

**american library association**

ethnic and multicultural information exchange round table

coretta scott king book awards committee



# Coretta Scott King Book Awards

2013 discussion guide



The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Seal was designed by artist Lev Mills in 1974. The symbolism in the seal reflects both Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s philosophy and the ideals of the award.

The basic circle represents continuity in movement, resolving from one idea to another. Within the circle is the image of an African American child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child represent nonsectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength and Atlanta University, the award's headquarters when the seal was designed. At the apex of the pyramid is the dove, symbolic of peace. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards seal images and award names are solely and exclusively owned by the American Library Association.

## The Coretta Scott King Book Award

### A Living Legend

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards have grown since their conception in the late 1960s. At a dinner gala of the New Jersey Library Association in May 1970, Lillie Patterson was honored for her biography, *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace*. In 1972, the first Coretta Scott King Book Awards breakfast was held at an ALA conference site. Official affiliation with the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) came in 1980, and in 1982, the American Library Association recognized the Coretta Scott King Award as an association award.

During the 2003 ALA Midwinter Meeting, the Coretta Scott King Task Force joined the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). The affiliation with EMIERT gave the group a new name: the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. Success of the committee can be attributed to the work of tireless volunteers and visionary founders. For a more complete history, consult: *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book: From Vision to Reality*, edited by Henrietta Smith, American Library Association, 1999; and *The Coretta Scott King Awards: 1970-2009, fourth edition*, by Henrietta Smith American Library Association, 2009.



JOHN BAZEMORE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

For more than forty years, books by African American writers and artists have been honored by receiving the Coretta Scott King Book Award. This award promotes understanding and appreciation of African American culture and the culture of all peoples. The award is designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood. The multidimensional characteristics of the authors' and illustrators' works reflect the African American experience from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Opportunities to celebrate the rich and powerful experiences depicted in these books lie in the hands of the adults in children's and young adults' lives.

This discussion guide is, therefore, dedicated to those teachers, parents, librarians, booksellers, and caregivers who are committed to enriching the lives of children and young adults with quality literature. Among their many other functions, book awards provide a simple means for casual browsers in bookstores, libraries, and schools to find material that is engaging, well crafted, and satisfying both emotionally and intellectually. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards particularly introduce the best in African American literature to all children. The award now graces dozens of titles, from picture books for the smallest children to novels and nonfiction for teenagers. In this guide, we have examined some of these titles from different angles and perspectives.

"A unique historical approach, superbly handled." —Walter Dean Myers

# Hand



in



# Hand



## TEN BLACK MEN WHO CHANGED AMERICA

BY NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR ANDREA DAVIS PINKNEY & BRIAN PINKNEY

2013 Author Award Winner

**HAND IN HAND**  
**Ten Black Men Who**  
**Changed America**



Written by Andrea Pinkney  
Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Jump at the Sun Books, an imprint of Disney Book Group

