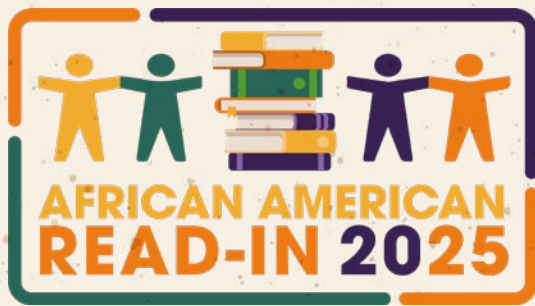


2025 AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN REPORT CARD





For more than 30 years, the National African American Read-In (AARI) has been a groundbreaking effort that encourages communities to read together, centering African American books and authors. Established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), AARI was intended to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. Since then, the initiative has reached more than 6 million participants worldwide.

2025 RESULTS

- More than 123,000 people attended an AARI event.
- At least 1,065 AARI events took place, including 16 virtual events.
- Events were hosted in 29 states, the District of Columbia, and one international site.
- More than 8,860 books were read.
- More than 75 community events took place, 17 of which were hosted by libraries.
- There were more than 260 higher education events.
- There were more than 200 K-12 classroom events.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL EVENT!

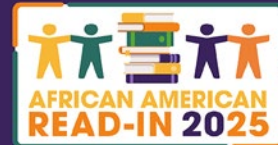
Wednesday, February 12 | 1:00 - 1:45 P.M. ET



Tonya B. Perry
NCTE PRESIDENT

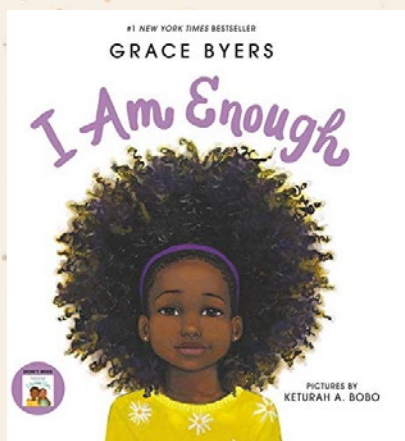


Charles R. Smith Jr.
AUTHOR

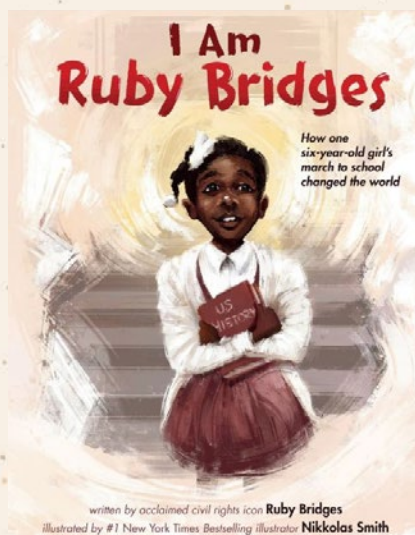


BOOKLIST

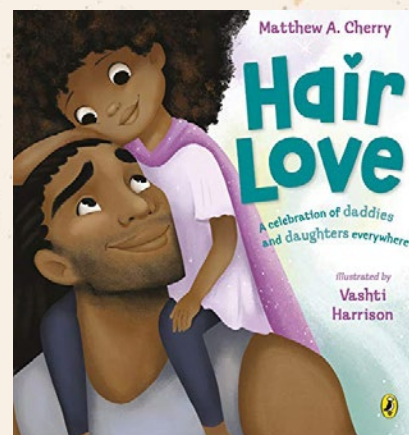
Of the books read this year,
these were the top five beloved titles:



I Am Enough
written by Grace Byers and
illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo



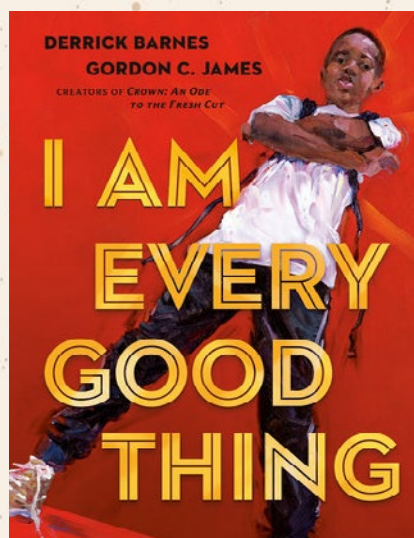
I Am Ruby Bridges
written by Ruby Bridges and
illustrated by Nikkolas Smith



