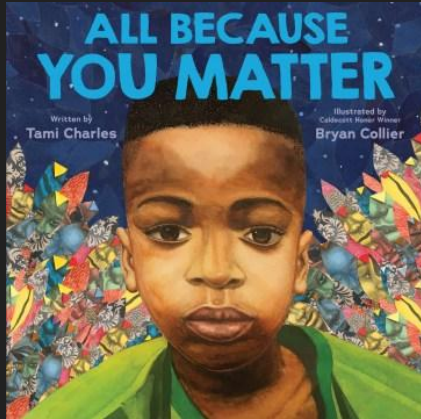


Civil Rights: Because You Matter

7th Grade Paired Text Teaching Guide
By Caroline Jolly

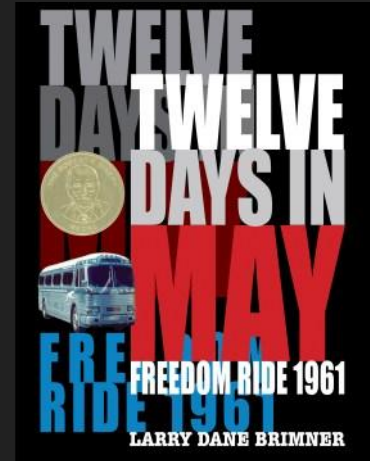
All Because You Matter

By Tami Charles



Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961

By Larry Dane Brimner



Pre-Reading Warm Up Activity

- Students create a K-W-L chart on their Civil Rights knowledge. To be displayed throughout the unit.
- Introduce your students to some of the riders and goals of Freedom Ride 1961. Watch the short documentary on the civil rights movement in the U.S.

Civil Rights Movement: Freedom Rides

Students will learn why several of the riders wanted to be a part of this event. By viewing just this short segment, your class will gain an understanding of the situation so they can get more from their study of *Twelve Days in May*. Discuss what they learned from the film and what questions it raised.



Bulletin Board Exercise

To be displayed on a bulletin board after completion:

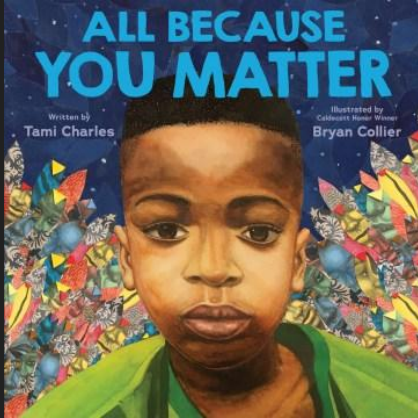
- K-W-L Chart
- Students will create a biographical trading card of a civil rights activist.
- Students will create a collage of themselves using images to reflect why they matter.



Photo Credit: CC By 4.0

Synopsis: All Because You Matter by Tami Charles

Illustrated by Bryan Collier



A lyrical, heart-lifting love letter to Black and Brown children everywhere reminds them how much they **matter**, that they have always mattered and they always will.

“In an era where the worth of Black lives is constantly questioned, it only makes sense to affirm and reify the importance, necessity, and inheritance of Black children. Full of potential for use beyond its recommended years, this is a title sure to be frequented by not only Black children but any child looking for a kind word and confidence boost.”

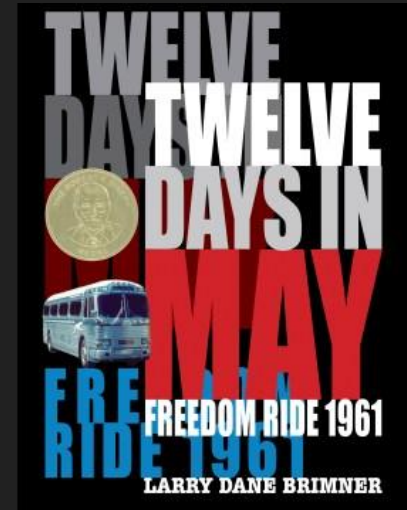
[2020 Booklist Review](#)

Synopsis: Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961 by Larry Dane Brimner

Documents the heroic 1961 campaign of the civil rights activists known as the "Freedom Riders," describing their peaceful protests to raise awareness about unconstitutional segregation and the increasing violence they endured as they traveled south.