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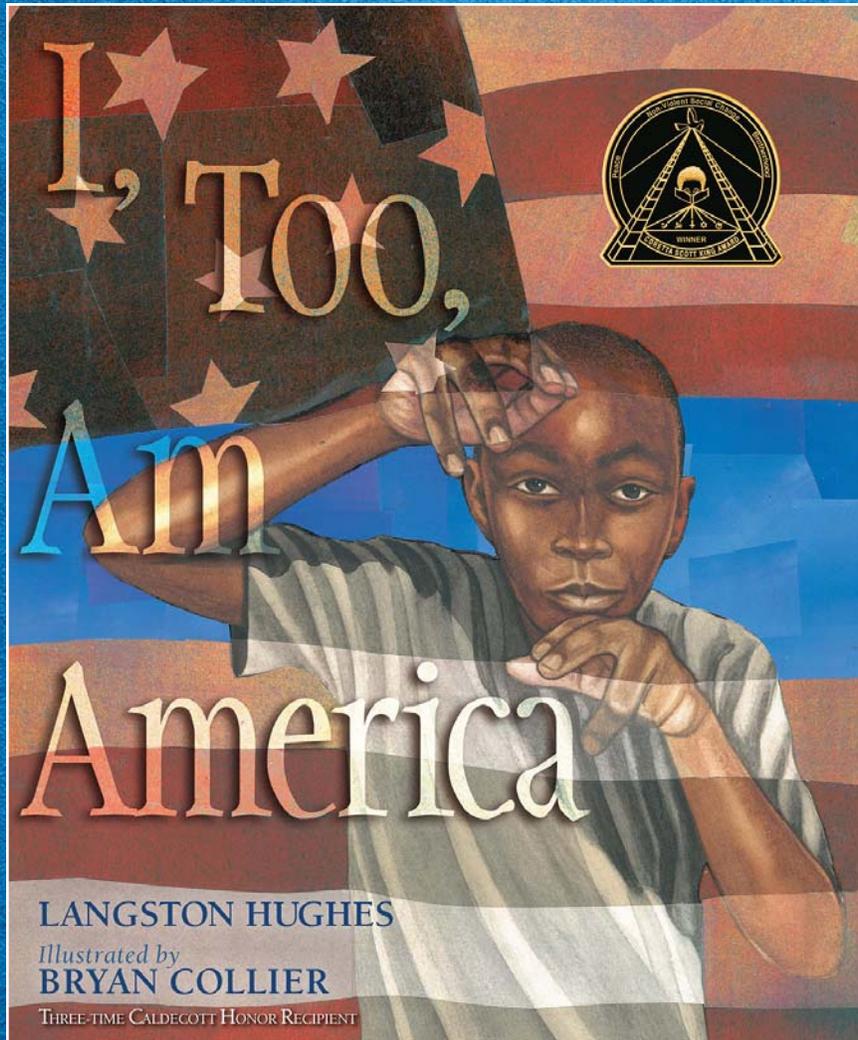
**A**ndrea Davis Pinkney has created a focused look at ten African Americans who significantly changed life in our country. Based on thorough research, each story is recounted through zesty storytelling and highlights an event that shaped each man's life including acts of cruelty, racism, and inhumane treatment. Because of the engaging writing, each chapter can be read aloud as well as read silently—a beautifully conceived book. These stirring stories are accompanied by Brian Pinkney's strong illustrations.

#### **Activities and discussion topics**

- Students can use the Internet to learn more about the Brother Authors
- Students will research the meaning of “mission” and write their own Mission Statement as it relates to what they want to achieve.
- Have students explain what “Black Manhood” means to them.
- What steps are you making toward earning a college degree?
- Banneker taught himself geometry, algebra and statistics. Draw a Banneker Clock Face. Write at the top of the page, “It’s Time For...”, and list three things related to learning. (Benjamin Banneker).
- Develop an Informative or Explanatory paper, explaining “Is there a type of slavery in the world where we live?” (Frederick Douglass)
- What are you doing right now to fulfill your dream?
- What does listen, learn, and dream mean to you?
- What is a salt Furnace and why is this mineral important?
- The author mentioned that “Booker carried their dreams with him.” How might the President today include your dreams?
- Read the remarks made by the older adults in Booker’s life, “we never imagine our own going off to school.” How would you compare their remarks to what might have been said about Barack Obama becoming the Forty-Fourth President of the United States of America?
- Using digital mapping tools such as custom Google maps trace Booker T’s journey from his home in West Virginia to Hampton Institute in Virginia.

#### **Related CSK titles**

- *Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters* written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn, published by Harcourt.
  - *Now is Your Time* written by Walter Dean Myers, published by HarperCollins.
  - *Ellington Was Not a Street* written by Ntozake Shange, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.
  - *Black Hands, White Sails* written by Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick L. McKissack, published by Scholastic.
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2013 Illustrator Award Winner

## **I, TOO, AM AMERICA**

Illustrated by Bryan Collier  
Written by Langston Hughes



Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers,  
an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division

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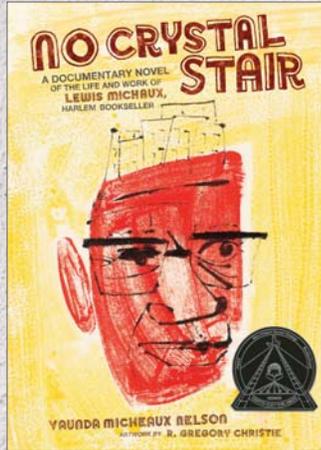
**A** powerful interpretation of Langston Hughes's hope for equality, Bryan Collier utilizes a train motif to symbolize the journey of the Great Migration from the cotton fields of the South to the cities, the growing pride of the train staff, the collecting of objects representing words and music, a picture of Louis Armstrong, an old record flinging them into the future of the little boy filled with pride overlaid by an American flag.

