

Biographies to Challenge and Inspire

If you want your students to be challenged, moved, and inspired by people in history, the following list (alphabetical order) will get you started.

1. [*A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day*](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney
2. [*Before She Was Harriet*](#) by Lesa Cline-Ransome
3. [*Big Machines: The Story of Virginia Lee Burton*](#) by Sherri Duskey Rinker
4. [*Carlos Santana: Sound of the Heart, Song of the World*](#) by Gary Golio
5. [*Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln*](#) by Margarita Engle
6. [*Danza! Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México*](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh
7. [*Elvis is King!*](#) by Jonah Winter
8. [*Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*](#) by Laurie Ann Thompson
9. [*Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*](#) by Suzanne Slade
10. [*Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*](#) by Lindsay Mattick
11. [*George Washington Carver*](#) by Tonya Bolden
12. [*Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code*](#) by Laurie Wallmark
13. [*Imagine*](#) by Juan Felipe Herrera
14. [*Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles*](#) by Patricia Valdez
15. [*Jonas Hanway's Scurrilous, Scandalous, Shockingly Sensational Umbrella*](#) by Josh Crute
16. [*Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters*](#) by Michael James Mahin
17. [*Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere*](#) by Barb Rosenstock
18. [*Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré*](#) by Anika Aldamuy Denise
19. [*Pocket Full of Colors: The Magical World of Mary Blair, Disney Artist Extraordinaire*](#) by Amy Guglielmo
20. [*Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou*](#) by Bethany Hegedus
21. [*Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist*](#) by Jess Keating
22. [*Smile: How Young Charlie Chaplin Taught the World to Laugh \(and Cry\)*](#) by Gary Golio
23. [*Step Right UP: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness*](#) by Donna Janell Bowman
24. [*The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle: The Cool Science Behind Frank Epperson's Famous Frozen Treat*](#) by Anne Renaud
25. [*The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons*](#) by Natascha Biebow
26. [*Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer*](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford
27. [*William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad*](#) by Don Tate

***This resource contains affiliate links to give you more information about each of these books. If you use these links to buy something we may earn a small commission.*