



# PICTURE BOOK BIOGRAPHY FLASH CARDS

There is no better way to connect students with history than by reading the life stories of intriguing people.

A well-written biography has the same elements as any great story: characters that face challenges and difficulties, situations that excite and inspire, and narratives that urge the reader to keep turning the pages until the story's conclusion. Students will delight in discovering how ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things.



**USE THE ATTACHED FLASH CARDS  
TO GENERATE EXCITEMENT  
ABOUT REMARKABLE PEOPLE  
OF THE PAST AND PRESENT.**

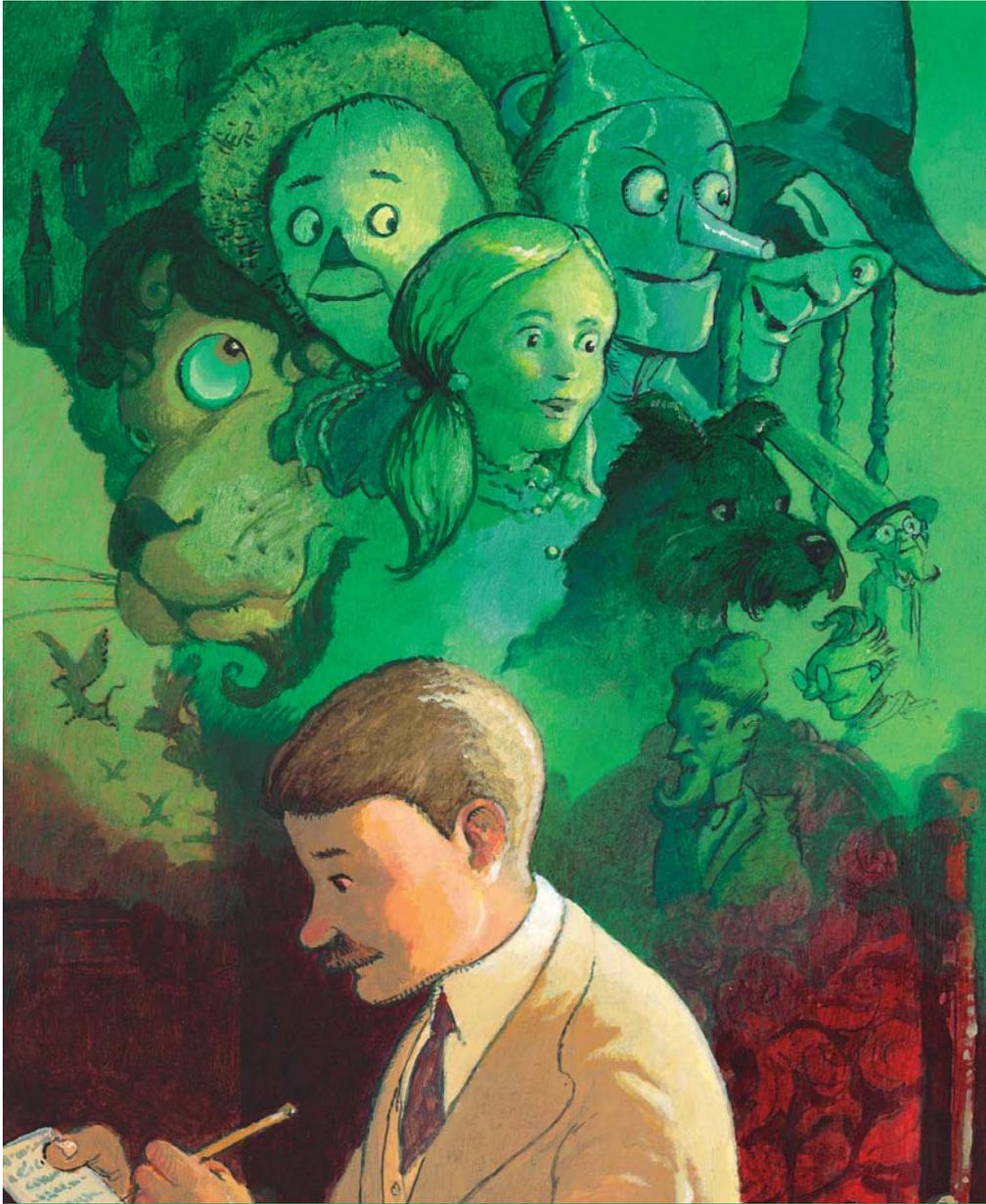
**Incorporate picture book biographies  
into the curriculum:**

