



Roger León  
Superintendent

# Newark Board of Education

Where Passion Meets Progress

Dear Teachers,

In celebration of Juneteenth we are pleased to be able to share these wonderful read aloud books with you and your students. Through these books, you can dive deeper into African American history and learn about some of the notable people who shaped the world. Reading aloud gives us the opportunity to engage with students and model expressive, fluent reading.

This is an important opportunity to broaden students' knowledge and help them see how the past connects with their lives today. In order for this to happen, we need to build our knowledge and skills needed to hold this space for students. Spend time with your book and be prepared to help students listen to one another, make meaning, and find common ground.

## Tips for a Great Read Aloud!

- ★ Introduce the book, hooking the students and creating excitement to hear the story.
  - Point out the cover illustration, title, and author. Invite them to predict what the book is about, and talk about how the book might connect to their own lives or to other books they've heard or read. You can also give a brief explanation about why you chose to read the book.
- ★ Build background knowledge by providing an overview of the content of the story or the historical context.
- ★ Engage your audience - use your voice, facial expressions, gestures and whatever else you can. Find your inner actor.
- ★ Make it interactive - stop at a few (not too many) pre-selected places to get the students involved. They can turn and talk or jot down their thoughts in a journal.
- ★ Show and dwell on the illustrations - let students talk about what they see or simply appreciate the artwork.
- ★ Save time at the end of the story to get reactions, share the parts students liked, noticed, or had questions about and discuss the story.
- ★ Most importantly...HAVE FUN!

Thank you,  
The ELA Department  
The Office of Teaching and Learning

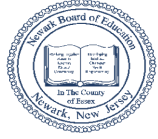


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Grade Level	Book Title/Author	Book Description
Kindergarten	<u>Harlem Grown</u> By Tony Hillery	Harlem Grown is the true story of how one man and the students of New York City School PS 175 made a big difference in their neighborhood and transformed the landscape for their neighbors.
Grade 1	<u>Mae Among the Stars</u> By Roda Ahmed	Mae Among the Stars is the inspiring true story of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to go to space. We learn that with hard work anything is possible.
Grade 2	<u>Counting the Stars; The Story of Katherine Johnson NASA Mathematician</u> By Lesa Cline-Ransome	Counting the Stars pays tribute to African-American math prodigy Katherine Johnson, who soared past societal barriers to become one of NASA's celebrated human computers.
Grade 3	<u>The Undefeated</u> By Kwame Alexander	The Undefeated is a tribute to the struggles and triumphs of black Americans past and present. It is based on a poem originally published for the author's daughter and the inauguration of Barack Obama and highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the civil rights movement, and the passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes.
Grade 4	<u>Carter Reads the Newspaper</u> By Deborah Hopkinson	Carter Reads the Newspaper chronicles the early life of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who dedicated his life to finding, preserving, and teaching the whole truth about American history. We learn about the importance of reading and how his life's work led to the creation of Black History Month.
Grade 5	<u>Buzzing with Questions</u> By Janice Harrington	Buzzing with Questions is a story about Charles Henry Turner, who endlessly asked questions about animals, plants, and bugs. Can spiders learn? Can bugs see color? Find out about his journey in becoming the first Black entomologist — a scientist who studies bugs.



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