

Celebrate Black History Month (February) as a Family

- Many libraries display books about Black History in the United States, and biographies about African Americans such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during February. Plan to check out one or more books. Here is a wonderful opportunity to read aloud to children and help them learn about the rich heritage of the African American community. Here are a few books to look for:

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman*. New York: Holiday House, 1992. Harriet Tubman led more than three hundred slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. This book begins with her childhood and follows her life through to 1913 when she died at the age of ninety.

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Jesse Owens*. New York: Holiday House, 1992. This is a picture biography of the famous Olympic runner.

Marzollo, Jean. *Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King*. New York: Scholastic, 1993. This is a biography suited for young children.

Mendez, Phil. *The Black Snowman*. New York: Scholastic, 1993. The snow is dirty and black and depresses a young boy until the snowman he and his brother build comes to life to teach them of their heritage.

Towle, Wendy. *The Real McCoy: The Life of an African American Inventor*. New York: Scholastic, 1993. This story recounts the life of Elija McCoy, the man who invented a device to oil locomotives. From his invention comes the phrase, "the real McCoy."

- Families with older adolescents and young adults may want to watch the films *Color Purple* and *Amistad*. Families with young adolescents could watch the film *Souder*.
- Plan to visit the music store with the family and preview various traditional African music. It would be fun to compare contemporary African American music with the more traditional music from Africa. Did you know that the xylophone was an African invention and that the banjo was an adaptation of an African instrument?
- Learn about some of our faith tradition's most important black saints: St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Martín de Porres, St. Peter Claver, and St. Pierre Toussaint