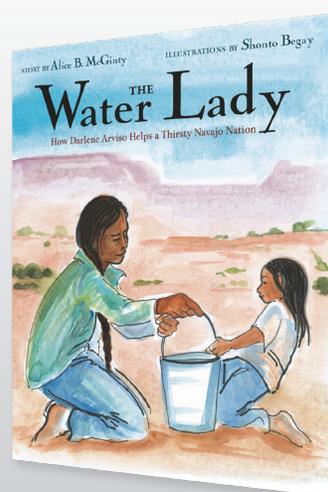


EDUCATORS' BROCHURE FOR GRADES K-6

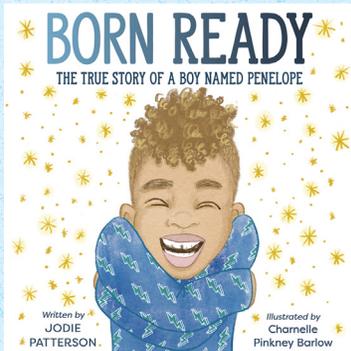
# UNEXAMINED NARRATIVES

This educators' brochure highlights fiction and nonfiction titles that touch on topics forgotten, ignored, or deliberately suppressed—drawing attention to gaps and silences in dominant cultural reading. Integrate these titles into your social studies or English curricula for anti-bias reading.

Includes an Educators' Guide for  
*The Water Lady*



# PICTURE BOOKS

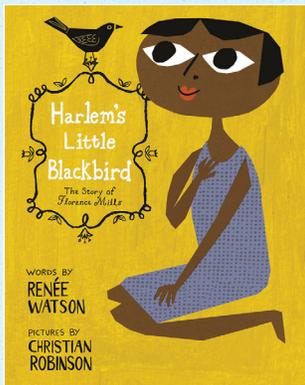


## **Born Ready**

Jodie Patterson; Illustrated by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow  
HC: 978-0-593-12363-8

**LGBTQIA+ Experience • Guidance for Adults • Emotions and Feelings**

This much-needed picture book explores the true experience of one child, Penelope, and his feelings as he navigates communicating to the world what he has always known: that he is a boy. Straightforward and informative, this story models for adults and gatekeepers how to support a transgender child.

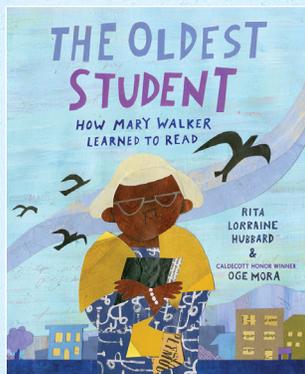


## **Harlem's Little Blackbird**

Renée Watson; Illustrated by Christian Robinson  
TR: 978-0-593-38005-5

**Social Studies • Black History • Hidden Heroes • Arts**

Florence Mills, the child of former slaves, used her singing voice and success to support and promote works by fellow Black performers. This is a moving story about one of the Jazz Age's most famous artists, underappreciated for her civil rights work.

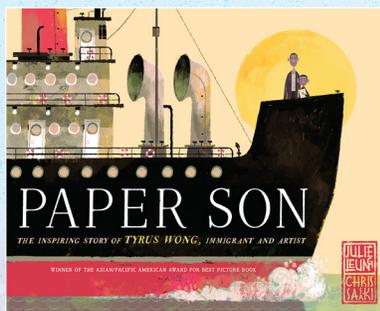


## **The Oldest Student**

Rita Lorraine Hubbard, Oge Mora  
HC: 978-1-5247-6828-7

**Social Studies • Black History • Hidden Heroes • Growth Mindset**

The “oldest student” learned to read at 116! This is the little-known story of Mary Walker, a woman whose long life spanned from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, and who—with perseverance and dedication—proved that you’re never too old to learn. This is a perfect read-aloud for students who need encouragement on their journey to learning how to read, and a fantastic companion for social studies units about the Civil Rights Movement.



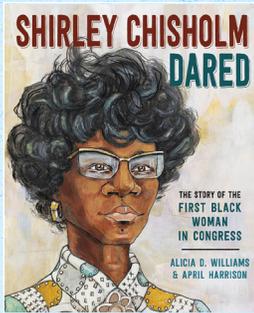
## **Paper Son**

Julie Leung; Illustrated by Chris Sasaki  
HC: 978-1-5247-7187-4

**Social Studies • Immigrant Experience • Arts • Hidden Heroes**

Tyrus Wong created art for one of the most famous animated movies of all time, but his mark on the art world went unrecognized for many years due to his Chinese American identity. Use this picture book to explore Tyrus Wong's overlooked contributions and start a discussion about systemic racism.

