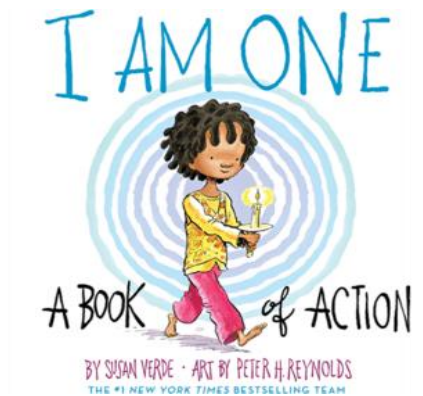


HONORING SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISTS –
READ ALOUDS FOR MLK SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH CELEBRATION

I AM ONE

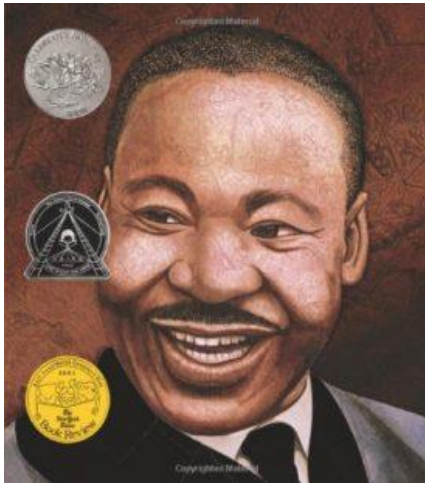
by Susan Verde & Peter H. Reynolds



Another amazing book from Susan Verde and Peter Reynolds from their “I Am...” series. The book takes the idea that one can be powerful. One seed can start a garden. One note can start a song. One brick can break down a wall. A book about activism that even Kindergarteners could understand but deep enough for upper elementary students to take away a lot and make connections to more concrete activist movements.

MARTIN’S BIG WORDS

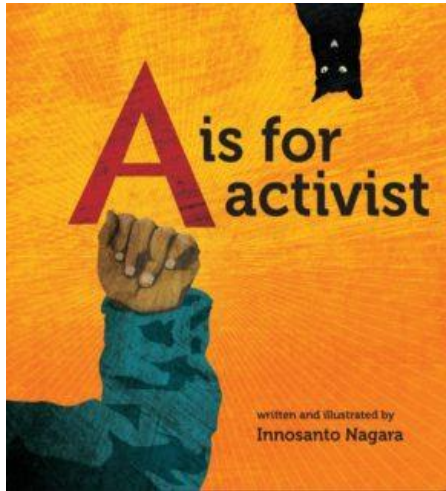
by Doreen Rappaport



This picture-book biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world’s most influential leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Doreen Rappaport weaves the immortal words of Dr. King into a captivating narrative to tell the story of his life. In addition to being one of the best books about activism.

A IS FOR ACTIVIST

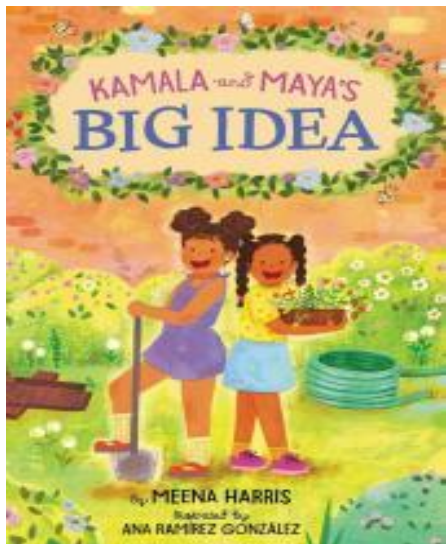
by Innosanto Nagara



A is for Activist is an ABC board book written and illustrated for the next generation of progressives: families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and everything else that activists believe in and fight for. A book that inspires hope for the future.

