



## BIographies OF BOYS WHO CHALLENGED EXPECTATIONS

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David A. Adler & Dan Brown, *A Picture Book of George Washington Carver*, Holiday House, 2000.

A brief biography of the African-American scientist who overcame tremendous hardships to make important discoveries in the field of agriculture

Marie Bradby & Chris K. Soentpiet (Illustrator), *More Than Anything Else*, Scholastic, 1995.

This story is based on the childhood of Booker T. Washington, a boy who wants more than anything else to learn how to read.

Larry Dane Brimmer, *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin*, Calkins Creek Books, 2007.

Rustin's personal story is set against the history of segregation in his time and focuses on his leadership role, largely unacknowledged, in the struggle for civil rights. His gay identity gets a brief mention in the afterword.

Robert Burleigh & Wendell Minor (Illustrator), *Into the Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream*, Atheneum, 2003.

As a young man, John James Audubon, the renowned American woodsman and artist, had to choose between following his father's dreams for him and discovering his own special destiny of living in nature to develop his art and his relationship with the world.

Robert Burleigh & Ed Young (Illustrator), *Tiger of the Snows: Tenzing Norgay: The Boy Whose Dream Was Everest*, Atheneum, 2006.

Introduces young readers to one of the Far East's greatest heroes and tells the long-neglected story of a little boy with an unimaginable dream, who refused to be daunted by the world's most daunting mountain.

Robert Byrd, *Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer*, Leonardo Dutton Books, 2003.

Leonardo da Vinci was not expected to get an education but he was too curious. He went on to become famous in his time as a painter, prankster and philosopher. Leonardo was also a musician, sculptor and engineer for dukes, popes and kings.

James Lincoln Collier, *The Frederick Douglass You Never Knew*. Children's Press, 2004.

Douglas escaped slavery and became an orator, writer and leader in the abolitionist movement.

Marfé Ferguson Delano. *Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein*, National Geographic Children's Books, 2005.

The world has known Einstein for his ingenious side; this is a more personal look at his life, revealing his exceptional love for humanity.

Demi, *Gandhi*, Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Lavish, traditionally-styled paintings and comprehensive text trace Gandhi's development from skinny, fearful boy into "the father of India."

Tomie dePaola, *26 Fairmount Avenue*, Tandem Library, 2001.

An autobiographical account of dePaola's childhood. Everything is seen through the eyes of five-year-old Tomie. First in a series.

Christine King Farris & Chris Soentpiet (Illustrator), *My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*, Aladdin, 2005.

As a boy Martin liked to play jokes, practice the piano and make friends without considering race. But growing up in the segregated South of the 1920s forced a young Martin to learn a bitter lesson — little white children and little black children were not to play with one another.

Lenny Hort, *Nelson Mandela: DK Biography A Photographic Story of a Life*, DK CHILDREN, 2006.

Delores Johnson, *Onward: A Photobiography of African American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson*, National Geographic Children's Books, 2006.

An adventuresome story told through archival polar and personal photographs about Matthew Henson, an African American explorer who labored alongside Robert Peary to be the first humans to reach the North Pole in 1909.

Bill T. Jones & Susan Kuklin, *Dance*, Hyperion, 1998.

The renowned performer and choreographer shares his deep love for dance in this poignant photo-essay.

Barbara Kerley & Brian Selznick (Illustrator), *Walt Whitman: Words for America*, Scholastic, 2004.

Picture book biography of the American poet who nursed soldiers during the Civil War, gave voice to the nation's grief at Lincoln's assassination, and captured America in verse.

Eric A. Kimmel & James Bernardin (Illustrator), *A Horn for Louis*, Random House, 2006.

Louis Armstrong was too poor to buy a real horn. To help his mother pay rent, Louis played a tin horn and collected stuff people didn't want. One day the junk wagon passed a pawn shop with a gleaming brass trumpet in the window. . . .

Kari Krakow & David Gardner (Illustrator), *The Harvey Milk Story*. Two Lives Publishing, 2002.

Tells the story of the first openly gay elected city official in the United States, beginning with his childhood and taking us through his years in the Navy and career as a teacher. Then he moved on to be a politician until he was assassinated in 1978,

Kathleen Krull, Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher (Illustrators), *The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss*, Random House, 2004.

