



Books that I Need to Teach with – Terrie Briggs

“Don’t feel bad for the black baseball player: Feel sorry for the ones who didn’t get to see him play.” – Buck O’Neil

I spent many springs playing baseball with elementary school children as part of a unit on baseball. The following picture books celebrate what African American ballplayers have contributed to the game. They also depict the hopes and dreams of young African Americans growing up playing baseball on school grounds and city parks.

1. *Just Like Josh Gibson* - by Angela Johnson

<https://→.to/ycvejv6f>

2. *Let Them Play* - by Margot Theis Raven

<https://→.to/y99ruqrx>

3. *Bat Boy and his Violin* – by Gavin Curtis

<https://→.to/y732fthn>

4. *Satchel Paige* - by Lesa Cline-Ransome

<https://→.to/yd3pk7ee>

5. *Teammates* - by Peter Golenbock

<https://→.to/ydaygu9h>

6. *Dad, Jackie, and Me* - by Myron Uhlberg

<https://→.to/yd9d915q>

7. *Hank Aaron Brave in Every Way* – by Peter Golenbock

<https://→.to/y7sunrev>

“I see what is possible when we recognize that we are one American family, all deserving of equal treatment.” - Barack Obama

These books are about the wonderful relationships and traditions that families share together.

8. *Flossie’s Hats (and crab cakes later)* - by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard

<https://→.to/ybtur9ac>

9. *Last Stop on Market Street* - by Matt De La Pena

<https://→.to/y786buzg>

10. *My Family Plays Music* - by Judy Cox

<https://→.to/y768n37a>

“It was at that age, that poetry came in search of me.” - Pablo Neruda

These poetry anthologies have moved the heart, soul, and mind of my students.

11. *Out of Wonder Poems celebrating Poets* – by Kwame Alexander

<https://→.to/y9vtkeqv>

12. *In Daddy’s Arms I AM TALL* - by Javaka Steptoe

<https://→.to/ycaokkqg>

13. *The Sweet and Sour Animal Book* - by Langston Hughes

<https://→.to/y8vgfs8m>

14. *Words with Wings* - by Belinda Rochelle

<https://→.to/yblpjhel>

15. *Love to Langston* - by Tony Medina

<https://→.to/y97pdgl5>

16. *Big Mamas* - by Donald Crews

<https://→.to/ycxyrhqd>

“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.” - Albert Einstein

I have always thought that this to be true. Every culture has a wealth of folk tales and fairy tales to pass their beliefs onto their children. The following books are ones that I have loved and used often.

17. *Albidaro and the Mischievous Dream* - Julius Lester and the Mischievous Dream

<https://→.to/yatrdlee>

18. *John Henry* – by Julius Henry

<https://→.to/y9ov5nhj>

19. *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters* – by John Steptoe

<https://→.to/ybmuk68v>

20. *The People Could Fly* – by Virginia Hamilton

<https://→.to/y96dadpk>

21. *The Annotated African American Folktales (The Annotated Books)*
- by Henry Louis Gates

<https://→.to/ybjuu5r6>

“Art is literacy of the heart”. - Eliot Eisner

These books celebrate African American contribution to the arts.

22. *Radiant Child* – Javaka Steptoe

<https://→.to/y7ndrq2u>

23. *If I Only Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong* - by Roxane Orgill and Leonard Jenkin

<https://→.to/ydxhssqg>

24. *Firebird* by Misty Copeland - by Misty Copeland

<https://→.to/y9wz2uod>

25. *Bebop Express* - by H.L. Panahi

<https://→.to/yahkmtr3>

26. *The Legendary Miss Lena Horne* - by Carole Boston Weatherford

<https://→.to/yag23hqm>

27. *A Dance Like Starlight* - by K. Dempsey & F. Cooper

<https://→.to/y7bbl464>