

"A unique historical approach, superbly handled." —Walter Dean Myers

Hand



in



Hand



TEN BLACK MEN WHO
CHANGED AMERICA

BY *NEW YORK TIMES* BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR ANDREA DAVIS PINKNEY & BRIAN PINKNEY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Disney • HYPERION BOOKS

About the Book

Hand in Hand, winner of the prestigious Coretta Scott King Author Award, presents the stories of ten men from different eras in American history, organized chronologically to provide an overview of slavery to the present day. The stories are accessible, fully drawn narratives offering the subjects' childhood influences, the times and places in which they lived, their accomplishments and motivations, and the legacies they left for future generations as links in the "freedom chain." This book will be the definitive family volume on the subject, punctuated with dynamic full-color portraits and spot illustrations by two-time Caldecott Honor winner and multiple Coretta Scott King Book Award recipient Brian Pinkney. Back matter includes a civil rights time line, sources, and suggestions for further reading.

Common Core Alignment

This guide is aligned with the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standards for Reading (Informational Text), Writing, and Language. The broad CCR standards are the foundation for the grade level–specific Common Core State Standards. Each question and activity in this guide includes a reference for the CCR strand, domain, and standard that are addressed. To support instruction, also reference your grade level–specific Common Core State Standards to scaffold the questions for your students.

Exploring Through Writing and Research

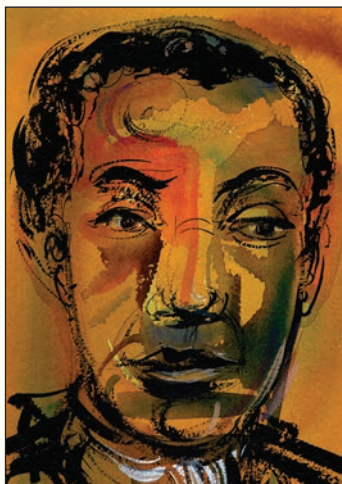
The following questions may be utilized as reflective writing prompts, or, alternatively, can be used as targeted questions for class discussion and reflection.

- 1 Consider the men featured in *Hand in Hand*. What are the common experiences of these courageous men? In what ways are their challenges similar to challenges faced by people of color today?
- 2 Many of these men had strong mothers and other strong women in their lives. Why do you believe this is important?



Benjamin Banneker

- 1 In what ways does the fact that Benjamin Banneker was born free impact his early life?
- 2 How did his interest in science—in particular astronomy—lead Benjamin to focus on his almanac?
- 3 Do you agree with Benjamin's decision to challenge Thomas Jefferson, one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence? What does this act indicate about Benjamin's character?



Frederick Douglass

- 1 How did the loss of his mother and being separated from his grandmother by her slave owner shape Frederick's childhood?
- 2 In regards to freedom and liberty, what role did books like *The Columbian Orator* play for Frederick Douglass? In what ways did these books' ideas ultimately shape Douglass into the person he was?
- 3 During Douglass's conversations with President Lincoln, Lincoln indicated how much he valued Douglass's input. What did having a relationship with the president offer Douglass?



Booker T. Washington

- 1 In what ways was Booker T. Washington different from the other men featured in *Hand in Hand*?
- 2 One of Booker's philosophies for his students was to teach them to provide indispensable labor to whites, so that whites wouldn't be able to imagine life without them. Do you understand his approach in teaching this to his black students? Why was Booker called the "Great Accommodator"? In your opinion, was it a title he deserved?
- 3 Consider the role of the Tuskegee Institute. What made it such an important institution in the United States?



W. E. B. DuBois

- 1 Though his father left him shortly after his birth, W. E. B. DuBois is said to have been much like him. What were some of the character traits that he inherited from his father?
- 2 W. E. B. saw newspapers as a means for social change. Why did he believe this media outlet was so important? Can you think of modern equivalents?
- 3 How did his time spent in Europe change W. E. B.? In what ways did his travel influence his desire for the rights of blacks?