# PICTURE BOOKS

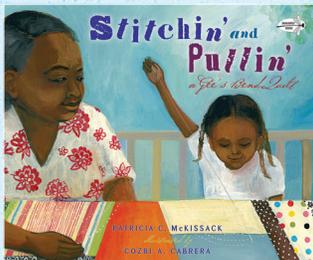


## **Shirley Chisholm Dared**

Alicia D. Williams; Illustrated by April Harrison  
HC: 978-0-593-12368-3

**Social Studies • Civil Rights Movement • Women's History • Hidden Heroes**

Discover the inspiring story of the first Black woman elected to Congress and to run for president in this picture book biography about a sometimes overlooked American hero and trailblazer.

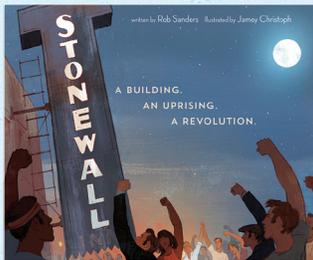


## **Stitchin' and Pullin'**

Patricia McKissack; Illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera  
TR: 978-0-399-54950-2

**Social Studies • Black History • Women's History • Arts**

For generations, the women of Gee's Bend have made quilts for practical reasons. Inspired by these quilts and the women who made them, award-winning author Patricia McKissack traveled to Alabama to learn their stories. This lyrical rite-of-passage story was the result of her journey, and it seamlessly weaves together the familial, cultural, spiritual, and historical currents that run through the tucked-away community of Gee's Bend.

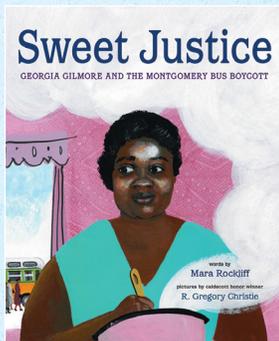


## **Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution.**

Rob Sanders; Illustrated by Jamey Christoph  
HC: 978-1-5247-1952-4

**Social Studies • LGBTQIA+ History • Civil Rights**

In the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969, the Stonewall Inn in New York City was raided by police. Though the inn had been raided before, that night would be different. It would be the night when empowered members of the LGBTQ+ community—in and around the Stonewall Inn—began to protest and demand their equal rights as citizens of the United States. Movingly narrated by the Stonewall Inn itself, this is a powerful and true story that will reveal the rich and dynamic history of the LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Movement.

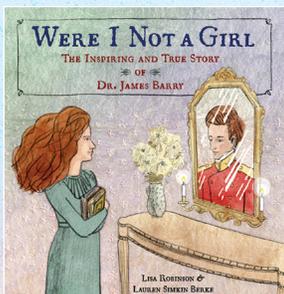


## **Sweet Justice**

Mara Rockliff; Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie  
HC: 978-1-5247-2064-3

**Social Studies • Civil Rights Movement • Hidden Heroes**

Here is the vibrant true story of a hidden figure of the Civil Rights Movement, whose cooking helped feed and fund the Montgomery bus boycott of 1956. With flavorful language by picture-book master Mara Rockliff and stunning illustrations by Caldecott Honor winner and seven-time Coretta Scott King Award-winning artist R. Gregory Christie, this picture book will open eyes to the story of an inspirational American.



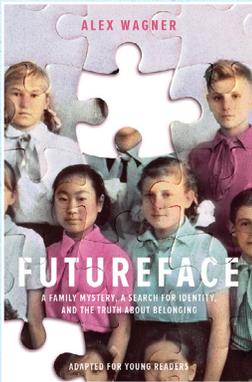
## **Were I Not a Girl**

Lisa Robinson; Illustrated by Lauren Simkin Berke  
HC: 978-1-9848-4905-2

**LGBTQIA+ Experience • Hidden Histories • Emotions and Feelings**

This unique picture book biography tells the story of Dr. James Barry, born female, who lived as a man from age eighteen, in a fascinating and sensitively drawn portrait of someone who would not be undervalued. Share this important introduction to the concept of gender identity.

# MIDDLE-GRADE



## Futureface

Alex Wagner  
HC: 978-1-9848-9662-9

**Identity • Hidden Histories • Emotions and Feelings**

*Who are my people? Where am I from?*  
This is the personal, hidden history that journalist Alex Wagner attempts to unveil as she travels the world to solve the mystery of her ancestry, facing questions about American identity and what it means to belong. Now adapted for young readers from the acclaimed adult memoir.



