



The Coretta Scott King Book Illustration Awards 1974-2024



To commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Awarded annually to recognize outstanding books for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

2024: **An American Story** illustrated by Dare Coulter and written by Kwame Alexander (J 306.3 Ale)

Honor Books

Big illustrated and written by Vashti Harrison (JE Harrison)

Holding Her Own: The Exceptional Life of Jackie Ormes illustrated by Shannon Wright and written by Traci N. Todd

There Was a Party for Langston illustrated by Jerome Pumphrey & Jarret Pumphrey and written by Jason Reynolds (JE Reynolds)

2023: **Standing in the Need of Prayer: A Modern Retelling of the Classic Spiritual** illustrated by Frank Morrison and written by Carole Boston Weatherford (J 973.0496073 Wea)

Honor Books

Me and the Boss: A Story about Mending and Love illustrated by April Harrison and written by Michelle Edwards (JE Edwards)

Swim Team illustrated and written by Johnnie Christmas (J GN Christmas)

Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile and written by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes (YA GRAPHIC NOVEL Smith)

2022: **Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre** illustrated by Floyd Cooper and written by Carole Boston Weatherford (J 976.6 Wea)

Honor Books

Nina: A Story of Nina Simone illustrated by Christian Robinson and written by Traci N. Todd (JB Simone)

We Wait for the Sun illustrated by Raissa Figueroa and written by Dovey Johnson Roundtree (JE Roundtree)

Soul Food Sunday illustrated by C.G. Esperanza and written by Winsome Bingham (JE Bingham)

2021: **R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul** illustrated by Frank Morrison and written by Carole Boston Weatherford (JB Franklin)

Honor Books

Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration illustrated by Kaylani Juanita and written by Samara Cole Doyon (JE Doyon)

Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera and written by Suzanne Slade (JB Brooks)

Me & Mama illustrated and written by Cozbi A. Cabrera (JE Cabrera)

2020: **The Undeclared** illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Kwame Alexander (J 811.6 Ale)

Honor Books

The Bell Rang written and illustrated by James E. Ransome (JE Ransome)

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan

Sulwe illustrated by Vashti Harrison and written by Lupita Nyong'o (JE Nyong)

- 2019: **The Stuff of Stars** illustrated by Ekua Holmes and written by Marion Dane Bauer (JE Bauer)
Honor Books
Hidden Figures illustrated by Laura Freeman and written by Margot Lee Shetterly
Let the Children March illustrated by Frank Morrison and written by Monica Clark-Robinson (JE Clark-Robinson)
Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and written by Alice Faye Duncan (J 331.892 Dun)
- 2018: **Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets** illustrated by Ekua Holmes and written by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth
Honor Books
Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut illustrated by Gordon C. James and written by Derrick Barnes (JE Barnes)
Before She Was Harriet: The Story of Harriet Tubman illustrate by James E. Ransome and written by Lesa Cline-Ransome (JE Cline-Ransome)
- 2017: **Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michael Basquiat** written and illustrated by Javaka Steptoe (JE Steptoe)
Honor Books
Freedom in Congo Square illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and written by Carole Boston Weatherford (JE Weatherford)
Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan (J 811.6 Bry)
In Plain Sight illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Richard Jackson (JE Jackson)
- 2016: **Trombone Shorty** illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Troy Andrews (JE Andrews)
Honor Books
The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson (JE Nelson)
Last Stop on Market Street illustrated by Christian Robinson and written by Matt de la Peña (JE de la Pena)
- 2015: **Firebird** illustrated by Christopher Myers and written by Misty Copeland
Honor Books
Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker illustrated by Christian Robinson and written by Patricia Hruby Powell (J Baker)
Little Melba and Her Big Trombone illustrated by Frank Morrison and written by Katheryn Russell-Brown (JB Liston)
- 2014: **Knock, Knock, My Dad's Dream for Me** illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Daniel Beaty
Honor Books
Nelson Mandela written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- 2013: **I, Too, Am America** illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Langston Hughes (JE Hughes)
Honor Books
Ellen's Broom illustrated by Daniel Minter and written by Kelly Starling Lyons (JE Lyons)
H.O.R.S.E. illustrated and written by Christopher Myers (JE Myers)
I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King Jr. illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Martin Luther King Jr.
- 2012: **Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom** illustrated and written by Shane W. Evans
Honor Books
Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans illustrated and written by Kadir Nelson (J 793.0496073 Nel)