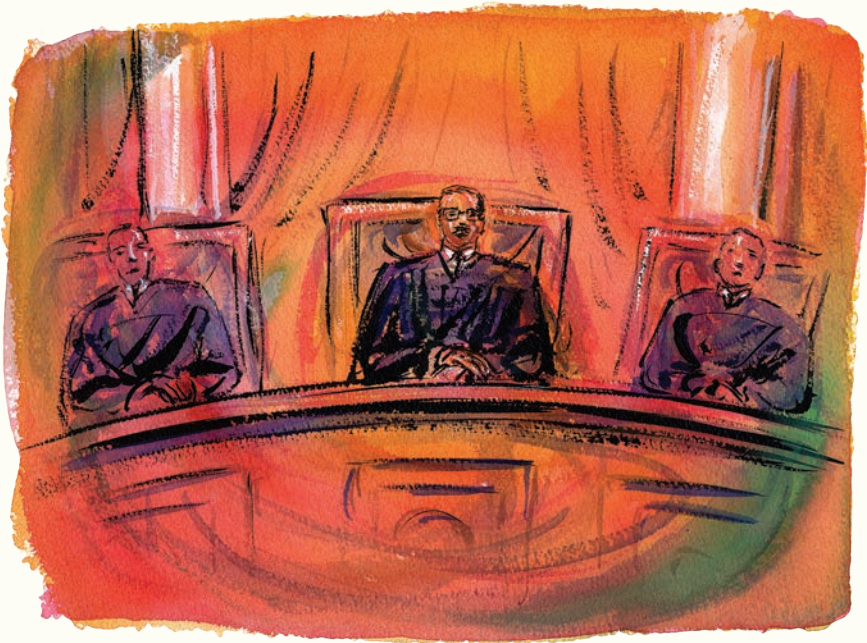
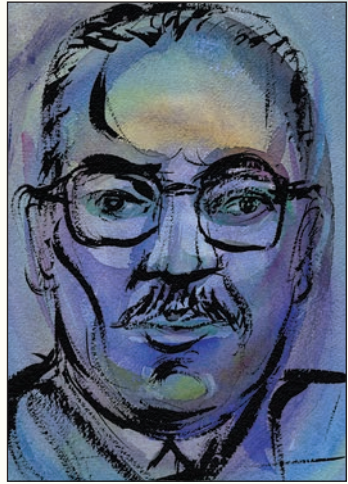
A. Philip Randolph

- 1 In what ways did *The Souls of Black Folk* by W. E. B. DuBois influence Asa Philip Randolph as a young man in Harlem?
- 2 What was the significance of Asa's attempting to organize a union for employees of the Pullman Company? Why was his success in getting a labor agreement so important?
- 3 How did Asa pave the way for other black leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr.?



Thurgood Marshall

- 1 The author describes Thurgood as a “firecracker”. Do you agree with her description of him? In what ways do you find it be an appropriate or not appropriate assessment?
- 2 Though his interaction with it began as a punishment, consider Thurgood’s fascination with the U.S. Constitution. In what ways did the document intimately drive his ambitions?
- 3 In what ways did Thurgood prove that “separate but equal” was anything but? In your opinion, what were the most significant contributions made by Thurgood Marshall?



Jackie Robinson

- 1 One of the most important influences on Jackie's life was his mother. What was it about the way Mallie lived her life that was so inspiring to Jackie? Do you have a family member who inspires you? If so, why?
- 2 In what ways did the ill treatment given him by so many of the opposing team players motivate Jackie to be stronger?
- 3 In your opinion, what kind of person was Branch Rickey? Describe the relationship between Branch and Jackie. Why was it so important?



