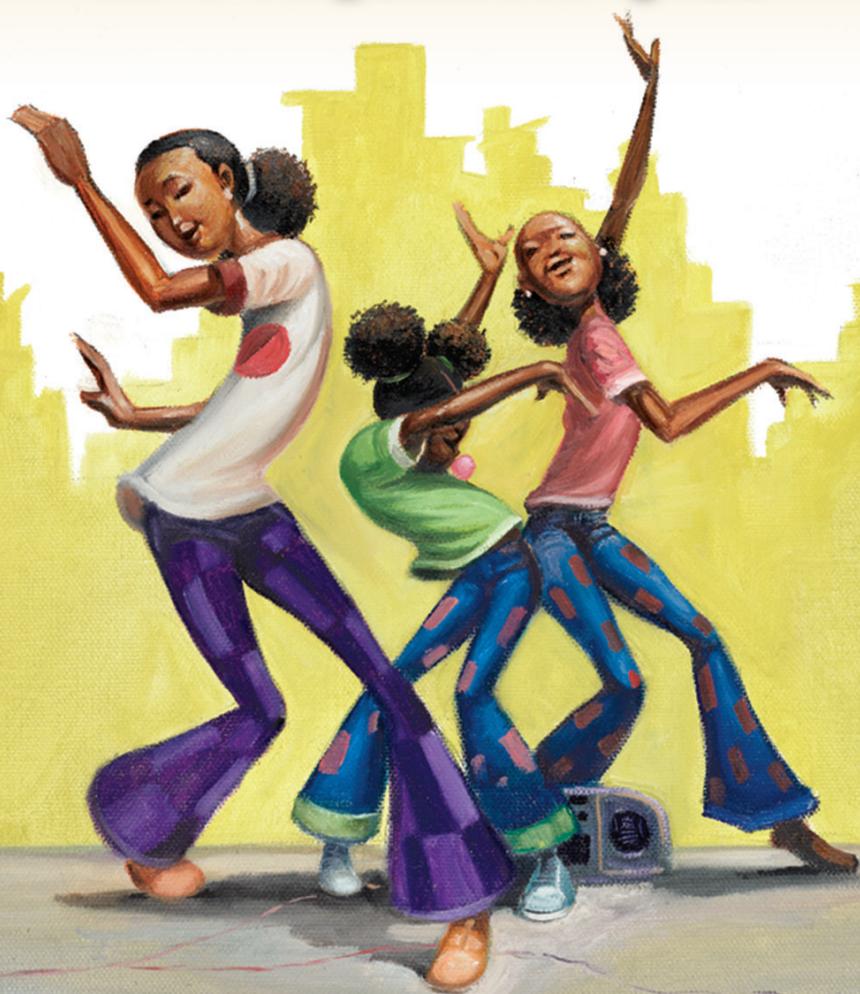


CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS



2014 Discussion Guide

American Library Association
Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table
CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS COMMITTEE

American Library Association Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table

Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee • www.ala.org/csk

This Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide is prepared by the 2014 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Jury Chair Kim Patton, and members Lana Adlawan, Therese Bigelow, Rose Dawson, Sue Sherif, Rudine Sims Bishop, and Sujin Huggins.

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 US Department of Education website, www.ed.gov, for detailed information.

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



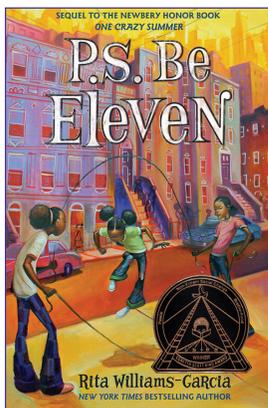
attributed to the work of tireless volunteers and visionary founders. For a more complete history, consult *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book: From Vision to Reality*, edited by Henrietta Smith, American Library Association, 1999; and *The Coretta Scott King Awards: 1970–2009*, fourth edition, by Henrietta Smith, American Library Association, 2009.

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.



