

Wax Museum Book Report

The month of February is Black History Month and the month of March is Women's History month. For this marking period's book report you will be reading a biography or autobiography. You will choose a notable African American or famous woman who has made a significant impact on American history. A list of suggestions are available on my website from which you may choose. If you would like to research a different person, please check in with your teacher.

After you read your book, you will create a short presentation. On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, the class will have its annual *Wax Museum Gala Opening* from 12:15-12:45. All parents are welcome to attend our museum opening!

The book approved by: February 15, 2017

Requirements:

_____ Choose a biography or autobiography about an influential African American or woman in American history. Additional resources may be needed if the book chosen does not contain a reasonable amount of information.

_____ After reading the book, prepare a short speech (between 30 seconds to 1 minute) about the qualities that made that person famous (This may be read or memorized. This can be written on a piece of paper or an index card).

_____ ***OPTIONAL*** bring in props for the speech.
(An example of a prop could be a baseball cap and glove for Jackie Robinson)

Remember, you are creating a speech as if **YOU** are that famous person. Use words like I, me, and my.

Some ideas to include for your speech: (feel free to be creative!)

- a. birthday/death
- b. what this person was famous for
- c. hobbies or activities the person may have enjoyed
- d. why you feel you are important to America's history
- e. 7-8 facts about the person (this could be dates, events)
- f. if the person was married, had children, brothers, sisters, etc.

Feel free to bring in your speech to show me at anytime if you need suggestions! Have fun!!!

NOTABLE AFRICAN AMERICANS LIST

<http://www.greatblackheroes.com/> ***more on this website



Martin Luther King (1929 – 1968) – King was a pivotal figure in the non-violent civil rights movement. During the 1950s and 1960s, he sought to improve race relations and overturn discrimination in American society. He is remembered for his powerful speeches which sought to bring about a united society – where race did not act as a barrier.



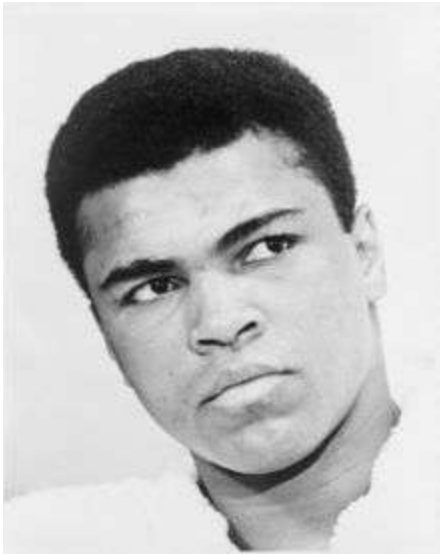
Nelson Mandela (1918 – 2013) – Mandela spent most of his life campaigning for an end to apartheid in South Africa. After over 20 years in prison, he was released and was able to be the first elected President in post apartheid South Africa. Also admired for his forgiveness and willingness to reach out to the white community in South Africa.



Desmond Tutu (1931 –) Leading figurehead in the South African anti apartheid movement. Desmond Tutu is a leading figure in speaking out for humanitarian and civil rights issues.



Oliver Tambo (1917 – 1993). President of the ANC (1960 – 1990). Tambo was a leading figure in promoting international opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa.



Mohammed Ali (1942 –) Great boxer of the 1960s. Refused to fight in Vietnam. Then a controversial decision, he later became widely admired as a principled figure of great stature.



Kofi Annan (1938 –) UN Secretary General from Ghana who served two terms. Widely admired for his skills of patience and diplomacy.



Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) A former slave, Douglass became a leading figurehead in the anti-slavery movement. One of the most prominent African American leaders of the Nineteenth Century. His autobiography of life as a slave, and his speeches denouncing slavery – were influential in changing public opinion.



Toussaint Louverture (1743 – 1803) Leader of Haitian slave revolt. In 1791 he led the successful military revolt in Saint-Domingue and over the next years consolidated his power and influence restoring the plantation system with paid labour. Louverture enabled the colony to end slavery and in 1804 declared itself the independent Republic of Haiti.