Hair Love
written by Matthew A. Cherry
and illustrated by Vashti Harrison



I Am More Than
written by LeBron James and
illustrated by Niña Mata



I Am Every Good Thing
written by Derrick Barnes
and illustrated by
Gordon C. James

Other Popular Titles Included:

- *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race*, written by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *I Love My Hair!*, written by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley and illustrated by E. B. Lewis
- *I Promise*, written by LeBron James and illustrated by Niña Mata
- *The Day You Begin*, written by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael López
- *The Undefeated*, written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson

You can purchase these books and many more [through the NCTE Bookshop page](#).

AARI SPOTLIGHT

Throughout February, the Literacy & NCTE blog highlighted booklists and participant stories.



Kick Off the African American Read-In with Award-Winning Children's Books

No matter where or how a Read-In takes place, selecting which books to share is a fun and key part of planning. To help you choose, check out the titles in this post—all are winners of NCTE's 2025 Children's Book and Poetry Awards featuring African American authors and/or illustrators.

[Read the blog post here.](#)

AARI SPOTLIGHT



“Can We Do This Every Day?” Why One School Has Joined the African American Read-In for Nearly Two Decades

By Talika Mock-Green, NCTE member, child advocate, and former bookkeeper, parent facilitator, and event coordinator at Bells Elementary School in Ruffin, South Carolina

The African American Read-In has become a cornerstone of Bells Elementary School's identity, bridging cultures and generations while inspiring a love for reading and learning.

[Read their story.](#)

AARI SPOTLIGHT



“Accessible to All”: A Commitment to Improving Literacy and Celebrating African American Authors

By Sonda Vasquez, National 1st Vice President and Program Chair, National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.

By celebrating the African American Read-In, literacy advocates across the country introduce works to many readers who will themselves be inspired to become writers. Discover how #AARI25 continues to fuel learning success. [Read the blog post here.](#)

READ-IN PARTICIPANTS

123,023

CITY

EVENT LOCATION

ALABAMA

Auburn
Birmingham
Fairfield
Huntsville

Tomekia's Family and Friends
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Birmingham
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Birmingham
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Hunstville

CALIFORNIA

Arcadia

Arcadia High School

COLORADO

Lakewood
Littleton

Bear Creek High School
Dakota Ridge High School

DELAWARE

Newark

University of Delaware Department of English
and University Library, Museums & Press

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington
Washington

Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center
Washington International School

FLORIDA

Bradenton
Chattahoochee
Daytona Beach
DeLand
Greensboro
Melbourne
Midway
Quincy
Saint Petersburg
Sarasota

Daybreak Adult Center
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gadsden
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Volusia County
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Volusia County
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gadsden
Suntree Elementary School
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gadsden
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gadsden
Shorecrest Preparatory School
Selby Library Sarasota County;
ASALH Freedom School; Freedom Village Nursing Center
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library
Lockhart Elementary Magnet School
Progress Village Middle Magnet School

Tallahassee
Tampa
Tampa

GEORGIA

Avondale Estates
Decatur
DeKalb County
Douglasville
Lawrenceville

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro
New Manchester High School
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro

CITY**EVENT LOCATION****ILLINOIS**

Calumet City
Chicago
Joliet
Richton Park
University Park

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Chicago
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Chicago
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Joliet
Neil Armstrong Elementary School
Governors State University

INDIANA

East Chicago
Gary
Hammond
Indianapolis
Merrillville
West Lafayette

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana
Spring Mill Elementary School (MSD Washington Township)
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana
Purdue University College of Education

KENTUCKY

Louisville
Louisville

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Louisville
The Simmons College of Kentucky Writing Center

MARYLAND

Adelphi
Adelphi
Baltimore
Beltsville
Beltsville
Beltsville
Bladensburg
Bladensburg
Bladensburg
Bowie
Bowie
Bowie
Bowie
Bowie
Bowie
Bowie
Bowie
Brandywine
Capitol Heights
Capitol Heights
Capitol Heights
Capitol Heights
Chestertown

