

# The Carter G. Woodson Awards, 2018

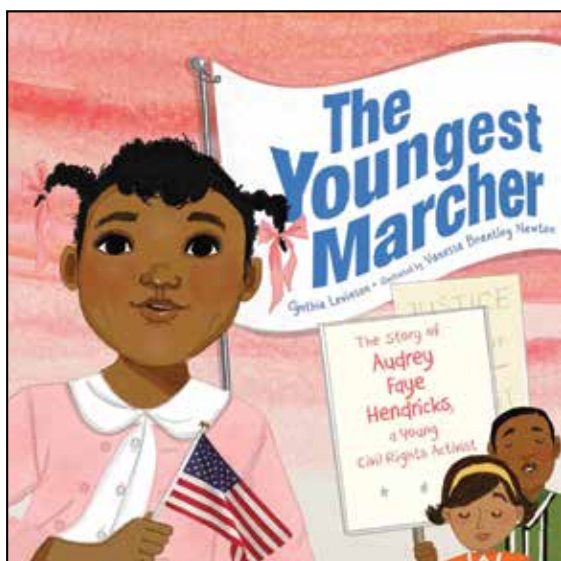


In 1974, the National Council for the Social Studies created the Carter G. Woodson Book Awards in honor of the Harvard-trained scholar who authored many books about African American history and spearheaded the movement to dedicate time for African American history in schools, which became Black History Month.

The Carter G. Woodson Awards Committee consists of NCSS members who are classroom teachers, librarians, museum educators, and individuals working in higher education with a commitment to seeing a greater diversity of perspectives represented in writing and publishing for young people. Committee members review and evaluate texts submitted by publishers that meet the following criteria: (1) non-fiction, (2) set in the United States, (3) a focus on ethnic/racial minority groups, and (4) written for young people. This year the committee had the opportunity to read and review many outstanding books published in 2017 meeting these criteria. We hope that the award-winning books below will quickly become part of classrooms and libraries, where they will be well read by young people.

—Kristy Brugar, Chair, Carter G. Woodson Book Awards Committee

## Elementary Winner



*The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist*, by Cynthia Levinson, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Reviewed by Ann Adkins, associate professor of Education, Clarke University, Dubuque, Iowa.

*The Youngest Marcher* tells the story of one child who embraced the opportunity to fight injustice and help change society by participating in the 1963 Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama. Cynthia Levinson introduces younger elementary students to Audrey Faye Hendricks who, at nine years old,

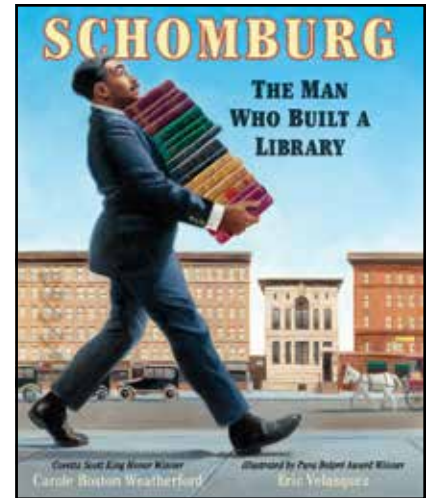
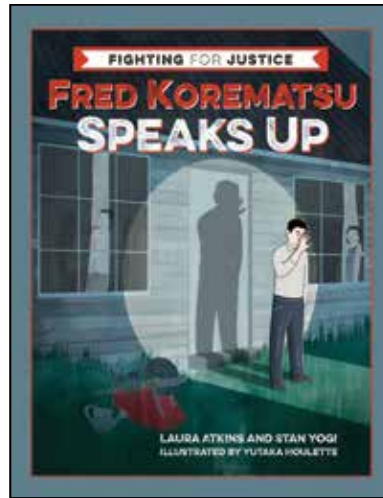
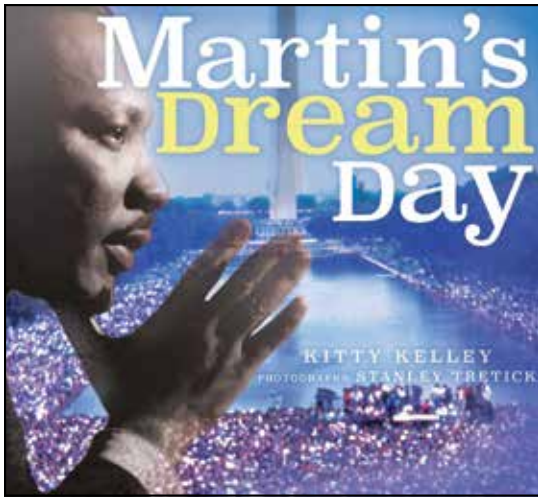
decided to fight for the rights she was denied because she was black. Audrey knew how society expected her to act and recognized that the way African Americans were treated was wrong. She believed in this so strongly that she became part of an organized movement to protest this inequality even if it meant going to jail. Cynthia Levinson tells Audrey's story in a way that draws younger students in by providing details that will help them connect to the young heroine's compelling story. Vanessa Brantley Newton's colorful illustrations are simple yet full of emotion, conveying not only the loneliness this young girl experiences in jail, but the joy she feels when she is back in her family's arms and finally able to sit at the counter at Newberry's and enjoy ice cream—just like all the other children. Students will be inspired by Audrey's story and learn that they, too, can be agents of change.

