

**Ruby, Lois.** *Steal Away Home*

A Quaker family in late 1850s Kansas operates a station on the Underground Railroad, and almost 150 years later a girl moves into the same house and finds a skeleton.

**Taylor, Mildred.** *The Land*

After the Civil War, Paul, the son of a white father and a black mother, finds himself caught between two worlds as he pursues his dream of owning land of his own.

**Uhlberg, Myron.** *A Storm Called Katrina*

When flood waters submerge their New Orleans neighborhood in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a young cornet player and his parents evacuate their home and struggle to survive and stay together in this picture book.

**Woods, Brenda.** *My Name is Sally Little Song*

When their owner plans to sell one of them in 1802, 12-year-old Sally and her family run away from their Georgia plantation to look for a home in Florida with the Seminole Indians.

**Williams-Garcia, Rita.** *One Crazy Summer*

In 1968, 11-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive in Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know. They discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.



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Children's Services / 01-12

# Great Children's Fiction for Black History Month



**Anderson, Laurie Halse.** *Chains: Seeds of America*

When her owner dies at the start of the Revolution, Isabel remains enslaved by her owner's greedy nephew. He sells her to Loyalists, who offers her the chance to spy.

**Applegate, Katherine.** *Home of the Brave*

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

**Armistead, John.** *The \$66 Summer*

In 1955, 13-year-old George becomes friends with two African-American children and stumbles onto evidence of a violent death.

**Bradby, Marie.** *Some Friend*

In 1963 Virginia, Pearl learns about the real nature of friendship from the popular Lenore and poverty-stricken Artemesia.

**Carbone, Elisa.** *Storm Warriors*

In 1895, after his mother's death, 12-year-old Nathan moves to Pea Island, where he hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station.

**Davis, Tanita S.** *Mare's War*

Teens Octavia and Tali learn about strength, independence, and courage when they are forced to take a car trip with their grandmother, who tells about growing up in 1940s Alabama.

**Fuqua, Jonathan.** *Darby*

A 9-year-old stirs up trouble when she writes a newspaper story promoting racial equality in 1926.

**Going, K.L.** *The Liberation of Gabriel King*

In 1976, a white boy who is being bullied and an African-American girl who is facing prejudice decide to overcome their fears together.

**Gutman, Dan.** *Jackie and Me*

With his ability to travel through time by using baseball cards, Joe goes back to 1947 to meet Jackie Robinson—and turns into a black boy in the process.

**Lester, Julius.** *Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*

Emma has taken care of the Butler children since their mother left. Emma wants to raise the girls to have good hearts, as a rift over slavery has ripped the Butler household apart. Now, to pay off debts, the family's father wants to cash in his slave "assets."

**McKissack, Patricia.** *Never Forgotten*

In 18th-century West Africa, a boy is captured and taken to America as a slave in this novel in verse.

**Paulsen, Gary.** *The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True and Fictional Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West*

Bass Reeves led an amazing life—he was born a slave, worked to become a successful rancher, then later in his long life went on to play an integral role in taming the Oklahoma Territory.

**Pearsall, Shelley.** *Trouble Don't Last*

Samuel, an 11-year-old Kentucky slave, and Harrison, the elderly slave who helped raise him, attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

**Polacco, Patricia.** *January's Sparrow*

After a fellow slave is beaten to death, Sadie and her family flee the plantation for freedom through the Underground Railroad.

**Rhodes, Jewell Parker.** *Ninth Ward*

Twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them.

**Robinet, Harriette.** *Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule*

Born with a withered leg and hand, Pascal joins other former slaves in a search for a farm and freedom.

**Rodman, Mary Ann.** *Yankee Girl*

When her FBI-agent father is transferred to Mississippi in 1964, Alice wants to be popular and reaches out to the one black girl in her class.