

# Michigan Celebrates

# BLACKHISTORYMONTH

with Literature

## WEEK 1

### February 2023

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Student literacy engagement increases as students see themselves (mirrors) and others (windows) portrayed accurately in their reading as presented in the work of [Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop](#). By raising the consciousness about great Black authors and lifting up their works, we seek to create conditions for greater engagement with literature among Michigan students.

In celebration of Black History Month, the Michigan Department of Education and the Library of Michigan are excited to showcase Black authors and their literary works during each week in the month of February as featured below. The weekday recommendations were selected from nominations submitted by Michigan Teachers of the Year, Michigan Regional Teachers of the Year, and MDE educators and are intended for use by educators. Additionally, each weekend in February features a video recommendation from a Michigan student, that includes an explanation of how the book speaks to them individually.

February

# 01

## The Day You Begin

Jacqueline Woodson

**Grade:** 1

**ISBN:** 978-0399246531

**Nominator:** Nanette Hanson

**School/District/Institution:**

1st grade teacher, 2022-2023  
Michigan Teacher of the Year,  
Escaaba Area Public Schools

**Favorite Quote:** "There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you maybe it will be your skin, your clothes, or the curl of your hair... or the lovely language of the country you left behind."

**Incorporation in Curriculum:** "This picture book can be used to teach students about empathy, acceptance, kindness, self-love, and building community. This text illustrates that there are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. Then sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway."

From [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)

February

02

### Meet Danitra Brown

Nikki Grimes

**Grades:** 3 – 5

**ISBN:** 978-0688154714

**Nominator:** Dr. Delsa Chapman

**School/District/Institution:**  
Michigan Department of Education

**Favorite Quote:** “Danitra says she’s gonna win the Nobel Prize, and I can tell by looking in her eyes...”

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

“As an elementary building principal, this book could be used to support a student or group of students experiencing discontent either in the classroom, at home, or in their community. A compelling point of this work is that it teaches respect, self-worth, and courage.”

**Additional Information:** The book is a collection of thirteen poems that shares the true meaning of being a friend when unexpected situations or actions arise.

February

03

### Parable of the Sower

Octavia E. Butler

**Grades:** 11 – 12

**ISBN:** 978-1538732182

**Nominator:** Heather French

**School/District/Institution:**  
Teacher, Lake Linden-Hubbell Schools

**Favorite Quote:** “I’m trying to speak--to write--the truth. I’m trying to be clear. I’m not interested in being fancy, or even original. Clarity and truth will be plenty, if I can only achieve them.”

#### **Incorporation in Curriculum:**

“Older students may find this piece of literature moving. It is diverse in an area where one can understand and see racial profiling happen. The morals and ideas that come from the novel may be tough to read, and hard to talk about - but NECESSARY. They are presented in a way that is accessible and well constructed.”

February

04

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05

### The Hate U Give

Angie Thomas

**Grades:** 9 – 12

**ISBN:** 978-006249853

**Student Nominator:** Laasya

[Watch the Student Interview Online](#)

Thank you to all of the Michigan teachers of the year, regional teachers of the year, and MDE educators who nominated Black authors, their literary works, and shared how they used them with students. Thank you also to the students for sharing their perspectives. Look for the next set of authors and titles on Friday, February 3, 2023.

For additional diverse literature recommendations please visit MDE’s [Equity in Literacy webpage](#).