

CHILDREN'S BOOKS for Black History Month



BY CHRISTA FLETCHER, MESA VERDE PARENT

This month we are showing some love to books by Black authors in honor of Black History Month. February is the perfect month to visit your local library and explore the books on display about Black civil rights leaders, artists, and musicians. You can also visit [SocialJusticeBooks.org](https://www.SocialJusticeBooks.org) for a critically reviewed library of multicultural books for kids and educators too. Here is our family's list of books we enjoy for Black History Month.



Change Sings, by Amanda Gorman

If you love the writing by young poet Amanda Gorman, this gorgeous book is a great one to add to your collection. With an inspiring message of a young girl who seeks to change the world, the book shows how we can all inspire each other.

Little People, BIG DREAMS:

Mae Jemison, by Maria Isabel Sanchez

This book is one of a beautiful series of books about numerous multicultural icons. We chose Mae Jemison because my daughter loves reading about the extraordinary astronaut, doctor, engineer and teacher. However, there are many people to choose from for kids to enjoy.

The Day You Begin,

by Jacqueline Woodson

National Book Award Winner Jacqueline Woodson brings us this great book about a girl who wants to fit in. Though she is different from her classmates, she finds a way to connect with them. It's a sweet story about embracing our differences and appreciating our diversity.

Kamala and Maya's Big Idea,

by Amanda Gorman

A great book about two sisters getting their community involved. My girls love how the kids all work together to build a playground for their community. Everyone takes part and finds ways to contribute from supplies and ideas, to a delicious potluck meal.

I Am Ok to Feel, by Karamo Brown

We all have big emotions and this fantastic book shows how a father and son go through their day acknowledging and embracing emotions that arise. This is a brand new book by TV show host Karamo Brown from the Netflix series "Queer Eye."

A Great Starter Pack:

"You Should Meet" Series

These paperback collections of heroes are great for elementary aged students and you can select them by reading level. We have some with Black icons such as Misty Copeland, Katherine Johnson, and Jesse Owens. Each book tells about the person's life with age-appropriate details and illustrations.

AURORA BOREALIS Abounds

BY SON VU
PHOTOS BY AURORA
POINTE, FAIRBANKS,
ALASKA AND SON VU



Awe-inspiring. Magical. Humbling. Lucky.

These feelings flooded me as I stood there in the field in Fairbanks, Alaska gazing up at the amazing ribbons of light as they swept through the cold, clear sky. Ever since I can remember, I've always wanted to see the aurora borealis in person.

Our guide, Sage, from Aurora Pointe, told us that the fuzzy gray we saw around the fringe of the green were actually shades of red we just couldn't see. His photographs proved his statement true.

We arrived in Fairbanks around 11 p.m. and drove over an hour to get away from city lights. Then the watching and waiting began.

After nearly one and a half hours of waiting, and trying to keep ourselves and the kids awake, the show started. While cold weather is not a requirement for aurora viewing, it is a companion of darkness in winter months. How cold, you ask? Try a high of -35°F and a low of -38°F. Our actual temperature was a "mild" -28°F. The streams of light streaked the sky with what started out as a light green but grew in intensity. Off and on for the rest of the night, the aurora showed up as it pleased, delighting us until about two in the morning, when we had to finally call it a night. But what a night!

