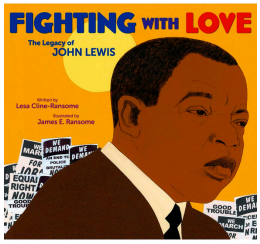
Black History Month

Resources for Dobbs Ferry Teachers, Staff, and Families

February is Black History Month and this year's theme is A Century of Commemorations since Black History Month got its start 100 years ago. It is a time to honor the rich contributions of African Americans to the United States and its culture, both in the past and today. Check out some of the new and classic titles featuring Black characters and history at the Springhurst, Dobbs Ferry Middle & High School, and Dobbs Ferry Public Libraries to celebrate Black History Month this February!

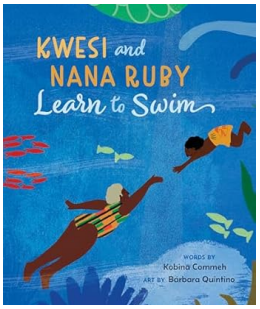
This resource list was compiled as part of a partnership between Springhurst Library Media Specialist Beth Cornell, Middle/High School Library Media Specialist Ellen Elsen, K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek, and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library Children's Librarian Gina Elbert and Young Adult Librarian Alex Yeranossian).

Elementary School



Fighting With Love the Legacy of John Lewis **by Lesa Cline-Ransome**
The story of a groundbreaking civil rights leader, John Lewis, comes to life in this compelling and beautifully told nonfiction picture book.

Available at the Springhurst Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



Kwesi and Nana Ruby Learn to Swim **by Kobina Cobbeh**
Kwesi doesn't know how to swim and discovers his grandmother, Nana Ruby, doesn't either, so they turn to the West African legend of Mami Wata to face their fears, in an intergenerational story about the importance of naming, acknowledging and facing fears.

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



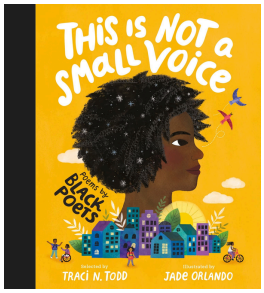
Talkin' Bout Bessie: The Story of Aviator Bessie Elizabeth Coleman
by Nikki Grimes
Learn the inspiring story of Bessie Coleman, the first woman of African and Native American descent to earn a pilot's license. Family members, friends, and mentors share memories of her at a fictional memorial service in 1926, showing how she overcame the racial and gender barriers of her time.

Available at the Springhurst Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Be the Light: How She Became Angela Davis* by Daria Peoples**
Before she was an iconic civil rights activist, before she was one of the FBI's Most Wanted, before she was a teacher, Angela Davis was a young girl in Birmingham, Alabama. Her parents taught her that freedom lives anywhere and everywhere it pleases. She grew up to fight for the world and the future that she imagined could exist—for all people.

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***This Is Not a Small Voice : Poems by Black Poets* selected by Traci N. Todd**
Discover classic favorites and new stars. This illustrated children's anthology is the perfect introduction to poets such as Lucille Clifton, Langston Hughes, Benjamin Zephaniah, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, Amanda Gorman, Caleb Femi, and Joseph Coelho, and also features brand-new work by poets Nikki Grimes, Carole Boston Weatherford, and others. Check out this Educator's Guide from the publisher!

Available at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***The History of We* by Nikkolas Smith**
Every person on Earth can trace their ancestry back to Africa. *The History of We* celebrates our shared ancestors' ingenuity and achievements and imagines what these firsts would have looked and felt like. It takes what we know about modern human civilization and creates a tale about our shared beginnings in a way that centers Black people in humankind's origin story. Watch the book trailer here.

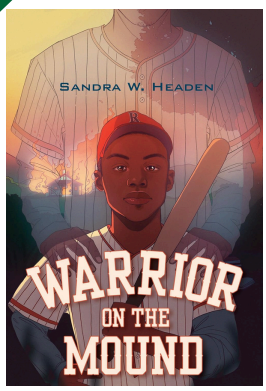
Available at the Springhurst Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

Middle School



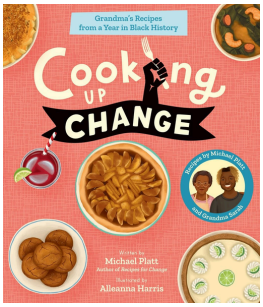
***The Incredibly Human Henson Blayze* by Derrick Barnes**
Thirteen-year-old Henson Blayze strives to be seen as more than just a football player in his predominantly white small town of Great Mountain, Mississippi. When a horrific incident compels him to speak out, he must choose between playing football and seeking justice. Check out this discussion guide from the publisher..