KAMALA & MAYA'S BIG IDEA

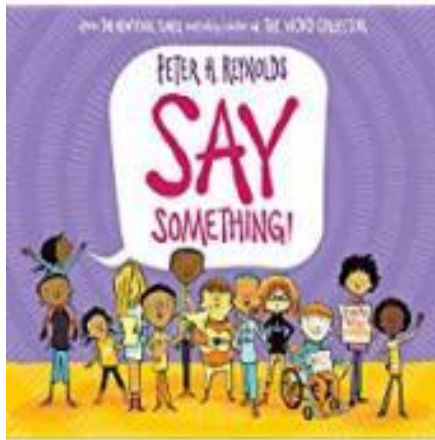
By Meena Harris



Kamala and Maya's Big Idea is a picture book inspired by real-life events in the childhood of U.S. senator and vice presidential candidate [Kamala Harris](#) and her sister, Maya, written by Maya's daughter, Meena Harris. It tells the story of when the two sisters got the "big idea" to ask the landlord of their apartment building to turn an unused courtyard into a playground. He said no, but Kamala countered by saying that the building's families could build it, and he gave his permission. The rest of the book shows the community -- kids and grown-ups -- working together to make it happen. Ana Ramírez González's colorful, cheerful illustrations make their hard work look like loads of fun.

SAY SOMETHING

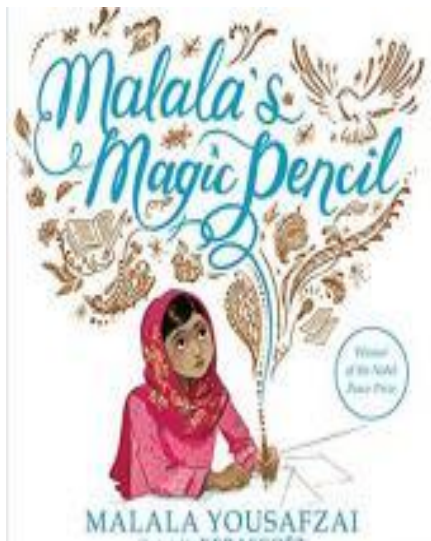
by Peter H. Reynolds



Say Something! is a call to action for kids to speak up and stand up -- when they see injustice, when they have something to say, when they are feeling emotions or grateful. The key point is that every voice counts, not just the loud ones, and there are many ways to say something -- through art or poetry, on a protest sign, in a private message to the universe, or by a kind,

MALALA'S MAGIC PENCIL

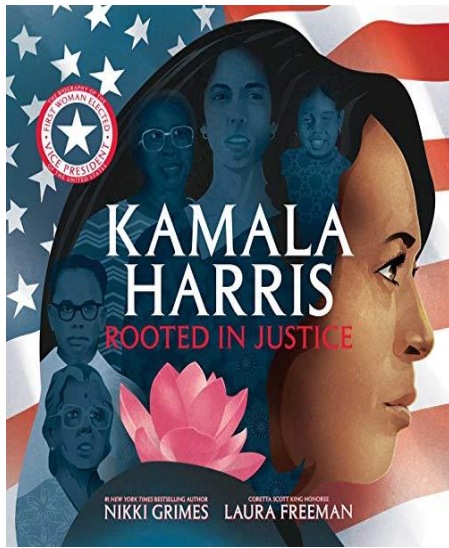
by Malala Yousafzai



Malala's Magic Pencil is by [Malala Yousafzai](#), the Pakistani girl whose work as an education activist gained international recognition, and who was the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. There are a slew of kids' books about this inspirational young hero, but this one is by Malala herself, and it focuses on her childhood, offering the sort of personal details that make her early life highly accessible to young readers. The violent attack against her -- when she was shot by the Taliban -- is handled gently and indirectly for the age group, saying only that "dangerous men tried to silence me, but they failed." The book's a powerful introduction to this young, contemporary Muslim female role model and her work.

KAMALA HARRIS ROOTED IN JUSTICE

by Nikki Grimes

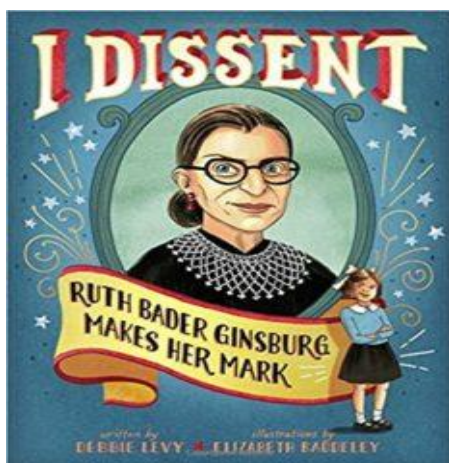


Discover the incredible story of a young daughter of immigrants who would grow up to be the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian American ever elected Vice President of the United States in this moving picture book biography of Kamala Harris.