- Share with students that the word *biography* literally means “life writing” and comes from the roots *bio* and *graphia*. Have them try their hand at writing a picture book biography by choosing a person of interest to research and write about. Students can work independently to write and illustrate a biography, or work with a partner. Have plenty of picture book biographies in your classroom to use as models when the children begin their writing and illustrations.
- Create a separate space in your classroom library devoted to picture book biographies. Keep it stocked with a wide range of texts that will appeal to your class, and be sure to include books written at varying reading levels so that all students may enjoy this genre.
- Schedule time to read aloud a new picture book biography each week (even older students will look forward to this weekly foray into the past). Use this time as an opportunity to tie in to specific themes of study or to celebrate months that are devoted to specific groups, such as Black History Month or Women's History Month.

For a Picture Book Biographies Educators Guide,  
visit [www.randomhouse.com/teachers](http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers)



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## L. FRANK BAUM

The creator of Oz  
1856–1919

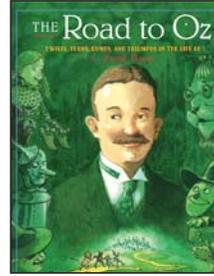


Illustration © 2008 by Kevin Hawkes

## THE ROAD TO OZ: TWISTS, TURNS, BUMPS, AND TRIUMPHS IN THE LIFE OF L. FRANK BAUM

Kathleen Krull; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

HC: 978-0-375-83216-1 • GLB: 978-0-375-93216-8



### DID YOU KNOW?

- It took L. Frank Baum 44 years to get to Oz. After attempts to be an actor, a breeder of prize chickens, a merchant in a Wild West town, and other occupations, he finally made a success doing exactly what he had always loved to do: tell stories for children.
- A neighbor asked Frank where the creatures—a scarecrow, a lion, and wizard—in his story lived. His gaze fell on a file cabinet: two drawers labeled A–N and O–Z. “Oz!” was his reply.
- Frank’s heroes were almost always self-reliant girls. One of his biggest influences was his mother-in-law, Matilda Joslyn Gage, who helped Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony found the National Woman Suffrage Association.

### AFTER YOU READ THE ROAD TO OZ

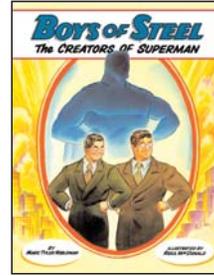
- L. Frank Baum tried many careers on his long, curly road to success. How do you think Frank stayed positive even when he did not succeed? How did his imagination and ambition pay off?
- Frank said, “The imaginative child will become the imaginative man or woman most apt to create, to invite, and therefore to foster civilization.” What do you think he meant by this statement?
- “How delicious it was to play with words!” L. Frank Baum loved to write from an early age. At age 14, he and his brother published the *Rose Lawn Home Journal*, a monthly newspaper about Baum family life. Try your hand at your own newspaper about your own family life.



## JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

The creators of Superman  
1914–1996 and 1914–1992 respectively

Illustration © 2008 by Ross MacDonald



## BOYS OF STEEL: THE CREATORS OF SUPERMAN

Marc Tyler Nobleman; illustrated by Ross MacDonald

HC: 978-0-375-83802-6 • GLB: 978-0-375-93802-3



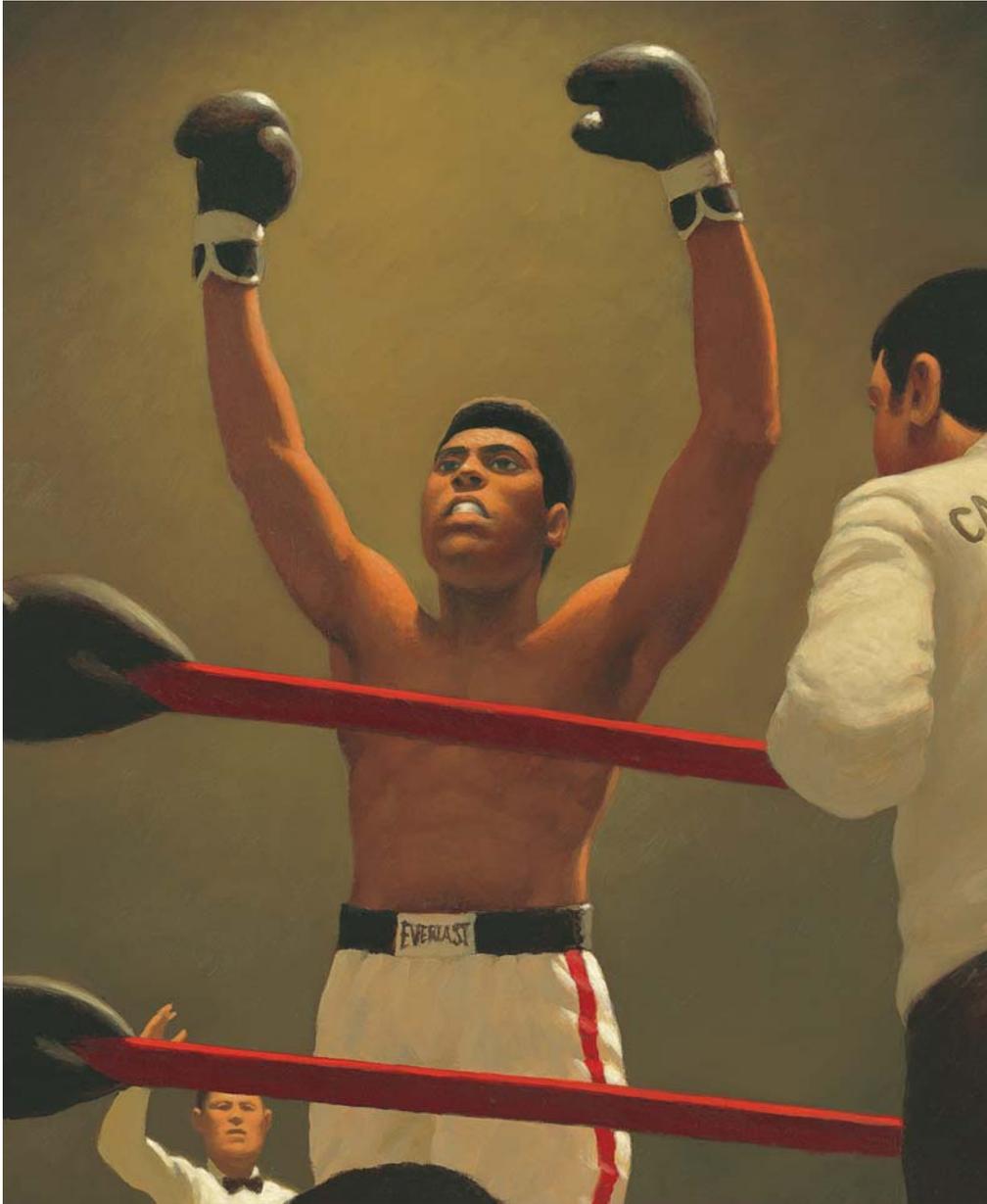
CELEBRATE THE  
70TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
GREATEST SUPERHERO  
OF ALL TIME!

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster were two high school misfits who created the Man of Steel to reflect all the things they were not.
- Jerry and Joe's *Superman* comic strips were turned down by editors for over three years. Finally a publisher said yes and asked them to rearrange their comic strips to fit the new comic book format. They sold all rights to the character for a mere \$130.
- *Superman* debuted during the time of the Great Depression and World War II. With men going off to war, people were drawn to a hero they knew would always come home.

