

Learn with Us: Black History Month



Teaching Guide for Kids:

- History
- Historical Figures/Heroes
- Book Recommendations
- Film/TV Series Recommendations



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A letter from **diversi**TINY

Dear Caregiver or Educator,

Welcome to diversiTINY - where big change starts with the small! We created this website brand for readers to teach their kids about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

diversiTINY was created and rebranded by two Digital Media and Design students from the University of Connecticut. It started as an unfinished site which was originally called Creation Station. We, the team, wanted to make this site to provide positive resources for elementary students to learn about DEI. There are several topics included, such as LGBTQ+, Black History Month, Women's History Month and more!

The main topic of this guide: ***Black History Month.***

This guide features its history, such as how it started, important heroes, book/film recommendations, as well other resources.

We hope you and your diversiTINY friend enjoy this guide.

Sincerely,

The diversiTINY Team!



Let's grow BIG!

February is Black History Month! It's important for your child to understand the meaning and history behind this celebration.

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month is the celebration of the history and contributions of African Americans. It honors all Black people from all periods of US history. The celebration occurs from February 1st - March 1st.



BU – School of Social
Work

How did it start?

In 1915, there wasn't enough recognition on the achievements made by African Americans in the country, but one group made a change.

In 1926, *The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASALH)*, a group co-founded by historian, Carter G. Woodson declared "Negro History Week" on the second week of February. They chose the second week because it included birthdays from figures who made an impact such as Frederick Douglas who was an abolitionist and President Abraham Lincoln, who fought over slavery.

In 1976, US President Gerald Ford extended the week into a full month, which now has become Black History Month.



Carter G. Woodson
Co-founder of ASALH

Black History Month Colors

The official colors of Black History Month are red, black, green, and yellow. These are known as the Pan African colors, excluding yellow.

The Ethiopian flag inspired to add the color yellow.

Each color has a meaning:

Red: the bloodshed of all people of Black African ancestry and shed for liberation

Black: the people whose existence as a nation

Green: the abundant and natural wealth of Africa

Yellow: the riches of Africa



Pan-African Flag



Traditional Ethiopian Flag

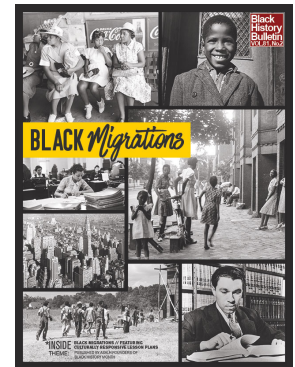
Themes

Every February, there is a theme chosen for Black History Month. ASALH chooses the theme.

Previous themes:

2019: Black Migrations

- Highlights on the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and new social realities from the 20th until today.



2020: African Americans and the Vote

- The year 2020 marks many events including the centennial of the 19th Amendment and culmination of the women's suffrage movement. This theme highlights the ongoing struggle of both Black men and women for the right to vote.



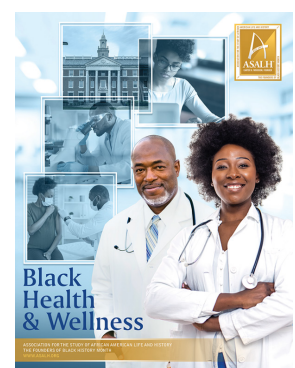
2021: The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity

- The Black Family has been a study in many disciplines, such as history, visual arts, film, and more. Across media, their representation, identity, and diversity have been stereotyped.



2022: Black Health and Wellness

- Recognizes the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but birth workers, doulas, and other health and wellness roles throughout the African Diaspora.

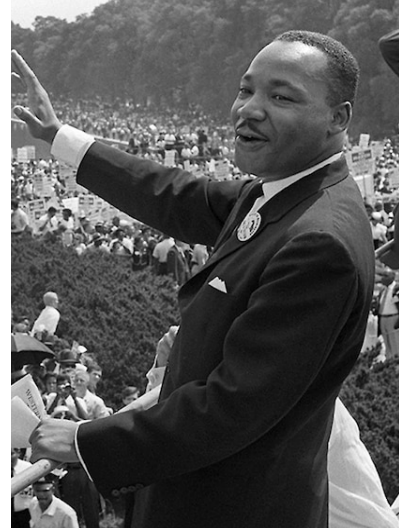


ASALH ©

Historical Figures/Heroes

Martin Luther King Jr.