As Kamala grew from a small girl in Oakland to a senator running for president, it was this long-fostered belief in freedom and justice for all people that shaped her into the inspiring figure she is today. From fighting for the use of a soccer field in middle school to fighting for the people of her home state in Congress, Senator Harris used her voice to speak up for what she believed in and for those who were otherwise unheard. And now this dedication has led her all the way to being Vice President of the United States.

DISSENT: RUTH BADER GINSBURG MAKES HER MARK

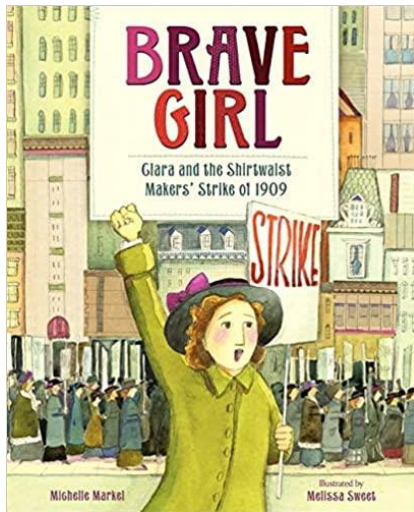
By Debbie Levy



The first biography of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The story of a girl who made a career out of disagreeing. This activism picture book for kids shows that you can work to make change within government. It does not need to happen only from citizens outside of the government. A really powerful biography perfect for upper elementary with how it explores the many and varied ways to express disagreement.

BRAVE GIRL CLARA AND THE SHIRTWAIST MAKER'S STRIKE OF 1909

by Michelle Markel



This picture book biography about Ukrainian immigrant Clara Lemlich tackles topics like activism and the U.S. garment industry. The art, by Caldecott Honor winner Melissa Sweet, beautifully incorporates stitching and fabric.

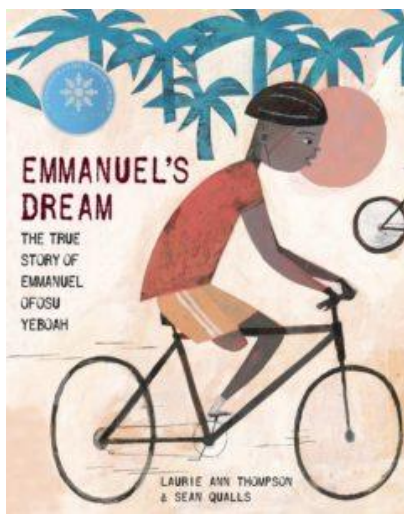
Clara never accepted that girls should be treated poorly and paid little. Fed up with the mistreatment of her fellow laborers, Clara led the largest walkout of women workers the country had seen.

Clara learned that you had to stand together and fight for what you wanted. And, most importantly, that you could do anything you put your mind to.

This picture book biography about the plight of immigrants in America in the early 1900s and the timeless fight for equality and justice should not be missed

EMMANUEL'S DREAM

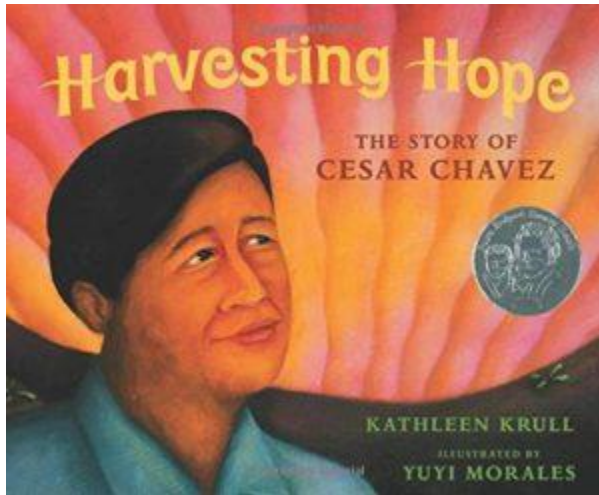
by Laurie Ann Thompson



This is the true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah. Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled. The story of this remarkable young man has since become a movie titled Emmanuel's Gift and narrated by Oprah Winfrey.