## Like Nothing Amazing Ever Happened

Emily Blejwas  
HC: 978-1-9848-4848-2

**Suicide • Alcoholism • Emotions and Feelings**

Set during the Gulf War era, *Like Nothing Amazing Ever Happened* follows a twelve-year-old boy's emotional journey after his father, a war veteran, dies tragically and unexpectedly. Touching on topics of PTSD, alcoholism, suicide, and memory, this title is balanced by warm relationships within a working class family.

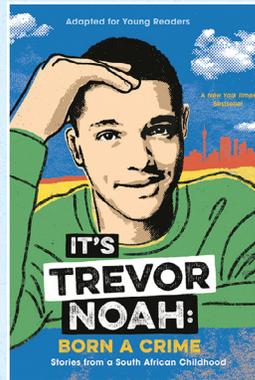


## Obie Is Man Enough

Schuyler Bailar  
HC: 978-0-593-37946-2

**LGBTQIA+ Experience • Emotions and Feelings • Sports**

This middle-grade novel includes the specificities of growing up as a transgender tween and includes perennial coming-of-age themes such as growing into new friendships, finding your passion, and learning to embrace your identity.

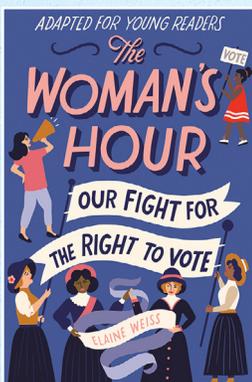


## It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime

Trevor Noah  
TR: 978-0-525-58219-9

**Racism • Identity**

*It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime* provides a fascinating and honest perspective on South Africa's racial history and Trevor Noah's inspiring account of growing up half black, half white in South Africa under and after apartheid. Now adapted for young readers from the bestselling adult memoir.

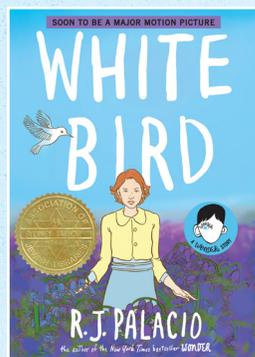


## The Woman's Hour (Adapted for Young Readers)

Elaine Weiss  
HC: 978-0-593-12518-2

**Civil Rights • Women's History • Identity • Hidden Heroes**

This young reader's edition will provide resonant historical context for current top-of-mind political issues like voter suppression and movements like the pink-hat marches, and features previously hidden figures of the suffrage movement, including Carrie Catt, Sue White, Alice Paul, and more.



## White Bird: A Wonder Story

R.J. Palacio  
HC: 978-0-525-64553-5

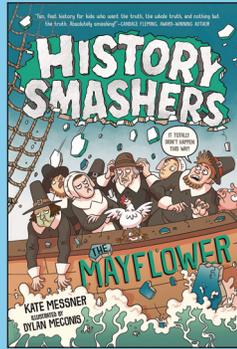
**Diversability • Hidden Histories • Holocaust Studies**

A young Jewish girl is hidden by a classmate's family in Nazi-occupied France during World War II. Julien, the classmate Sara and her peers once shunned, becomes her savior and best friend. *White Bird*, R. J. Palacio's graphic novel debut, expands on stories introduced in *Wonder* as it examines a tragic historical moment through a lens of disability.

**T**hrough illustrations, graphic panels, photographs, sidebars, and more, acclaimed author and former educator Kate Messner smashes misconceptions by exploring little-known details of famous moments in history. Smash myths with this important middle-grade series!



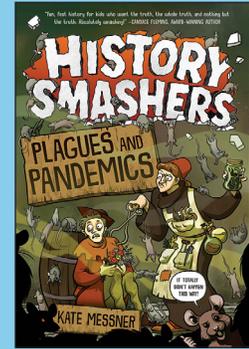
**History Smashers: The American Revolution**  
 Kate Messner;  
 Illustrated by Justin Greenwood  
 PB: 978-0-593-12046-0



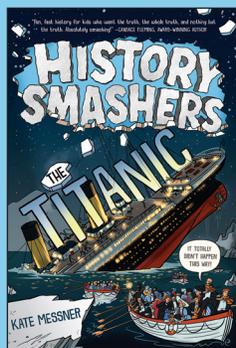
**History Smashers: The Mayflower**  
 Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis  
 PB: 978-0-593-12031-6



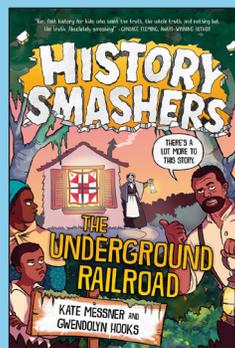
**History Smashers: Pearl Harbor**  
 Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis  
 PB: 978-0-593-12037-8