#### **Activities and discussion topics**

- Share the book with children by having them perform the poem as a chorale reading while the teacher shows the illustrations.
- Have multiple copies of the book available. Divide the children into small groups and have them look closely at the illustrations while you pose questions for them to think about. As an example why did Mr. Collier choose to use a train motif? Ask children to define "The American Dream" and ask them to find examples where Mr. Collier is talking about that dream. Have them define what it means to feel proud and ask them to share examples of this feeling in the drawings.
- Have children draw pictures of themselves and use tissue paper to create an overlay of the American flag.
- Have children divide a piece of drawing paper in half. On one half have them draw a picture of a time when they felt set aside. On the other half have them draw a picture of a time when they felt proud of themselves.
- Play music from the 1930s era, especially jazz and blues pieces. Pick two songs they can learn to sing as a group and teach them the songs.
- Perform a group reading of the poem.

#### **Related CSK titles**

- *My People* written by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr, published by ginee seo books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.
  - *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* written by Langston Hughes, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Jump at the Sun Books, an imprint of Disney Book Group.
  - *Visiting Langston* written by Willie Perdomo, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Henry Holt & Company.
  - *Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American Poetry* written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan, published by Atheneum.
  - *God Bless the Child* written by Billie Holiday, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.
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2013 Author Honor

**NO CRYSTAL STAIR**  
**A Documentary Novel of the**  
**Life And Work of Lewis**  
**Michaux, Harlem Bookseller**

Written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Carolrhoda Lab, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group

Vaunda Michaeux Nelson mixes a chorus of real and fictional voices to document the life of her great uncle, Lewis Michaux. Michaux's sometimes rocky journey begins in Virginia, where as a young man, he vows to "use my head and stay off my knees" to Harlem where he becomes proprietor of the National Memorial African Bookstore. Nelson creates an amazing array of voices to provide a vivid view of Michaux's life and his commitment to literacy, revolutionary ideas, and the African American community. These voices range from Michaux himself and his family members to a nurse, a banker, a reporter, and customers of the bookstore. In short accounts, each voice contributes to the picture of the man, the Garveyite, the entrepreneur, the mentor, and the community touchstone.

Included with the text are R. Gregory Christie's bold line drawings, which evoke the mid-century era when Michaux and his important business flourished. Black-and-white family and historic photos, and FBI reports also add to the documentary nature of this intricate novel.

The novel brings young people a chance to meet Michaux, a man who might not be as familiar to them as those African American leaders whose biographies are commonplace on library shelves, but who deserves to be known.



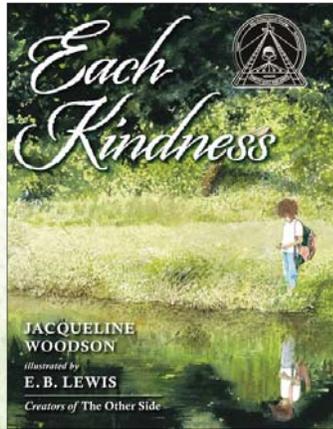
detail from *No Crystal Stair*

#### Activities and discussion topics

- Become your own neighborhood reporter! Interview your local bookseller or librarian to find out who the local celebrities in your community are, and why.
- R. Gregory Christie's bold, but simple illustrations feature prominent historical figures. In your mind, who are the important historical figures of today? Try to draw them as Christie did.
- *No Crystal Stair* reads like a newspaper article, with pictures and quotes from multiple people. With your classmates, create your own newspaper of the year. What events would you document?
- After reading *No Crystal Stair*, do you think Lewis Michaux would agree with how he was portrayed? Create your own biography by asking your classmates to submit short written pieces about you.

#### Related CSK titles

- *Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters* written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Stephen Alcorn, published by Gulliver Books, an imprint of Harcourt.
- *Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement* written by James Haskins, published by Hyperion.
- *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary* written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Scholastic.
- *Now Is Your Time! The African-American Struggle for Freedom* by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.



2013 Author Honor

## **EACH KINDNESS**

Written by Jacqueline Woodson

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin

What a quiet, yet powerful statement Jacqueline Woodson makes as she tells the story of Chloe and her classmates as they shun a new girl who arrives at school ready to make friends.

With her teacher's help, Chloe learns too late the ripple effect of acts of kindness. E.B. Lewis's watercolors amplify Woodson's poignant story.