Social Studies Themes: ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❹ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ❺ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ❻ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE.

## Elementary Honor

*Martin's Dream Day*, by Kitty Kelley, photographs by Stanley Tretick. New York, Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Reviewed by Lara Willox, associate professor and department chair, Department of Educational Technology and Foundations, College of Education at the University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia.

There are many children's books highlighting the work of Martin Luther King, Jr., but few that incorporate such rich descriptions and iconic photographs. Journalist Kitty Kelley's story and Stanley Tretick's photographs work together to form



a unique book for elementary students. The focus of the book is Martin Luther King Jr.'s delivery of his “I Have a Dream” speech. The first half of the book provides the context that leads up to the August 28, 1963, speech. The rest of the book relives this pivotal moment in the civil rights movement. The photographs carry the reader back in time and allow them to see and feel the emotions present that day in Washington, D.C. The images capture the hopes and dreams of everyone in attendance. This book offers countless opportunities to engage and connect young children to the importance of this monumental event and the civil rights movement as a whole.

Social Studies Themes: ❶ CULTURE; ❷ TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ❸ PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS; ❹ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ❺ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ❻ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES.

### Middle Level Winner

*Fred Korematsu Speaks Up*, by Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi, illustrated by Yutaka Houlette. Heyday Books. *Reviewed by Sarah Segal, 6th grade teacher, Hood River Middle School, Hood River, Oregon.*

*Fred Korematsu Speaks Up* interweaves illustrations, primary-source material, including photographs, documents, and maps, with free-verse poetry about Fred Korematsu’s personal challenges, growth, and activism. Beginning with a pivotal moment of discrimination from a local barber, the book chronicles Korematsu’s life from childhood in California to resistance during World War II and to becoming a social justice activist.

Injustice toward Japanese Americans increased following the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. Fred’s family, and the Japanese American community were searched, assembled, and arrested without due process. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, which gave military leaders power to force all Americans of

Japanese heritage on the West Coast to live in prison camps. Fred Korematsu and the American Civil Liberties Union sued the United State government, challenging the forced removal of Japanese Americans. The Supreme Court ruled, in December 1944, that the government could forcibly move people because of “military necessity.” However, nearly 40 years later, Korematsu’s case was reopened with evidence showing the government’s lawyers had lied to the Supreme Court, and the conviction was overturned. Speaking up for justice defines the remainder of his life.

Throughout the book, authors Atkins and Yogi inspire readers with interactive questions, ideas, and resources to speak up for justice.

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### Middle Level Honor

*Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library*, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Candlewick Press. *Reviewed by Heidi J. Torres, assistant professor, Elementary Education, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma*

This collection of free verse poems chronicles the life of Arturo Schomburg and his quest to uncover and make known the history and accomplishments of people of African descent. Through his untiring efforts, Schomburg’s collection of books and other materials became the cornerstone of a new division of Negro History, Literature, and Prints in the New York Public Library, which over time has expanded to become the prestigious Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

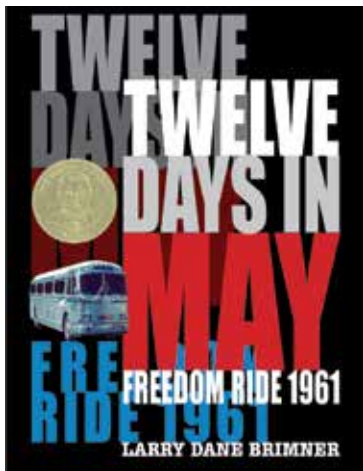
The book begins with Arturo’s childhood in Puerto Rico. When his teacher told him people of African descent had no history or heroes worth noting, it ignited a life-long

passion to bring his people's history and achievements to light. Weatherford intersperses biographical poems about Schomburg with poems about the people Schomburg unearthed in his research, including important figures such as Haiti's Toussaint Louverture and Paul Cuffee, an early American whaler and maritime trader, as well as others whose African heritage had been erased, such as the French author, Alexandre Dumas.