- 2011: **Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave** illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Laban Carrick Hill (J 738.092 Hil)
Honor Books
Jimi: Sounds Like a Rainbow: The Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix illustrated by Javaka Steptoe and written by Gary Golio (JB Hendrix)
- 2010: **My People** illustrated by Charles R. Smith and written by Langston Hughes (JE Hughes)
Honor Books
The Negro Speaks of Rivers illustrated by E.B. Lewis and written by Langston Hughes (J 811.52 Hug)
- 2009: **The Blacker the Berry** illustrated by Floyd Cooper and written by Joyce Carol Thomas (J 811.54 Tho)
Honor Books
We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball illustrated and written by Kadir Nelson (J 796.357 Nel)
The Moon Over Star illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Diana Hutts Astin
Before John Was a Jazz Giant illustrated by Sean Qualls and written by Carol Boston Weatherford (JB Coltrane)
- 2008: **Let It Shine** illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan (J 782.25 Let)
Honor Books
The Secret Olivia Told Me illustrated by Nancy Devard and written by N. Joy
Jazz on a Saturday Night illustrated and written by Leo and Diane Dillon
- 2007: **Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom** illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Carole Boston Weatherford (JE Weatherford)
Honor Books
Jazz illustrated by illustrated by Christopher Myers and written by Walter Dean Myers (J 811.54 Mye)
Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes illustrated by Benny Andrews and edited by David Roessel and Arnold Rampersad (J 811.52 Hug)
- 2006: **Rosa** illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Nikki Giovanni (JB Parks)
Honor Books
Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and written by Mary Williams
- 2005: **Ellington Was Not a Street** illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Ntozake Shange
Honor Books
God Bless the Child illustrated by Jerry Pinkey and written by Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr. (JE Holiday)
The People Could Fly: The Picture Book illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon and written by Virginia Hamilton (JE Hamilton)
- 2004: **Beautiful Blackbird** illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan (JE Bryan)
Honor Books
Almost to Freedom illustrated by Colin Bootman and written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson (JE Nelson)
Thunder Rose illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Jerdine Nolen (JE Nolen)
- 2003: **Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman** illustrated by E.B. Lewis and written by Nikki Grimes (JB Coleman)
Honor Books
Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles—Think of That illustrated and written by Leo and Diane Dillon (JE Dillon)
Visiting Langston illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Willie Perdomo (J 811.54 Per)
- 2002: **Goin' Someplace Special** illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Patricia McKissack (JE McKissack)
Honor Books
Martin's Big Words illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Doreen Rappaport (JB King)

2001: **Uptown** illustrated and written by Bryan Collier (JE Collier)

Honor Books

Freedom River illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Doreen Rappaport (J 973.7115 Rap)

Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and written by Anne Rockwell (JB Truth)

Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys illustrated by E.B. Lewis and written by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard (JE Howard)

2000: **In the Time of the Drums** illustrated by Brian Pinkney and written by Kim L. Siegelson (JE Siegelson)

Honor Books

My Rows and Piles of Coins illustrated by E.B. Lewis and written by Tolowa M. Mollel (JE Mollel)

Black Cat illustrated and written by Christopher Myers (JE Myers)

1999: **I See the Rhythm** illustrated by Michele Wood and written by Toyomi Igus

Honor Books

I Have Heard of a Land illustrated by Floyd Cooper and written by Joyce Carol Thomas (JE Thomas)

The Bat Boy and His Violin illustrated by E.B. Lewis and written by Gavin Curtis

Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra illustrated by Brian Pinkney and written by Andrea Davis Pinkey (JB Ellington)

1998: **In Daddy's Arms I am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers** illustrated by Javaka Steptoe and written by Alan Schroeder (J 811.008 In)

Honor Books

Ashley Bryan's ABC of African American Poetry illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan (J 811.54 Bry)

Harlem illustrated by Christopher Myers and written by Walter Dean Myers (J 811 Mye)

The Hunterman and the Crocodile illustrated and written by Baba Wagué Diakité (J 398.2 Dia)

1997: **Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman** illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Alan Schroeder (JB Tubman)

Honor Books

The Palm of My Heart: Poetry by African American Children illustrated by R. Gregory Christie and edited by Davida Adejouna (J 811 Pal)

Running the Road to ABC illustrated by Reynold Ruffins and written by Denize Lauture (JE Lauture)

Neeny Coming, Neeny Going illustrated by Synthia Saint James and written by Karen English (JE English)