- Born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, GA
- American Baptist minister and activist
- Due to his high score on a college entrance exam, King skipped high school and started college early
- Marched from Selma to Montgomery for giving African Americans the right to vote
- King got arrested multiple times for protesting
- Delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, which boosted public support for civil rights
- Received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964
- He was assassinated in 1968
- He was honored on January 16th each year, *MLK Day*



Maya Angelou

- Born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, MO
- American poet
- At a young age, she wrote essays and poetry. She even kept a journal of her work.
- In 1959, she joined the Harlem Writers Guild, a group to support the publication of Black authors
- In 1969, she wrote *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, an autobiography of her life. Her life included having strength and facing trauma and racism. It also got nominated for a National Book Award
- In 2011, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama
- She was also the first African American woman to appear on a Quarter coin



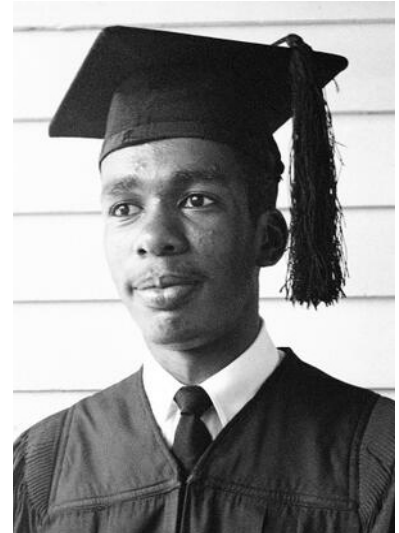
Ruby Bridges

- Born on September 8, 1954 in Tylertown, MS
- American activist
- At the age of 6, Bridges was the first African-American child to attend an all-white public school
- She and her mother were escorted by four marshals to school every day that year while crowds were screaming slurs at her
- After graduating from a desegregated high school, she became a travel agent, wrote two books about her early experiences, and received the Carter. G. Woodson Book Award
- In 1999, she started *The Ruby Bridges Foundation*, to promote tolerance and create change through education
- In 2000, she made an honorary deputy marshal in DC



Ernest Green

- Born on September 22, 1941 in Little Rock, AR
- One of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who were the first to attend an all-white high school
- First African-American to graduate Central High School
- After graduating college, he served numerous boards including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- In 1999, he and the members of the Little Rock Nine were awarded the nation's highest civilian award from President Bill Clinton



Rosa Parks

- Born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, AL
- American activist in the civil rights movement
- On December 1955, she went to a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, Black passengers were required to sit in the back of the bus or must give up their seats if a white passenger wanted a sit. Rosa refused to give up her seat for the passenger and got arrested. This has sparked a protest and inspired most Black passengers to refuse on taking the bus
- She was known as "the mother of the civil rights movement"
- Worked along with King during the protests - including the bus boycott
- In 1996, Parks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton



Harriet Tubman

- Born on 1820 in Dorchester County, MD
- American abolitionist
- Conductor of the Underground Railroad, which led an escape for slaves to freedom up in the North
- When she was a child, she was a slave and had to do what she was told
- The first time she escaped from slavery was with her brothers, but failed and had to be returned to the household
- She made her way from Maryland to Pennsylvania with the Underground Railroad. She would return 13 times and led at least 70 people to freedom
- She was also a "spy" for the Union during the Civil War. She helped Colonel James Montgomery plan a raid to free enslaved people. She knew the Confederate positions and where they hide their weapons.



