THE OLDEST STUDENT
HOW MARY WALKER LEARNED TO READ

RITA LORRAINE HUBBARD &
CALDECOTT HONOR WINNER
OGE MORA
Imagine learning to read at the age of 116!

Discover the true story of Mary Walker, the nation’s oldest student who did just that, in this picture book from a Caldecott Honor–winning illustrator and a rising-star author.

In 1848, Mary Walker was born into slavery. At age fifteen, she was freed, and by age twenty, she was married and had had her first child. By age sixty-eight, she had worked numerous jobs, including as a cook, cleaner, babysitter, and sandwich seller. At 114, she was the last remaining member of her family—she had outlived her children. And at 116, she learned to read. From Rita Lorraine Hubbard and Oge Mora comes the inspirational story of Mary Walker, a woman whose long life stretched from the Civil War to the civil rights movement, and who—with perseverance and dedication—proved that you’re never too old to learn.