**Student Directed Inquiry Techniques/**
**African American History in Washington State**

**Book & Resource List for Kindergarten – 2nd Grade**

While books for early elementary students focusing on Black history in Washington State are difficult to find, there are many books on Black history, racial justice, and affirmation of Black lives. These books can be used as examples, while also making connections to local history and historical figures.

In addition to BlackPast.org, a wonderful resource for local Black history can be found with the University of Washington and The Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project. There you can find oral histories, research reports, photo collections, maps, and much more. Historylink.org is another valuable resource for Washington State History. Examples of local connections are noted.

| Book Cover | Title & Author/Illustrator | Local History Connection |
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| | All Aboard the Schooltrain: A Little Story from the Great Migration<br>By Glenda Armand<br>Illustrated by Keisha Morris | This book is based on the experiences of the author's mother, who walked to school while her white peers took the bus to a different school. The family decided to leave Louisiana to escape Jim Crow laws. George Washington Bush fled discriminatory laws in Missouri and Oregon, and ultimately settled near what would become Tumwater. |
| | When the Schools Shut Down<br>By Yolanda Gladden & Tamara Pizzoli<br>Illustrated by Keisha Morris | A true account of the unconstitutional effort by white lawmakers of this small Virginia town to circumvent racial justice by denying an entire generation of children an education. In 1966, 3,000 Seattle schoolchildren boycotted school to demand integration. |

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| | Because of You, John Lewis: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship<br>By Andrea Davis Pinkney<br>Illustrated by Keith Henry Brown | An account of the meeting between Tybre Faw and Congressman John Lewis, and how crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge together inspired the young Faw to raise his own voice. The Congress of Racial Equity (CORE) in Seattle was predominantly focused in the Central District, particularly around segregation. |
| | Flying Free: How Bessie Coleman's Dreams Took Flight<br>By Karyn Parsons<br>Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie | A poetic biography of Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to earn her pilot's license. Boeing started WWII with an all-white workforce, but dropped it exclusionary hiring after a long campaign by the NAACP and others. Belle Alexander was one of the first African Americans hired, where she was a sheet metal worker. |
| | More than Peach: Changing the World…One Crayon at a Time!<br>By Bellan Woodard<br>Illustrated by Fanny Liem | The very first Crayon Activist presents this picture book in which she spreads a message of inclusivity, empowerment and the importance of inspiring the next generation of leaders through The Peach Project and crayons. Artists inspire and make change all the time, including the 16 artists who created the Black Lives Matter mural on Capitol Hill in Seattle. |
| | Change Sings: A Children's Anthem<br>By Amanda Gorman<br>Illustrated by Loren Long | As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes - big or small - in the world, in their communities, and, most importantly, in themselves. Young poets and writers show us that we are living history in the making. Seattle celebrates young poets through the Youth Poet Laureate program, whose 2020/21 selection was Bitaniya Giday. |
| | The ABCs of Black History<br>By Rio Cortez<br>Illustrated by Lauren Semmer | A comprehensive and yet accessible look at different aspects, people and ideas from Black history. Depending on the focus, BlackPast.org, UW's Civil Rights & Labor History Project and HistoryLink's Black Americans search filter can be helpful resources in finding relevant local curricular tie-ins. |

**Other notable books with themes of Black history, racial justice, and Black affirming messages:**

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| | We Are Here<br>By Tami Charles<br>Illustrated by Bryan Collier | A beautifully illustrated message of affirmation and hope. An appendix includes more information about historical figures and contributions of Black culture. |
| | An American Story<br>By Kwame Alexander<br>Art by Dare Coulter | A picture book in verse that threads together past and present to explore the legacy of slavery during a classroom lesson. |
| | The Undefeated<br>By Kwame Alexander<br>Illustrated by Kadir Nelson | An ode to black American triumph and tribulation, this poem is a love letter to Black life in the United States. |
| | How We Can Live: Principles of Black Lives Matter<br>By Laleña Garcia<br>Illustrated by Caryn Davidson | A nonfiction introduction to thirteen principles underlying the Black Lives Matter movement and organization, written in a style that children can understand and illustrated with portraits of icons, activists, and regular people. |
| | I Affirm Me: The ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids<br>By Nyasha Williams<br>Illustrated by Sof'ya Glushko | Celebrates the many ways that Black children can be themselves. |
| | The Me I Choose to Be<br>By Natasha Anastasia Tarpley<br>Art by Regis and Kahran Bethencourt | An immersive call for self-love that highlights the inherent beauty of all Black and brown children. |

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| <br> | [That Is My Dream]<br>By Langston Hughes<br>Illustrated by Daniel Miyares<br><br>[My People]<br>By Langston Hughes<br>Photographs by Charles R. Smith, Jr. | Two picture book interpretations of Langston Hughes' poetry. |
| | [What's the Difference? Being Different Is Amazing]<br>By Doyin Richards | Photographs and simple text celebrate friendship, diversity, and acceptance. |
| | [The Day You Begin]<br>By Jacqueline Woodson<br>Illustrated by Rafael López | Other students laugh when Rigoberto, an immigrant from Venezuela, introduces himself but later, he meets Angelina and discovers that he is not the only one who feels like an outsider. |
| | [I Am Enough]<br>By Grace Byers<br>Illustrated by Ketura A. Bobo | Shares a story of loving who you are, respecting others and being kind to one another. |
| | [I Am Amazing]<br>By Alissa Holder & Zulekha Holder-Young<br>Illustrated by Nneka Myers | Ayaan loves being a superhero and offering a helping hand, but when two classmates tell him he does not look like a superhero, Ayaan's father assures him that superheroes come in all shapes and sizes. |

**Additional resources:**

[10 Tips for Reading Picture Books with Children through a Race-Conscious Lens], from Embrace Race

[Teaching for Black Lives], from the Zinn Education Project, Rethinking Schools and Teaching for Change

[Black History Month Nonfiction Books for children], from The Seattle Public Library

[Black History in Seattle Books for adults], from The Seattle Public Library