.

The House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton
Thomas and his family are living in a house that was once a part of the Underground Railroad. "Yes, the house held secrets...did it hold danger as well?"

Junebug by Alice Mead
Junebug lives in a dangerous neighborhood, but he dreams of a better life for his family.

Darnell Rock Reporting by Walter Dean Myers
Darnell goes from making trouble at school to making a difference in his city.

Safe at Home by Sharon Robinson
After Jumper's father dies, he moves to New York City where his mother makes him go to baseball camp. Jumper's game is basketball.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
The strength, love, and determination of Cassie Logan's family allow them to survive the poverty and brutal racism of 1930s Mississippi.

The Red Rose Box by Brenda Woods
While visiting her aunt in California, Leah is excited to experience a world different from her small Louisiana town. Then a family tragedy forever changes life for Leah and her sister.

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson
Lonnie Collins Motion (aka Locomotion) was seven years old when his parents were killed in a house fire. Now he and his sister are living in separate foster homes.