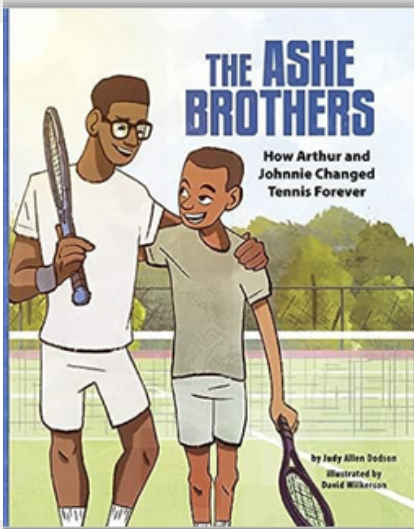


A CCSS-aligned Text Set Companion for

ASHE BROTHERS:

HOW ARTHUR AND JOHNNIE CHANGED TENNIS FOREVER



This untold story of Johnnie’s quiet sacrifice and stoic heroism for his brother, his county, and for the world to witness Arthur’s dream come true is truly- a brother’s gift. By allowing Arthur to play tennis and ultimately make history by becoming the first Black man to win the US Open in Men’s tennis, *The Ashe Brothers* tells the little-known story behind Arthur’s Grand Slam win.

Written by Judy Allen Dodson

Illustrated by David Wilkerson

Multiple award-winning author Judy Allen Dodson is all about books —reading them as a librarian, preserving them as an archivist, and writing them as an author. Judy has a passion for celebrating diverse children’s literature and teaching young readers about history. This highly acclaimed author lives in North Carolina, with her family. Visit her online at judyallendodson.com and follow her on social media.



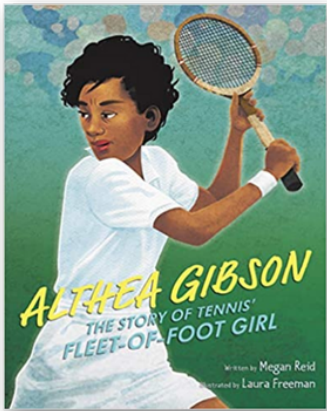
THEMATIC OVERVIEW

tennis || sports || brotherhood || siblings || family || veterans || Black first
Richmond, VA || Black history || African American || US Open || segregation || race relations
fear || community || loneliness || isolation || do the right thing || integrity || honesty
helpfulness || UCLA || US Marines || Vietnam war || sacrifice || US Army

COMPREHENSION CONVERSATION

- The word *sacrifice* means forfeit, offer up, and let go. This is a story about one brother’s sacrifice to empower the other’s opportunities and success. Describe the depth of love and devotion required to forfeit one’s own dreams to allow for the other to fulfill theirs.
- In 1967, during the Vietnam War, unbeknownst to twenty-three-year-old Arthur, his eighteen-year-old brother, Johnnie took on a second tour in the Marine Corps. Doing so permitted Arthur to continue to pursue his career in tennis rather than to assume a tour of duty in the army. Consider the danger involved in Johnnie’s willingness to take his brother’s place in battle.
- A *gift* is defined as being something given freely, a legacy, and remembrance. Arthur Ashe, one of the most celebrated tennis players of all time, still holds the record for being the only African American man to win three major tennis championships. Examine ways that Johnnie’s sacrifice, given freely, ultimately became his brother’s legacy, forever to be remembered.

Nonfiction Pairing for ASHE BROTHERS



Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl by Megan Reid

Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl chronicles this trailblazing athlete's journey—and the talent, force of spirit, and energy that made it possible for her to break barriers and ascend to the top of the tennis world.



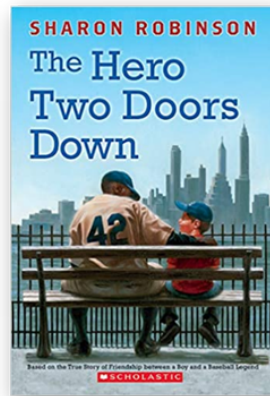
The Story of Misty Copeland: A Biography Book for New Readers by Frank Berrios

Misty Copeland is the first Black female principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre. She worked hard and overcame many obstacles to fulfill her dream of becoming a great ballerina.



Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison

An important book for readers of all ages, this beautifully illustrated and engagingly written volume brings to life true stories of black men in history.



The Hero Two Doors Down by Sharon Robinson

Stephen Satlow is eight living in Brooklyn, New York, which means he only cares about one thing - the Dodgers. Steve hears a rumor that an African American family is moving to his all-Jewish neighborhood. It's 1948 and some of his neighbors are against it. Steve knows this is wrong.



Colin Kaepernick: Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick

High school star athlete Colin Kaepernick is at a crossroads in life. Heavily scouted by colleges and MLB as a baseball pitcher, he has a bright future ahead of him. Everyone from his parents to his teachers and coaches are in agreement on his future. Colin feels differently..



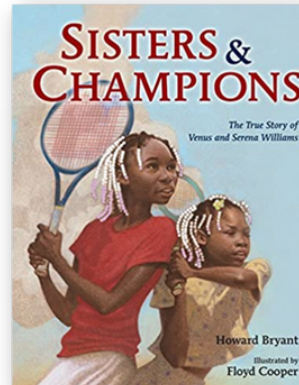
Athletes for Racial Equity: Jackie Robinson, Arthur Ashe, and More by Sibylla Nash

Jackie Robinson was the first Black player in Major League Baseball. Arthur Ashe was the first Black man to win several pro tennis titles. Readers will learn about these athletes and others who have fought for and spoken out for racial equity in sports and the greater society.



Kickoff! by Tiki Barber & Ronde Barber

Inspired by the childhood of NFL superstars Tiki and Ronde Barber, this middle grade novel is a story of teamwork, perseverance, and what it takes to be a champion.



Sisters and Champions: The True Story of Venus & Serena Williams by Howard Bryant

An inspiring picture book sports biography about two of the greatest female tennis players of all-time! Venus and Serena Williams: Best friends. Sisters. Champions.

