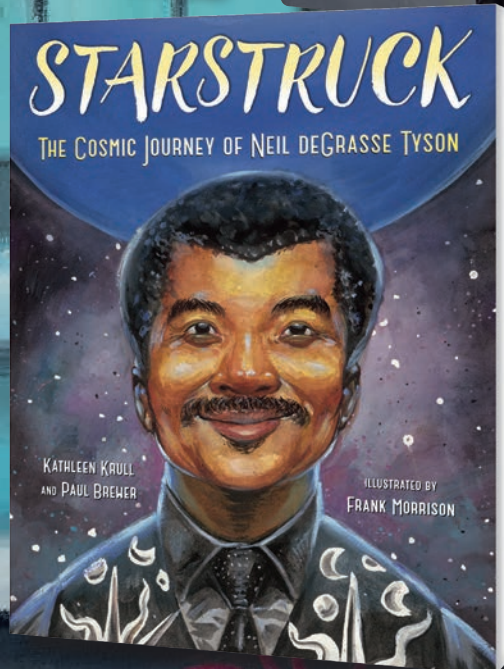
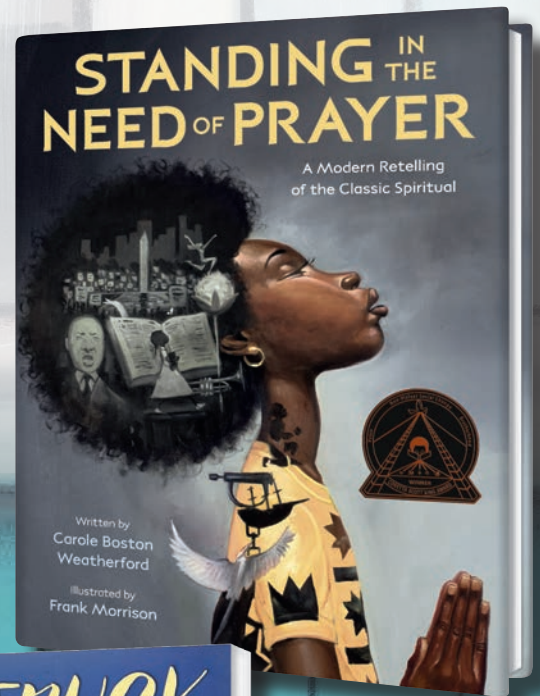


# FRANK MORRISON

## ILLUSTRATOR GUIDE





## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Frank Morrison started his journey as a graffiti artist in New Jersey, tagging walls with spray paint. It wasn't until he visited the Louvre Museum in Paris as part of the Sugar Hill Gang's dance entourage that he realized painting was his true creative path. His work has been featured at Art Basel, SCOPE Miami Beach, and Red Dot art fairs, and shown at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Mason Fine Art Gallery in Atlanta. He is the illustrator of over twenty children's books, including the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winners *Standing in the Need of Prayer* and *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*, the Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe Award winner *Jazzy Miz Mozetta*, and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Books *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* and *Let the Children March*. Frank was a Society of Illustrators Original Art Silver Medal Honoree two years in a row, for *The Roots of Rap* and *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*.



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## ABOUT THE BOOKS



**THEMES:**  
Family & Relationships,  
African American  
Interest

### HARLEM AT FOUR by Michael Datcher; illustrated by Frank Morrison

A stunning picture book comprising two incredible stories—the first part chronicles the adventures of a four-year-old Black girl named Harlem, while the second part describes the history of Harlem the neighborhood.

★ “A beautiful celebration.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

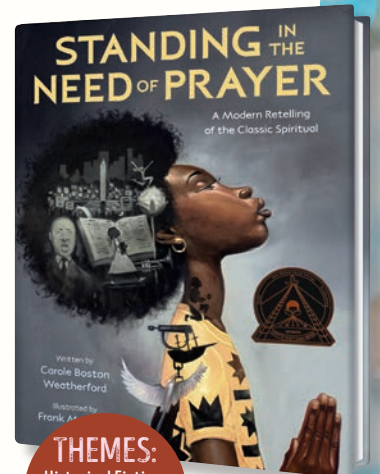
### STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Frank Morrison