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD WINNER AND HONOR BOOKS



Coretta Scott King Book Award Author Award

P.S. BE ELEVEN

Written by Rita Williams-Garcia

Published by Amistad

An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

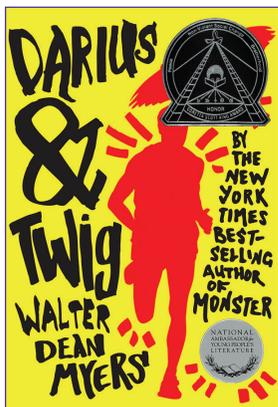
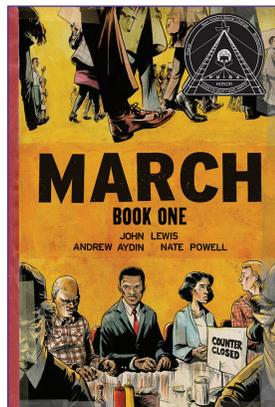
Coretta Scott King Book Award Author Honor Award

MARCH: BOOK ONE

Written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

Illustrated by Nate Powell

Published by Top Shelf Productions



Coretta Scott King Book Award Author Honor Award

DARIUS & TWIG

Written by Walter Dean Myers

Published by Amistad

An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

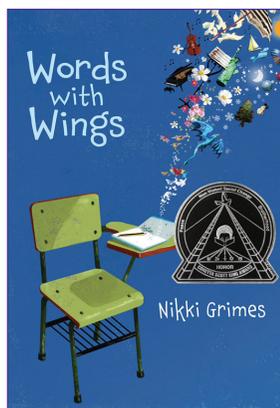
Coretta Scott King Book Award Author Honor Award

WORDS WITH WINGS

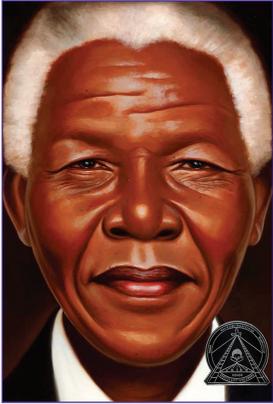
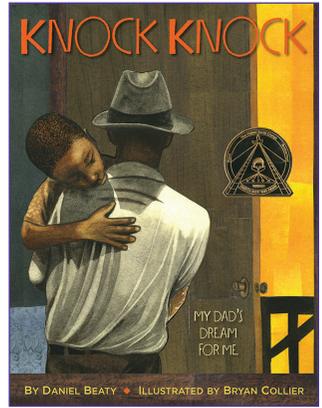
Written by Nikki Grimes

Published by WordSong

An imprint of Highlights

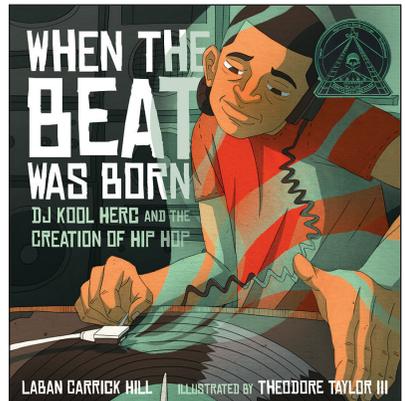


Coretta Scott King Book Award
Illustrator Award
KNOCK KNOCK: MY DAD'S DREAM FOR ME
Illustrated by Bryan Collier
Written by Daniel Beaty
Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
A division of Hachette Book Group



Coretta Scott King Award
Illustrator Honor Award
NELSON MANDELA
Written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson
Published by Katherine Tegen Books
An imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Coretta Scott King Award
John Steptoe Award for New Talent
**WHEN THE BEAT WAS BORN: DJ KOOL HERC
AND THE CREATION OF HIP HOP**
Illustrated by Theodore Taylor III
Written by Laban Carrick Hill
Published by Roaring Brook Press
An imprint of MacMillan Children's Publishing Group





CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR WINNER

P.S. BE ELEVEN

By Rita Williams-Garcia

Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

In this spirited stand-alone sequel to *One Crazy Summer*, the Gaither sisters return to Brooklyn after a summer spent with their mother in Oakland, California. Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern thrive in the tumultuous era of the late 1960s, but Delphine is tasked by her mother to *P.S. Be Eleven*.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- What does Cecile mean when she writes to Delphine to “be eleven”?
- Delphine and Lucy are “hot and cold friends.” Have a discussion about friendship. Why are friends important? Do you have any friends like Delphine or Lucy? Why do you think Delphine describes their relationship as “hot and cold”? Are you more like Lucy or Frieda as a friend?
- Fern, Vonetta, and Delphine do not sing the usual version of “Happy Birthday” on page 163. Using the nearest holiday or school break, have the children, in small groups, write new words for a holiday song, then have each group perform for the whole class. If your school has the technology to do so, record and post the results so the whole school can share in the fun.
- After reading and discussing the book, divide the class into small groups. Have them pick out and research one element of the story based on facts and events from the 1960s, then have them do a report for the class. They should use their imagination on how to present the report.
- On page 171, Rukia proposed that their research topic ask what would happen if a woman ran for president. Danny laughed at the idea. What do you think of this idea? Back up your opinion.
- Have the children reread the parts where the different characters talk about a woman for president. Have them discuss the different viewpoints before assigning research and then debate the topic.

RELATED CSK TITLES

One Crazy Summer, by Rita Williams-Garcia

(Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

The Great Migration: Journey to the North, by Eloise Greenfield,

illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist (Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Remember: The Journey to School Integration, by Toni Morrison

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers)



KNOCK KNOCK, MY DAD'S DREAM FOR ME

Illustrated by Bryan Collier

Written by Daniel Beaty

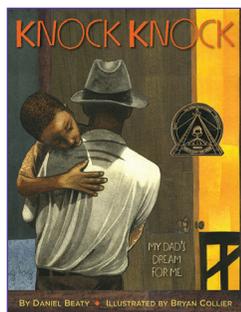
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

Daniel Beaty's powerful and resonant monologue-turned-narrative charts the emotional journey of a boy who longs in vain for the presence of his father. Bryan Collier captures the breadth and depth of this longing in his nuanced use of rich watercolors in earth tones, interspersed with a palette of warm mixed-media collages. Potent symbols of childhood, memory, and hopefulness add dimension to the urban setting and thoroughly engage the reader in the emotions of the tale.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Identify different symbols used on each page: How many did you find? What do you think they mean? What other symbols can be used to represent those ideas?
- Can you think of symbols that could represent other ideas and feelings? Use these symbols to create a collage of someone or something that is important to you.
- Look at and listen to Daniel Beaty's performance of "Knock, Knock" available on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/RTZrPVqR0D8>. What are some of the differences between his performance and the text of the book? How did you respond to each one?
- Write a letter to someone who is important to you and/or who is no longer with you. Imagine what the person would say in response.
- The father tells his son to "knock, knock" in different ways. What are ways in which you could "knock, knock" to reach your dreams, help your family, or help your community?



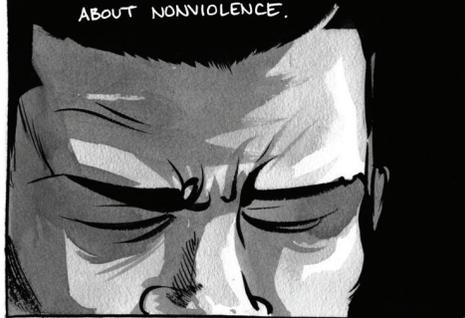
RELATED CSK TITLES

Bird, by Zetta Elliot, illustrated by Shadra Strickland (Lee & Low Books)

God Bless the Child, by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr., illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe (Lee & Low Books)

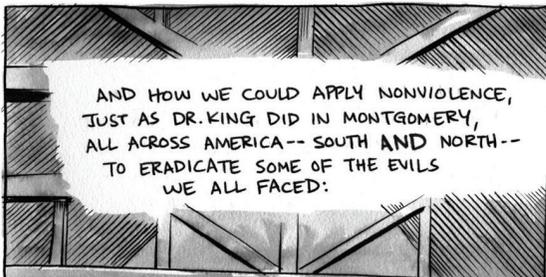
JIM TALKED ABOUT THE MONTGOMERY
BUS BOYCOTT,
ABOUT WAR RESISTANCE,
ABOUT NONVIOLENCE.



HE SPOKE OF GANDHI, THIS
LITTLE BROWN MAN FROM INDIA
USING THE WAY OF NONVIOLENCE
TO FREE AN ENTIRE
NATION OF PEOPLE.



AND HOW WE COULD APPLY NONVIOLENCE,
JUST AS DR. KING DID IN MONTGOMERY,
ALL ACROSS AMERICA-- SOUTH AND NORTH--
TO ERADICATE SOME OF THE EVILS
WE ALL FACED:



THE EVIL OF
RACISM,



THE EVIL OF
POVERTY,



THE EVIL OF
WAR.



