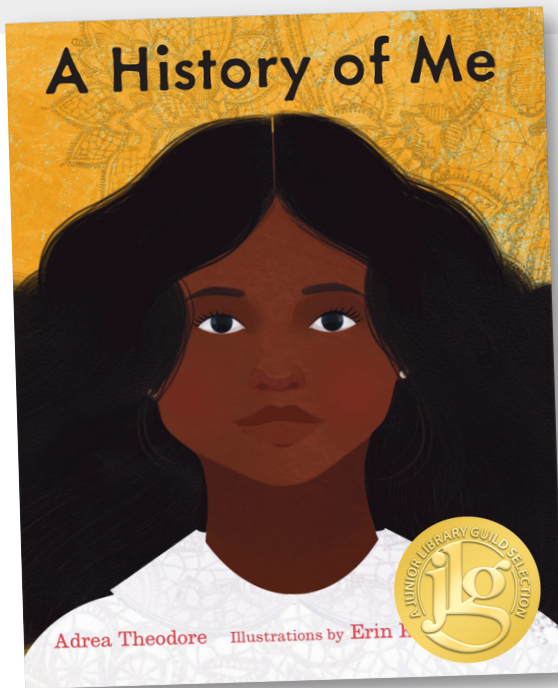


A CCSS-aligned Text Set Companion for **A HISTORY OF ME**



Who do you see when you look in the mirror? One mother's account of her experience as the only Black child in school serves as an empowering message to her own daughter and children of color everywhere.

Life can be hard for the only brown girl in a classroom full of white students. When the teacher talks about slavery, she can feel all of her classmates staring at her. When they talk about civil rights, she is the one that other kids whisper about on the playground. In those moments, she wants to slip away or seep into the ground; and she wonders, is that all you see when you look at me?

What really matters is what she sees when she looks at herself. She is a reflection of the courage, strength, intelligence and creativity that's been passed down from generation to generation through her ancestors.

Inspired by her daughter's experience in school as well as her own, Adrea Theodore's debut picture book is a powerful testament to the past as well as a benediction for the future.

Written by Adrea Theodore
Illustrated by Erin Robinson

Neal Porter Books ISBN: 978-0823442577

Adrea Gist Theodore (MD, MPH) is a mom, a pediatrician and a children's book author from Durham, North Carolina. Growing up on Long Island, Adrea was the kind of girl who almost always had a book in her hand, a library card in her pocket, and a stack of books in the corner waiting to be read - or returned for more books! This love of reading, writing and language has continued to grow throughout the years, culminating in the publication of her debut picture book, *A History of Me*.

Adrea's education gradually brought her south; and she has lived in North Carolina since moving there to complete her medical training in pediatrics. She currently works in a local child advocacy center (CAC) with children being evaluated for abuse or neglect. Every child she sees there also has a story to tell.



THEMATIC OVERVIEW

family || racism || American History || slavery || segregation || African American History
empathy || Enslavement || inclusivity || diversity || cultural pride || ancestry || civil rights || Black History

COMPREHENSION CONVERSATION

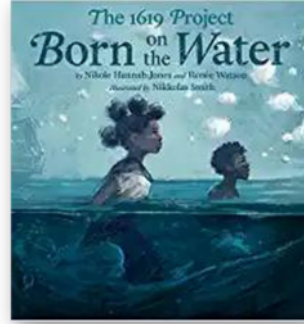
- The word *only* means solitary, sole, and alone. Consider how being the “only” student of color present in class while lessons about oppression and slavery were being taught might affect one's confidence and self-esteem.
- In the story, the main character moves from experiencing a sense of shame of her ancestry to developing a sense of pride in her familial heritage. Predict how this transformation affected her relationship with others, and herself.
- Examine ways that the past impacts the present. Determine how acts of empathy and understanding can empower positivity and a sense of cultural pride.

Fiction Pairing for A HISTORY OF ME



***Mommy, What Do You See When You Look At Me?* by Candace V. Haynes**

An inquisitive daughter challenges her mom to answer her questions. She receives her mother's adoring words describing the characteristics that make her daughter a unique and special person.

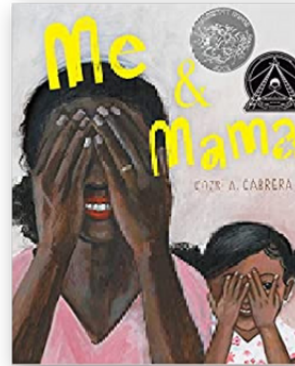
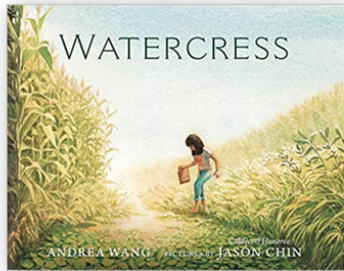


***The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* by Nikole Hannah-Jones**

The 1619 Project's lyrical picture book in verse chronicles the consequences of slavery and the history of Black resistance in the United States, thoughtfully rendered by journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and Newbery honor-winning author Renée Watson.

***Watercress* by Andrea Wang**

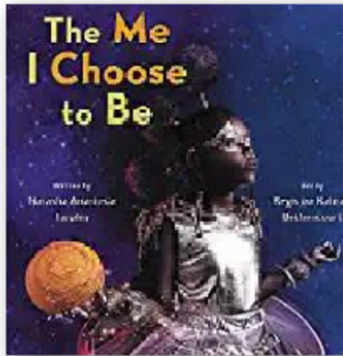
Driving through Ohio, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. Grabbing an old paper bag and some rusty scissors, the whole family collects as much of the muddy, snail covered watercress as they can.



***Me & Mama* by Cozbi A. Cabrera**

Mama's love is brighter than the sun, even on the rainiest of days. This celebration of a mother-daughter relationship is perfect for sharing with little ones!

Non-fiction Pairing for A HISTORY OF ME



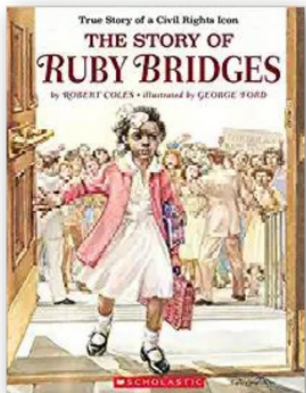
***The Me I Choose to Be* by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley**

The possibilities are endless in this uplifting ode to the power of potential. With lyrical text by author Natasha Anastasia Tarpley and images by Regis and Kahran Bethencourt—each page is an immersive call for self-love that highlights the inherent beauty of all Black and brown children. .



***The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah-Jones**

A dramatic expansion of a groundbreaking work of journalism, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* offers a profoundly revealing vision of the American past and present.



***The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles**

The inspirational true story of Ruby Bridges. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her.



***This Is Your Time* by Ruby Bridges**

This Is Your Time is both a recounting of Ruby's experience as a child who had to be escorted to class by federal marshals when she was chosen to be one of the first black students to integrate into New Orleans' all-white public school system.