



2026

**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.

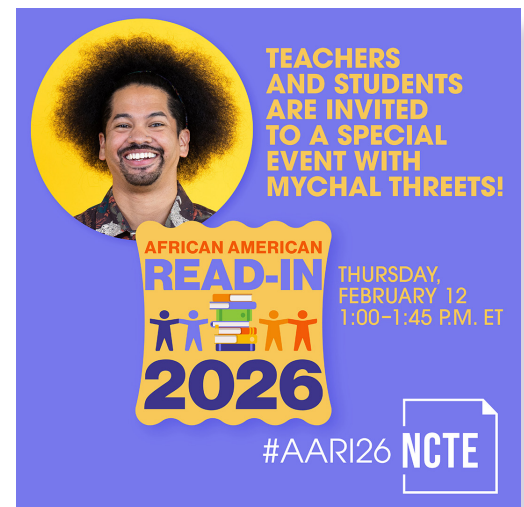
Established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), AARI was intended to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. Since then, the initiative has reached more than 6 million participants worldwide.



2026 RESULTS

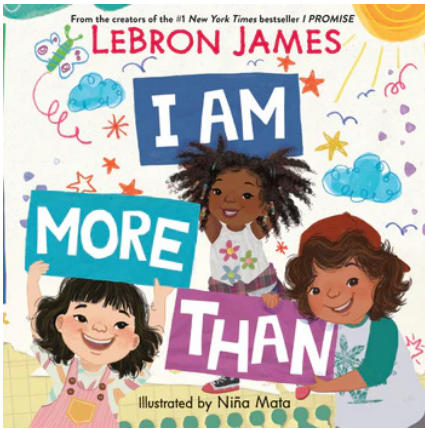
Each year, participants are asked to share details about their AARI events with NCTE to be recorded in this report card. In 2026, participants reported that:

- More than 112,000 students, educators, and community members attended AARI events.
- More than 5,700 books were read.
- At least 696 AARI events took place, including more than 20 virtual events.
- Events were hosted in at least 29 states and one international site.
- More than 50 community events took place, including more than a dozen hosted by libraries.
- There were more than 35 higher education events.
- There were more than 230 K-12 classroom events, including
 - more than 30 at high schools,
 - more than 30 in middle grades, and
 - more than 180 in elementary grades.

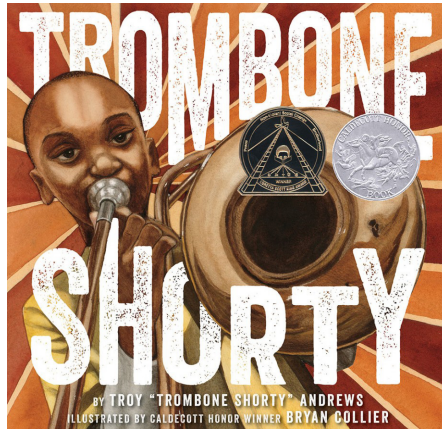


BOOKLIST

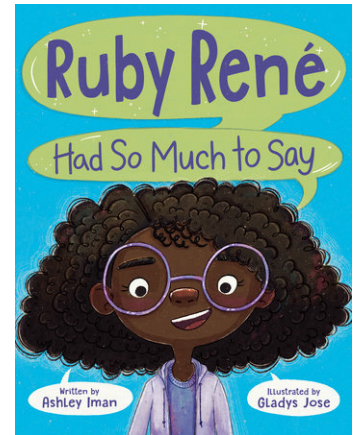
Of the books read this year,
 these were the top five titles:



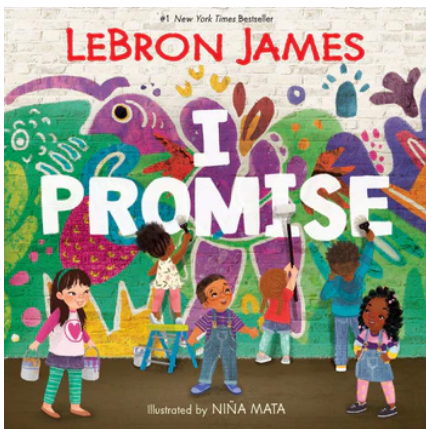
I Am More Than,
 written by LeBron James and
 illustrated by Niña Mata