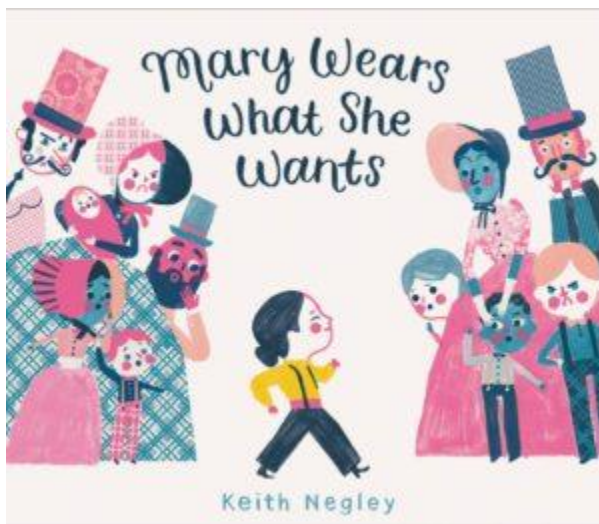
OTHER RESOURCE MATERIALS – NOT RECORDED

HARVESTING HOPE By Kathleen Krull



The story of farm labor organizer Cesar Chavez and his march to Sacramento. This biography begins with his childhood and leads to his famous march and fight for farm labor rights. Chavez did much more in his life but the focus on this one event helps focus young readers on his message and work in the labor movement. I love that this book is also available in Spanish as [Cosechando esperanza](#).

MARY WEARS WHAT SHE WANTS By Keith Negley



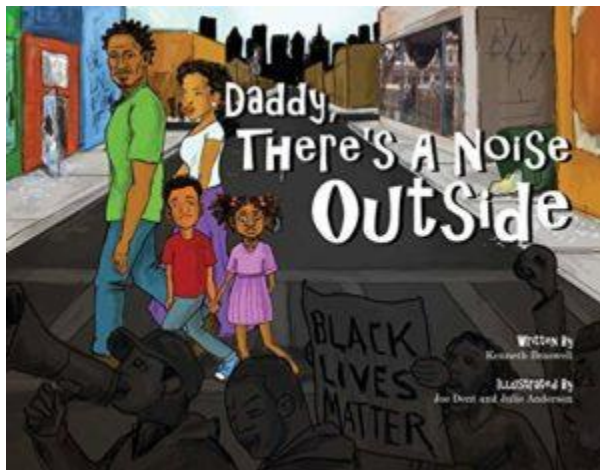
This is a biography of women's rights activist Mary Edwards Walker. She was a 19th century doctor who was arrested many times throughout her life for...wearing pants. This is a story that is great for younger grades to challenge gender norms and societal pressures and push children to think about gender inequality still present today. A favorite activism book for kids, especially for Kindergarten, first and second grade.

ELIZABETH LEADS THE WAY: ELIZABETH CADY STANTON AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE by Tanya Lee Stone



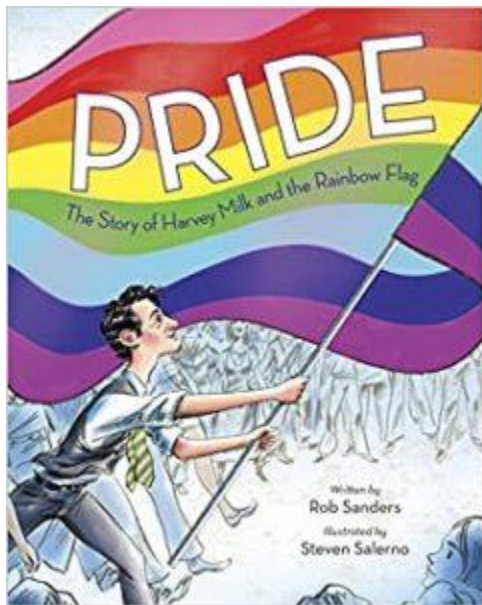
Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood up and fought for what she believed in. From an early age, she knew that women were not given rights equal to men. But rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote. Here is the inspiring story of an extraordinary woman who changed America forever because she wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

DADDY, THERE'S A NOISE OUTSIDE by Kenneth Braswell



A timely book that connects to the Black Lives Matter movement. Two children are awoken in the middle of the night and are trying to understand why they are doing what they're doing. A great introductory book to social activism for students of primary or upper elementary. A book that uses simple words to explain a big idea. In addition to being an excellent book about activism.