JIM LAWSON CONVEYED THE
URGENCY OF DEVELOPING OUR
PHILOSOPHY, OUR DISCIPLINE,
OUR UNDERSTANDING.



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

MARCH: BOOK ONE

Written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin

Illustrated by Nate Powell

Top Shelf Productions



Following the life of Congressman John Lewis, *March: Book One* begins in Washington DC on January 20, 2009, as Lewis prepares to attend President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration. Before the ceremony, Congressman Lewis is introduced to a mother and her two boys, and as the boys begin to ask Congressman Lewis about his life, his story unfolds in gorgeously shaded black-and-white illustrations.

Starting with Lewis's humble beginnings on a farm in Pike County, Alabama, and building to the sit-in demonstrations happening across the country in the mid 1960s, significant moments in our civil rights history are recalled by Lewis in this first published volume of a planned trilogy. Book One tracks Lewis's recollection of events through most of his young adulthood, and his stories are brought to life for the reader through sparse but bold text and a consistent voice throughout the narrative. One of the strengths of this publication is the use of the comic book format, which enables the reader to quickly connect visually with the historic event while grasping the emotional significance with carefully placed text that highlights key philosophies and phrases of the time period.

March: Book One makes a dramatic period of national change accessible to a wide audience and brings the voices of our civil rights heritage alive in this innovative visual format.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Congressman Lewis's description of the nonviolence training (pages 79–81) is particularly powerful. Focus a group discussion around this training.
- Encourage the students to dig deeper by choosing one of the historical figures mentioned by Mr. Lewis to research further. Have them share their results with the group.
- Have a guided discussion on what makes a hero. Chart the common traits.
- Congressman Lewis has had a long and illustrious career. Research his career and find out how long he has been in office. Focus on the important historical figures he has met along the way. Take it one step further and look into your future. What important people would you like to meet one day, and why?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Never Forgotten, by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon (Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.)

Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace, by Jen Cullerton Johnson, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler (Lee & Low Books)

DARIUS



&

TWIG

**WALTER
DEAN
MYERS**



**BY
THE
NEW
YORK
TIMES
BEST-
SELLING
AUTHOR
OF
MONSTER**

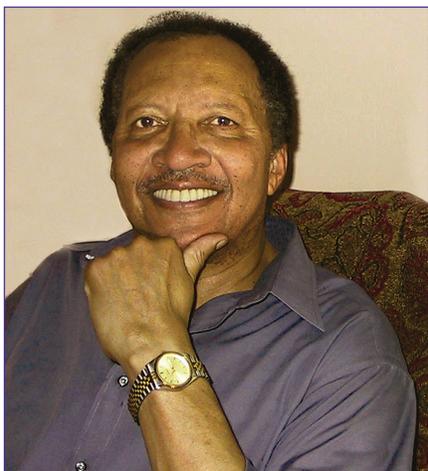
CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

DARIUS & TWIG

By Walter Dean Myers

Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Two friends—one African American, one Dominican—navigate their young lives in Harlem amidst a jumble of obstacles based on race, violence, family expectations, and personal choice. Darius and Twig fiercely defend their ambitions for a better life through their friendship, all the while living in a climate where even the smallest misstep can send one of them down the wrong path. Myers captures the realities of life in Harlem in this short novel that focuses on two



believable and caring contemporary characters while also offering a much-needed glimpse into the achievable dreams of today's urban youth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Myers opens several chapters with a vignette about Fury, a peregrine falcon. Why do you think he does this? What is the symbolism for the story?
- From just reading those vignettes, would one understand the story?
- On the surface, Darius and Twig are nothing alike: Why do you think they are such close friends? What does friendship mean to you?
- Fury's observations change as the story of Darius and Twig develops. Why do you think that is?
- Draw the neighborhood you live in from Fury's perspective. What buildings or people would Fury focus on in your story?
- Darius is very invested in Twig's running career. Why is Darius so concerned about Twig's future?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Lockdown, by Walter Dean Myers (Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty, by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke (Lee & Low Books, Inc.)

Standing Against the Wind, by Traci L. Jones (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Monster, by Walter Dean Myers (Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Jazmin's Notebook, by Nikki Grimes (Dial Books a member of Penguin Putnam Inc.)

