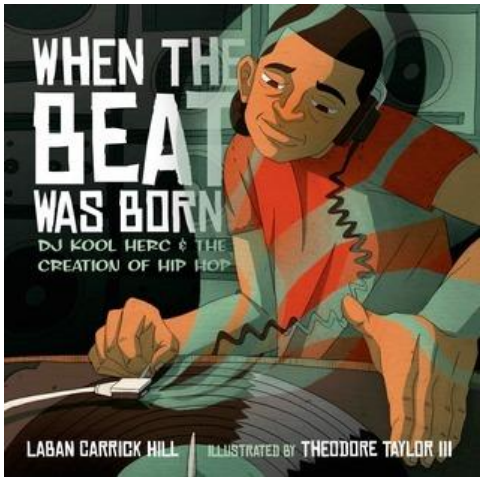
Book Review: When the Beat was Born

Author: Laban Carrick Hill

Illustrator: Theodore Taylor III

Grade Level: 2nd-5th

Guided Reading Level: W



Book Synopsis from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/When-Beat-Was-Born-Creation/dp/1596435402/ref=sr_1_6?crid=L2K5K1KOLG8G&keywords=hip+hop+picture+book&qid=1675926723&sprefix=hip+hop+picture+%2Caps%2C174&sr=8-6

On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks—the musical interludes between verses—longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is When the Beat Was Born. From his childhood in Jamaica to his youth in the Bronx, Laban Carrick Hill's book tells how Kool Herc came to be a DJ, how kids in gangs stopped fighting in order to breakdance, and how the music he invented went on to define a culture and transform the world.

Review Highlights...

- Features an African American male protagonist, Clive
- Show Clive's evolution to DJ Cook Herc, and the birth of hip-hop.
- Shows the life of a young boy in Jamaica.
- Shows the daily life of Bronx, New York.
    - Illustrates how DJ Cool Herc used music to unite people in the neighborhood.
- Features beautiful illustrations.
- Shows hard work and passion of music artists.
- Features a timeline of the history of hip-hop.

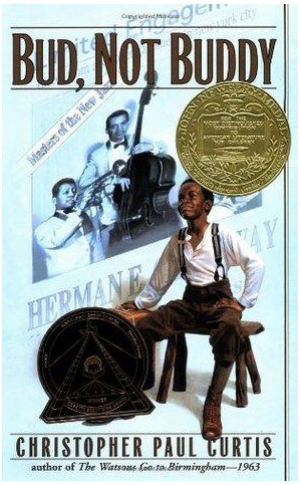
Information researched/reviewed/organized/created by Bridgette Blue, DEI Consultant. 2023

Book Review: Bud, Not Buddy

Author: Christopher Paul Curtis

Grade Level: 4th-7th.

Guided Reading Level: U



Book Synopsis from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Bud-Buddy-Christopher-Paul-Curtis/dp/0440413281/ref=sr_1_1?crid=19ZFS7PYVYLEP&keywords=bud+not+buddy+book&qid=1676263417&sprefix=bud+not+%2Caps%2C202&sr=8-1

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him:

1. He has his own suitcase full of special things.

2. He's the author of Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself.

3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers advertising Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!!

Bud's got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road to find this mystery man, nothing can stop.

Review Highlights...

- Features African American male protagonist Bud, ten years old and an orphan.
- The book is set in the 1930s in Flint, Michigan.
    - Life in the orphanage is also depicted.
    - Life in a temporary home is featured as well.
- The author demonstrates life for African-Americans during the 1930s.
- The beginning of the labor movement in the United States is shown in the book.
- The book is packed full of adventures Bud and his friends encounter.
- The book has a backdrop of the jazz community of the 1930s.

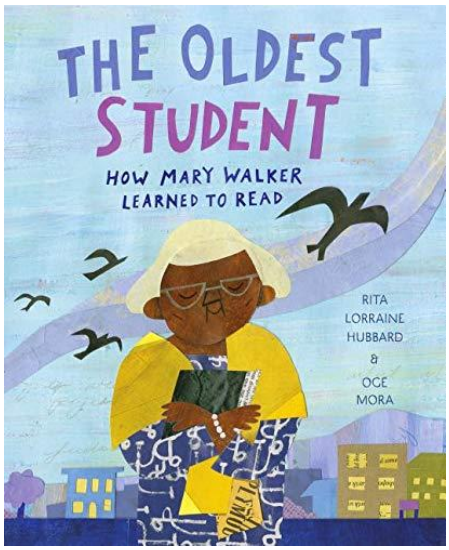
Information researched/reviewed/organized/created by Bridgette Blue, DEI Consultant. 2023