### AFTER YOU READ BOYS OF STEEL

- The excitement of creating *Superman* kept Jerry up all night writing and Joe busy all day drawing. How did Jerry and Joe turn their passion into a career? What work have you felt passionate about in your own life? What type of careers could your hobbies develop into?
- If you had a superpower, what would it be? Draw a comic strip of a larger-than-life version of yourself. Then add a storyline and speech bubbles with your thoughts.
- Collaborate with a friend to invent a new superhero for the 21st century. Come up with the superhero's name, powers, character traits, clothing, and a slogan. Think about the concerns of today's citizens as you make your decisions.



## MUHAMMAD ALI

The first three-time Heavyweight Champion of the World  
1942–

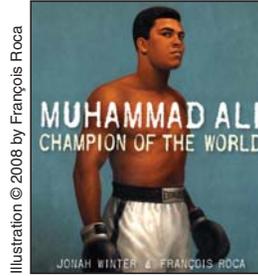


Illustration © 2008 by François Roca

## MUHAMMAD ALI: CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

Jonah Winter; illustrated by François Roca

HC: 978-0-375-83622-0 GLB: 978-0-375-93787-3

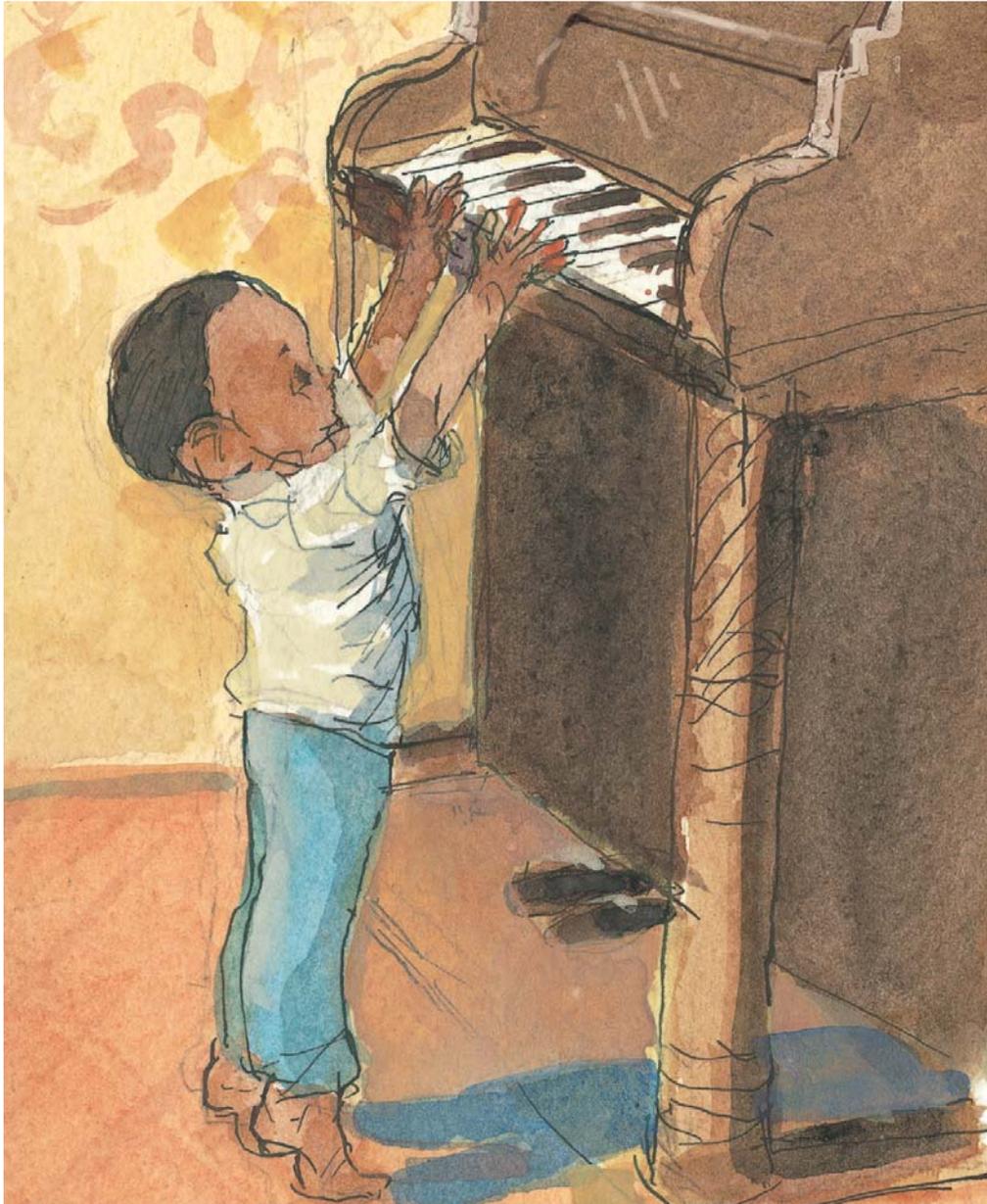
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### DID YOU KNOW?