Words with Wings



Nikki Grimes

WORDS WITH WINGS

By Nikki Grimes

WordSong, an imprint of Highlights

Gabriella is coping with important life changes: divorcing parents, a new school, a lack of friends. She especially misses her father, who shared her love of daydreaming. At first, daydreaming is Gabby's refuge, but soon it threatens to take over, frustrating her mother's efforts to keep her focused. In this brief and very accessible novel-in-poems, Grimes conveys Gabby's emotional struggles as she learns, with the help of an understanding teacher, to keep dreaming but to stay grounded as she starts on the path to becoming a writer.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- What does the title *Words with Wings* mean to you? What are some words that invite you to daydream?
- Why did Gabby get along so well with her father? Why did Gabby's mother try so hard to stop her from daydreaming too much? Is it possible that both parents were doing the right thing for Gabby? Why do you think so?
- Gabby did not make friends easily in her new school. Why do you think she and David were able to get along so well?
- Try the exercise Mr. Spicer had Gabby's class do. Stop what you are doing and daydream for fifteen minutes, then write down those daydreams. Do it every day for a week. Share your favorite writings with your teacher or a friend.
- Nikki Grimes writes a number of different kinds of poems in this book. One kind is called a haiku. For example, on page 55, the poem "Switch" is a haiku. It has 5 syllables in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third. Find another haiku in the book. Learn more about haiku. Try writing one yourself.
- Look at the table of contents. What do you notice about the way the titles are printed? What do the differences mean? Does the different print show up anywhere else in the book? How does it help you as a reader understand the poems?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Locomotion, by Jacqueline Woodson (G. P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers)

Jazmin's Notebook, by Nikki Grimes (Dial Books, a member of Penguin Putnam Inc.)

In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe (Lee and Low Books)



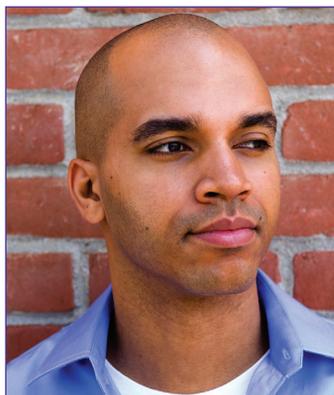
CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

NELSON MANDELA

By Kadir Nelson

Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

This handsome picture book biography of the great South African leader takes Mandela from his birth in South Africa's Transkei region to his election as president of South Africa. Born Rolihlahla, youngest son in a family of thirteen children, he was renamed Nelson when he entered school. After his father's death when the future leader was just nine years old, he left his village to attend school and later to study law. Kadir Nelson's paintings and text show how Mandela made his life's work resistance to the apartheid (segregation) laws of his country. Mr. Mandela's resistance activities led to more than 27 years in prison. By the time he gained his freedom, his hair had turned white, but he was able to lead South Africa to a new way of life. Kadir Nelson brings indelible images to readers young and old.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- How does Kadir Nelson, the artist, tell the story of Nelson Mandela with his pictures? Try looking at the pictures alone and learn the story they tell. Now read the words that Kadir Nelson writes and find out what else you learn about Mandela's life.
- Look at the two pictures of beaches in the book. How are they different? Why are they different according to the story?
- Look at the cover of this book. Why is it different from most picture book covers? Why do you think Kadir Nelson made the whole cover of the book one person's face?
- Find Nelson Mandela's home country, South Africa, on a map of the world. Is it near or far from where you live? Could you drive a car there or take a bus or train to visit South Africa? Why not? Carry on an investigation to find out how many miles from your home you would have to travel to visit the capital of South Africa, Pretoria. Use your detective skills to find a route from your home to Mandela's country. Would you have to stop along the way? Where would those stops be?
- Like *Nelson Mandela*, many other books that have been awarded the Coretta Scott King Award or Honor have been biographies. Below is one example. Review at least two other biographies and compare the way the pictures tell the story of a famous African or African American leader.

RELATED CSK TITLES

I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr., written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.)