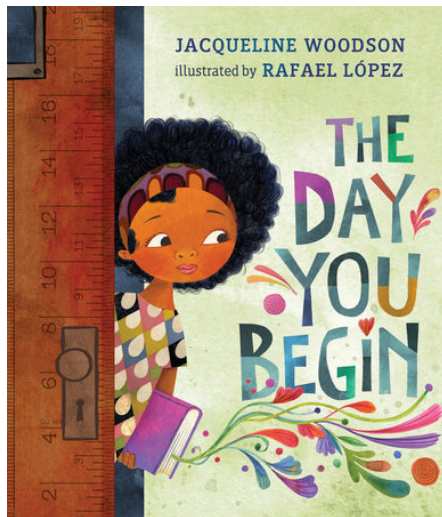
Trombone Shorty: A Picture Book Biography, written by
 Troy Andrews and
 illustrated by Bryan Collier



Ruby René Had So Much to Say,
 written by Ashley Iman and
 illustrated by Gladys Jose



I Promise,
 written by LeBron James
 and illustrated by Niña Mata



The Day You Begin,
 written by Jacqueline
 Woodson and illustrated by
 Rafael López

Other Popular Titles Included:

- *I Am Enough*, written by Grace Byers and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo
- *See Marcus Grow*, written by Marcus Bridgewater and illustrated by Reggie Brown
- *The Undefeated*, written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson
- *You Will Do Great Things*, written by Amerie and illustrated by Raissa Figueroa



AARI SPOTLIGHT

February 21, 2026

Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA)

Shared by NCTE member Markesha Tisby

The Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA) hosted its first African American Read-In this year. The free virtual event provided an opportunity for preK-12 educators to experience an author visit by Yesenia Moises. Moises read her latest picture book, *Sounds Like Joy*, and spoke about her desire to center people with diverse backgrounds in fantasy adventures.

Then, the TCTELA Section Chairs led book talks featuring five elementary, middle school, and high school titles each. Three copies of *Sounds Like Joy* were given away. The event concluded with a reading of Maya Angelou's "Human Family." ■

TCTELA PROUDLY PRESENTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

FEB. 21 – 9 AM (CST)

A virtual event that highlights and celebrates the importance of literacy as a significant part of Black History Month by showcasing the work of African American authors via book talks and read alouds

REGISTER TODAY!

Featuring Author & Illustrator:

YESENIA MOISES




TCTELA





AARI SPOTLIGHT

February 1, 2026

University of North Carolina
Wilmington and D.C. Virgo
Preparatory Academy—
Wilmington, NC

Shared by NCTE
member Caitlin Ryan

University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) students, faculty, and staff joined with students, teachers, and families from D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy (DCVPA) and members of the wider community to celebrate African American authors and literacy at their sixth annual African American Read-In on February 1, 2026.

Hosted at DCVPA, student readers from second to sixth grade were a highlight of the event. One group of students performed “Lift Every Voice and Sing” while other students read *Sing a Song: How “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Inspired Generations*, Kelly Starling Lyons’s book about the importance of the song—which was dubbed the “Black national anthem”—throughout decades of Black history. ■