Barack Obama (1961-) – First US President of African origin. Obama served two terms as President and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



Malcolm X (1925-1965) – Member of the Nation of Islam which advocated black self-determination separation of black and white people. He later disavowed racism and the Nation of Islam.



Jesse Owens (1913-1980) (athletics) Won four Olympic Golds at 'Hitler's Olympics', Berlin 1936. Owens maintained a dignified stance on civil rights, despite enduring discrimination during his life.



Pele (1940 –) (Brazil, footballer) Pele was the greatest footballer of the century. Since retirement Pele became a global ambassador for sport and is a well known advocate of overcoming poverty.



Michael Jackson (1958 – 2009) – Musician and singer. Famous for albums such as 'Bad' and "Off the Wall". Jackson was also a pioneer of music videos.



Michael Jordan (1963 –) Perhaps greatest American Basketball player.
6*NBA champion.



Chinua Achebe (1930 – 2013) Best selling Nigerian novelist. He wrote the 1958 classic, *Things Fall Apart*



Haile Gebrselassie (1973 –) Ethiopian record breaking distance runner.

Famous Black women



Sojourner Truth (1797 – 1883) African-American abolitionist and women's rights campaigner. In 1851, gave a famous extemporaneous speech "Ain't I a woman?" which supported equal rights for blacks and women.



Harriet Tubman (1822 – 1913) – Former slave who escaped and then helped many more to escape on the Underground Railroad.



Rosa Parks (1913 – 2005) – Instrumental in the US civil rights movement of the 1960s.



[Oprah Winfrey](#) (1954 –) Influential US media personality with ground breaking chat show and own book club.



[Wangari Muta Maathai](#) Kenyan environmental and political activist. Awarded the Nobel peace prize 2004.



[Mary Seacole](#) (1805 – 1881) – nurse during Crimean war, contemporary of Florence Nightingale.



[Maya Angelou](#). (1928 – 2014) American poet, writer and campaigner. Wrote poem for Bill Clinton's inauguration ceremony which expressed the hopes and aspirations of a whole generation.



Deratu Tulu (1972 –) (Ethiopia, athlete) The first Ethiopian female athlete to win Olympic gold. Tulu won gold at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics in the 10,000m.



Jackie Joyner-Kersey (1962-) US, athletics. One of the most successful female track and field athletes. Won Olympic gold in Heptathlon and Long Jump.



Serena Williams (1981 –) (US, tennis) 19 single grand slam titles, 15 double titles. Also has won four Olympic gold medals.

Notable Women from History

Louisa May Alcott:

1832–1888

Author who produced the first literature for the mass market of juvenile girls in the 19th century. Her most popular, *Little Women*, was just one of 270 works that she published.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=8>

Susan B. Anthony:

1820–1906

The 19th century women's movement's most powerful organizer. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony fought for women's right to vote. She was also very involved in the fight against slavery and the temperance campaign to limit the use of alcohol.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=13>

Clara Barton:

1821–1912

Clara Barton got involved with tending the needy when she treated injured Union soldiers on the battlefield during the Civil War. She later was the founder and first president of the American Red Cross.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=17>

Elizabeth Blackwell:

1821–1910

First American woman awarded a medical degree by a college. Attended Geneva College in New York after she was rejected by all the major medical schools in the nation because of her sex. Elizabeth Blackwell later founded a women's medical college to train other women physicians.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=20>

Pearl S. Buck:

1892–1973

With her novels about American and Asian culture, she became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=29>

Cleopatra:

69–30 B.C.

Queen of Egypt and the last pharaoh. She was 17 or 18 when she became queen. Cleopatra was a shrewd politician who spoke nine languages. During her reign, Egypt became closely aligned with the Roman Empire.

<http://www.royalty.nu/Africa/Egypt/Cleopatra.html>

Marie Curie:

1867–1934

This physicist was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize — she actually won it twice — and the first woman to earn a doctorate in Europe. Her investigations led to the discovery of radioactivity as well as the element radium.