PRIDE: THE STORY OF HARVEY MILK AND THE RAINBOW FLAG
by Rob Sanders



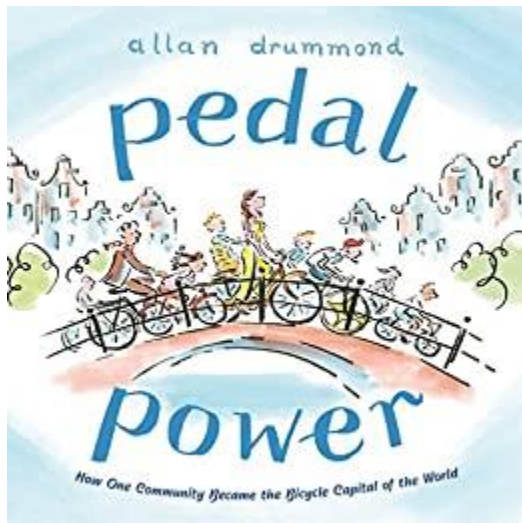
An age-appropriate telling of the life of Harvey Milk. The book focuses on how he realized that the best way to make change was to make the laws. It talks about his social activism and the roots of the Gay Pride Flag. It then bridges to the present when in 2015 the White House was lit with a rainbow to celebrate the Supreme Court's decision on gay marriage.

LET THE CHILDREN MARCH By Monica Clark-Robinson



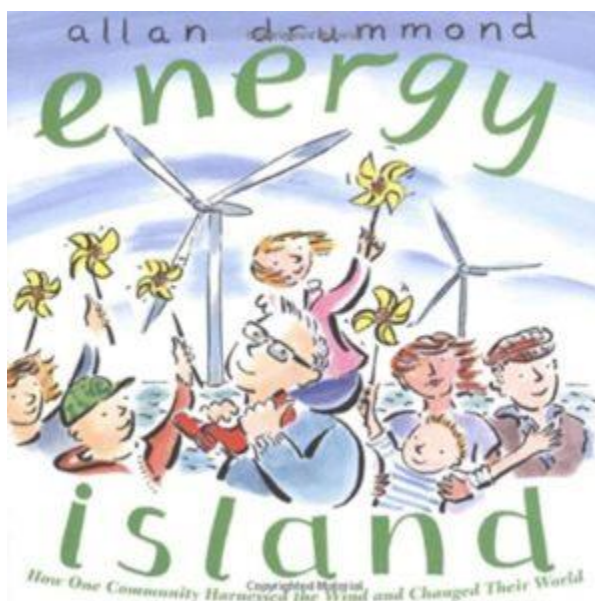
In 1963 Birmingham, Alabama, thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their civil rights after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. They protested the laws that kept black people separate from white people. Facing fear, hate, and danger, these children used their voices to change the world. Beautiful illustrations to accompany this true story.

PEDAL POWER By Allan Drummond



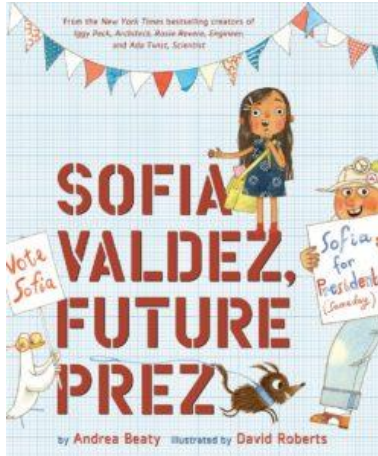
A book about community activism centered on Amsterdam, Holland. Motor vehicles were taking over the small streets of the city making it unsafe for bicycle traffic. One day, the unthinkable happened: a child riding a bike was killed by a car. The people had had enough, so they set up protests. They blocked streets with bicycles and people. They went on bike rides to protest, and eventually the government listened. Car traffic was banned in the downtown area. A powerful story about a motivated group of citizens, child activists included, working together to bring about change over time.