Adelphi Elementary School
Mary Harris "Mother" Jones Elementary
Bryn Mawr School
Beltsville Academy
Calverton Elementary School
Vansville Elementary
Bladensburg Elementary School
PGCMLS Bladensburg Branch
Rogers Heights Elementary School
Heather Hills Elementary
High Bridge Elementary School
Northview Elementary
Pointer Ridge Elementary School
Rockledge Elementary School
Tulip Grove Elementary School
Woodmore Elementary
Yorktown Elementary
Brandywine Elementary
Bradbury Heights Elementary
Carmody Hills Elementary School
Doswell E. Brooks Elementary School
Robert R. Gray Elementary School
Kent County Public Library, Washington College
Department of Education and Black Studies Program,
Sumner Hall GAR Post 25, Starr Center for the
American Experience, Chesapeake Heartland
Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary
Clinton Grove Elementary
James Ryder Randall Elementary
Waldon Woods Elementary School
Hollywood Elementary School

Cheverly
Clinton
Clinton
Clinton
College Park

CITY

EVENT LOCATION

MARYLAND *(continued)*

College Park	Paint Branch Elementary School
Columbia	Howard County Library System
District Heights	Francis Scott Key Elementary School
Forest Heights	Flintstone Elementary School
Forestville	Longfields Elementary
Fort Washington	Apple Grove Elementary
Fort Washington	Colin Powell Academy
Fort Washington	EXCEL Academy Public Charter School
Fort Washington	Forest Elementary
Fort Washington	Fort Foote Elementary School
Fort Washington	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Greater Metro
Fort Washington	Indian Queen Elementary School
Fort Washington	Tayac Elementary School
Glenarden	Judge S. Woods Elementary
Glenn Dale	Glenn Dale Elementary School
Hyattsville	Cherokee Lane Elementary School
Hyattsville	Chillum Elementary School
Hyattsville	Edward M Felegy Elementary.
Hyattsville	Hyattsville Elementary School
Hyattsville	Langley Park McCormick Elementary
Hyattsville	Ridgecrest Elementary School
Hyattsville	University Park Elementary School
Hyattsville	Woodridge Elementary
Landover	Columbia Park Elementary
Landover	Robert Frost Elementary
Landover	Thomas G. Pullen Creative and Performing Arts K-8
Landover	William Paca Elementary School
Landover Hills	Cooper Lane Elementary
Landover Hills	Glenridge Elementary School
Lanham	Catherine T. Reed Elementary School
Lanham	James McHenry Elementary
Lanham	Magnolia Elementary School
Lanham	Robert Goddard Montessori
Lanham	Seabrook Elementary
Laurel	Bond Mill Elementary
Laurel	Deerfield Run Elementary School
Laurel	Laurel Elementary
Laurel	Montpelier Elementary
Mitchellville	Lake Arbor Elementary
New Carrollton	Carrollton Elementary
New Carrollton	Lamont Elementary School
Oxon Hill	Barnaby Manor Elementary School
Oxon Hill	John Hanson Montessori School
Riverdale	Beacon Heights Elementary School
Riverdale	Templeton Elementary School
Seabrook	Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion
Seat Pleasant	Seat Pleasant Elementary School
Snow Hill	Snow Hill Elementary School

CITY**EVENT LOCATION****MARYLAND** *(continued)*

Suitland	William Beanes Elementary School
Takoma Park	Carole Highlands Elementary School
Temple Hills	Hillcrest Heights Elementary
Temple Hills	Panorama Elementary School
Upper Marlboro	Barack Obama Elementary School
Upper Marlboro	Kettering Elementary
Upper Marlboro	Mattaponi Elementary School
Upper Marlboro	Melwood Elementary School
Upper Marlboro	Rosaryville Elementary

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston	Harvard Graduate School of Education
Weston	The Cambridge School of Weston
Westwood	E. W. Thurston Middle School

MICHIGAN

Detroit	The Remnant Worshippers
East Lansing	MacDonald Middle School
Muskegon	Muskegon Community College
Port Huron	Port Huron High School
Waterford	Oakland Schools

MINNESOTA

St. Paul	Face to Face Academy
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MISSISSIPPI

Meridian	Meridian Community College
Meridian	Meridian Public School District

MISSOURI

Kansas City	Islamic School of Greater Kansas City
Kansas City	University of Missouri-Kansas City
St. Louis	St. Joseph's Academy
St. Louis	St. Louis Public Library