<http://www.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/95nov/curie.html>

Amelia Earhart:

1897–1937

The first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, she opened the skies to other women. In 1937 while attempting to become the first person to fly around the world, Earhart's plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/earhart/times/index.htm>

Mary Baker Eddy:**1821–1910**

Only American woman to found a lasting American-based religion, the Church of Christ, Scientist. She worked successfully to solidify and increase the popularity of The Christian Scientist movement.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=57>

Elizabeth I:**1558–1603**

Queen of England when England became a major European power in politics, commerce, and the arts. Smart, brave, and determined to link herself to her country's fortunes, she cultivated the loyalty of her people and united the country against enemies. During her reign — the "Elizabethan Age" — England changed from being poor and isolated to being among the most important nations in Europe, with a powerful navy.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/page46.asp>

Ella Fitzgerald:**1918–1996**

Considered one of the greatest jazz singers of all time, Ella Fitzgerald was the winner of 12 Grammy Awards and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=2>

Indira Gandhi:**1917–1984**

As the leader of India, the world's most populous democracy, Indira Gandhi became an influential figure for Indian women as well as for others around the world.

http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/whm/bio/ghandi_i.htm

LaDonna Harris (born 1931)

Harris is the President and Founder of Americans for Indian Opportunity, a national multiracial organization devoted to developing the economic opportunities and resources of Indians. Raised by her grandparents with traditional Comanche values, Harris has been politically active all her life. She has crusaded for the rights of children and women and for the elimination of poverty and discrimination. http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/harris/harris_bio.html

Grace Hopper:**1906–1992**

A computing trailblazer, Grace Hopper invented one of the first easy-to-use computer languages, which was a big advance in the field of computer programming.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=79>

Dolores Huerta:**1930–**

A spokesperson for the rights of workers, Dolores Huerta helped create the National Farm Workers Association. Among other issues, she has fought for the right to a minimum wage, unemployment insurance, paid holidays, and retirement benefits for farm workers.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=81>

Shirley Jackson (born 1946)

Jackson is the former head of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where she reaffirmed the agency's commitment to public health and safety. She is the first female African

American to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Jackson's outstanding leadership in education, science, and public policy demonstrates the capability of women to be leaders in the field of science and technology.

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/themes/sjackson.html>

Joan of Arc:

1412–1431

A national hero in France, Joan of Arc led the resistance to the English invasion of France in the Hundred Years War. She believed that it was her divine mission to free her country from the English. She cut her hair, dressed in a man's uniform, and led French troops to victory in the battle of Orleans in 1429.

<http://distinguishedwomen.com/biographies/joanarc.html>

Jackie Joyner-Kersey:

1962–

She dominated the Olympic sport of heptathlon, a series of six demanding events. Joyner-Kersey won the Olympic gold medal for the United States in 1988 and 1992, and set the world record. She was also the first American woman to win Olympic gold in the long jump.

<http://distinguishedwomen.com/biographies/joyner-k.html>

Frida Kahlo:

1907–1954

This Mexican artist survived childhood polio and later a bus accident that led to seven operations. She began painting to escape her lifelong pain and is considered one of the greatest artists of the 20th century.

<http://www.nmwa.org/collection/profile.asp?LinkID=471>

Helen Keller

1880–1968

A childhood disease left her deaf, mute, and blind. Helen Keller became an expert author and lecturer, educating nationally on behalf of others with similar disabilities.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=91>

Maya Lin (born 1960)

As the designer of two of America's most powerful monuments — The Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama, and The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., Lin has distinguished herself as the most acclaimed site-specific architect of contemporary America. Because of her concern for environmental issues, she uses recycled, living, or natural materials and focuses on sustainable and site-sensitive design solutions.

http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/lin/lin_bio.html

Margaret Mead:

1901–1978

This anthropologist who studied Samoan culture caused society to rethink how it looked at adolescence.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=109>

Mother Theresa:

1910–1997

Founder of a religious group of nuns in Calcutta, India, Mother Theresa devoted her life to aiding sick and poor people throughout the world.

www.wagingpeace.org/articles/peaceheroes/rosemothertheresa.htm

Ellen Ochoa (born 1958)