Katherine Johnson

- Born on August 26, 1918 in White Sulphur Springs, WV
- American mathematician
- Began high school at age 10 & started college at age 15
- She was known NASA's "human computer" for having her calculations send astronauts to the moon and return home safely
- She broke racial barriers, like using the bathroom that was supposed to be for white women only
- In 2015, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama
- Passed away at age 101 in 2020



Michelle Obama

- Born on January 17, 1964 in Chicago, IL
- Former First Lady of the US, also the first African American to be First Lady
- Graduated from both Princeton University and Harvard Law School
- As first lady, she launched *Let's Move!*, a program to end childhood obesity within a generation. This has led parents, educators, and officials work together to provide healthy food to communities, nutritious food in schools, and plant vegetable gardens across the country.
- She's become an advocate for healthy families, service members and families, higher education, and international adolescent girls education
- In 2018, she released her memoir, *Becoming*, which talks about how she found her roots and finding her voice
- In 2021, she was one of the recipients of the Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum



Barack Obama

- Born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, HI
- 44th President of the US, also the first African American to run this position
- He graduated from Columbia University. Before going to Harvard for law, he took a break to volunteer in Chicago.
- After winning the election to the Illinois State Senate in 1999, he won a seat in the US Senate in 2004
- One of his goals as president was to provide health care for US citizens who couldn't afford it and called his health care plan Obamacare
- In 2009, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for maintaining peace with other nations
- He won the election as President again in 2012



Book Recommendations

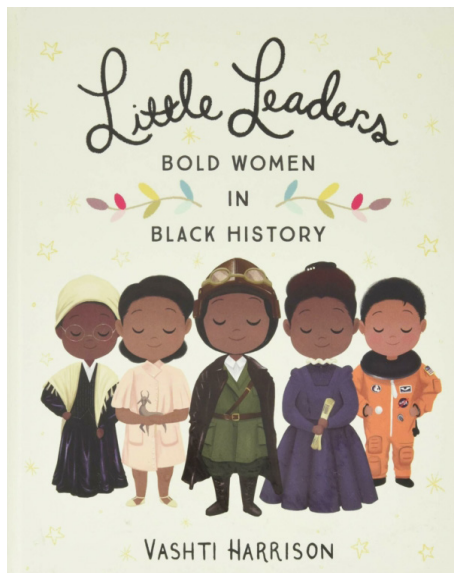
Sulwe

By Lupita Nyong'o

Illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Suddenly, a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.

Ages 4 and up



Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History

By Vashti Harrison

Filled with beautiful artwork and inspirational Black women, this collection inspires little leaders to keep breaking down barriers. Featuring true stories of heroic women, including Bessie Coleman and Ruby Bridges

Ages 4 and up

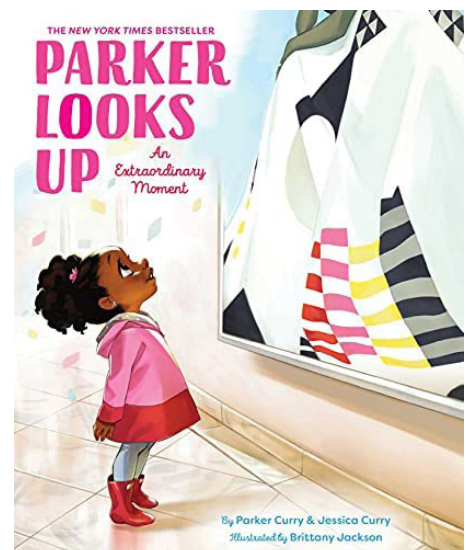
Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment

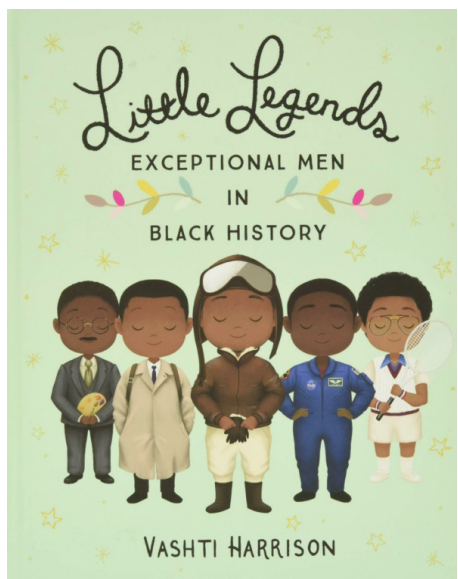
By Parker & Jessica Curry

Illustrated by Bea Jackson

A toddler named Parker Curry visits the National Portrait Gallery and becomes mesmerized by Amy Sherard's portrait of Michelle Obama, who she thought was a queen.

