



**EXPRESS CHILDREN'S
THEATRE**

presents

**HISTORY
POETRY
POWER
MUSIC**

Rhyme & Reason:

A Poetic Celebration of Black History for Children



What is “History”?



The study of the past!

What is an ancestor?

A member of
your family who
was born long
before your
grandparents!



Fun facts about Africa

- It covers 11.7 million square miles! It is the second largest continent on earth!
- 1.2 billion people live in Africa!
- The size of Africa is 14 times larger than the USA!





Things that were invented in Africa:

Navigation



Art



Mathematics (Math)



African American Inventions



**Modern traffic signal by
Garrett Morgan in 1923.**



**Potato chips by
George Speck
in 1853.**



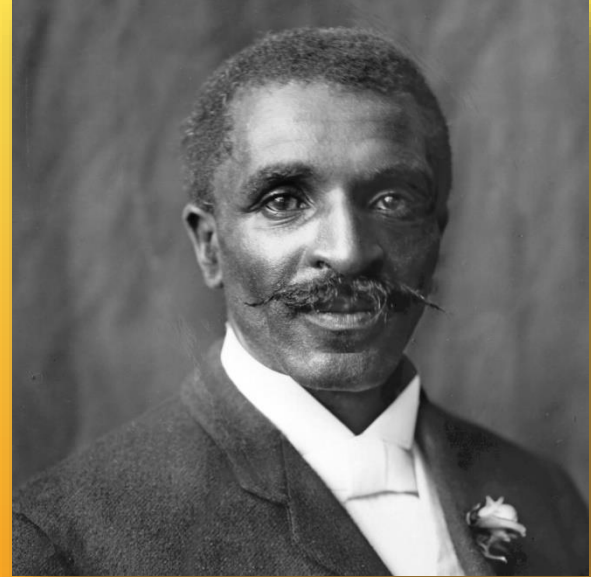
**Hot Comb by
Madam CJ Walker
In 1906.**



George Washington Carver

Some things he invented
with peanuts:

- Peanut Butter
- Cream Cheese
- Candy Bar
- Shampoo
- Paint
- Shaving Cream
- Glue
- Cooking Oil



Inventions solve problems!

What problem do you know about?

What would you invent to fix it?



African American Culture

Harlem Renaissance

1918-1930's

- Music
- Dancing
- Acting
- Politics
- Poetry
- Art
- Writing
- Fashion
- Philosophy



Unsung Legends of the Harlem Renaissance



Elbert Frank Cox
1895-1969

**First African American to
receive a PhD in
mathematics.**



Selma Burke
1900-1995

**Her sculpture of President
Franklin D. Roosevelt
inspired the dime.**

African Americans & Sports



Jackie Robinson
1919-1972

**First African American
to play Major League
Baseball.**



Alice Coachman
1923-2014

**First African American
woman to win an Olympic
gold medal for high jump.**

Do you remember what Rosa Parks did?

**She refused to give up her seat
in the front of the bus.**

**She stood up for African Americans
by sitting down.**



Rosa Parks in 1955

**This is how Rosa Parks described
the incident on the bus...**



**“People always say that I gave up my seat
because I was tired, but that isn’t true.**

I was not tired physically...

**No, the only tired I was,
was tired of giving in.”**

—Rosa Parks



The original bus is now on view at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan!



What is “voting”?

When everyone has an equal say in what happens to them.



Let's Practice Voting!

- Raise your hand if you want pizza for dinner tonight!
(Count how many friends want pizza.)
- Raise your hand if you want burgers for dinner tonight!
(Count how many friends want burgers.)

The meal that gets
the most votes,
WINS!

And that's how **VOTING** works!

**Everyone has a VOICE,
Everyone has a VOTE!**



Repeat after us:

I Have A Voice!

I Have A Vote!



Key Modern Figures



Alvin Ailey
1931-1989

**World famous
choreographer
who founded the Alvin
Ailey American Dance
Theater in 1958.**



Katherine Johnson
1918-2020

**Mathematician whose work helped
send astronauts to the Moon!
Featured in the movie,
“Hidden Figures”.**

Historically Black Colleges

The first Historically Black College and University was founded in 1837 for African Americans only. Today, most Historically Black Colleges and Universities are open to everyone.



An example of an Historically Black College



Howard University

**Founded in 1867
In Washington, D.C.**

Howard University

**Our very own Alric Davis, who appeared in
Rhyme & Reason,
graduated from Howard University
just like the Vice President of the United States,
Kamala Harris.**





Chadwick Boseman

1976-2020

Actor and Playwright.

He went to Howard University, too!

He played Black Panther in the film.

Wakanda Forever!



**When you go to college,
what do you want to study?**



The Future is YOU!

How can the things you like to learn about
help you decide what you want to be
when you grow up?



Learning is Exploring!

What are some things that you are interested in?

Animals? Dinosaurs? Singing? Basketball?

How can you learn more about them?



You can learn more about them through:

- Internet
- Books
- Visit places like museums
- Videos
- Talk to someone who is an expert
- Write a poem about it
- Take a class
- Ask questions!



**“We did not come
to fear the future.
We came
to shape it.”**

**The 44th President of the United States,
Barack Hussein Obama**





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