AARI SPOTLIGHT

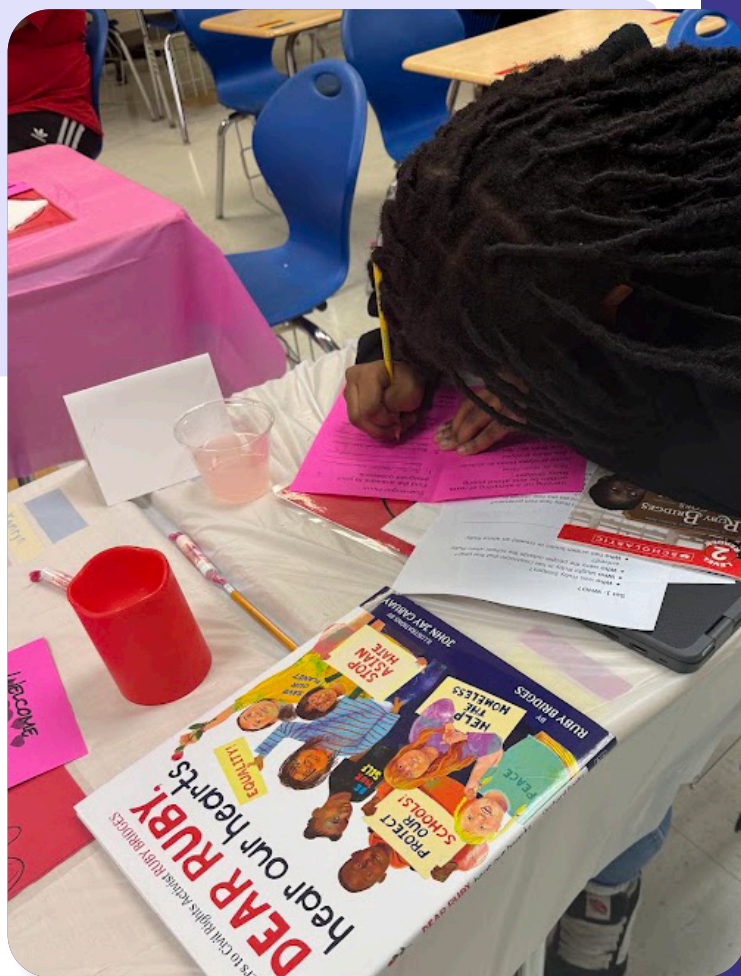
February 13, 2026

Oscar Smith Middle School—
Chesapeake, VA

Shared by NCTE
member Mary James

Oscar Smith Middle School students, along with teachers Mary James and Evelyn Willis, transformed their classroom into the Ruby Bridges Clean Heart Café for the 2026 African American Read-In.

Students were seated at tables prepared for two, where they read and shared details they learned about Ruby Bridges and her school integration experiences. They watched a short interview with Ruby as an adult because, of course, the children wanted to know if she was still living! As an exit ticket, students responded to a prompt based on Ruby Bridges's clean heart philosophy, sharing how they could demonstrate choosing to live with a clean heart. ■





AARI SPOTLIGHT

February 26–27, 2026

Falmouth High School—
Falmouth, ME

Shared by NCTE
member Vanessa Rasmussen

Students from Vanessa Rasmussen's CP English 9 and AP English Language and Composition classes at Falmouth High School (FHS) participated for the first time in the African American Read-In on February 26–27, 2026, in celebration of Black History Month. Jack Selig's Honors Global Studies class also attended.

Hosted in the FHS library by assistant librarian Kimberly Hank, the event featured student readings of poetry and excerpts from nonfiction essays and novels by Black authors. Students and teachers not only engaged deeply with powerful voices in American literature but also strengthened their public speaking skills through thoughtful, confident oral readings. ■



READ-IN PARTICIPANTS

112,752

EVENT LOCATION

EVENT HOST

ALABAMA

Huntsville

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Huntsville Chapter

ARIZONA

Florence

Lift Every Voice Community African American Read-In

ARKANSAS

Fayetteville

Community Literacies Collaboratory and the Brown Chair in English Literacy at the University of Arkansas

