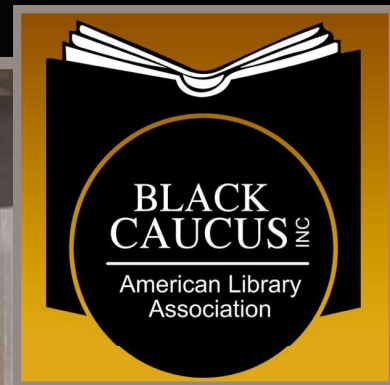


Best of the Best 2023

Grades PreK–4



An American Story

by Kwame Alexander, ill. by Dare Coulter

A picture book in verse that threads together past and present to explore the legacy of slavery during a classroom lesson.

All Aboard the Schooltrain: A Little Story from the Great Migration,
by Glenda Armand, ill. Keisha Morris

During the Great Migration in 1930's Louisiana, eight-year-old Jenny tries to understand why a man named Jim Crow is making trouble for her family.

Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat Better
by Glenda Armand and Kim Freeman, ill. by Keith Mallett

This picture book biography recounts the extraordinary life of Augustus Jackson, an African American entrepreneur who is known as the "Father of Ice Cream".

Words of Wonder From Z to A

by Zaila Avant-Garde, illustrated by Keisha Moore

2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee Winner Zaila Avant-Garde shares her love of words and the feelings that they bring in this whimsical picture book. Running through all twenty-six letters of the alphabet, Avant-Garde discusses some of her favorite words that begin with each letter, encouraging readers while also including inspiring quotes from various figures.

Crowned

by Kahran and Regis Bethencourt

Magical folk and classic fairy tales told from the diaspora perspective. These tales embrace Black love, joy, culture, beauty, and humanity. Beautiful photographs of African American children complement these tales.

Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll, Rosetta, Roll! Presenting Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Godmother of Rock & Roll

by Tonya Bolden, ill. R. Gregory Christie

Award-winning author Tonya Bolden and acclaimed illustrator R. Gregory Christie deliver an inspiring true story about the life, career, and impact of 20th-century blues and gospel singer Sister Rosetta Tharpe. The godmother of rock & roll started as a little girl from Arkansas with music in her air, in her hair, in her bones, wiggling her toes. With a big guitar in hand and a big voice in her soul, she grew into a rock & roll trailblazer in a time when women were rarely seen rocking out. Her guitar picking was like nobody else's.