Ages 4 and up





Little Leaders: Exceptional Men in Black History

By Vashti Harrison

This illustrated book brings true stories of Black men in history. Among each biography, readers will find heroic men, including Aaron Douglas.

Ages 4 and up

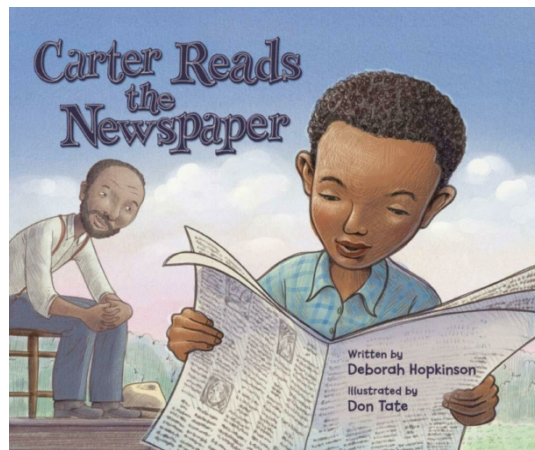
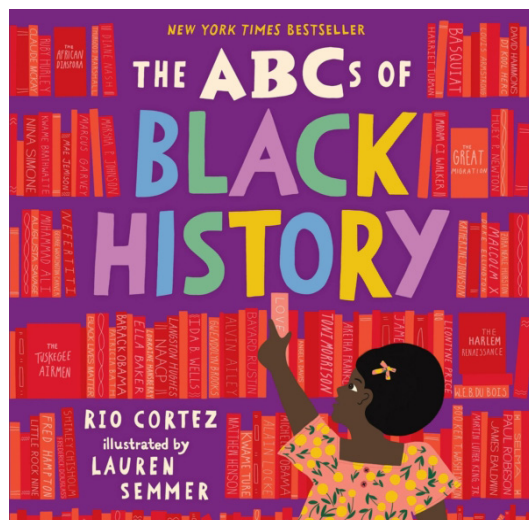
The ABCs of Black History

By Rio Cortez

Illustrated by Lauren Semmer

This alphabet book features special moments and people throughout Black history. It delivers lyrical text and teaches Black history through a historical lens.

Ages 5 and up



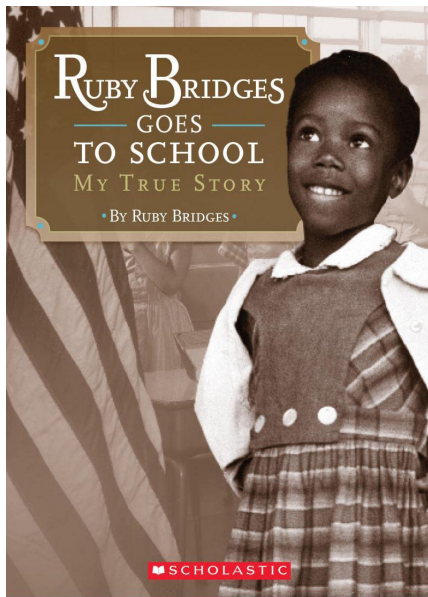
Carter Reads the Newspaper

By Deborah Hopkinson

Illustrated by Don Tate

Born to two formerly enslaved parents, Carter G. Woodson was taught on how to be an informed citizen. This story reflects on him as a child and how he regularly reads the newspaper to his father.

Ages 5 and up



Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story

By Ruby Bridges

The extraordinary true story of Ruby Bridges, the first African American child to attend an all-white elementary school in New Orleans.