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Warrior on the Mound* by Sandra W. Headen**
1935. Twelve-year-old Cato wants nothing more than to play baseball, perfect his pitch, and meet Mr. Satchel Paige––the best pitcher in Negro League baseball. But when he and his teammates "trespass" on their town's whites-only baseball field for a practice, the resulting racial outrage burns like a brushfire through the entire community, threatening Cato, his family, and every one of his friends.

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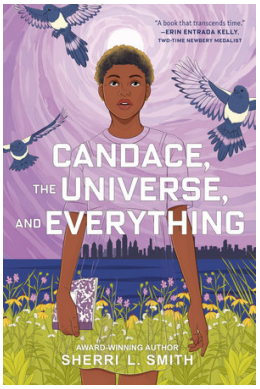
***Cooking Up Change: Grandma's Recipes from a Year in Black History* by Michael Platt**
With biographies of figures who shaped important events and the mouthwatering recipes they've inspired, this celebration of Black History and food will inspire future leaders with real stories of trailblazers who helped to change the world. Watch an interview with the author on Youtube.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and through the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes**
During the land rush of 1889, African American Will and his father journey from Texas to Oklahoma, racing thousands of others to stake their claim. Watch the book trailer here.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Candace, the Universe, and Everything* by Sherri L. Smith**
This speculative middle grade novel is about three generations of Black girls connected across time and space through a wormhole in their school locker: eighth grader Candace Wells in the modern day, professor Tracey Auburn in 1988, and quantum physicist Loretta Spencer in 1948. The latter's life's work has been to study the portal and others like it, and now she needs Tracey's and Candace's help to complete her research.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

High School



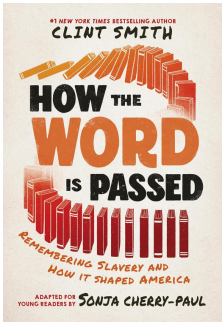
***Black History Is Your History* by Taylor Cassidy**
In her debut book, creator of viral TikTok series "Fast Black History" Taylor Cassidy takes readers on a journey through the Black history she wishes she had been taught in school. Introducing icons from activists to literary giants, movie stars to Olympic gold medalists, fashion designers to astronauts, and more, this one-of-a-kind collection makes Black history relatable, relevant, and utterly irresistible.

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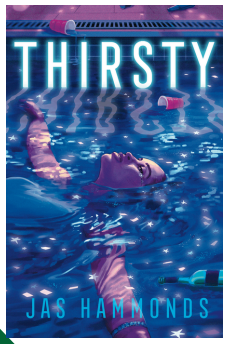
***Balancing Act* by Paula Chase**
Taking place in a prestigious sports high school, this first book in *The Heights* series follows gymnast Chyna, who balances her mother's illness with the challenges of an elite team, and basketball star Jamaal, who is grieving his brother's death. Filled with gossip, high stakes sports drama, and tons of heart, this is the first book in a new series about teens fighting for their dreams in a city where picking a side is no game.

Available at DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***How the Word Is Passed (Adapted for Young Readers): Remembering Slavery and How It Shaped America* by Sonja Cherry-Paul (Adapter), Clint Smith (Author)**
How the Word Is Passed illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view—whether in places we might drive by on our way to school, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods (like downtown Manhattan) on which the brutal history of the trade in enslaved people has been deeply imprinted. Take a look at this educators' guide from the publisher!

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.



***Thirsty* by Jas Hammonds**
From the award-winning author of *We Deserve Monuments* comes a searing, emotionally charged novel about a girl desperate to belong, a spiral into alcohol-fueled chaos, and the raw, unflinching path to finding herself.

Available at the DF MS/HS Library and the Dobbs Ferry Public Library.

Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

Dobbs Ferry Public Library