- Muhammad Ali was the first three-time Heavyweight Champion of the World.
- Born Cassius Clay, the athlete changed his name to Muhammad Ali. Clay had been the name of the white slave master who had owned his African ancestors. The Muslim name Muhammad Ali came from Africa, the homeland of his ancestors and a name used before they were sold as slaves.
- The highly anticipated Rumble in the Jungle match took place in Africa, a significant step toward fulfilling Ali's dream of connecting Africans and African Americans.

### AFTER YOU READ MUHAMMAD ALI

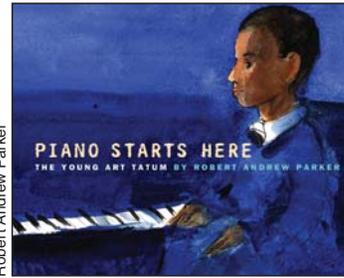
- Ali had a way with words. Review some of his sayings and poems, such as his motto "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," identifying literary devices such as simile and metaphor. Write original mottos to describe this great champion. Then write a motto for one of your favorite athletes of today.
- "Boxing was one thing, but killing people was wrong." Do you agree with Ali's refusal to fight in the Vietnam War? Why is it important to stand by your beliefs?
- Visit the official Muhammad Ali Web site at [www.ali.com](http://www.ali.com) to see a photo gallery and interactive time line of Ali's accomplishments. What do you find most impressive about Ali as an athlete and as a man of faith?



## ART TATUM

One of the all-time greats of jazz piano  
1910–1956

Illustration © 2008 by  
Robert Andrew Parker



## PIANO STARTS HERE: THE YOUNG ART TATUM

Robert Andrew Parker

HC: 978-0-375-83965-8 • GLB: 978-0-375-93965-5

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### DID YOU KNOW?

- Art Tatum is among the few giants in the world of jazz whose talents will probably never be surpassed. In his esteemed company are Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich, Charlie Parker, and Duke Ellington.
- Art was born with severely limited vision, which worsened as he grew older. He had numerous operations to improve his sight, but none of them were very successful. He relied on his other senses in his career and his life.
- When Art entered a club or a bar, it wasn't uncommon for someone to say, "God is in the room." Other pianists were often too intimidated to play in his presence.

### AFTER YOU READ PIANO STARTS HERE

- "Because of my bad eyes, day and night, dark and light, don't really matter to me. Not the way sounds and smells do—piano notes, streetcar bells, corn bread baking in the oven." Imagine how you would experience the world if you weren't able to see. What sounds and smells would be the most significant for you?
- Art Tatum's music takes him all over the country, but no matter where he is, he thinks of his home in Toledo and his family. Where do you hope to travel in the future? What will you miss from back home?
- Look for Art's music in the library or on the Internet. Listen to it with a friend and see if you agree with his distinction as one of the true jazz greats.