Book Review: The Oldest Student

Author: Rita Lorraine Hubbard

Illustrator: Oge Mora

Grade Level: DK-2nd



Book Synopsis from Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/Oldest-Student-Mary-Walker-Learned/dp/1524768286/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2KY57K2NB3B54&keywords=the+oldest+student+how+mary+walker+learned+to+read&qid=1676265055&sprefix=the+oldest+st%2Caps%2C202&sr=8-1

In 1848, Mary Walker was born into slavery. At age 15, she was freed, and by age 20, she was married and had her first child. By age 68, she had worked numerous jobs, including cooking, cleaning, babysitting, and selling sandwiches to raise money for her church. At 114, she was the last remaining member of her family. And at 116, she learned to read. From Rita Lorraine Hubbard and rising star Oge More comes the inspirational story of Mary Walker, a woman whose long life spanned from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, and who--with perseverance and dedication--proved that you're never too old to learn.

Review Highlights...

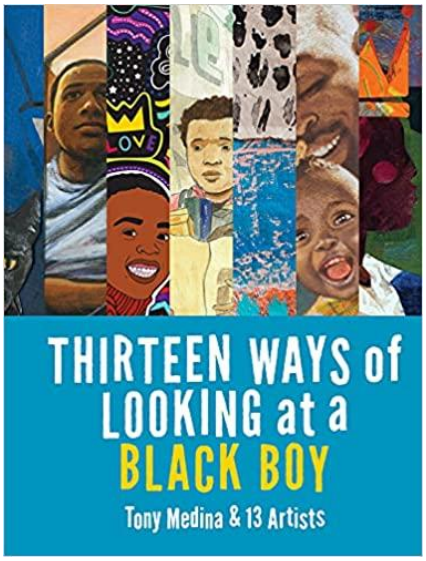
- Features an African American female protagonist, 114 years old.
- Shows the life of an African American woman and her journey from slavery.
- Depicts the building of her life.
    - Shows the gift of a strong multi-generational family bond.
    - Shows the dynamic complexity of an African-American family.
- Universal theme: Never giving up on one's dream.

Book Review: Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy

Author: Tony Medina and 13 Artists

Grade Level: 2nd-5th

Guided Reading Level: R



Book Synopsis from Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0998799947/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_image_o01_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

These short, vibrant tanka poems about Black boys and young men depict thirteen views of everyday life: dressed in Sunday best, running to catch a bus, growing up to be teachers, and much more. Each of Tony Medina's tanka is matched with a different artist—including recent Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Award recipients.

Review Highlights...

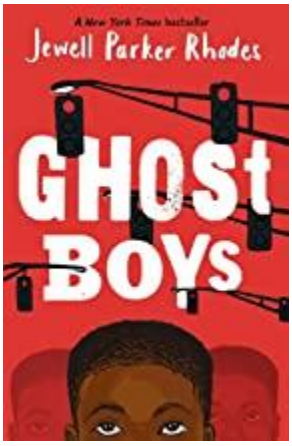
- Features multiple artists
- The story illustrates one middle school student's navigation through his school experience.
- The story shows the complexity of bullying and searching for the sense of belonging.
- The story features a relevant look at police brutality through the perspective of a child.
- WARNING: The book includes child death and police brutality.
    - Shows the gift of a strong multi-generational family bond.
    - Shows the need of treating people with dignity and respect.
    - Strong relationships with family and church community.
    - Shows the dynamic complexity of an African-American family.
- Universal theme: Belonging; the need for everyone to feel connected, seen and heard.

Book Review: Ghost Boys

Author: Jewell Parker Rhodes

Grade Level: 5th-8th

Guided Reading Level: Z



Book Synopsis from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Ghost-Boys-Jewell-Parker-Rhodes/dp/0316262269/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2XFA3SLJ6TJ2K&keywords=Ghost+boys&qid=1675646419&sprefix=ghost+boys%2Caps%2C232&sr=8-1

A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a police officer, drawing connections through history, from award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes. Only the living can make the world better. Live and make it better. Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father's actions. Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today's world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

Review Highlights...

- Features Jerome, a 12 year old black male protagonist.
- The story illustrates one middle school student's navigation through his school experience.
- The story shows the complexity of bullying and searching for the sense of belonging.
- The story features a relevant look at police brutality through the perspective of a child.
- WARNING: The book includes child death and police brutality.
    - Shows the gift of a strong multi-generational family bond.
    - Shows the need of treating people with dignity and respect.
    - Strong relationships with family and church community.
    - Shows the dynamic complexity of an African-American family.
- Universal theme: Belonging; the need for everyone to feel connected, seen and heard.

