

Champaign Public Library's

Battle of the Books 2026

TITLE	AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR	LIBRARY CALL NUMBER
1	All Different Now: Juneteenth, The First Day of Freedom	Angela Johnson / E.B. Lewis
2	All Rise: The Story of Ketanji Brown Jackson	Carole Boston Weatherford / Ashley Evans
3	Circle Unbroken: A Story of a Basket and Its People	Margot Theis Raven / E.B. Lewis
4	Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa	Andrea Davis Pinkney / Brian Pinkney
5	Freedom Summer	Deborah Wiles / Jerome Lagarrigue
6	Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer	Quartz Harris / Gordon C. James
7	Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race	Margot Lee Shetterly / Laura Freeman
8	It Jes' Happened: When Bill Traylor Started to Draw	Don Tate / R. Gregory Christie
9	Let's Fly: Barrington Irving's Record-Breaking Flight Around the World	Barrington Irving and Chana Stiefel / Shamar Knight-Justice
10	Mae Makes a Way: The True Story of Mae Reeves, Hat and History Maker	Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich / Andrea Pippins
11	More Than Anything Else	Marie Bradby / Chris K. Soentpiet
12	New Shoes	Susan Lynn Meyer / Eric Velasquez
13	The People Could Fly: The Picture Book	Virginia Hamilton / Leo and Diane Dillon
14	Ruth and the Green Book	Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Gwen Strauss / Floyd Cooper
15	Sweet Justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott	Mara Rockliff / R. Gregory Christie
16	Tar Beach	Faith Ringgold
17	This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration	Jacqueline Woodson / James Ransome
18	Thurgood	Jonah Winter / Bryan Collier
19	Trombone Shorty	Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews / Bryan Collier
20	Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions	Chris Barton / Don Tate

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH with the library! Challenge your book knowledge in the 21st annual **Battle of the Books** on Saturday, February 28, 2026. Find copies of the books at the Douglass Branch and Main Library. Teams can have up to 12 students from grades 3 to 5. Contact your school to see if they are organizing a team. Call 217.403.2090 to sign up your team by February 1. Teams will be assigned to the morning (11 am) or afternoon (1:30 pm) battle when registering. Leading teams from the playoffs will advance to the 3 pm finals. Every participant gets a prize book!