Ages 5 and up

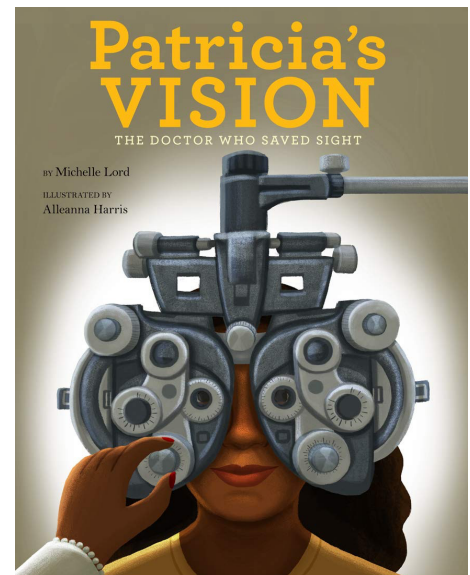
Patricia's Vision: The Doctor Who Saved Sight

By Michelle Lord

Illustrated by Alleanna Harris

Inspiring story of Dr. Patricia Bath, a groundbreaking ophthalmologist who pioneered laser surgery & delivered her patients the gift of sight.

Ages 5 and up



Juneteenth for Mazie

By Floyd Cooper

Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty. She is ready to celebrate freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history. The day her ancestors were no longer slaves. She remembers the struggles when she gets ready to celebrate Juneteenth.

Ages 6 and up

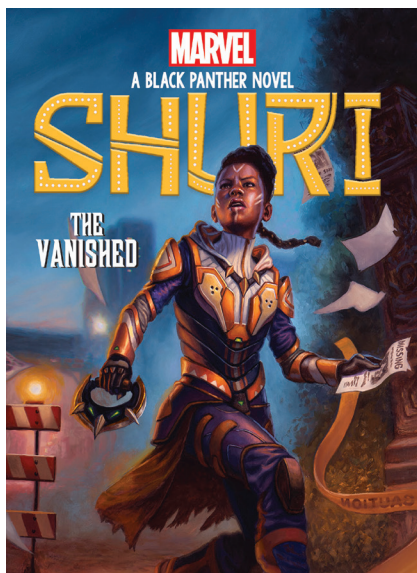
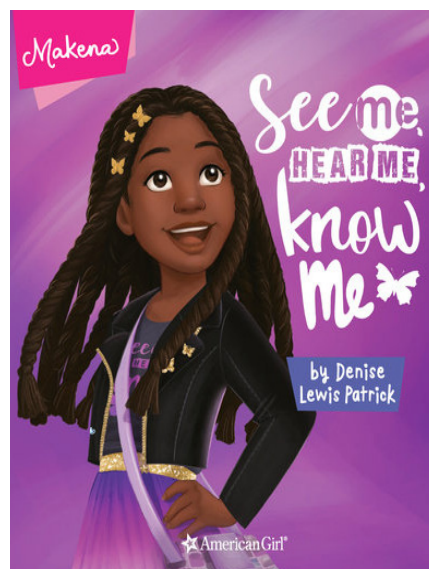
Makena: See Me, Hear Me, Know Me

By Denise Lewis Patrick

Illustrated by Courtney Lovett

Makena has a passion for fashion and clothes are a way for her to connect with many people such as sharing her OOTD (outfit of the day). But, there are people who just see her as a Black girl and make unfair assumptions. She uses fashion to speak up for justice.

Ages 7 and up



Shuri: The Vanished: A Black Panther Novel

By Nic Stone

Shuri, the Princess of Wakanda (and sister to the Black Panther), sets out to save a group of kidnapped girls.

Ages 8 and up

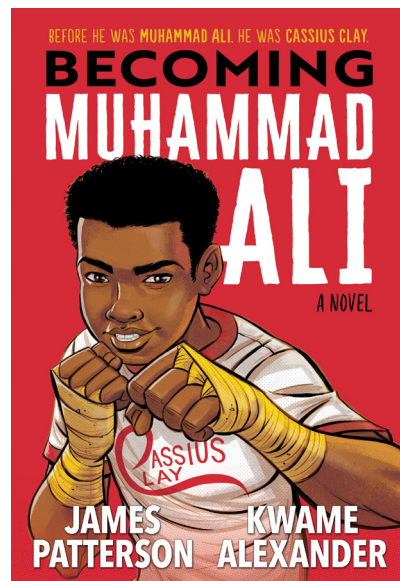
Becoming Muhammad Ali

By James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

Illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Readers will read about his life until age 17, including his family and his training to boxing.