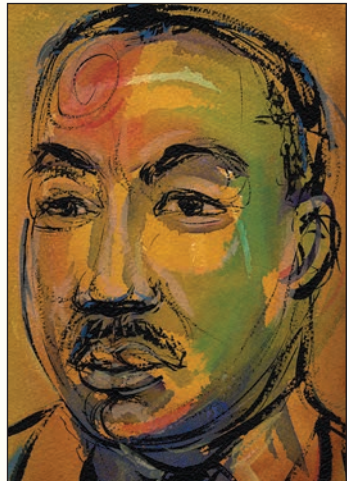
Malcolm X

- 1 How did the murder of his father and the separation of his family shape Malcolm's young life? Given what you understand about his personality, do you think Malcolm's behavior would have been different without these devastating losses at such an early age?
- 2 Describe Malcolm's transformation from Detroit Red to Malcolm X. Do you think the hardships endured by him ultimately made him a better person? Why or why not?
- 3 Compare and contrast Malcolm X's approach and expectations for blacks to those of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 1 How did Martin's early upbringing in Atlanta, Georgia, under the Jim Crow laws impact Martin's sense of justice? In what ways did the bus experience (after winning an oratorical contest) serve as a catalyst for Martin?
- 2 In what ways was Dr. Benjamin Mays, President of Morehouse College, profoundly influential on Martin's life?
- 3 Considering all of Dr. King's accomplishments, what do you believe to be his greatest achievement?



Barack H. Obama II

- 1 In what ways did Barack's struggle with his racial identity influence his early life? In what ways did the absence of his father impact his self-confidence?
- 2 What did his work at the DCP (Developing Communities Project) in South Chicago provide for Barack?
- 3 How did the "Audacity to Hope" sermon Barack witnessed shape both his personal and professional life?



Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details R.L. 6.2.; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration S.L. 6.1., 6.2., 6.3.; Key Ideas and Details R.L. 7.2.; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration S.L. 7.1., 7.2., 7.3.



Extended Writing and Research Prompts

The “Sources/Further Reading” section provided in *Hand in Hand* highlights a variety of books and media that offer readers an opportunity to extend their learning. Select one of the books noted and use it to build on the knowledge learned from *Hand in Hand*. After completing the book study (or selecting one of the noted DVDs), create a digital presentation (using Web tools such as Prezi or Glogster) to share what you have learned about your selected topic.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Writing: Research to Build and Present Knowledge W. 6.4.; and Writing: Research to Build and Present Knowledge W. 7.4.

In *Hand in Hand*, an important part of the featured men’s stories focuses on their connections and relationships with their families and the people who matter or mattered the most to them. Why is that so? How did these support systems lay the foundations for the great things these men accomplished? Consider your most special relationships. What makes them so important? Compose a personal journal entry where you share your thoughts, and be sure to answer the following questions:

- 1 Who are the individuals who mean the most to you?
- 2 Why are those particular relationships so special?
- 3 What’s the greatest sacrifice you’ve made for the people you love?
- 4 In what ways have the changes you’ve experienced in your life affected those to whom you are closest?

To conclude, ask for volunteers to share their writing with the class.

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details R.L. 6.1.; Writing: Production and Distribution W. 6.4.; Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details R.L. 7.1.; and Writing: Production and Distribution W. 7.4.

The purpose of this strategy is to help students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of individuals highlighted in *Hand in Hand* by following written prompts to complete a poem about one of the featured men. Students can be given the prompts to follow on a worksheet; alternatively, students may create an original slideshow using PowerPoint or Movie Maker.

Biopoem

Line 1: First name: _____

Line 2: Three traits that describe the individual: _____

Line 3: Relative of _____

Line 4: Lover of _____ (three things)

Line 5: Who feels _____ (three things)

Line 6: Who needs _____ (three things)

Line 7: Who fears _____ (three things)

Line 8: Who gives _____ (three things)

Line 9: Who would like to see _____ (three things)

Line 10: Resident of _____

Line 11: Last name: _____

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details R.L. 6.1. and Craft and Structure R. L. 6.5., R.L.6.6.; and Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details R.L. 7.1. and Craft and Structure R. L. 7.5., R.L.7.6.