"Richly illustrated with period photographs and strikingly designed, this is a clear, accessible depiction of a major story in the civil rights movement."

[2017 Kirkus Review](#)



Discussion Questions: Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961

Interpretive Questions

- Why was it important for the Freedom Riders to remain non-violent?
- Which photograph in *Twelve Days in May* was the most impactful to you and why?
- Why was it important that white men and women participate in the Freedom Ride?
- Look at the photograph on page 62. Do you think the children were willing participants or were they following the dictates of their parents?
- Why do you think *Twelve Days in May* focuses on the journey but not the arrival of the Freedom Riders?

Evaluative Questions

- Why do you think the author used just black and white fonts, photographs, cartoons, and backgrounds in the creation of this book?
- How does the author's writing journalistic writing style draw in the reader?
- Why was it important that the author included the age and race of each Freedom Rider?
- Do you think the author is presenting the material in a unbiased way? Why or why not?
- Is the author's purpose to solely inform or is this a call for action?

Discussion Questions: All Because You Matter

Interpretive Questions

- Who is the author talking about when she says, “They Mattered?”
- Who is someone who came before you that paved the way for you?
- What book have you read that was “like a mirror staring back at you?”

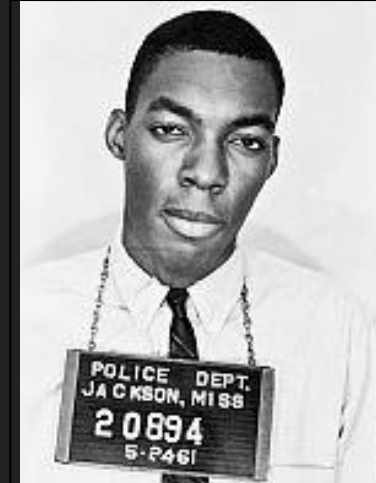
Evaluative Questions

- Why did the illustrator choose a black boy as the main character when the author does not indicate a specific race or gender?
- What is the significance of the petals on each page of the book?
- Why did the author use the English, Spanish and Tagalog language throughout the book?
- Why did the author use the specific names: “Trayvon, Tamir and Philandro?”

Discussion Question: Comparative

Comparative Questions

- Look at the picture on page 44 of *Twelve Days in May*. What would Hank Thomas tell the little boy in *All Because You Matter*?
- How is racism addressed in both *Twelve Days in May* and in *All Because You Matter*?
- Which of these books feels more hopeful to you? Why?



SOL Activities: Grade 7 History & Social Studies

US II.9 The student will apply social science skills to understand the key domestic and international issues during the second half of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries by

a) examining the impact of the Civil Rights Movement .

- The four Supreme Court decisions that are presented in *Twelve Days in May* laid the foundation for the May 1961 Freedom Ride. Each student should complete a chart with the following information: Date, Case, Issue, Decision.
- Who were the original thirteen Freedom Riders? We know their names, and your students have read short biographies of them on pages 88–97, but your students can research the riders to learn more. Students create a trading card or magazine cover using the [Big Huge Labs](#) image tools with information about the activist.
- Students examine the specific tactics of the civil rights movement: marches, hunger strikes, sit-ins, boycotts, etc. Students pick two instances to display in a large Venn Diagram. For example, the lunch counter sit-in in Greensboro, NC and the Montgomery bus boycott. Include type of protest, participants, location, initial response, final results.

SOL Activities: Grade 7 Reading

7.5 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.