Ages 8 and up



Film/Series Recommendations

Rise Up, Sing Out

Directed by Saxton Moore
Disney Plus

Musical-animated shorts that provide an inspiring and empowering message about race, culture and community, and celebrate differences



Hair Love

Directed by Matthew A. Cherry & Bruce W. Smith
Youtube

This beautiful Oscar-winning short film tells the heartfelt story of an African American father learning to do his daughter's hair for the first time.

Explaining Race | #ComingTogether

Sesame Street in Communities
Youtube

When Elmo notices that some of the leaves in the park match his red fur and some match his friend Wes's brown skin, he wonders how skin gets its color. Wes's dad Elijah explains it's from melanin — something everyone has in their bodies that gives us our skin, eye, and hair color.



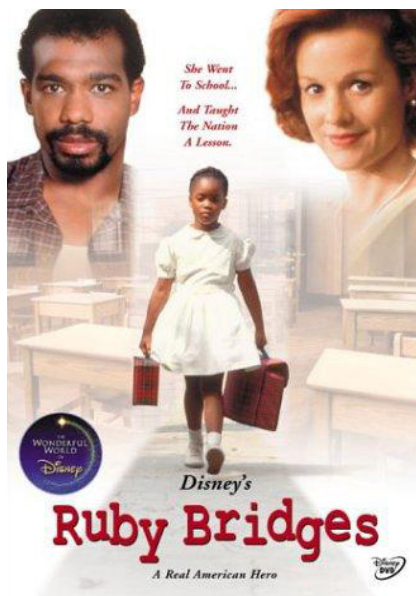
Hidden Figures

Directed by Theodore Melfi

Drama/History

20th Century Studios

The true story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson working for NASA in 1950s – doing mathematics and engineering to help the spaceflight program.



Ruby Bridges (1998)

Directed by Euzhan Palcy

Drama/History

American Broadcasting Company

When six-year-old Ruby is chosen to be the first African American to integrate her local elementary school in New Orleans, she faces racism for the first time.

The Princess and the Frog

Directed by John Musker & Ron Clements

Musical/Fantasy

Walt Disney Pictures

Tiana is a waitress and desperate to fulfill her dreams as a restaurant owner. She sets on a journey to turn a frog prince back into a human being, but she has to face the same problem after she kisses him.



Soul

Directed by Pete Docter

Family/Comedy

Walt Disney Animation Studios/Pixar Animated Studios

Joe is a middle-school band teacher whose life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz, but when he travels to another world to help someone find their passion, he soon finds out on what it means to have soul.



Black Panther

Directed by Ryan Coogler

Action/Adventure

Walt Disney Motion Pictures/Marvel Studios

T'Challa, the heir to the kingdom of Wakanda, must step forward to lead his people into a new future and must confront a challenger from his country's past.

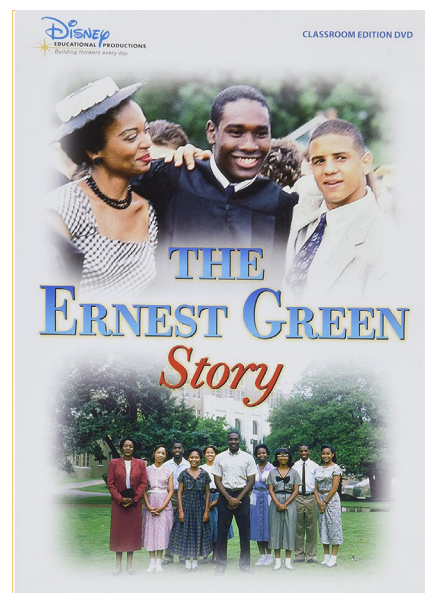
The Ernest Green Story

Directed by Eric Laneuville

Docudrama/Drama

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

This film follows the story of Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine who were the first African Americans to integrate into an all-white school.



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*“History has shown us that
courage can be contagious and
hope can take on a life of its
own.”*

– Michelle Obama

Thank you for learning with us.

diversiTINY

big change starts with the small

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