

## **PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: February**

### **Theme: Black History**

**Book Title:** Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History  
By Vashti Harrison

**Grade Level:** 2nd / 3rd

#### **Book Summary:**

An important book for readers of all ages, this beautifully illustrated and engagingly written volume brings to life true stories of black men in history.

Among these biographies, readers will find aviators and artists, politicians and pop stars, athletes and activists. The exceptional men featured include artist Aaron Douglas, civil rights leader John Lewis, dancer Alvin Ailey, filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, musician Prince, photographer Gordon Parks, tennis champion Arthur Ashe, and writer James Baldwin.

The legends in this book span centuries and continents, but what they have in common is that each one has blazed a trail for generations to come.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What does the title, 'Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History' make you think about?
- What does it mean to be a 'legend'? How were the men featured 'legendary'?
- Vashti Harrison explains in the introduction of this book that she chose to tell the stories of 'exceptional men that you don't see too often in the mainstream'. Why do you think this was an important choice?
- The men profiled in this book vary from artists to activists, from musicians to athletes, from politicians to dancers and on. Had you heard the stories of the men in the book before reading? Does it inspire you to continue learning more about anyone in particular?
- In what ways are these stories unique? Why is it important that we learn of the accomplishments and influence of the men featured?
- The author notes that these men were trailblazers that defied stereotypes and expectations; men that had to overcome racism in order to get where they wanted. She also notes that this is not a 'boy' book, that it speaks to inspire all readers. How did their stories speak to you? How have these men helped to shape your generation?
- Is there anyone in your life who inspires 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 exceptional? How do you hope to make an impact in the future? How might you help to inspire others?