CALIFORNIA

Arcadia

Arcadia High School

COLORADO

Denver

First Universalist Church

Lakewood

BCHS Literati, National English Honors Society

FLORIDA

Bradenton

13th Avenue Dream Center, Daybreak Adult Center, and SOM Library

Chattahoochee

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gasden Chapter

Daytona Beach

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Volusia County Chapter

Deland

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Volusia County Chapter

Deltona

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Volusia County Chapter

Havana

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gasden Chapter

Ormond Beach

Pace Center for Girls, Volusia-Flagler

Palm Bay

Columbia Elementary

Quincy

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gasden Chapter

Quincy

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Tallahassee Chapter

Saint Petersburg

Shorecrest Preparatory School

Sarasota

Betty J. Johnson Library, Selby Library, Star Lab School

Tallahassee

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library

Tallahassee

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Tallahassee Chapter

Tampa

Progress Village Middle Magnet School

GEORGIA

Atlanta

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro Chapter

Atlanta

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gasden Chapter

Avondale Estates

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro Chapter

Douglasville

New Manchester High School

Greensboro

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Gasden Chapter

Lithia Spring

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro Chapter

Stonecrest

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Atlanta Metro Chapter

ILLINOIS

Chicago	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Chicago Chapter
Chicago	Wadsworth STEM
Hammond	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Joilet	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Joilet Chapter
Peoria	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Richton Park	Neil Armstrong Elementary School
University Park	Governors State University

INDIANA

Gary	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Chicago Chapter
Gary	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Harvey	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Chicago Chapter
Merrillville	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Michigan City	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Portage	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
St. John	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Chicago Chapter
Valparaiso	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter

IOWA

Cedar Falls	University of Northern Iowa
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KENTUCKY

Frankfort	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Louisville	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Louisville Chapter

MAINE

Falmouth	Falmouth High School
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MARYLAND

Adelphi	Cherokee Lane Elementary School
Baltimore	The Bryn Mawr School
Beltsville	Beltsville Academy
Beltsville	Calverton Elementary School
Beltsville	Vansville Elementary
Bladensburg	Bladensburg Elementary School
Bladensburg	Rogers Heights Elementary School
Bowie	Heather Hills Elementary School
Bowie	High Bridge Elementary
Bowie	Northview Elementary
Bowie	Tulip Grove Elementary School
Bowie	Pointer Ridge Elementary
Brandywine	Brandywine Elementary School
Capitol Heights	Doswell E. Brooks Elementary School
Capitol Heights	Robert R. Gray Elementary School
Capitol Heights	Bradbury Heights Elementary School
Capitol Heights	Capitol Heights Elementary
Chestertown	Kent County Public Library, Sumner Hall GAR Post 25, Washington College (Department of Education, Black Studies), Chesapeake Heartland
Clinton	James Ryder Randall Elementary
Clinton	Waldon Woods Elementary School
Clinton	Clinton Grove Elementary School
College Park	Hollywood Elementary School
Denton	Caroline County Public Library

Fort Washington	Apple Grove Elementary School
Fort Washington	Colin Powell Academy
Fort Washington	Fort Foote Elementary
Glenarden	Glenarden Woods Elementary School
Glenn Dale	Glenn Dale Elementary School
Hyattsville	Chillum Elementary School
Hyattsville	Edward M. Felegy Elementary School
Hyattsville	Ridgecrest Elementary
Hyattsville	Rosa L. Parks Elementary School
Hyattsville	University Park Elementary School
Hyattsville	Woodridge Elementary
Landover	Robert Frost Elementary
Landover	William Paca Elementary School
Landover Hills	Glenridge Elementary School
Lanham	Catherine T. Reed Elementary School
Lanham	James McHenry Elementary
Lanham	Magnolia Elementary
Lanham	Seabrook Elementary
Laplata	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Greater Metro Chapter
Laurel	Laurel Elementary
Laurel	Montpelier Elementary
Mitchellville	Kingsford Elementary School
Mitchellville	Lake Arbor Elementary
Oxon Hill	Flintstone Elementary
Riverdale	Templeton Elementary
Riverdale	Riverdale Elementary
Snow Hill	Snow Hill Elementary
Suitland	Suitland Elementary
Upper Marlboro	Alexander Memorial Baptist Church
Upper Marlboro	Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion
Upper Marlboro	Melwood Elementary School