## ALTHEA GIBSON

The first African American to compete for and win the Wimbledon Cup  
1927–2003

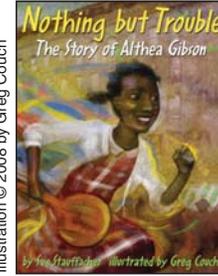


Illustration © 2008 by Greg Couch

## **NOTHING BUT TROUBLE: THE STORY OF ALTHEA GIBSON**

Sue Stauffacher; illustrated by Greg Couch

HC: 978-0-375-83622-0 • GLB: 978-0-375-93787-3



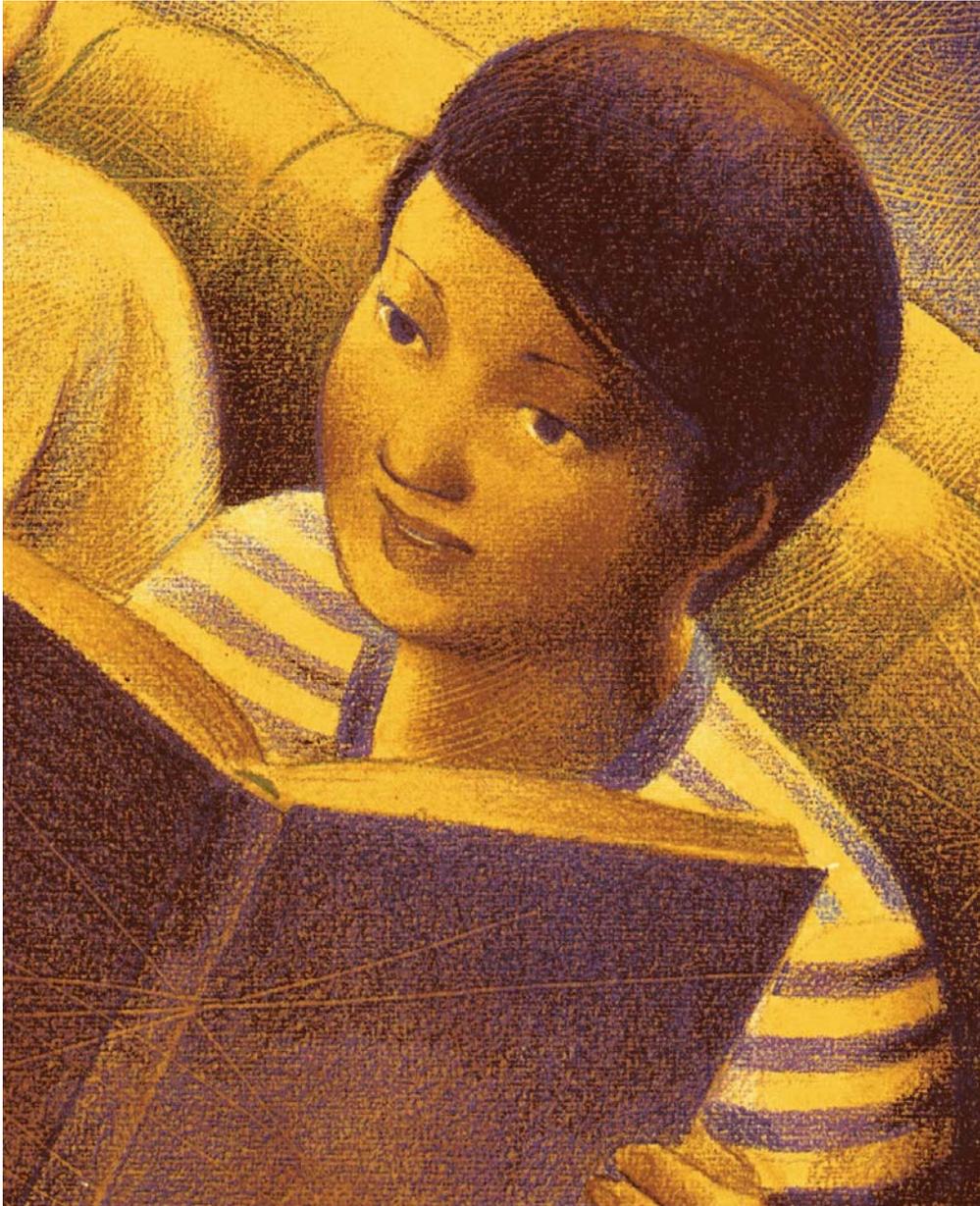
Alfred A. Knopf

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Althea Gibson has been called the “Jackie Robinson of tennis” because she was the first black player, man or woman, to break the color barrier and compete and win at Wimbledon.
- Buddy Walker, the recreation leader on Althea’s Harlem street, recognized her athletic potential and bought her first tennis racket. After winning the Wimbledon cup, Althea said, “Tonight I thank Buddy Walker for a most satisfying victory.”
- The all-white United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) would not allow Althea to play because of the color of her skin. Alice Marble, an influential white tennis player, wrote an article in a tennis magazine insisting Althea be allowed to compete. The USLTA was publicly shamed and Althea began to receive invitations.

### **AFTER YOU READ NOTHING BUT TROUBLE**

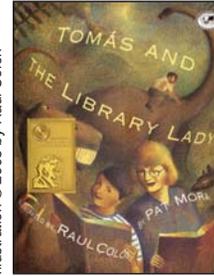
- What traits and qualities did Althea Gibson possess that made people consider her “nothing but trouble”? How did those same traits propel her to tennis greatness?
- What is a mentor? If Althea Gibson did not have a mentor like Buddy Walker, do you think she would have been able to become a world champion at Wimbledon? Why are mentors so important in our lives?
- What does Buddy Walker mean when he says the following to Althea: “Are you going to play your game or are you going to let your game play you?”



## TOMÁS RIVERA

National education leader  
1935–1984

Illustration © 2008 by Raul Colón



## TOMÁS AND THE LIBRARY LADY

Pat Mora, illustrated by Raul Colón

PB: 978-0-375-80349-9 • HC: 978-0-679-80401-7

Spanish edition PB: 978-0-679-84173-9



