

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: February
Theme: Black History

Book Title: Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History
By Vashti Harrison

Grade Level: 2nd / 3rd

Book Introduction:

Featuring 40 trailblazing black women in the world's history, this book educates and inspires as it relates true stories of women who broke boundaries and exceeded all expectations. Debut author/illustrator Vashti Harrison pairs captivating text with stunning illustrations as she tells the stories of both iconic and lesser-known female figures of black history – from nurse Mary Seacole, to politician Diane Abbott, mathematician Katherine Johnson and singer Shirley Bassey.

Discussion Questions:

- What does the title, 'Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History' make you think about?
- What does it mean to be 'bold'? How were the women featured 'bold'?
- Had you heard the stories of the women in the book before reading? Were any of their stories new to you? Does it inspire you to continue learning more about anyone in particular?
- How many women scientists are profiled? Women in the arts? Women who influenced politics? Sports figures? What different fields are represented in the book?
- In what ways are these women's stories unique? Why is it important that we learn of their accomplishments and influence?
- Can you think of any historical figures that have inspired you? Are there any women in your life who inspire you? What makes someone inspiring?
- In thinking about your future, do you know what profession interests you? What challenges might you have to overcome in this profession?
- In what ways are you a Little Leader? How do you hope to be a Big Leader in the future? How will you be a leader for others? How will you be bold? How will you be helping the world?