1996: **The Middle Passage: White Ships Black Cargo** illustrated and written by Tom Feelings

Honor Books

Her Stories illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon and written by Virginia Hamilton (J 398.2 Ham)

The Faithful Friend illustrated by Brian Pinkey and written by Robert San Souci (J 398.21 San)

1995: **The Creation** illustrated by James E. Ransome and written by James Weldon Johnson (J 811.52 Joh)

Honor Books

The Singing Man illustrated by Terea Shaffer and written by Angela Shelf Medearis (J 398.21 Med)

Meet Danitra Brown illustrated by Floyd Cooper and written by Nikki Grimes

1994: **Soul Looks Back in Wonder** illustrated by Tom Feelings and edited by Phyllis Fogelman (J 811 Fee)

Honor Books

Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea illustrated by Floyd Cooper and written by Joyce Carol Thomas (J 811.54 Tho)

Uncle Jed's Barbershop illustrated by James E. Ransome and written by Margaree King Mitchell

1993: **The Origin of Life on Earth** illustrated by Kathleen Atkins Wilson and written by David A. Anderson

Honor Books

Little Eight John illustrated by Wil Clay and written by Jan Wahl

Sukey and the Mermaid illustrated by Brian Pinkney and written by Robert San Souci (J 398.21 San)

Working Cotton illustrated by Carole Byard and written by Sherley Anne Williams (JE Williams)

- 1992: **Tar Beach** illustrated and written by Faith Ringgold (JE Ringgold)
Honor Books
All Day, All Night: A Child's First Book of African American Spirituals illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan
Night on Neighborhood Street illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist and written by Eloise Greenfield
- 1991: **Aida** illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon and written by Leontyne Price (J 782.1 Pri)
- 1990: **Nathaniel Talking** illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist and written by Eloise Greenfield
Honor Books
The Talking Eggs illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Robert San Souci (JE San Souci)
- 1989: **Mirandy and Brother Wind** illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Patricia McKissack (JE McKissack)
Honor Books
Under the Sunday Tree illustrated by Amos Ferguson and written by Eloise Greenfield
Storm in the Night illustrated by Pat Cummings and written by Mary Stolz (JE Stolz)
- 1988: **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** illustrated and written by John Steptoe (JE Steptoe)
Honor Books
What a Morning! The Christmas Story in Black Spirituals illustrated by Ashley Bryan and selected by John Langstaff (J 783.6 Wha)
The Invisible Hunters: A Legend from the Miskito Indians of Nicaragua illustrated by Joe Sam and written by Harriet Rohmer
- 1987: **Half a Moon and One Whole Star** illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Crescent Dragonwagon
Honor Books
Lion and the Ostrich Chicks and Other African Folk Tales illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan
C.L.O.U.D.S. illustrated and written by Pat Cummings
- 1986: **The Patchwork Quilt** illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Valerie Flourney (JE Flourney)
Honor Books
The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon and written by Virginia Hamilton (J 398.2 Ham)
- 1985: **No Award Presented**
- 1984: **My Mama Needs Me** illustrated by Pat Cummings and written by Mildred Pitts Walter
- 1983: **Black Child** illustrated and written by Peter Magubane
Honor Books
All the Colors of the Race illustrated by John Steptoe and written by Arnold Adoff
I'm Going to Sing: Black American Spirituals illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan
Just Us Women illustrated by Pat Cummings and written by Jeanette Caines
- 1982: **Mother Crocodile: An Uncle Amadou Tale from Senegal** illustrated by John Steptoe and written by Rosa Guy
Honor Books
Daydreamers illustrated by Tom Feelings and written by Eloise Greenfield
- 1981: **Beat the Story-Drum, Pum-Pum** illustrated and written by Ashley Bryan (J 398.2 Bry)
Honor Books
Grandmama's Joy illustrated by Carole Byard and written by Eloise Greenfield
Count on Your Fingers African Style illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Claudia Zaslavsky
- 1980: **Cornrows** illustrated by Carol Byard and written by Camille Yarbrough

1979: **Something on My Mind** illustrated by Tom Feelings and written by Nikki Grimes

1978: **Africa Dream** illustrated by Carole Byard and written by Eloise Greenfield

1977: **No Award Presented**

1976: **No Award Presented**

1975: **No Award Presented**

1974: **Ray Charles** illustrated by George Ford and written by Sharon Bell Mathis (JB Charles)