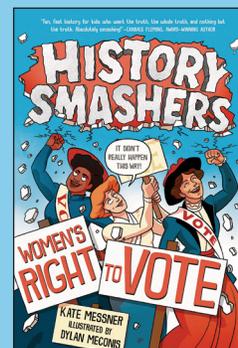
**History Smashers: Plagues and Pandemics**  
 Kate Messner; Illustrated by Falyann Koch  
 PB: 978-0-593-12040-8



**History Smashers: The Titanic**  
 Kate Messner; Illustrated by Matt Aytch Taylor  
 PB: 978-0-593-12043-9



**History Smashers: The Underground Railroad**  
 Kate Messner and Gwendolyn Hooks;  
 Illustrated by Damon Smyth  
 PB: 978-0-593-42893-1



**History Smashers: Women's Right to Vote**  
 Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis  
 PB: 978-0-593-12034-7

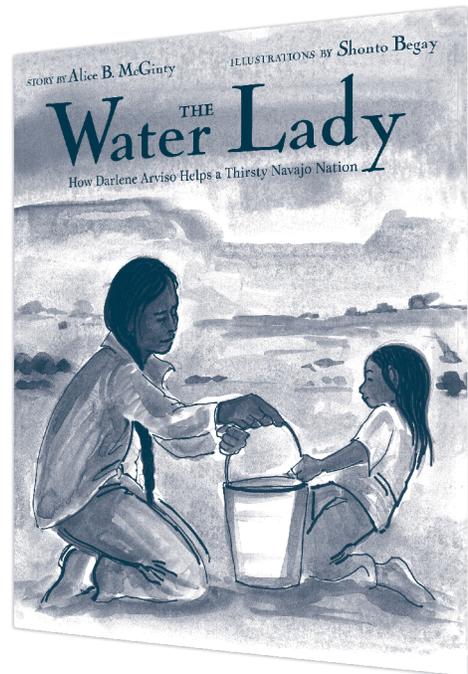
# THE Water Lady

## Classroom Activity Guide

### About the Book

This inspiring picture book tells the true story of a woman who brings desperately needed water to families on the Navajo reservation every day.

Underneath the New Mexico sky, a Navajo boy named Cody finds that his family's barrels of water are empty. He checks the chicken coop—nothing. He walks down the road to the horses' watering hole. Dry. Meanwhile, a few miles away, Darlene Arviso drives a school bus and picks up students for school. After dropping them off, she heads to another job: she drives her big yellow tanker truck to the water tower, fills it with 3,000 gallons of water, and returns to the reservation, bringing water to Cody's family and many, many others. Here is the incredible and inspiring true story of a Native American woman who continuously gives back to her community and celebrates her people.



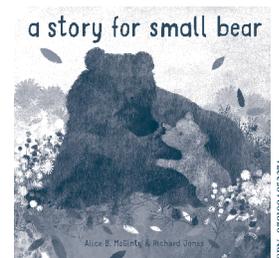
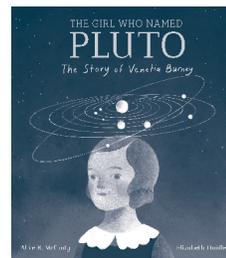
### About the Author



Credit: Jon Dessen

Alice B. McGinty is the award-winning author of over forty books for children, including *A Story for Small Bear*, as well as *The Girl Who Named Pluto*, which was called “inspiring” in a starred review from *Kirkus Reviews*. She also wrote *Darwin*, an Orbis Pictus Honor Book and one of *Booklist's* Top 10 Biographies for Youth, which received three starred reviews. Another of her picture books, *Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons*, was named a Sydney Taylor Notable Book. She also runs a writing camp for kids, Words on Fire. Visit her at [alicebmcginty.com](http://alicebmcginty.com) or follow her on Twitter at @AliceBMcGinty.

Also by Alice McGinty



### About the Illustrator



Credit: Dawn Kish

Shonto Begay is the illustrator of several picture books, including *The Mud Pony*, *The Magic of Spider Woman*, and *The Boy Who Dreamed of an Acorn*. He is the fifth child of sixteen born to a Navajo medicine man. Shonto attended federal boarding schools all over the Navajo Indian Reservation in his elementary school years. Later, he attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and received his associate of fine arts degree. He later earned a degree from the California College of the Arts. He resides in Arizona.