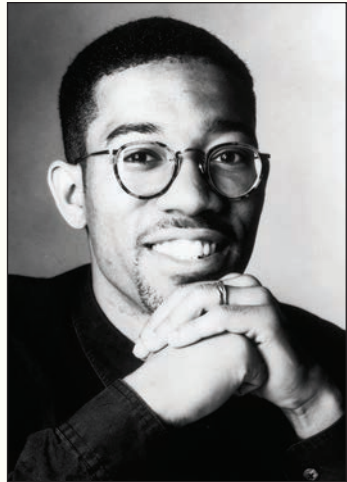
About the Author

Andrea Davis Pinkney has written several acclaimed books for middle-grade readers, including the novels *Bird in a Box*, a *Today Show* Al Roker Book Club Pick, and *With the Might of Angels*, a book in the Dear America series. She is also the author of the nonfiction book *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*, a Coretta Scott King Author Honor winner. Andrea's many picture books include *Sit In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*, a *New York Times* best seller and a Jane Addams Honor Book, which was illustrated by her husband, Brian Pinkney. Andrea Davis Pinkney has also been named the 2014 May Hill Arbuthnot lecturer. She and her family live in Brooklyn, New York.

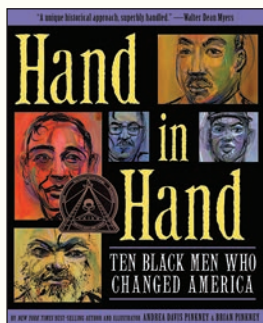


About the Illustrator

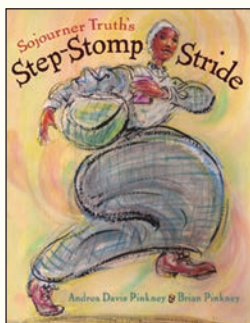
Brian Pinkney has collaborated with his wife, Andrea Davis Pinkney, on several books. Some of their titles are *Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride*; *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation*; and *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, for which Brian was awarded a Caldecott Honor. Brian was also a Caldecott Honoree for *The Faithful Friend* by Robert D. San Souci, and he won the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award for *In the Time of the Drums* by Kim L. Siegelson.



*Books by
Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney*

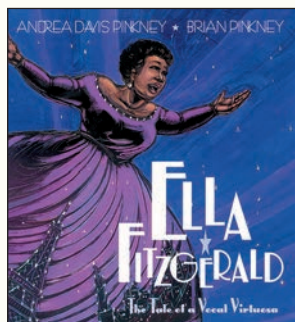


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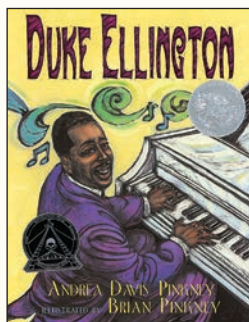


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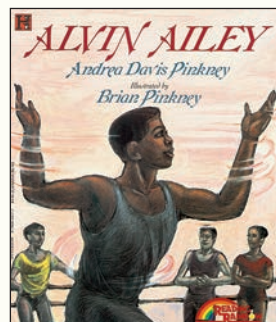




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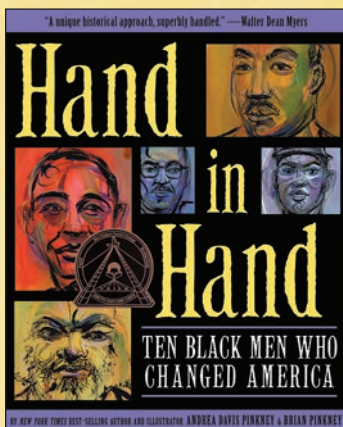
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This guide was created by Rose Brock, a teacher, school librarian, and doctoral candidate at Texas Woman's University, specializing in children's and young adult literature.

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