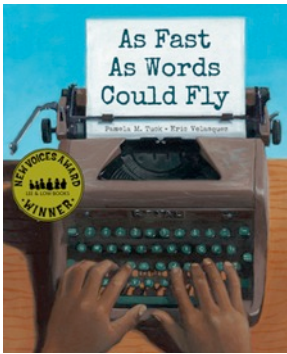


Grades 3-5



As Fast As Words Could Fly written by Pamela Tuck, illustrated by Eric Velasquez

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2817>

Mason Steele, an African American boy in 1960s Greenville, North Carolina, relies on his inner confidence and his typing skills to face challenges and break racial barriers after he begins attending a “whites-only” high school.

Themes: Segregation, Civil Rights Movement, Perseverance, Overcoming Obstacles, Typing, Education, African American Interest

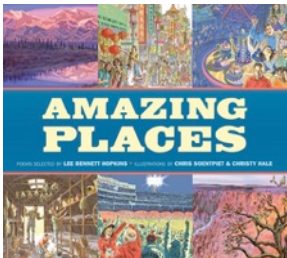


Amazing Faces edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Chris Soentpiet

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2713>

An anthology of universal poems focusing on the human experience—emotions, perceptions, and understandings—as expressed by poets of diverse heritage and reflected in illustrations featuring people of all ages and backgrounds.

Themes: Feelings and Emotions, Universal Experiences, Cultural Diversity, Poetry

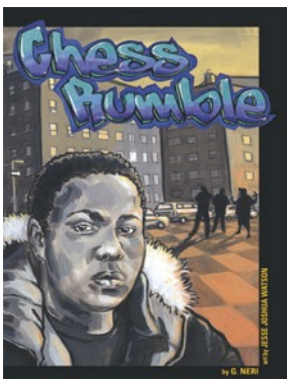


Amazing Places edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Christy Hale, Chris Soentpiet

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2908>

An anthology of poems focusing on unique places of historical, environmental, and/or cultural interest in the United States as expressed by poets of diverse heritage and reflected in illustrations featuring people of all ages and backgrounds.

Themes: US Geography, US History, Natural Environment, Universal Experiences, Cultural Diversity, Poetry

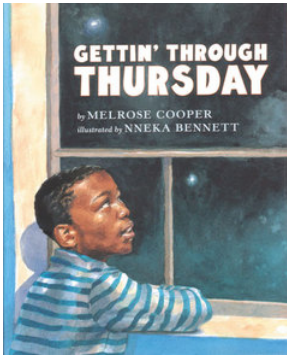


Chess Rumble edited by G. Neri, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2374>

A story in free verse about a troubled boy who learns to use his mind instead of his fists through the guidance of an unconventional mentor and the game of chess

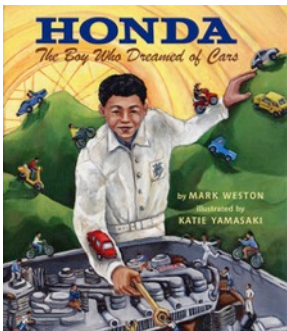
Themes: Chess, Family, School, Bullying, Conflict Resolution, Coping with Death, Mentors, Urban Life, African American Interest



Gettin' Through Thursday written by Melrose Cooper, illustrated by Nneka Bennett
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2395>

A young African American boy experiences the love and support of his family as they try to make ends meet each week.

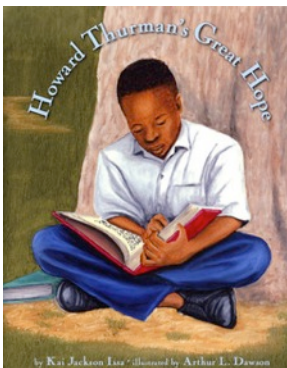
Themes: Identity, Self-Esteem, Education, Overcoming Obstacles, Mothers, Families, African American Interest



Honda: The Boy Who Dreamed of Cars written by Mark Weston, illustrated by Katie Yamasaki
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2695>

The life story of Soichiro Honda, pioneering Japanese businessman and innovative motorcycle and car manufacturer.

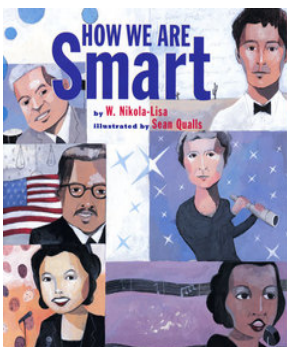
Themes: Creativity, Innovation, Occupations, Overcoming Obstacles, Dreams and Aspirations, Asian American Interest



Howard Thurman's Great Hope written by Kai Issa, illustrated by Arthur Dawson
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2696>

A biography of Reverend Howard Thurman—author, philosopher, theologian, civil rights leader, and idol of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—focusing on Thurman's childhood pursuit of an education.

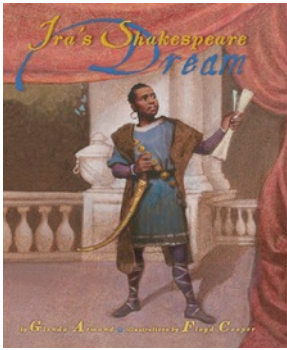
Themes: Education, Segregation, Goals and Aspirations, US History, African American Interest



How We Are Smart written by W. Nikola-Lisa, illustrated by Sean Qualls
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2406>

Biographies of twelve talented people introduce readers to the eight ways people can be smart and the realization that intelligence is “not about how smart you are, but how you are smart.”