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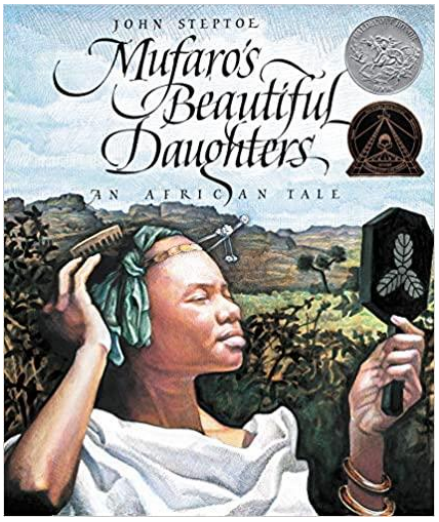
Book Review: Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

Author: John Steptoe

Illustrator: John Steptoe

Grade Level: DK-3

Guided Reading Level: N



Book Synopsis from Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/Mufaros-Beautiful-Daughters-Reading-Rainbow/dp/0688040454/ref=sr_1_1?crid=38GEIYQ4AX9RL&keywords=mufaro%27s+beautiful+daughters&qid=1675644161&sprefix=mufaro%2Caps%2C243&sr=8-1

A Caldecott Honor and Reading Rainbow book, this memorable retelling of Cinderella is perfect for introducing children to the fairy tale as well as the history, culture, and geography of the African nation of Zimbabwe. Inspired by a traditional African folktale, this is the story of Mufaro, who is proud of his two beautiful daughters. Nyasha is kind and considerate, but everyone—except Mufaro—knows that Manyara is selfish and bad-tempered. When the Great King decides to take a wife and invites the most worthy and beautiful daughters in the land to appear before him, Mufaro brings both of his daughters—but only one can be queen. Who will the king choose? Award-winning artist John Steptoe's rich cultural imagery of Africa earned him the Coretta Scott King Award for Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters. The book also went on to win the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. This stunning story is a timeless treasure that readers will enjoy for generations.

Review Highlights...

- The story is inspired by a Zimbabwe-folktale.
- Features two African female protagonists Nyasha and Manyara.
    - Shows the gift of a strong family bond.
    - Shows the gift of kindness and treating people with dignity and respect.
    - Strong relationships with family, extended family and community/village.
    - Shows the dynamic complexity of an African family.
- Positively and respectfully demonstrates the rich and dynamic African culture.
- The story is often included in thematic units of the Cinderella genre.
- **Picture book. (Beautiful illustrations.)**
- Universal theme: The book illustrates the golden rule; "Treat others the way you would want to be treated." It illustrates the need to show kindness and respect to everyone.

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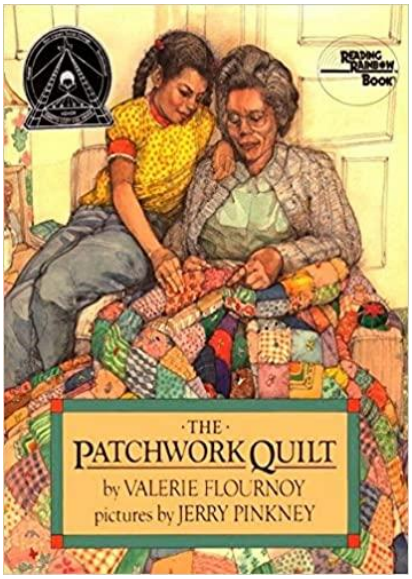
Book Review: The Patchwork Quilt

Author: Valerie Flournoy

Illustrator: Jerry Pinkney

Grade Level: DK-3

Guided Reading Level: O



Book Synopsis from Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/Patchwork-Quilt-Valerie-Flournoy/dp/0803700970

Twenty years ago Valerie Flournoy and Jerry Pinkney created a warmhearted intergenerational story that became an award-winning perennial. Since then children from all sorts of family situations and configurations continue to be drawn to its portrait of those bonds that create the fabric of family life.

Review Highlights...

- Features an African female protagonist, Tanya .
  - Shows the gift of a strong multigenerational family.
    - Tanya forms a very special bond with her grandmother.
  - Illustrates the respect for family, particularly the elder members..
  - Strong relationships with family, extended family and community/village.
  - Shows the dynamic complexity of an African-American family.
- Features the beautiful artwork/illustrations of Jerry Pinkney.
  - Jerry Pinkney is an award winning artist.
- **Picture book. (Beautiful illustrations.)**
- Universal theme: Family and family history is a gift.