A picture book story of how Ted Geisel grew up to be Dr. Seuss. He was a square peg in a round hole until he found that he could make a living doing exactly what he loved.

Kathleen Krull & Yuyi Morales (Illustrator), *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*, Harcourt, 2003.

Describes Cesar Chavez's remarkable life - from his boyhood working in the fields and being treated cruelly in school, to the birth the National Farm Workers Association

Kathryn Lasky, *John Muir: America's First Environmentalist*, Candlewick. 2006.

Quoting from John Muir's diaries, tells the inspiring tale of one of America's most dedicated environmentalists.

Pat Mora & Raul Colon (Illustrator), *Tomás and the Library Lady*, Dragonfly Books, 2000.

Tale of Tomás Rivera and the kind librarian who helped him learn to love books. Tomás started his life as a migrant worker and, when he died, was a university chancellor.

Robert A. Parker, *Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*, Schwartz & Wade, 2008.

Tatum came from modest beginnings and was nearly blind, but his passion for the piano and his acute memory for any sound that he heard drove him to become a virtuoso who was revered by both classical and jazz pianists alike.



Bill Peet, *Bill Peet: An Autobiography*, Houghton, 1989.

Children's book illustrator Bill Peet has created an award-winning autobiography by combining a conversational text with energetic, often comical, illustrations. In describing his work as a Disney animator, the pictures include many characters from popular films.

Deborah Kogan Ray. *To Go Singing Through the World: The Childhood of Pablo Neruda*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006.

Pablo Neruda grew up in the rough and wild frontier town of Temuco, Chile, an introspective boy who found refuge in nature and in books. At age sixteen he left for the university went on to become the “people’s poet” and to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Susanna Reich & Raul Colon (Illustrator), *Jose! Born to Dance*, Simon & Schuster, 2005.

This picture-book biography is a portrait of achievement as it relates the story of Jose Limon, from his childhood in Mexico to becoming a legend in the history of American dance.

James Rumford, *Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing*, Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

The story of Sequoyah is the tale of an ordinary man with an extraordinary idea — to create a writing system for the Cherokee Indians and turn his people into a nation of readers and writers.

Ginger Wadsworth & Craig Orback (Illus.), *Benjamin Banneker: Pioneering Scientist*. Carolrhoda Books, 2003.

Introduces Banneker, a free black man who loved to learn and used his knowledge and observations to build a wooden clock, write an almanac and help survey the streets of Washington.

James Warhola, *Uncle Andy's: A Faabbbulous Visit with Andy Warhol*, Putnam Publishing Group, 2003.

When James Warhola was a little boy, his father had a junk business that turned their yard into a wonderful play zone that his mother didn't fully appreciate! But whenever James and his family drove to New York City to visit Uncle Andy, they got to see how "junk" could become something truly amazing in an artist's hands.

Carole Boston Weatherford & Eric Velasquez (Illustrator), *I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer*, Walker Books for Young Readers, 2007.

African American Matthew Henson was not meant to lead an ordinary life. No amount of fear, cold, hunger, or injustice could keep him from tasting adventure and exploring the world – all the way to the North Pole.

Jonah Winter & Jeanette Winter, *Diego*, Dragonfly Books, 1994.

This story of Diego Rivera, the greatest muralist of Mexico--and of the world--is told in Spanish and English. Vibrant miniature paintings convey the sense of adventure and magic that marked Rivera's early years.

Jonah Winter & Raul Colon, *Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates*, Simon and Schuster, 2005.

The life of a Puerto Rican baseball player and the struggles he faced on and off the field.

Kay Winters & Nancy Carpenter (Illustrator), *Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books*, Simon & Schuster, 2003.

Lincoln's love of books permeates the story of his rise from one-room cabin to President of the United States.

Jane Yolen & Dennis Nolan, *The Perfect Wizard: Hans Christian Andersen*. Dutton Children's Books, 2006.

A beautifully written and illustrated story of Andersen's life, detailing hardships and successes. Quotes from his fairy tales are inserted in a sensitive and clever manner throughout the book.

Paula Yoo & Dom Lee (Illustrator), *Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds: The Sammy Lee Story*, Lee & Low, 2005.

At the age of 12, Sammy Lee fell in love with diving, but in 1932 his local pool was only open to non-whites once a week. Against all opposition, Sammy earned a medical degree and an Olympic gold medal for diving.

