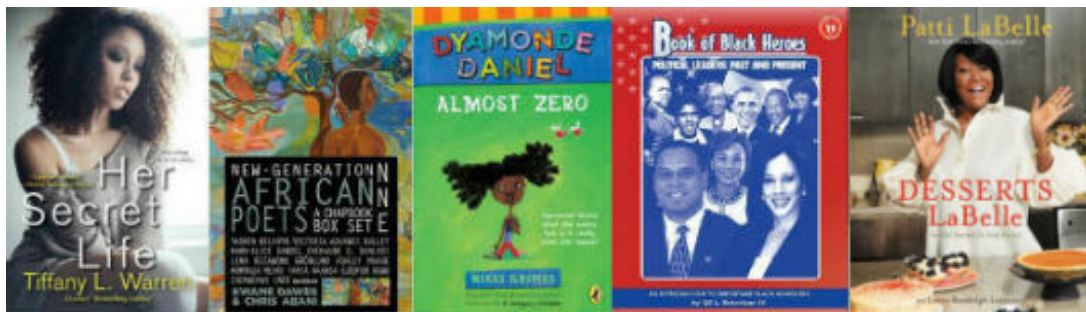


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Top 120 Children's Books from the Past 50 Years

Our list of the [Top 120 Children's Books](#) published over the last half century is updated on an ongoing basis and reflects some of the best, most beautifully illustrated books published in the past 50 years. Most are awarding winning, critically acclaimed, titles. Some have become obscure over years but it is important they are not forgotten; others are self-published and never enjoyed a platform to gain a significant audience. The Illustration above is by Leo & Diane Dillon and is from the book [Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions](#)

New Books Coming Out April 2017



Learn about these and other excellent new books coming out this month and in the coming months.



AALBC.com mourns the loss of Poet Mari Evans

Evans' poetic voice helped define the 1960s [Black Arts Movement](#). Over the course of her career Evans has been Distinguished Writer and Assistant Professor. She has taught at Cornell University, Indiana University, the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Miami at Coral Gables, and at Spelman College. She is the author of numerous articles, children's books, plays, musicals, and books of poetry.

Our Favorite Indie Booksellers



New York Times best-selling authors, Kimberla Lawson Roby, Beatrix Williams and Shelly Shepard Gray [described their favorite independent bookstores](#) during the Southwest Florida Reading Festival, which was held March 18 at Centennial Park in Fort Myers, Florida.

Recently Reviewed Books



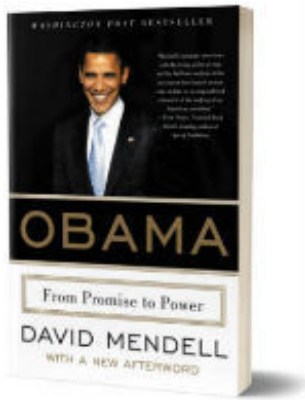
Lizzie & McKenzie's Fabulous Adventures: Mayhem in Madrid by Dina C. Tate

Dina C. Tate set up Global Girls Squad LLC in order to develop and self-publish a series of chapter books for young girls of color. The idea is to set young heroines, Lizzie and McKenzie, on adventures that will have them traveling the world, learning about other cultures, and celebrate being different.

Tate makes a fine start in accomplishing her goal of, inspiring young girls to read about different cultures in her first installment, *Lizzie & McKenzie's Fabulous Adventures:*

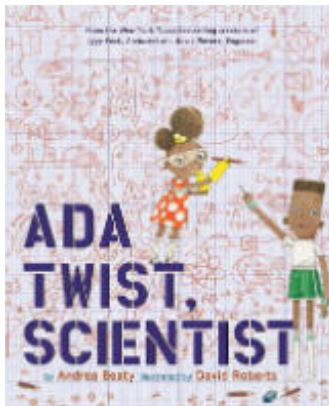
Mayhem in Madrid. The adventure actually drives the story. Learning about Madrid is simply part of the adventure. Exposure to other cultures in this fashion is sure to make the learning process fun. Young readers will certainly look forward to more of Lizzie and McKenzie's adventures as they learn about other places around the world.