As an astronaut and researcher of advanced optical information systems, Ochoa flew her first shuttle mission in 1993 as a Mission Specialist with the *Discovery* crew, conducting atmospheric and solar studies in order to better understand the effect of solar activity on the Earth's climate and environment. The first Hispanic woman to be named an astronaut, she has logged over 500 hours in space. [Read an interview](#) conducted by Scholastic students with Ellen Ochoa.

http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/ochoa/ochoa_bio.html

Sandra Day O'Connor:**1930–**

As the first woman appointed to the position of U.S. Supreme Court justice, she carved a place for women at all levels of the legal profession.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=115>

Rosa Parks:**1913–**

When she refused to give up her seat to a white person on a crowded bus, Rosa Parks set in motion the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a cornerstone of the civil rights movement. She has since been a strong advocate for human rights issues.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/rosa/rosa.htm>

Esther Peterson (1906-1997)

Peterson worked throughout her life for consumer protection, improved labor conditions for American workers, and equal opportunity for American women. Because of her work, working women have a legal right to equal pay and food labels by law must now list exact amounts of ingredients and the nutritional content. She served four U.S. Presidents in various capacities, including Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Vice-Chair of the first Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/peterson/peterson_bio.html

Dr. Sally Ride:**1951–**

The first American woman in space was also the youngest American astronaut ever to orbit Earth.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/space/sts7/index.htm>

Eleanor Roosevelt:**1884–1962**

As a champion of human rights, she strove to further women's causes as well as the causes of black people, poor people, and the unemployed.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=128>

Sacagawea:**1787–1812**

She was the interpreter for Lewis and Clark during the U.S. government's first exploration of the Northwest. Sacagawea's role was to help negotiate safe and peaceful passages through tribal lands.

http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/people/s_z/sacagawea.htm

Margaret Sanger**1879–1966**

Founder of the birth control movement in the United States, Sanger also started the organization that became the future Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=134>

Sappho:

(circa 625 B.C.)

This Greek poet is considered one of the most important in Western civilization. In addition to creating the "Sapphic stanza," which consists of three long lines of poetry coupled with one short line, she also invented an instrument — the 21-string lyre.

<http://www.loggia.com/myth/sappho.html>

Muriel F. Siebert:

1938–

Her advanced understanding of banking and finance led Muriel Siebert to the first seat owned by a woman on the New York Stock Exchange. She created the Siebert Philanthropic Program, which lets investors help charities in their own communities.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=143>

Lillian Smith (1897-1966)

Honored in 1956 by the women who organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Smith was one of the nation's strongest European-American voices to expose the vicious ways that racism destroys the human spirit. She used her stellar writing talent and class privilege to expose and challenge racism. Smith co-published the literary magazine *South Today* to help give voice to progressive black and white southern writers. http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/smith/smith_bio.html

Margaret Thatcher:

1925–

This politician was the first woman in European history to be elected prime minister. Known for her conservative views, Margaret Thatcher was also the first British prime minister to win three consecutive terms in the 20th century.

<http://www.uu.edu/front/features/front/fall98/mtbio.htm>

Harriet Tubman

1820–1913

This abolitionist was born a slave. She eventually became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad — a system developed by a secret group of free blacks and sympathetic whites to help runaway slaves get to free northern states. Harriet Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=159>

Oprah Winfrey:

1954–

An actress and the host of a highly successful talk show, Oprah Winfrey has won several Emmy Awards. She has started her own TV production company and invested in media projects. She has also been a spokesperson for women's health and family issues and for the prevention of child abuse.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=171>

Victoria Woodhull:

1838–1927

First woman to be nominated and campaign for the U.S. presidency. She was nominated by the Women's National Equal Rights Party. Woodhull and her sister were also the first two female stockbrokers on Wall Street.

<http://www.class.csupomona.edu/his/skpuz/hst202/woodhull/WQart.html>

Babe Didrikson Zaharias:**1914–1956**

One of the greatest athletes of all time, Zaharias won track and field gold medals at the 1932 Olympics, played professional basketball, and was a founding member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association.

<http://www.greatwomen.org/women.php?action=viewone&id=177>