Black Joy: An Examination of Black Children Literature

Amongst the names of many great authors, there are notable children’s picture books and literature that contribute to the black experience. These vibrant illustrations and depictions of black narratives represent more than representation on the shelves or in academia; however, this kind of literature empowers black children and audiences. Black Joy, and Black Boy Joy, is a recent movement within the black community that celebrates the effortless self-expression of black children, particularly male children.

Historically, adolescent black children are commercially regarded as and presumed to take on adult characteristics—this arduous projection increases negative imagery and social stereotypes that many children face with commonly used micro aggressions, dismissive rhetoric and circulated prejudices. Yet, in many children’s literature these common misconceptions of black childhood are dissolved by authentic portrayals of everyday lives and historical stories.

This listing primarily provides children’s non-fiction and fiction titles, large-print books and biographical titles that illustrate historical figures as children. Also insightful perspectives of writers that contribute to black children’s literature are provided.

Sources include call numbers, for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Auburn Avenue Research Library maintains non-circulating policies of its collection; however, patrons are able to utilize materials in-house. Suggested search terms and keywords are provided to further guide patron’s research amongst Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library catalog and digital libraries.

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Audio/Visual Collection:
Coretta Scott King Award: A Tribute
Author: Scholastic, Inc. Pub Date: 2000 Call #: VHS 028.5 CORETTA

Ghana
Author: Ernst, Patti Pub Date:1996 Call #: VHS 916.67 GHANA

Profile of a Children's Author Angela Shelf Medearis
Author: Medearis, Angela Shelf Pub Date:1993 Call #: VHS 808.02 MEDEARIS

Lift Every Voice
Author: Turnbull, Walter J. Pub Date:1995 Call #: CAS 782.7 TURNBULL
Play Songs of the Deep South
Author: Johns, Altona Trent Pub Date: 194 Call #: WR 784.7 TREN-TRENT

Books:
Who Writes for Black Children? : African American Children's Literature Before 1900
Author: Capshaw, Katherine Pub Date: 2017
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 WHO

Black History in the Pages of Children’s Literature
Author: Casement, Rose Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 CASEMENT

Multicultural and Ethnic Children's Literature in the United States
Author: Gilton, Donna L. Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.93529 GILTON

Into the Mouths of Babes: An Anthology of Children's Abolitionist Literature
Author: De Rosa, Deboarh C. Pub Date: 2005
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 809.89282 CRITICAL

Author: McCollough, Carole J. Pub Date: 2015
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 016.8108 CORETTA

Coretta Scott King Award Books Discussion Guide: Pathways to Democracy
Author: Phelps, Adelaide Poinatowski Pub Date: 2014
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 011.62 PHELPS

African and African American Images in Newbery Award Winning Titles: Progress in Portrayals
Author: Wilin, Binnie Tate Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 WILKIN

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets
Author: Alexander, Kwame Pub Date:
Auburn Avenue Research Library: J 808.1 ALEXANDER

Who writes for black children? : African American children's literature before 1900
Author: Capsahw, Katharine Pub Date: 2017
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 WHO
A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day
Author: Pinkney, Andrea Davis
Pub Date:
Auburn Avenue Research Library: B KEATS

Racism in Contemporary African American Children's and Young Adult Literature
Author: Panlay, Suriyan
Pub Date: 2016
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.98 PANLAY

Ashley Bryan's Puppets: Making Something from Everything
Author: Bryan, Ashley
Pub Date:
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 811.54 BRYAN

Slavery in American Children's Literature, 1790-2010
Author: Connolly, Paula T.
Pub Date: 2013
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 813.009 CONNOLLY

Langston Hughes
Author: Hughes, Langston
Pub Date: 2013
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 811.54 VANHECKE

Under the freedom tree
Author: VanHecke, Susan
Pub Date:
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 811.54 VANHECKE

African and African American Children's and Adolescent Literature in the Classroom: A Critical Guide
Author: Yenika-Agbaw, Vivian S.
Pub Date: 2012
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 AFRICAN

Walk Together Children: Black American Spirituals Volume I
Author: Bryan, Ashley
Pub Date: 2012
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 782.253 WALK V. 1

Langston Hughes
Author: Hughes, Langston
Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 811.52 HUGHES

Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song
Author: Byran, Ashley
Pub Date: 2009
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 818.54 BRYAN
Representing Africa in Children's Literature: Old and New Ways of Seeing  
**Author:** Yenika-Agbaw, Vivian  
**Pub Date:** 2008  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 809.93326 YENKIA-AGBAW

Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat  
**Author:** Giovanni, Nikki  
**Pub Date:** 2008  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 811.008 HIP  
CD 811.008 HIP

We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball  
**Author:** Nelson, Kadir  
**Pub Date:** 2008  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 796.35764 NELSON

Black Children's Literature Got de Blues: The Creativity of Black Writers and Illustrators  
**Author:** Tolson, Nancy  
**Pub Date:** 2008  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 809.89282 TOLSON

Across Cultures: A Guide to Multicultural Literature for Children  
**Author:** East, Kathy  
**Pub Date:** 2007  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 001.62 EAST

Let it Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals  
**Author:** Bryan, Ashley  
**Pub Date:** 2013  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 782.253 LET

Once Upon A Time in A Different World: Issues and Ideas in African American Children's Literature  
**Author:** Lester, Neal A  
**Pub Date:** 2007  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 809.89282 LESTER

Apartheid and Racism in South African Children's Literature, 1985-1995  
**Author:** MacCann, Donnarae  
**Pub Date:** 2001  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 823 MACCANN

White Supremacy in Children's Literature: Characterizations of African Americans, 1830-1900  
**Author:** MacCann, Donnarae  
**Pub Date:** 1998  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 811.54 VANHECKE

Critical Perspectives on Postcolonial African Children's and Young Adult Literature  
**Author:** Khorana, Meena  
**Pub Date:** 1998  
**Auburn Avenue Research Library:** 809.89282 CRITICAL
Building a Special Collection of Children's Literature in Your Library: Identifying, Maintaining, and Sharing Rare or Collectible Items
Author: Jones, Dolores Blythe
Pub Date: 1998
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 025.21 JONES

The All-white World of Children's Books and African American Children's Literature
Author: Osa, Osayimwense
Pub Date: 1995
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.99282 ALL-WHITE

The Black Experience in Children's Books
Author: The New York Public Library
Pub Date: 1989
Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 011.62 BLACK

Ethnic American Literature: An Encyclopedia for Students
Author: Nelson, Emmanuel S.
Pub Date: 2015
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 ETHNIC

Affirming Students' Right to their Own Language: Bridging Language Policies and Pedagogical Practices
Author: Scott, Jerrie Cobb
Pub Date: 2008
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 428.00712 AFFIRMING

Black Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Young Adults.
Author: Murphy, Barbara Thrash
Pub Date: 2007
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 809.89282 MURPHY

What was it like? : teaching history and culture through young adult literature
Author: Rice, Linda J.
Pub Date: 2006
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 973.91071 RICE

Domestic Abolitionism and Juvenile Literature, 1830-1865
Author: De Rosa, Deborah C.
Pub Date: 2003
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 DEROSA

E-Books and Electronic Materials:
Who Writers for Black Children?; African American Children’s Literature Before 1990
Author: Capshaw, Katharine
Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.9 WHO
Suggested Search Terms and Keywords:
- Children’s literature AND black experience
- Children’s literature AND racism
- Coretta Scott King Award AND young adult literature
- Children’s literature AND illustrations AND racism
- Racial Bias AND young adult literature

How to Use Booleans:

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