The Undefeated by Alexander Kwame. Powerful poetry and stunning artwork celebrate the accomplishments, courage, and resilience of African Americans, highlighting specific moments and movements along with prominent black writers, musicians, athletes, activists, and ordinary heroes. This unforgettable book will inspire discussion and further explorations.

Black Is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes. Black may not be a color in the rainbow, but it is so much more. Dazzling paintings and descriptive text celebrate Black culture and provide an excellent starting point for exploring Black history.

Get Up, Stand Up by Cedella Marley. Illustrated by John Jay Cabuay. In this adaptation of a popular Bob Marley song, Cedella Marley honors her father’s message by rousing children to resist bullying and stand up for their own rights and those of others.

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands by Kadir Nelson. Depicting a young boy and his loving parents and siblings, this gorgeously illustrated picture book version of a beloved spiritual celebrates family and community. (J782.254 N427H)

Respect: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul by Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Frank Morrison. Each spread of this gorgeous picture book pairs an important word from Franklin’s life (respect, Detroit, groove, proud, humble) with a rhyming couplet and dynamic painting to present riveting portrait of this legendary singer (1942-2018) with a soaring voice and passion for activism.