



SPEAK: Students Profoundly Eloquent And Knowledgeable

by LINDA ALSTON

There is a treasure trove of rich, African American children's books waiting to be shared—beautiful literature that feeds the soul, lifts the spirit, and reveals a history that sets the record straight. We all have so much to learn about the monumental contributions of African Americans in the American History we were never taught. In The SPEAK Book Club the children teach the adults. “And a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6)

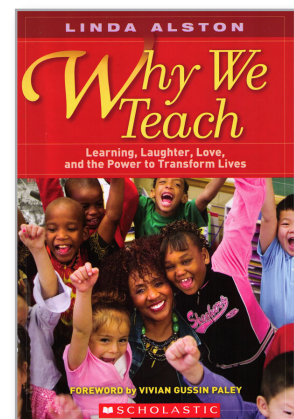
—Linda Alston



LITERACY CHAMPION: LINDA ALSTON

Author of the Scholastic Inc. best-selling memoir, [*Why We Teach: Learning, Laughter, Love and the Power to Transform Lives*](#), Linda Alston's passion is to love and honor the whole child as she teaches reading, writing, and speaking skills. For decades audiences in Colorado have stood to their feet in thunderous applause as Linda's kindergarten students spoke confidently about African Americans in history such as Mary McLeod

Bethune, Langston Hughes, George Washington Carver and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her students have presented at Iliff School of Theology, Denver Civic Center, Denver Art Museum, a Martin Luther King celebration to a crowd of twenty thousand, teacher conferences, local radio, NAACP and NCNW Harambee Brunch. As young authors they have signed their original stories at a local Barnes and Noble Book Store. One of the first trained leaders of the SPEAK Book Club is, Will, one of Linda's former kindergarten students. When Linda asked Will to be a leader, Will said, “Yes! God always has a plan.” In his first SPEAK Book Club, Will empowered young students to express their thoughts about Dr. Charles Drew (1904–1950), an African-American surgeon who improved large scale storage of blood in blood banks. Will is working toward becoming a medical doctor.



Linda is the recipient of the Disney American Teacher's Award, Milken National Educator Award, NCNW's National Excellence in Teaching Award, and historic KIPP/Kinder \$100,000.00 National Educator Award. She is a proud graduate of Howard University, a Fulbright Scholar to Sierra Leone, West Africa and holds a Master's Degree from the University of Colorado at Denver. Linda is a keynote speaker, Executive Coach, and AML-certified International Montessori Consultant. Her life's greatest honor and joy is to be the mother of three sons who she lovingly calls, "The strong male warriors from my womb." Linda lives by the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he said:

"Whatever your life's work is, do it well, so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better."

One to Know: The SPEAK Book Club

*Students **Profoundly Eloquent And Knowledgeable**: A Children's Book Club for Everyone Highlighting African American Literature*

SPEAK is a children's book club lead by children as young as four years old to the age of fourteen. It focuses on easy-to-read African American Literature and the tables turn as the children teach grown-ups. In this new and empowering role the children's literacy skills grow strong and a positive sense of self is nurtured. In SPEAK, no one asks the children what they want to be when they grow up. The children step into their greatness and become confident, articulate leaders now.

The SPEAK Book Club is not tutoring or homeschooling. The purpose is to have fun reading a single book title once a week for four weeks and have enlightened conversations with friends. Children can be at any reading level or not reading yet. The SPEAK Book Club sessions are one and a half hours. The design is happy and stress-free. The paradox is that children are learning so much without realizing it. They delight in teaching grown-ups things they didn't know. It is a refreshing change for the children.

Children learn conversational skills and expansive vocabulary in a fun way in this book club model without being formally tutored. And they will keep you cracking up with laughter because they say, "the darndest things." Children will also startle you with their wisdom and questions and comments about the world in which they live.

Social graces like saying, "excuse me" and "please and thank you" are essential elements of the SPEAK Book Clubs. Without stress, pressure, or tears your child or small group will learn literacy elements such as: point of view, to respectfully agree or disagree, to wait their turn to speak, impressive vocabulary, history, cultural tradition, poetry, songs, plot, setting, conflict, resolution, humor, surprise endings, controversy, social studies, art illustrations, about the authors, fiction, non-fiction, genres and more, just by talking about books. They learn to select age-appropriate books and have courageous conversations with kindness and love.

The SPEAK Book Club is a must for children ages four to fourteen or older. We are eager to teach you how to teach children to lead this book club experience. Only two hours are required to complete the training. There is a limit of ten in each training group. Speakbookclub@gmail.com

What to Do: Become a SPEAK Book Club Leader

Who Are SPEAK Book Club Leaders? They are people eighteen years and older who:

- love children and great books.
- want to give back to community.
- like to laugh, talk, and have a good time.
- listen well and are kind and patient.
- believe that young children are brilliant and have profound ideas to express, i.e., no deficit lens.
- will give a total of ten hours of their time as a gift to young children.
- can receive all the love, adoration, and gratitude the children will give in return.

Purchase a SPEAK Book Club training for yourself, a group of parents, religious group, teachers, community leaders, organization, or individual volunteers. Please contact us for more information. Speakbookclub@gmail.com

Register for this is powerful way to make a lasting contribution to children's literacy without being a tutor. You will be trained via Zoom or face-to-face. The training only requires two fun-filled hours.

Schedule a speaking engagement with Linda Alston.