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Tomás Rivera was a migrant worker who was encouraged to read by a librarian in Iowa. He taught the librarian Spanish words and she opened up a world of adventure through books for him.
- Tomás was the first Mexican American to hold the position of chancellor at any university of the University of California.
- The University of California at Riverside campus library bears his name.

### AFTER YOU READ TOMÁS AND THE LIBRARY LADY

- Tomás belongs to a family of migrant workers. Have you ever moved? Try to imagine what life would be like if you had to keep moving from place to place. What things would you miss about your home? What might be difficult about this kind of life?
- Why do you think Tomás's mouth "felt full of cotton" as he approached the library for the first time. Share an experience that you have had when you felt nervous about experiencing something new. Why do you think books are so important to Tomás? Why are books an important part of your life?
- Tomás can read and speak in two different languages, English and Spanish. Create flash cards with a Spanish word on one side and its English equivalent on the reverse side, and work with a friend to build a Spanish vocabulary. Start off with words from the book: *tigre: tiger; grande: big; uno: one; libro: book; pájaro: bird; adios: goodbye.*

## MUST-HAVE PICTURE BOOK BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE CLASSROOM

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HC: 978-0-375-80643-8 • GLB: 978-0-385-90863-5 • SPANISH EDITION PB: 978-0-440-41765-1

### ANNE FRANK

HC: 978-0-375-83242-0 • GLB: 978-0-375-93242-7

### AS GOOD AS ANYBODY:

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### HOW TED GEISEL GREW UP TO BECOME DR. SEUSS

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### BOYS OF STEEL: THE CREATORS OF SUPERMAN

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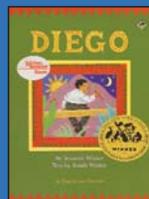
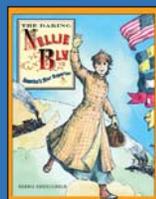
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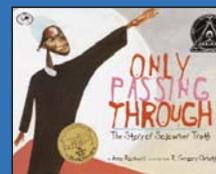
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