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge	Harvard University Graduate School of Education
Jamaica Plain	Community Academy, Boston
Weston	The Cambridge School of Weston

MICHIGAN

Clinton Township	Parker Elementary School
Farmington Hills	The Oakland Community College Libraries

MISSOURI

Kansas City	University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC)
St. Louis	St. Louis Public Library

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene	Keene Public Library
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NEW JERSEY

Bloomfield	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Burlington Chapter
Browns Mill	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Burlington Chapter
Burlington	Grace Community Presbyterian Church
Burlington	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Burlington Chapter
Camden	National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Cherry Hill Chapter

Camden
Short Hills
Sicklerville
West Windsor
Willingboro

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Camden Chapter
The Pingry Lower School Library
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Cherry Hill Chapter
West Windsor Plainsboro High School South
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Cherry Hill Chapter

NEW YORK

Bronx
Middletown
New Lebanon
Rochester

AECI 2 Charter High School
Middletown High School
Darrow School
Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte
Charlotte
Greensboro
Jamestown
Raleigh
Raleigh
Salisbury
Wilmington

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Queen City Chapter
Providence Day School
Cone Elementary
The College Preparatory and Leadership Academy
Leesville Road High School National English Honor Society
Top Ladies of Distinction Raleigh Chapter
Livingstone College Honors Program
University of North Carolina Wilmington

NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax

Fairview Junior High School

OHIO

Alliance
Aurora
Chagrin Falls
Cincinnati
Columbus
Columbus
Delaware
Keene
Kent
Kent
Kent
Solon
Uniontown

Kent State University
Kent State University
Kent State University
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Columbus Online Academy
Northland High School, Columbus City Schools
Rutherford B Hayes High School
National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Northwest Indiana Chapter
Kent State Middle Childhood Education
Kent State University
Private Residence
Kent State University
Kent State University

OREGON

Portland
Tualatin

The Cottonwood School of Civics and Science
Arbor School of Arts and Sciences

PENNSYLVANIA

Abington
Abington
Farrell
Ivyland
Philadelphia
Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh
Willow Grove

Highland Elementary School
Overlook Elementary School
Stey-Nevant Library
Copper Beech Elementary School
Unitarian Society of Germantown
Duquesne University, Gussin Spiritan Division of Academic Programs
Duquesne University, Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center
Willow Hill Elementary School

SOUTH CAROLINA

Seneca

Seneca Middle School Library

TENNESSEE

Columbia

Columbia State Community College

Knoxville

Cedar Bluff Elementary

Memphis

Harding Academy of Memphis Lower School

Nashville

National Hook-up of Black Women, Inc., Nashville Chapter

TEXAS

Cedar Hill

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter

Euless

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter

Forest Hill

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter

Houston

Cornelius Elementary

Mansfield

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter

Red Oak

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter

San Marcos

Calaboose African American History Museum

San Marcos

DeZavala Elementary

Sherman

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. North Central Texas Chapter

Spring

Enrichment and Brotherhood Organization of Northwest Youth

Virtual Event

(E.B.O.N.Y.) and Harris County Barbara Bush Branch Library

Waxahachie

Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts

Wylie

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Mid Cities Chapter

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. North Central Texas Chapter-

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Salt Lake Community College Student

Writing & Reading Center and Black Student Union

VIRGINIA

Chesapeake

Chesapeake Public Schools

Chesapeake

Oscar Smith Middle School

VIRTUAL EVENT

National Council of Teachers of English

WISCONSIN

Brown Deer

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Milwaukee Chapter

Green Bay

Green Bay West High School

Milwaukee

National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc. Milwaukee Chapter

Wauwatosa

Lincoln Elementary School