### **Activities and discussion topics**

- After reading the story, students may share a time when they were extra kind to someone.
- Students will write letters to their best friends telling them about what makes them extra special.
- Students will keep a daily journal of two acts of kindness that they take part in daily.
- Learn about surface tension together. Use a bowl of water to see which of the following float, sink, or ripple: a pebble, a stone, a feather, a small square of paper, a foam ball, a leaf, a bubble, a marble, a bottle cap, etc. Students can make predictions about what will produce ripples.
- Discuss aspects of friendship: Is it difficult to make friends with a new classmate?
- Are you afraid of developing new friendships? Do you worry about what others may say about your friendship with another person? How would you feel, if you wanted to be friends with someone and they ignored you?

### **Related CSK titles**

- *Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys* written by Elizabeth Howard, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, published by Simon & Schuster.
- *Meet Danitra Brown* written by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.
- *Everett Anderson's Friend* written by Lucille Clifton, illustrated by Ann Grifalconi, published by Holt.

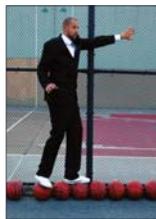
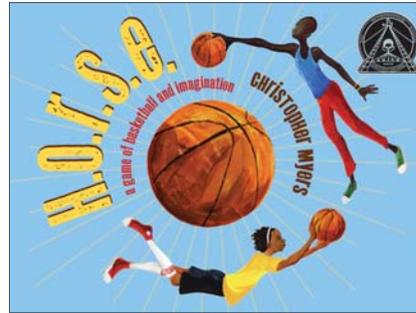
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2013 Illustrator Honor

## H.O.R.S.E.

Written by Christopher Myers  
Egmont USA

Christopher Myers mixes photo collage and two painted figures, elongated TALL guys, who aren't just using their height to



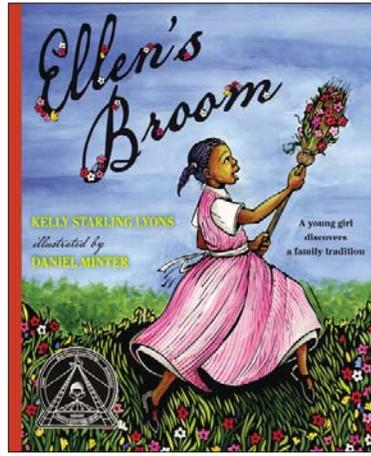
take their shots with a bright orange basketball. As the two friends prepare their shots with long, long arms ready to compete, their words take over the game and it morphs to a boast-fest of one fantastic shot after another. As their game goes stratospheric and possibly even intergalactic, the text leaps from its confines and curves overhead and around planets. A sparse inclusion of photos of formal earthbound city buildings also provides a wonderful contrast to the free-flowing paintings and text. Myers is exactly on young readers' wavelength in this tale of one-upmanship and even the youngest reader will be delighted by the featured fantastical tongue dunk.

### Activities and discussion topics

- Take pictures of your neighborhood. Using these photographs, create a book of your favorite neighborhood places.
- Create a memory journal of some of the favorite games you've played with friends. Include photos of your friends.
- Would you walk up 437 flights of stairs to accomplish a simple task? Find out about Rube Goldberg, a master of inventions and create your own Rube Goldberg machine.
- This story echoes friendship, imagination, and inspiration. Create an illustration that shows what friendship looks to you.
- Write a narrative of a time that you use your imagination and surprised yourself to do the unbelievable.

### Related CSK titles

- *Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes* edited by David Roessel and Arnold Rampersad, illustrated by Benny Andrews, published by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.
- *Black Cat* written and illustrated by Christopher Myers, published by Scholastic.
- *Thunder Rose* by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, published by Silver Whistle.



2013 Illustrator Honor

## **ELLEN'S BROOM**

Illustrated by Daniel Minter

Written by Kelly Starling Lyons

G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of  
Penguin Young Readers Group

Joy, family, and heritage are all central to this picture book collaboration. Artist Daniel Minter takes linoleum block prints, a sometimes heavy and static medium, and handpaints them into a lively depiction of a special moment in an African American family's life. With a pleasing variety of page layouts, Minter gives life to Kelly Lyon's post-Civil War story of a family's visit to a Freedman's Bureau to register the parents' marriage in slavery times. Minter is literal in his interpretation of the story, but what he adds to the storytelling is the tone. The excitement of the family's church congregation as they acknowledge that freedom is theirs, the parents' remembering their broom jumping marriage as slaves portrayed in sepia-colored block prints, and the loving glance of the parents as they await their turn at the Freedman's Bureau all come alive through Minter's skill with the linoleum knife. He creates visual movement as the parents embrace and twirl as they are pronounced man and wife and again when they jump the broom, now decorated with flowers by their daughters Ellen and Ruby, to honor the tradition and to commemorate the new.