NEW JERSEY

Asbury Park	Boys and Girls Clubs of Monmouth County
Asbury Park	Interfaith Neighbors Launch Center
Asbury Park	St. Stephen AME Zion Church
Asbury Park	The Rebirth Church
Burlington Township	Grace Community Presbyterian Church
Camden	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Camden
Camden, Willingboro	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Cherry Hill
Chesilhurst	Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church
Middlesex	Parker Elementary School
Neptune	NCNW North Shore Area Section
Oak Ridge	Jefferson Township High School
Ocean Township	Township of Ocean School District
Plainsboro	WW-P High School North
Red Bank	Lunch Break
Trenton	Robbins School

CITY**EVENT LOCATION****NEW YORK**

Albany	Writing and Critical Inquiry Program, University at Albany, State University of New York
Bronx	AECI 2 New York City Charter High School for Computer Engineering and Innovation
Jamaica	Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School
New Lebanon	Darrow School
New Rochelle	New Rochelle High School
New York	Teachers College, Columbia University
New York	Hunter College, City University of New York
Rochester	Allendale Columbia School
Rochester	Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte	National Hook Up of Black Women, Inc. Queen City Chapter
Davidson	Davidson College
Jamestown	The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy (the Point)
Raleigh	Leesville Road High School National English Honor Society
Raleigh	Saint Mary's School, hosted by the Black Student Union and the Bookmark Club
Raleigh	Top Ladies of Distinction-Raleigh Chapter
Salisbury	Livingstone College Honors Program
Wilmington	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Winston-Salem	Forsyth County Central Library book club
Winston-Salem	Reynolda House Museum of American Art

NOVA SCOTIA

Dartmouth	Halifax Public Libraries
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OHIO

Akron	Daycare
Akron	Kent State University, Middle Childhood Education
Brecksville	Kent State University
Columbus	Columbus State Community College
Copley	Kent State University
Delaware	R. B. Hayes High School
Hudson	Kent State University
Kent	Kent State University
Kent	Kent State University, Middle Childhood Education
Kent	Marie Cline's Roommates
Marysville	Marysville High School
Warren	Self-Hosted Read-In
Youngstown	Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County

OKLAHOMA

Fort Sill	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro
Tahlequah	Social Justice Literacies
Tulsa	Leading A(head) Collaborative

OREGON

Portland	Lincoln High School
Tualatin	Arbor School

CITY**EVENT LOCATION****PENNSYLVANIA**

Abington	Overlook Elementary School
Easton	Lafayette College
Farrell	Stey-Nevant Library
Glenside	Copper Beech Elementary School
Philadelphia	Unitarian Society of Germantown
Pittsburgh	Duquesne University: Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center & Gussin Spiritan Division
Pittsburgh	First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh
Pottsville	Pottsville Free Public Library
Villanova	Black Rock Middle School
Wayne	Wayne Elementary School
Willow Grove	Willow Hill Elementary School

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston	Meeting Street Academy-Charleston
Ruffin	Bells Elementary School
Spartanburg	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Spartanburg

TENNESSEE

Columbia	Columbia State Community College (Written, Oral, Digital Communication Department) and the Office of Student Belonging
Memphis	Harding Academy of Memphis
Nashville	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Nashville Chapter
Whites Creek	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Nashville Chapter

TEXAS

Carrollton	Professional Achievers for Community Excellence (PACE)
Cedar Hill	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. MidCities
Conroe	Oak Ridge High School National English Honor Society
Fort Worth	Charley and Dorothy Croomes Foundation
Fort Worth	Sunrise-McMillan Elementary School
Houston	Houston Academy for International Studies
Humble	Oak Forest Elementary
Irving	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. MidCities
Lake Dallas	Lake Dallas Public Library
Lancaster	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. MidCities
Mesquite	Dallas College-Eastfield Campus
Pearland	Lit Java Coffee & Books
Plano	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. North Central Texas
San Marcos	Cephas House/Calaboose African American History Museum and San Marcos Public Library
San Marcos	DeZavala Elementary
Spring	Enrichment and Brotherhood Organization of Northwest Youth & Harris County Barbara Bush Branch Library

UTAH

Salt Lake City	Salt Lake Community College Student Writing & Reading Center and Black Student Union
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CITY**EVENT LOCATION****VIRGINIA**

Arlington
Chesapeake
Norfolk
Richmond
Stafford

Gunston Middle School
Oscar Smith Middle School
Norfolk Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Richmond Public Schools
Stafford County Public Schools

VIRTUAL EVENT

The Broncos Book Club

WISCONSIN

Menomonee
Milwaukee
Milwaukee
Wauwatosa

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Milwaukee
Milwaukee Public Schools–Golda Meir
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Milwaukee
Lincoln Elementary School