BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Read a book that highlights Black voices and the African American Experience.

The Other Side
by Jacqueline Woodson
(ages: 4 - 8)
Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town. Woodson's picture book tells a story of a friendship across race.

These Hands
by Margaret H. Manson
(ages: 6 - 9)
An African American man tells his grandson about a time when, despite all the wonderful things his hands could do, they could not touch bread at the Wonder Bread factory.

Henry's Freedom Box
by Ellen Levine
(ages: 6 - 9)
A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

What Color Is My World?
by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
(ages: 9 - 12)
While twins Ella and Herbie help the handyman work on their new home, he tells them about such inventors as Granville Woods, Dr. Henry T. Sampson, and James West, giving them a new view of their heritage as African Americans.

10 True Tales: Young Civil Rights Heros
by Allan Zullo
(ages: 9 - 12)
Ten true stories of young African American heroes who risked their lives in the Civil Rights Movement.

Becoming Muhammad Ali
by James Patterson & Kwame Alexander
(ages: 9 - 12)
Before boxer Muhammad Ali was "The Greatest," he was a boy named Cassius Clay in Kentucky, who aspired to be a winner.

The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA
by Brenda Woods
(ages: 9 - 12)
Gabriel, twelve, gains new perspective when he becomes friends with Meriwether, a Black World War II hero who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer
by Lamar Giles
(ages: 9 - 12)
When cousins Otto and Sheed Alston accidentally extend the last day of summer by freezing time, they find secrets that are not as much fun as they expected.

Black Brother, Black Brother
by Jewell Parker Rhodes
(ages: 9 - 14)
Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.

The Beautiful Struggle
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
(ages: 13+)
A father-son memoir documents the author's youth in the “murder capital” of 1980s Baltimore and his relationship with his father, Vietnam veteran Paul Coates, throughout the latter’s activism as a Black Panther and Afrocentric scholar.

Punching the Air
by Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam
(ages: 13+)
Sixteen-year-old Amal is tried and convicted of an act of violence against a white boy. Through verse narration, you learn about Amal's aspirations as a poet and artist, as well as his experience entering the prison system as a young Black man.

The Awakening of Malcolm X
by Ilyasah Shabazz & Tiffany D. Jackson
(ages: 13+)
While in Charlestown Prison in the 1940s, young Malcolm Little reads all the books in the library, joins the debate team and the Nation of Islam, and emerges as Malcolm X.

His Truth Is Marching On
by Jon Meacham
(ages: Adult)
A profile in courage and faith under fire emerges from this vivid portrait of Georgia congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis.

A Promised Land
by Barack Obama
(ages: Adult)
A deeply personal account of history in the making - from the president who inspired us to believe in the power of democracy.

African American Poetry
edited by Kevin Young
(ages: Adult)
Unprecedented anthology expertly selected by poet and scholar Kevin Young, this precious living heritage is revealed in all its power, beauty, and multiplicity.

* All books are available through the Gilman Libraries