WHEN THE BEAT WAS BORN: DJ KOOL HERC AND THE CREATION OF HIP HOP

Illustrated by Theodore Taylor III

Written by Laban Carrick Hill

Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of MacMillan Children's
Publishing Group

Taylor's stylish artwork shows young Clive Campbell's transformation into the DJ who helped launch hip hop in the early 1970s. Using retro cartoon-style illustrations rendered in a palette that emphasizes browns, greens, reds, and grays, he transforms words on a page into a rhythmic beat that brings the words alive.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Before you read the book, examine the illustrations on the front and back covers. How do these drawings explain the title of the book?
- What do the letters *DJ* stand for, and what exactly does a DJ do?
- Little Clive originally grows up in Kingston, Jamaica. He later moves to Bronx, New York. Look at a map and find each of these locations. Why does Clive say, "... wasn't sure he liked his new neighborhood? Find pictures in the book that show the difference(s) between these two places.
- The book never tells us when any of the events are taking place. Looking at the pictures, the clothes, and other clues, what year(s) do you think everything is taking place?
- What did DJ Kool Herc do with his turntable that was so different from the other DJs?
- Music and dance helped street gangs stop fighting. What did the gangs do instead?
- Why do you think the illustrator made the speakers larger than life?
- DJ Kool Herc called the coolest dancers "break-dancers." Why?
- Take a look at the former CSK winners and honors for illustration. How many of them focus on music, musicians, or dance?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Jazz on a Saturday Night, by Leo and Diane Dillon (The Blue Sky Press/Scholastic)

Jazz, by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers (Holiday House, Inc.)

Jazzy Miz Mozetta, by Brenda C. Roberts, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)

CORETTA SCOTT KING – VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

PATRICIA C. McKISSACK and FREDRICK L. McKISSACK

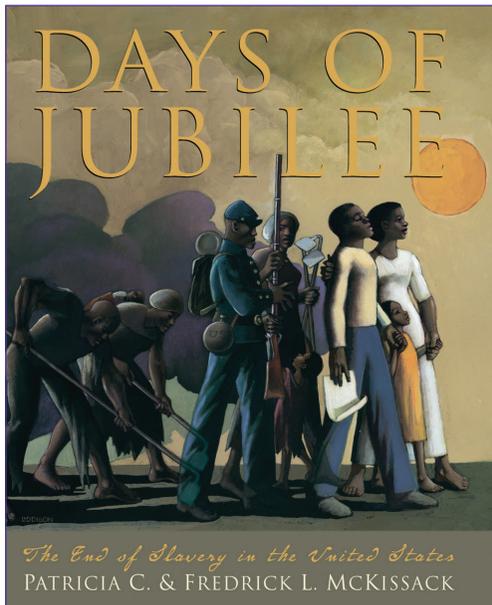
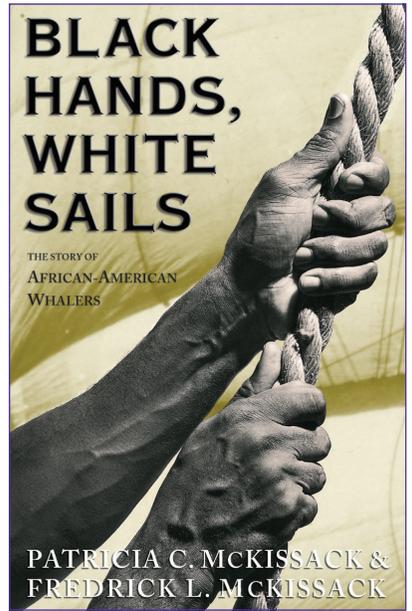
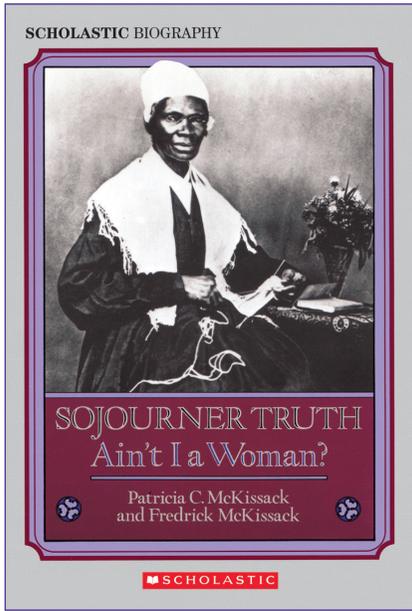
Newbery Honor winners Patricia C. McKissack and Fredrick L. McKissack collaborated on numerous award-winning books, including *Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts*, *Black Hands White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers*, *Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?*, *Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States*, and *Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues* (also written with their son Fredrick McKissack Jr.), all of which were Coretta Scott King Honor Books. Fredrick McKissack passed away in 2013.