- d) Describe the impact of word choice, imagery, and literary devices including figurative language,*
 - k) Identify cause and effect relationships*
 - g) Make inferences and draw conclusions based on the text.*
- Students take a class vote on which images are more powerful motivation for social justice: the photographs from *Twelve Days in May* or the illustrations in *All Because You Matter*. Class discussion on the strengths and weakness of the two types of images.
- Half the students will identify examples from the text in *All Because You Matter* to demonstrate the motivation for the Freedom Riders in *Twelve Days in May*. Half of the students will identify examples from the text in *Twelve Days in May* to demonstrate the motivation of the Black Lives Matter movement highlighted in *All Because You Matter*. Students from the two sections will Pair and Share their findings.
- Both of the books are inspiration for change. Students will think of a time when they thought one thing but then something happened that made them realize that their thinking might have been wrong and what they learned from that experience. Students complete a chart with the information: I Thought, What Happened, I Learned.

SOL Activities: Grade 7 Research

7.9 The student will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research product.

- a) Collect and organize information from multiple sources including online, print and media.
- b) Evaluate the validity and authenticity of sources.
- c) Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information.
- d) Cite primary and secondary sources.
- The school librarian will show students the [Google Chrome Extension Cite Sources Video](#) for instruction on citing sources and checking the authenticity of sources. The librarian will answer questions on proper citation.
- In the Library, students will research images of the Freedom Riders that were not included in *Twelve Days in May* and write a persuasive letter to author Larry Dane Brimner why that photo should have been included. Students will cite the images they choose.
- In the Library, students will research civil right activist John Lewis and create memorial in his honor using at least one primary source and one secondary source. Sources will be cited.

SOL Activities: Grade 7 Visual Arts

7.1 The student will use, and record in a sketchbook/journal, steps of the art-making process, including research, to create works of art.

- *Students will choose photographs and illustrations to create a collage that reflects “Why They Matter”*

7.11 The student will analyze how art and culture influence each other.

- Students will identify the cultural references in the illustrations of *All Because You Matter*.
- Students will listen to illustrator Bryan Collier discuss the influences in his art and discuss what influences their own art: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju7f-nrDPj8>



Resources: Websites

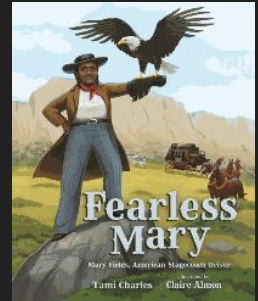
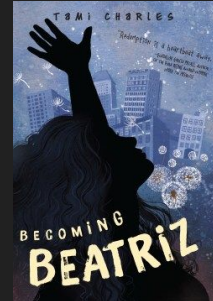
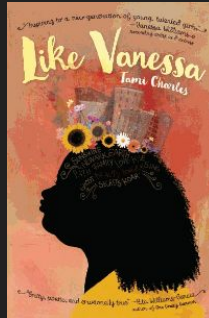
- Tami Charles : *All Because You Matter* author website: <https://tamiwrites.com>
- Bryan Collier: *All Because You Matter* illustrator website: <http://www.bryancoillier.com>
- Larry Dane Brimner: *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961* author website: <https://www.brimner.com>
- National Museum of African American History & Culture: Smithsonian museum website. Great place for primary source information.
<https://nmaahc.si.edu>
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute: Website provides good resource for the background knowledge on the civil rights movement:
<https://www.bcri.org>
- The Conscious Kid: an education, research, and policy organization dedicated to equity and promoting healthy racial identity development in youth: <https://www.theconsciouskid.org>
- On Our Minds Scholastic Blog: A discussion guide for *All Because You Matter*: <https://oomscholasticblog.com/abym-discussion-guide>
- Educator's Guide: Twelve Days in May: <https://media.btsb.com/TitleLessonPlans/3291.pdf>
- C-Span: Ahmad Ward, Education and Exhibitions Director at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, tours the institute and talks about civil rights history. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?314619-1/birmingham-civil-rights-institute>

Author Information: Tami Charles



Tami Charles is the New York Times bestselling author of *All Because You Matter*. Charles is a former teacher and author of numerous books for children ranging from picture books to middle grade and young adults. Her latest titles include YA novel-in-verse, *Muted*, which was a BuzzFeed Top 40 pick for 2021, and lyrical picture book, *My Day with the Panya*. When Tami isn't writing, she can be found presenting at schools both stateside and abroad.