Through these poetic vignettes, readers get a glimpse into the life of an important historian and scholar, and see the difference one person's determination and perseverance can make in our collective understanding of the past and present. This book is also significant in that it complicates ideas of race and ethnicity with a main character who is Afro-Puerto Rican—both Latino and African American—as well as by bringing to light multiracial historical figures who, in Weatherford's words, "had been whitewashed." Back matter includes a timeline, source notes and a bibliography.

Social Studies Themes: ② TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ④ INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IDENTITY; ⑤ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ⑩ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

### Secondary Winner



*Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961* by Larry Dane Brimner. Calkins Creek, An imprint of Highlights. Reviewed by Elizabeth Sturm, assistant professor, Department of Special Education, College of Education at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois.

In May 1961, 13 brave activists boarded two buses for a 12-day journey from Washington, D.C., to

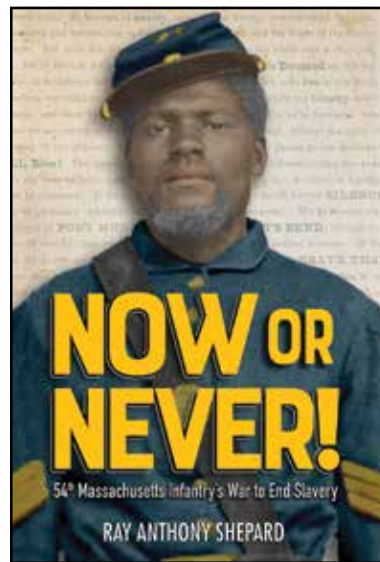
New Orleans in order to challenge bus station segregation, which had continued despite a federal court ruling that it was unconstitutional. Author Larry Dane Brimner takes the reader on this journey with the 13 Freedom Riders as they encounter prejudice and violence in their quest to desegregate southern bus stations.

The Freedom Riders spanned the ages of 18 through 61, male and female, black and white. Their one commonality was a passion for social justice and a desire to end discrimination. All of the riders knew this would be a risky trip. They had trained extensively in nonviolent resistance, and had agreed to remain nonviolent, no matter the provocation, but the journey would put all of their training and determination to a dangerous test.

Brimner brings the reader back to that turbulent time and, with black and white photographs and skillful narrative, recreates the tension as the riders moved deeper into the South and experienced the power of the Ku Klux Klan. The book includes brief biographies of each Freedom Rider and additional resources at the back.

Social Studies Themes: ① CULTURE; ② TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE; ⑤ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ⑥ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ⑩ CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES.

### Secondary Honor



*Now or Never! 54th Massachusetts Infantry's War to End Slavery*, by Ray Anthony Shepard. Calkins Creek. Reviewed by Kathleen Barker, Center for the Teaching of History, Massachusetts Historical Society.

*Now or Never* recounts the history of the Massachusetts 54th Infantry, the first all-Black regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War. Told through the first-hand accounts

of two soldiers, Shepard's narrative provides an engaging glimpse into the lives of the men who served. The regiment formed in January 1863, and African Americans from across the Northeast and Canada traveled to Massachusetts to join its ranks. George Stephens of Philadelphia and Henry Gooding of New Bedford were eager to join the fight against the Confederacy, not just to annihilate the institution of slavery, but to demonstrate that Black men were just as capable as any white soldier. Both recorded their observations of military life in published letters and editorials, Stephens in Philadelphia's *Anglo-African*, and Gooding in the *New Bedford Mercury*. Their eloquent and passionate writings, quoted throughout in the text, convey the boredom, frustration, fear, and excitement of active military duty. More importantly, they detail the pervasive racism encountered by the enlisted men, even from the regiment's own officers, and the Black soldiers' refusal to accept lower wages than their white counterparts. The book includes a timeline of the regiment, source notes, a comprehensive bibliography, and many images of primary sources, especially photographs of the regiment.

Social Studies Themes: ⑤ INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS; ⑥ POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE; ⑩ CIVIL IDEALS AND PRACTICES