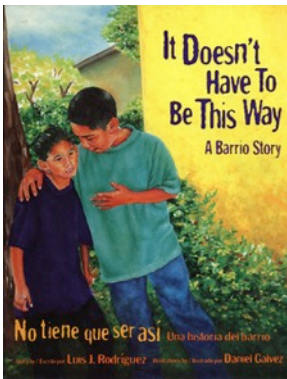
Themes: Education, Self-Esteem, Occupations, Perseverance, Goals and Aspirations, US History



Ira's Shakespeare Dream written by Glenda Armand, illustrated by Floyd Cooper
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2885>

A biography chronicling the life of Ira Aldridge, an African American actor who is considered to be one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of the nineteenth century.

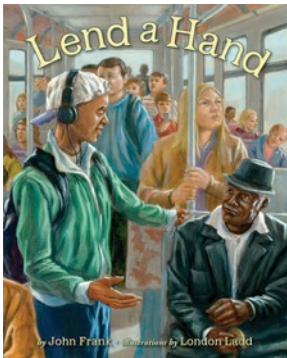
Themes: Entertainment, Performing Arts, Theater, Classic Literature (Shakespeare), Overcoming Obstacles, African American History



It Doesn't Have To Be This Way / No tiene que ser así: A Barrio Story written by Luis Rodríguez, illustrated by Daniel Galvez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2795>

Monchi likes to write poems, hang out with his cousin Dreamer, and tell stories to his uncle, Tio Rogelio, until one day, a member of the local gang tells him it's time to join.

Themes: Identity, Self-Esteem, Respect, Overcoming Obstacles, Mentors, Friendship, Bullying, Latino Interest



Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving written by John Frank, illustrated by London Ladd
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2849>

A collection of original poems centered on giving and spontaneous acts of kindness, which also incorporate larger themes of community, intergenerational relationships, young mentors, and care for the environment.

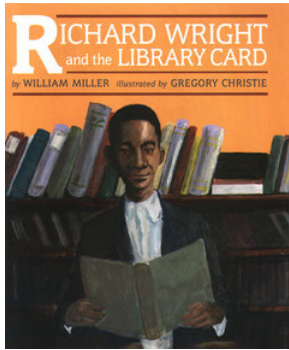
Themes: Community, Volunteering, Kindness, Empathy, Respect, Cultural Diversity, Intergenerational Relationships, Activism, Environmentalism, Poetry



Poems in the Attic written by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2881>

A young girl grows closer to her mother after discovering a box of poems her mother wrote about her experiences living around the world and growing up as a child of an Air Force serviceman. Told in alternating free verse and tanka (similar to haiku) poems.

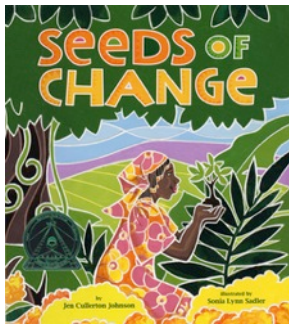
Themes: Family, Mothers, Intergenerational Relationships, Military Life, Home, Geography, Poetry (Free Verse)



Richard Wright and the Library Card written by William Miller, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2441>

This is the true story of the renowned African American author Richard Wright and his determination to borrow books from the public library that turned him away because of his color.

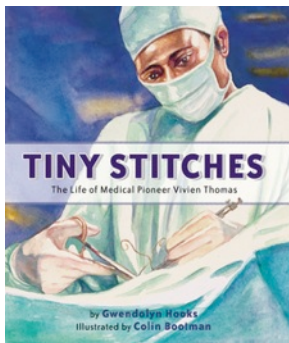
Themes: Education, Discrimination, Civil Rights Movement, Biography/Memoir, Persistence, African American Interest



Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace written by Jen Johnson, illustrated by Sonia Sadler
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2716>

A picture book biography of scientist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman—and first environmentalist—to win a Nobel Peace Prize (in 2004), for her work planting trees in her native Kenya.

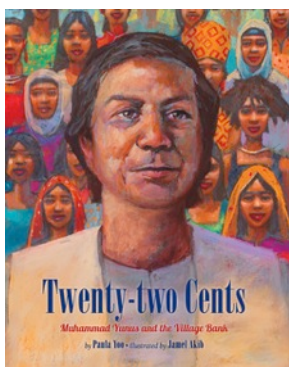
Themes: Environment, Women's Rights, Africa, Science, Education, Nobel Peace Prize, Respect, Citizenship, African American Interest



Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas written by Gwendolyn Hudson Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2927>

The life story of Vivien Thomas, an African American surgical technician who developed the first procedure used to perform open-heart surgery on children.

Themes: Creativity, Innovation, Medical Science, Education, Overcoming Obstacles, Dreams and Aspirations, Perseverance, African American Interest



Twenty-two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Jamel Akib
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2851>

A biography of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, who revolutionized global antipoverty efforts by developing the innovative economic concept of micro-lending.

Themes: Social Awareness, Economics, Innovation, Education, Overcoming Obstacles, Empathy, Compassion, Helping Others, Asian/South Asian Interest