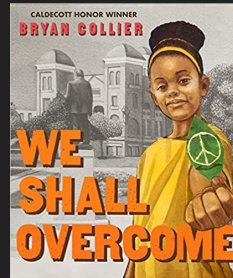
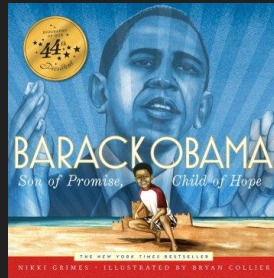
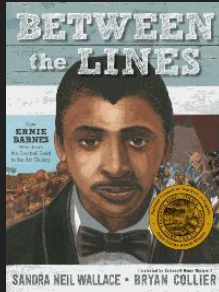
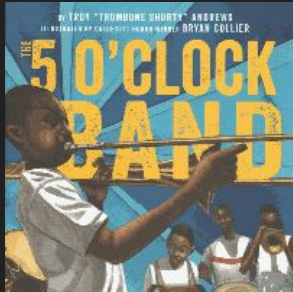
Other Books By Tami Charles



Illustrator Information: Bryan Collier

Bryan Collier is a beloved illustrator known for his unique style combining watercolor and detailed collage. He is a four-time Caldecott Honor recipient for *Trombone Shorty*, *Dave the Potter*, *Martin's Big Words*, and *Rosa*. His books have won many other awards as well, including six Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards. He lives in New York with his family.

Other Books by Bryan Collier

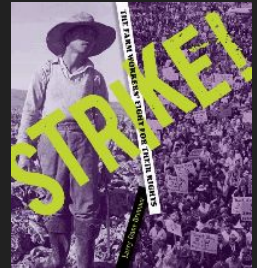
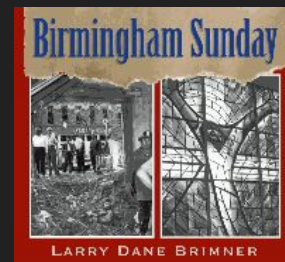
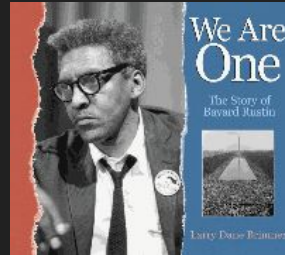
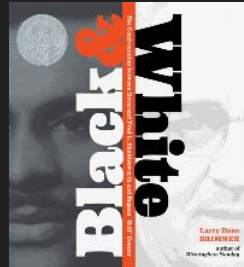


Author Information: Larry Dane Brimner



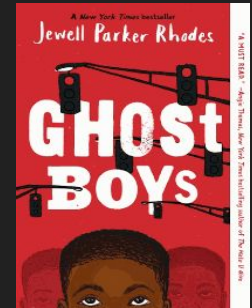
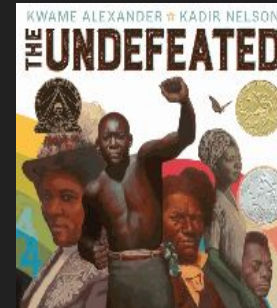
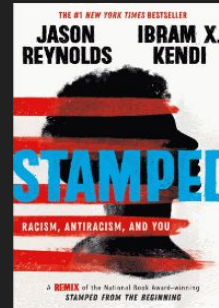
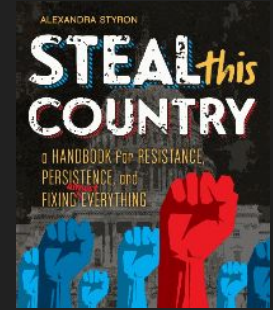
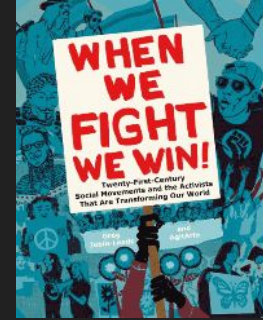
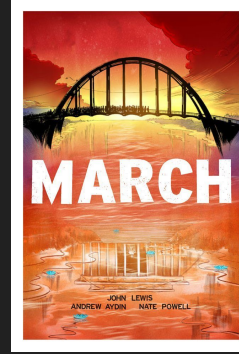
Larry Dane Brimner is an American teacher, presenter, and writer of more than 150 children's books. Many of his books are well-researched and innovative nonfiction for young readers. Many of his books have civil rights themes. Brimner lives in San Diego, California and Tucson, Arizona.