Recommended Reads



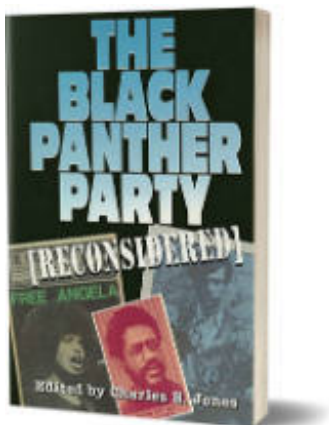
Obama: From Promise to Power by David Mendell

"I recommend this wonderful book to anyone who wants to know the real story behind Barack Obama's historic rise to national political stardom. Having covered Obama since his Senate campaign began, David Mendell offers an insightful, richly detailed and refreshingly balanced account of a 'change candidate' who was neither as perfect or as flawed as others might want you to believe." —Clarence Page



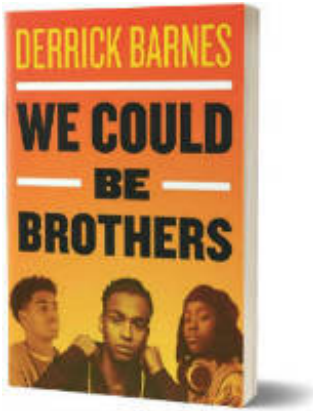
Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty

Like her classmates, builder Iggy and inventor Rosie, scientist Ada, has a boundless imagination and has always been hopelessly curious. Why are there pointy things stuck to a rose? Why are there hairs growing inside your nose? When her house fills with a horrific, toe-curling smell, Ada knows it's up to her to find the source. What would you do with a problem like this? Not afraid of failure, Ada embarks on a fact-finding mission and conducts scientific experiments, all in the name of discovery. But, this time, her experiments lead to even more stink and get her into trouble!



The Black Panther Party [Reconsidered] – Download the First 20 Pages for Free

The Black Panthers was the most effective grassroots black revolutionary group in American history — but one whose legend, replayed in sensationalized news stories, a major movie, and countless publications, has outlived the group itself. Featuring never-before-published reflections from former members as well as tables and illustrations, this pioneering collection of essays examines this unique organization in depth using a new approach that places the views of former Panthers alongside those of historians and cultural commentators. The result is a vital dialogue between inside and outside perceptions and realities. A section on gender dynamics offers a much-needed examination of the role of women in the Party. Other essays in the volume address the social forces that gave rise to the Party, the organizational dynamics involved in maintaining its activities, and the internal and external factors that eventually contributed to the Party's decline.



We Could Be Brothers by Derrick Barnes

In this middle grade novel by Derrick Barnes, two thirteen-year-old African-American boys become friends during a three-day stint in an after-school suspension. They were both involved in two unrelated incidents with the same person, the resident menace at Alain Locke Middle, Tariq Molten. During this three-day span, the young men visit each other's home, and chop it up on a multitude of subjects including respect of self and Black women, the dire state of hip-hop music, the use of the dreaded N word, and masculinity. Before long, the three boys are on a collision course.

130+ Book Events, Fairs, Festivals, and Conferences



Sacramento Black Book Festival - June 2-3, 2017

The Fourth Annual Sacramento Black Book Fair will feature more than seventy authors of African descent, showcasing and highlighting a diverse spectrum of authors and literature, from contemporary and historical fiction, to anthologies, poetry, academic books; children's stories and books, non-fiction to biographies, self-help, and inspirational, religious, and financial works. AALBC.com's founder, [Troy Johnson](#) will be giving a talk on

"The Corporatization of the World Wide Web and its the Impact on the Black Book Ecosystem."

Learn more about this festival and more than 130 others coming up over the next 12 months, [in our events section](#).

Win Two Books by Kimberla Lawson Roby



To enter be one of the first 10 subscribers to answer the following two questions.

1. What is something that you really like about our newsletter or website?
2. What is something about our newsletter or website that can be improved?

Three winners will be randomly selected from the first 10 responses. Winners will receive Kimberla Lawson Roby latest book *Copycat*, and an early prepublication version (a "galley")

of Kimberla's next book, *Sin of a Woman*.

To learn about these and other prizes [visit our contest page](#). The contest is only open to subscribers of our newsletter.

“When the slaves get together, that’s the beginning of getting out of slavery.”

Who said this? Visit [this page](#) to learn the answer. You’ll also be able to read and listen to the entire speech.



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Dear Troy,

In the first 18 years of running AALBC.com I've profile almost 900 authors. In the past year alone, I've added [profiles of 2,000 more authors!](#)

Not only has the number of authors increased, but the quality of their presentation has improved dramatically as well. Each of the author's books has its own page. If the book has won an award, is on a bookclub's reading list, or is reviewed there are links to pages with more details on all of that information. Ta-Nehisi Coates book, [Between The World And Me](#), is a good example.

Each individual book's buy links are customized to get readers the best deal—even if it means sending them to another bookseller. Consider Misty Copeland's new book, [Ballerina Body: Dancing and Eating Your Way to a Leaner, Stronger, and More Graceful You](#); autographed copies are available from Mahogany Books, our buy links will prominently reflect this deal as long as it is available.

This is just one example of many improvements to AALBC.com.

Troy, please know that none of this would be possible without your spiritual and financial support. So please consider [paying for your newsletter subscription](#) and continue to share any of our content you find with others.

Peace & Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Johnson'.

[Troy Johnson](#),
Founder & Webmaster, AALBC.com

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