An afternote by the author brings her personal connection to the story and documents her historical research.



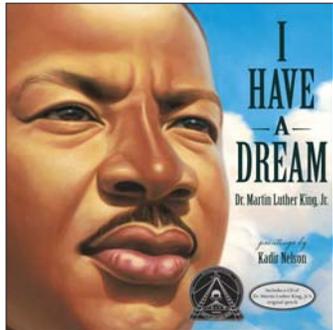
detail from *Ellen's Broom*

#### Activities and discussion topics

- Have students respond to the phrase, “jumping the broom.” Then, have students write a list of ideas before and after reading the text of what they know about African American weddings during slavery. Compare their findings.
- In the beginning of the story, Ellen is sitting with her family at church, an important tradition in many African American families. What important traditions or practices do you do with your family?
- What does the word “equality” mean to you?
- Why were the families in the church so happy when they learned that they could register their marriages?
- Have students look at old marriage records and discuss why records are important to people.

#### Related CSK titles

- *Heart & Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Balzar + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.
- *Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States* written by Patricia C. and Fred L. McKissack, published by Scholastic.
- *Working Cotton* written by Sherley Anne Williams, illustrated by Carole Byard, published by Harcourt.
- *My Mama Needs Me* written by Mildred Pitts Walter, illustrated by Pat Cummings, published by Lothrop.



2013 Illustrator Honor

## **I HAVE A DREAM**

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Schwartz & Wade Books,  
an imprint of Random House Children's Books



Kadir Nelson illustrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech in the rich oil

paintings that he is known for. He captures the intensity of both the speech and the dream in double-page spreads that highlight the multicultural landscape of America.

### **Activities and discussion topics**

- After reading and listening to the speech, give each student a line to recite. Have each student write about what that line means to him or her and in the context of the speech.
- Debate. After reading the book, have students complete a document based evidence chart. Have students to take a stance on whether Dr. King's dream did or did not come alive. Give supporting evidence.
- Have students create poems/art/dance interpretations about their own dreams.
- Students can write letters to Dr. King as if he were alive today. Have students explain to Dr. King why they think his dream did/did not come true.
- After learning about Dr. King's life, have students create an acrostic poem with Dr. King's name.
- Have students listen to each line of the speech and let them draw images of each passage.
- Identify Martin's four children. Tell what they are doing today to help make the dream of their father a reality.
- Do you see evidence of Dr. King's dream being alive in your community? Explain how.
- What do the words "peace, freedom, and equality" mean to you?

### **Related CSK titles**

- *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America* written by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group.
- *Martin's Big Words* written by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group.
- *Rosa* written by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Henry Holt and Company.
- *Heart & Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, Balzar + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

2013 Winner

## Coretta Scott King- Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement



### **Demetria Tucker**

Demetria Tucker has served as youth services coordinator within the Roanoke (Va.) Public Library System and library media specialist at the Forest Park Elementary School, where she was selected 2007 Teacher of the Year. As family and youth services librarian for the Pearl Bailey Library, a branch of the Newport News (Va.) Public Library System, Tucker now coordinates a youth leadership program, a teen urban literature club and many other programs that support the youth of her community.

### **About the Coretta Scott King- Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement**

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is named in memory of beloved children's author Virginia Hamilton. The annual award is presented in even years (i.e. 2012, 2014, 2016...) to an African American author, illustrator or author/illustrator for a body of his or her published books for children and/or young adults, and who has made a significant and lasting literary contribution. In odd years (i.e. 2013, 2015, 2017...), the award is presented to a practitioner for substantial contributions through active engagement with youth using award winning African American literature for children and/or young adults, via implementation of reading and reading related activities or programs.



Virginia Hamilton was an award-winning author of children's books. She wrote more than thirty-five books throughout her career, including *M. C. Higgins*, *the Great*, for which she won the 1975 Newbery Medal. During her lifetime, Hamilton received numerous awards, including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

This Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide is prepared by the 2012 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee Chair, Dorothy Guthrie, and by members of the 2013 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury: Lana Adlawan, Therese Bigelow, Mary Cooper, Yolanda Hood, and Sue Sherif.

The activities and discussion topics are developed to encompass state school standards. These standards equally apply to students from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Students will demonstrate their proficiency, skills, and knowledge of subject matter in accordance with national and state standards. Please refer to the Web site [www.edu.gov](http://www.edu.gov) for detailed information.

front and back cover images:  
details from *I, Too, Am America*,  
illustrated by Bryan Collier