Other Books by Larry Dane Brimner



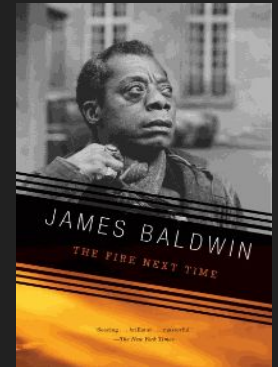
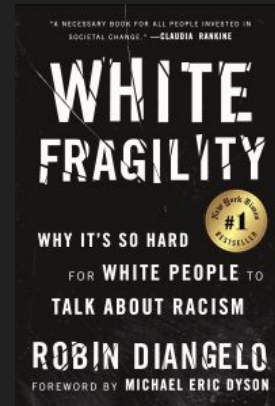
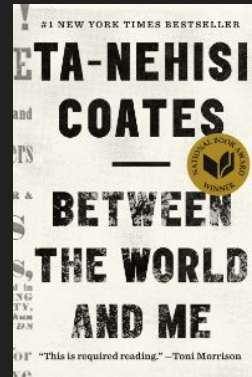
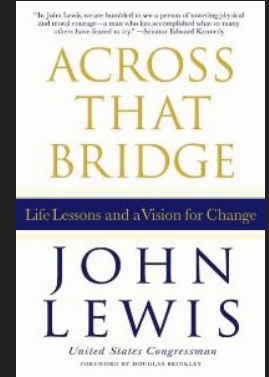
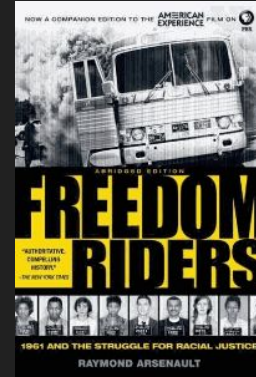
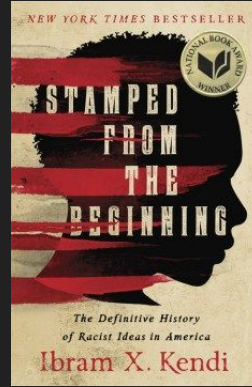
Further Reading for Students

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- Jobin-Leeds, Greg. (2016). *When we fight, we win: twenty-first century social movements and the activists that are transforming our world*. The New Press. 208 p.
- Styron, Alexander. (2018). *Steal this country: a handbook for resistance, persistence and fixing almost anything*. Viking Books for Young Readers. 224 p.
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- Rhodes, Jewell Parker. (2019). *Ghost boys*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 240 p.
- Reynolds, Jason and Ibram X. Kendi. (2020). *Stamped: Racism, antiracism, and you: a remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the beginning*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 320 p.



Other Reading for Educators

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- Lewis, John. (2017). *Across that bridge: a vision for change and the future of America*. Hachette Books. 224 p.
- Coates, Ta-Nehisi (2015). *Between the World and Me*. One World. 176 p.
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- Charles, Tami. (2019). *Like Vanessa*. Illus. by Vanessa Brantley-Newton. Charlesbridge. 304 p.
- Charles, Tami. (2019). *Becoming Beatriz*. Charlesbridge Teen. 272 p.
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- Wallace, Sandra Neil. (2018). *Between the lines: how Ernie Barnes went from football field to art gallery*. Illus. by Bryan Collier. Simon & Schuster. 48 p.
- Gimes, Nikki. (2008). *Barack Obama: son of promise, child of hope*. Illus. by Bryan Collier. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 48 p.
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- Brimner, Larry Dane. (2011). *Black and white: the confrontation between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene Bull Connor*. Calkins Creek. 112 p.
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