ENERGY ISLAND by Allan Drummond



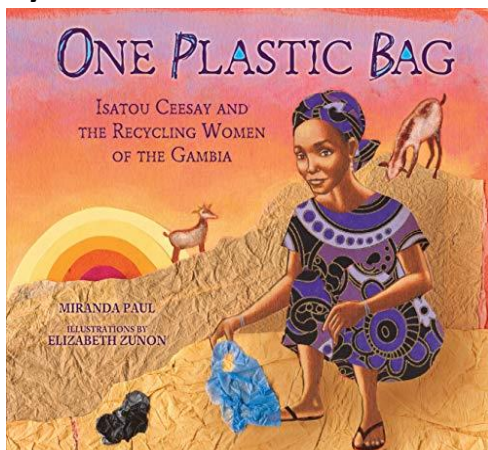
A true story about the island of Samsø, Denmark and the island's environmental activism. Sometimes to make a big change, all it takes is one person to convince a few people to make small changes and then that convinces others to make change. This island is now completely energy independent creating the majority of its energy from wind turbines. An excellent story I've used with students as young as first graders and contains lots of extra information about renewable and nonrenewable.

***SOFIA VALDEZ, FUTURE PREZ* by Andrea Beaty**



A great addition to Beaty's The Questioners series this time about aspiring child activist Sofia who stands up for what she believes in. She and her abuelo help their community until her abuelo hurts his leg on a trash pile at the dump. She's determined to get that dump turned into a park. She goes down to city hall and everyone is impressed with her passion and verve and she starts a campaign. Told in verse as all of Beaty's books in the series are. Even better, it's also in Spanish titled [Sofia Valdez, presidenta tal vez](#). An excellent fiction title to teach about activism for kids. (Fiction)

***ONE PLASTIC BAG BY ISATOU CEESAY AND THE RECYCLING WOMEN OF THE GAMBIA* by Miranda Paul**



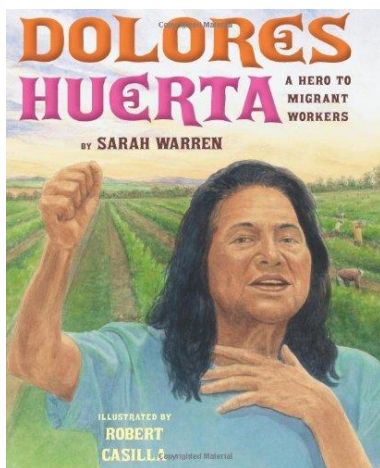
The inspiring true story of how one African woman began a movement to recycle the plastic bags that were polluting her community.

Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two. Then ten. Then a hundred.

The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. They killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change.

Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person's actions really can make a difference in our world.

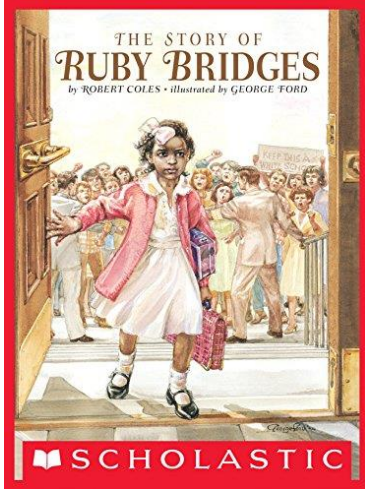
***Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers* by Sarah E. Warren**



A Jane Addam's Children's Book Award Honor Book for Younger Children

Dolores is a teacher, a mother, and a friend. She wants to know why her students are too hungry to listen, why they don't have shoes to wear to school. Dolores is a warrior, an organizer, and a peacemaker. When she finds out that the farm workers in her community are poorly paid and working under dangerous conditions, she stands up for their rights. This is the story of Dolores Huerta and the extraordinary battle she waged to ensure fair and safe work places for migrant workers. The powerful text, paired with Robert Casilla's vibrant a-ter-color-and-pastel illustrations, brings Dolores's amazing journey to life. A timeline, additional reading, articles, websites, and resources for teachers are included.

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles



Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first African American child to integrate a New Orleans school with this paperback reissue!

The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her. Told with Robert Coles' powerful narrative and dramatically illustrated by George Ford, Ruby's story of courage, faith, and hope is now available in this special 50th anniversary edition with an updated afterword!