ABOUT THE CORETTA SCOTT KING– VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

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.

CORETTA SCOTT KING – VIRGINIA HAMILTON
AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



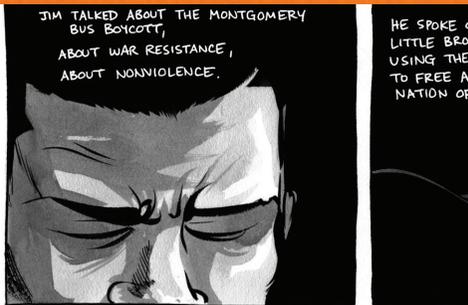
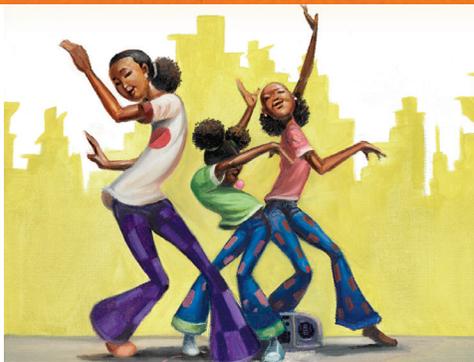
THE CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS SEAL



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.

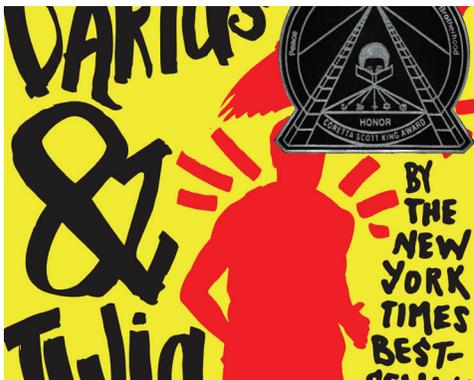
The basic circle represents continuity in movement, resolving from one idea to another. Within the circle is the image of an African American child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child represent nonsectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength 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 image and award name are solely and exclusively owned by the American Library Association.



JIM TALKED ABOUT THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT, ABOUT WAR RESISTANCE, ABOUT NONVIOLENCE.

HE SPOKE OF LITTLE BRO USING THE TO FREE A NATION OF



Herc called the coolest dancers break-dancers or b-boys, because they loved to dance the breaks. When Herc would find a really good break, he'd shout, "B-BOYS GO DOWN!" Then the break-dancers would cut and jump their gymnastics.

HEY! HEY!
CHECK THIS OUT!

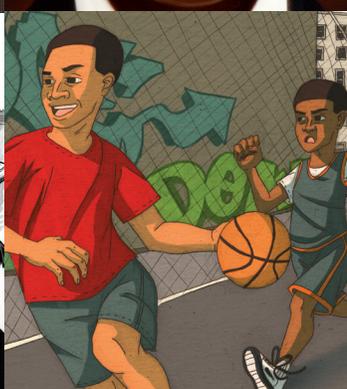
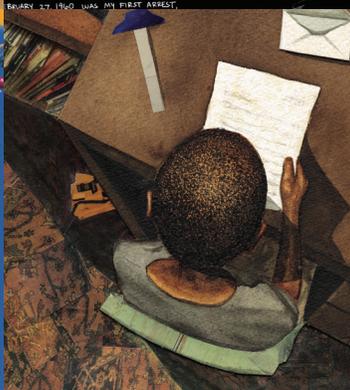
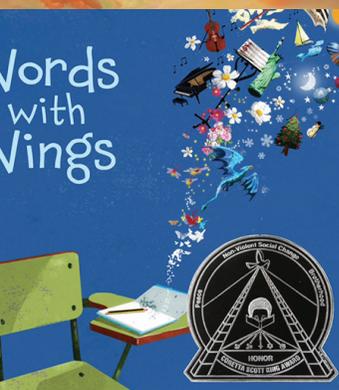
THE TOPROCK!

THE DOWNROCK!

THE WINDMILL!

THE TURTLE!

ONE-HANDED
HANDSTAND
FREEZE!



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