THE BLACK FAMILY PLEDGE

BECAUSE we have forgotten our ancestors, our children no longer give us honor.
BECAUSE we have lost the path our ancestors cleared kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way.
BECAUSE we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children cannot pray.
BECAUSE the old walls of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying.
BECAUSE we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering, they neither want nor understand.
BECAUSE we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates, an holds us up to the mirror of the world shouting, "Regard the loveless" Therefore we pledge to bind ourselves to one another, to embrace our lowliest, to keep company with our loneliest, to educate our illiterate, to feed our starving, to clothe our ragged, to do all good things, knowing that we are more than keepers of our brothers and sisters. We ARE our brothers and sisters.

IN HONOR of those who toiled and implored God with golden tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out of hopeless desolation, we make this pledge.

Written by: Maya Angelou

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founded “Negro History Week” which later became “Black History Month.” Dr. Carter G. Woodson taught us that “those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history. The late John F. Kennedy said, “One person can make a difference, and every person should try.”

Marian Wright Edelman wrote, “Rosa sat so, Martin could march, Martin marched so Barack Obama could run. President Obama ran so we could soar.
“If we are exposed to a greater variety of people and cultures, the need to place a label on someone to put our minds at rest should diminish.”

Celebrating Black History Month
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• Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Rapport, Doreen
• Meet Danitra Brown, by Grimes, Nikki
• Michelle, by Hopkinson, Deborah
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• The Bat Boy and His Violin, by Curtis, Gavin
• The Dream Keeper and Other Poems, by Hughes, Langston
• The Gold Cadillac, by Taylor, Mildred
• The Great Migration: An American Story, by Lawrence, Jacob
• The Hunterman and the Crocodile, by Waguè Diakitè, Baba
• The Kidnapped Prince: The Life of Claughtah Equiano, by Cameron, Ann
• The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth, by Anderson, David A.
• The Road to Memphis, by Taylor, Mildred
• The Singing Man, by Medearis, Angela Shelf
• The Strange New Feeling, by Lester, Julius
• Through My Eyes, by Bridges, Ruby
• Under the Sunday Tree, by Greenfield, Eloise
• Wind Flyers, by Johnson, Angela

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

• 1001 Things People Should Know about African American History, by Steward, Jeffrey C.
• A Friendship for Today, by McKissack, Patricia C.
• Andrew Young: Young Man With a Mission, by Haskins, James
• Another Way to Dance, by Southgate, Martha
• Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African American Whalers, by McKissack, Patricia and Frederick
• *Born to Win: The Authorized Biography of Althea Gibson, by Gray, Frances Clayton
• Chains, by Anderson, Laurie Halse
• Childhood: A Three-Generation Memoir, by Greenfield, Eloise and Little, Lessie Jones
• Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice, by Hoose, Phillip
• *Daniel "Chappie" James: The First African American Four Star General, by Bracey, Earnest N.
• Dark Sons, by Grimes, Nikki
• Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States, by McKissack, Patricia and Frederick
• Elijah of Buxton, by Curtis, Christopher Paul
• Forged by Fire, by Draper, Sharon
• Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, by Freedman, Russell
• Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story, by Carson, Ben
• I, Too, Sing America: Three Centuries of African American Poetry, by Clinton, Catherine
• Let the Circle Be Unbroken, by Taylor, Mildred D.
• Locomotion, by Woodson, Jacqueline
• Maizon at Blue Hill, by Woodson, Jacqueline
• Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl, by Bolden, Tonya
• Miracle's Boys, by Woodson, Jacqueline
• Never Forgotten, by McKissack, Patricia
• Nightjohn, by Paulsen, Gary
• Now is Your Time: The African American Struggle for Freedom, by Myers, Walter Dean
• Numbering all the Bones, by Rinaldi, Ann
• Powerful Words, by Hudson, Wade
• Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts, by McKissack, Patricia and Frederick
• Soujourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman?, by McKissack, Patricia and Frederick
• The Battle of Jericho, by Draper, Sharon
• *The Black Seminoles, By Porter, Kenneth W.
• The Land, by Taylor, Mildred
• The Last Safe House: A Story of the Underground Railroad, by Greenwood, Barbara
• The Legend of Buddy Bush, by Moses, Sheila P.
• The Other Side: Shorter Poems, by Johnson, Angela
• The Red Rose Box, by Woods, Brenda
• The Road to Paris, by Grimes, Nikki
• The Skin I'm In, by Flake, Sharon
• The Watsons Go to Birmingham, by Curtis, Christopher Paul
• The Way a Door Closes, by Smith, Hope Anita
• The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr., by King, Coretta Scott
• To Be a Slave, by Lester, Julius
• Toning the Sweep, by Johnson, Angela Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali, by Smith Jr., Charles R.
High School (Grades 9-12)

- Abolition Fanaticism in New York, by Douglass, Fredrick
- A Raisin in the Sun, by Hansberry, Lorraine
- A Wreath For Emmett Till, by Nelson, Marilyn
- Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave, by Hamilton, Virginia

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http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/blackhistory
The Black Family Pledge Lyrics. BECAUSE we have forgotten our ancestors, our children no longer give us honor. BECAUSE we have lost the path our ancestors cleared kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find their way. BECAUSE we have banished the God of our ancestors, our children cannot pray. BECAUSE the old walls of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying. IN HONOR of those who toiled and implored God with golden tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out of hopeless desolation, we make this pledge. More on Genius. "The Black Family Pledge" Track Info. Home. M.