# In the Classroom

## Pre-Reading Activity

Lead a class discussion about water and make a list of the multiple purposes it serves in our everyday lives. Explain that water is livelihood for Native Americans and that this community faces extraordinary challenges to obtain water. Have students visit [navajowaterproject.org](http://navajowaterproject.org), where they will learn more about these challenges, including the fact that Navajo are sixty-seven times more likely than other Americans to live without running water or a toilet. Have them take notes on the work of the Navajo Water Project whose mission is to bring hot and cold running water to homes without access to water or sewer lines.

## Skip, Hop, and Jump

The narrative often conveys what Cody is doing using verbs. For example, he “skips down the wooden porch steps.” Compile a list of verbs in the story. What other verbs could the author have used? Discuss what the text would have been like if she had used less vivid verbs such as “walk” instead of “skip.” Make a list of verbs that convey other actions that an energetic boy like Cody might take.

## Every Picture Tells a Story

What do you learn about Cody’s life and the world around him from the pictures? Meet in small groups and make a list of details about his home, his family, the countryside around him, the animals in his life, and so on. At the same time, discuss what else the pictures convey. Do they let you know how Cody is feeling? For example, what can you tell from the illustrations about the relationship between Cody and his grandmother? How is her story conveyed in the art? Notice also how color is used to convey beauty and to draw your eye to parts of the picture—the grandmother in her red shirt, for example. What other information can you learn from the illustrations? Discuss what makes the illustrations fit well with the text, and why the illustrator chose to depict certain lines from the text.

Prepared by Kathleen Odean, a former school librarian who gives workshops on new children’s and young adult books. She chaired the 2002 Newbery Award Committee and served on earlier Newbery and Caldecott Award Committees.

## Life on the Navajo Reservation

Search for photographs of the Navajo Nation on the internet. How do different aspects of Cody’s life on the Navajo Nation compare to yours? Think about family, home, school, and transportation. Identify which parts are similar and which are different. If you could visit Cody, what would you talk to him about? What would you like to do together on the Navajo reservation? Now think about children across the United States. What features of life do you think most children share in this country? What about their lives is different? After considering this on your own, gather as a class to share your thoughts.

## How Much Water Do You Use?

“While almost every other American will use around one hundred gallons of water today, many on the Navajo reservation will use only seven,” the story tells us. Think about how much water you use each week, and write down an estimate in gallons, with your teacher’s help if necessary. Then look at the information about water usage on the My Water Use activity sheet and see if you want to change your estimate. Fill out the table for a week and compare the results to your estimate. Meet in small groups and brainstorm ways you, your family, and your school can save water. Learn water-saving tips by playing the online game Tip Tank, created by a water conservation organization, at [Wateruseitwisely.com/tip-tank-game](http://Wateruseitwisely.com/tip-tank-game).

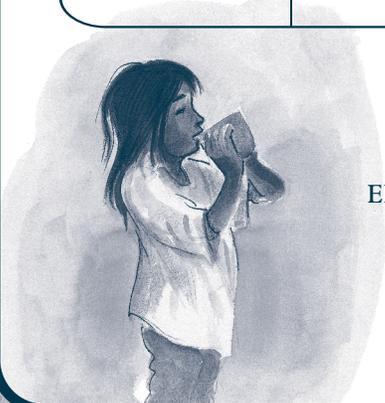


Name \_\_\_\_\_

# My Water Use

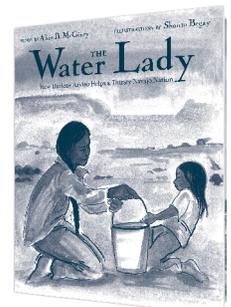
Keep track of your water use for a week by making marks for each use per category. Then multiply the total number of marks in a category by the number of gallons per use. (The “gallons per use” figures are from the University of Colorado and the EPA.)

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Number of Marks	Gallons Per Use	Total Gallons Used (Multiply total marks by gallons per use)
Washing Face or Hands									1 Gal	
5-Minute Shower									25 Gals	
Bath									40 Gals	
Teeth Brushing with Water Running (Hint: Turn off the water while you brush!)									2 Gals	
Toilet Flushing (low-flow toilet)									1.5 Gals	
Toilet Flushing (standard toilet)									5 Gals	
<b>Total</b> (Add up the totals in the righthand column.)										



EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet for your students.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Making a Difference

Darlene, the Water Lady, provides important help to others in her community. Do you know, or have you heard about, anyone else who helps their community? It could be a friend, family member, or community member. Answer the questions below, and share your Helpful Person Profile with your class.

The person's name: \_\_\_\_\_

How you know about the person: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where the person lives or lived: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What the person has done: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who the person's actions have helped: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How the person's actions have helped the community: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why you admire the person: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



EDUCATORS: Reproduce this activity sheet for your students.

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