More To Know and Do

If you have a mixed age and ability group, don't let that stop you from enjoying lively conversations about books. You can pair readers who need extra support with more capable readers. You can also read the book aloud—or see if family members are available for read-aloud support. Also, if available, consider providing the audio book version for those who need extra support.

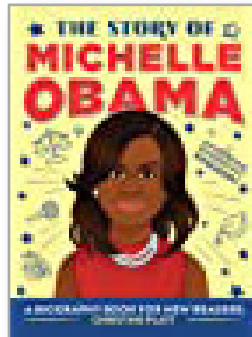
Order your copy of [*Why We Teach: Learning, Laughter, Love and the Power to Transform Lives*](#).

SPEAK Book Club Recommended Book Lists

African Americans and Their Astounding Contributions



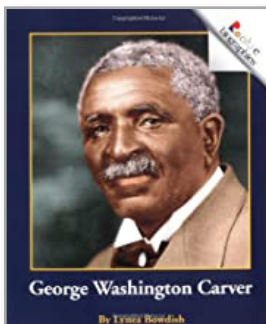
***Bessie Coleman:
Trailblazing Pilot***
Carol Alexander



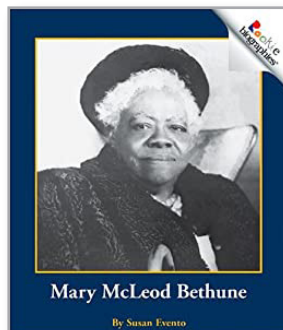
***Michelle Obama:
First Lady and Superhero***
Sarah Howden, Nick Craine



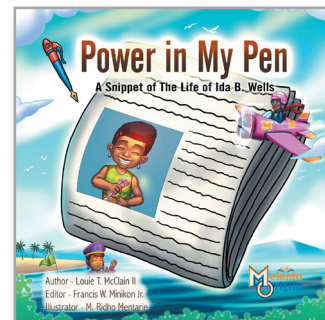
Misty Copeland: Ballet Star
Sarah Howden, Nick Craine



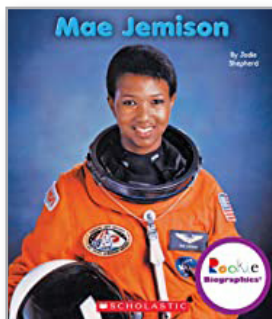
George Washington Carver
Lynea Bowdish



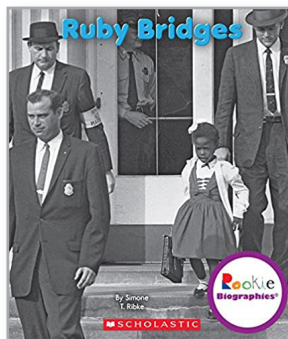
Mary McLeod Bethune
Susan Evento



***Power in My Pen: A Snippet
of the Life of Ida B. Wells***
Louie T McClain II,
Francis W. Minikon



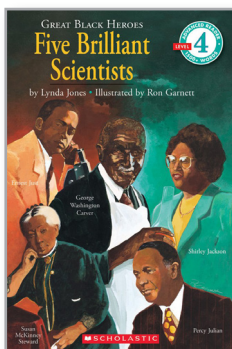
Mae Jemison
Jodie Shepherd



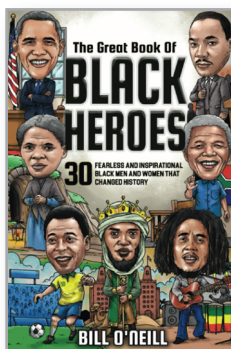
Ruby Bridges
Simone T. Ribke



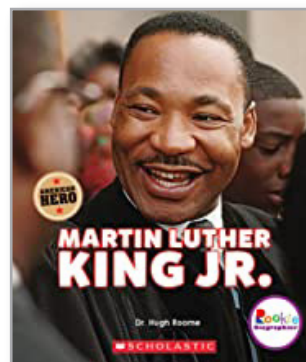
***RESPECT: Aretha Franklin,
the Queen of Soul***
Carole Weatherford,
Frank Morrison



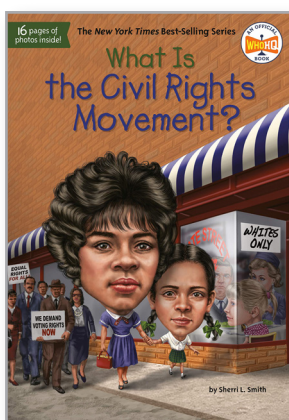
***Great Black Heroes:
Five Brilliant Scientists***
Lynda Jones, Ron Garnett



***The Great Book of Black
Heroes: 30 Fearless
and Inspirational Black
Men and Women That
Changed History***
Bill O'Neill



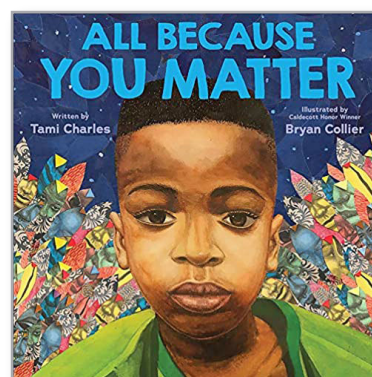
***Martin Luther King, Jr.:
Civil Rights Leader
and American Hero***
Hugh Roome



***What Is The Civil Rights
Movement (Part of:
What Was? Series)***



***Have You Thanked
an Inventor Today?***
Patrice MoLaurin



All Because You Matter
Tami Charles