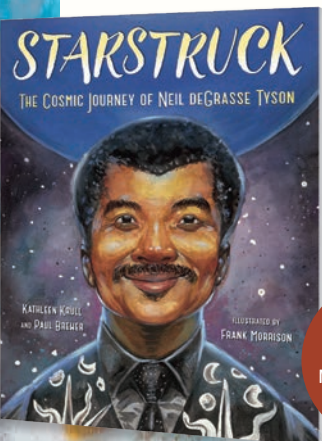
A deeply moving picture book based on the popular spiritual. The classic lyrics have been reworked to chronicle the milestones, struggles, tragedies, and triumphs of African American history.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

★ “Gorgeous and enlightening, nourishing both mind and soul.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review



**THEMES:**  
Historical Fiction,  
African American  
Interest, Religious &  
Biblical Stories



**THEMES:**  
Biography &  
Autobiography,  
Nonfiction, Science  
& Nature, Space,  
Determination

### STARSTRUCK

by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer; illustrated by Frank Morrison

A picture-book biography about science superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson, the groundbreaking astrophysicist whose work has inspired a generation of young scientists and astronomers to reach for the stars!

★ “Inspirational and informative, this will make a popular addition to biography and STEM collections.”—*Booklist*



## TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### HARLEM AT FOUR

- Have you ever been to Harlem? Look at a map of the United States. Harlem is a neighborhood in New York City. New York City is in the state of New York. Can you find New York City on a map?
- Harlem has been the birthplace and home to many amazing people. We meet some of those people in *Harlem at Four*. Ask a grown-up to help you learn more about the following creatives:
  - Jean-Michel Basquiat
  - Sonia Sanchez
  - Miles Davis
  - John Coltrane

How are you inspired by the creatives you learned about? What creatives are from your country, state, or city/town? What inspires you about the place you live?

### STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

- Have you heard of the people featured in this book? Be sure to look at the information about each figure in the back of the book. ["back matter" isn't consumer-friendly]. What about them do you find interesting or inspiring?
- Frank Morrison has painted portraits of various inspirational Black Americans. Who is a Black American that inspires you? Draw a portrait of that person and write a few sentences to explain why they inspire you.

### STARSTRUCK

- With a grown-up's permission, go outside at night and look up at the sky. What do you see? Can you tell the difference between a star and a planet? Do you see something in the sky that you want to learn more about?
- Neil deGrasse Tyson knew he wanted to be an astrophysicist at a very young age. Is there something you want to do or be when you grow up?
- Frank Morrison uses watercolor paint to illustrate the night sky. Create your own night sky using watercolors, paper, and a white crayon. Find a blank piece of white paper (it can be any size). Use a white crayon and draw stars, planets, and comets all over it. The stars can be small dots like in Frank Morrison's illustrations or more like the five-pointed star shape you're familiar with. Next, use black watercolor paint to paint the entire paper. Be sure to brush over all the stars, planets, and other celestial bodies you drew. Watch closely as the stars slowly appear all over the page! Be sure to name your newly created galaxy.



## ILLUSTRATOR-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- Compare Frank Morrison's work across these three books. What similarities do you notice? What differences do you see?
- Frank Morrison celebrates Blackness through his illustrations. He highlights the excellence of Black Americans throughout history, weaving Black culture and art into his illustrations as an homage to the contributions Black people have made to American culture. What do you notice about how Frank celebrates things like living in a city, the clothing characters wear, characters' hairstyles, and graffiti art?

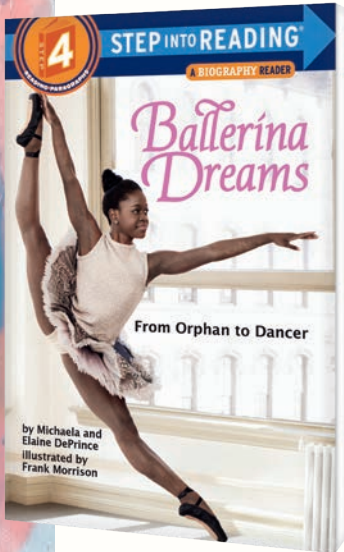
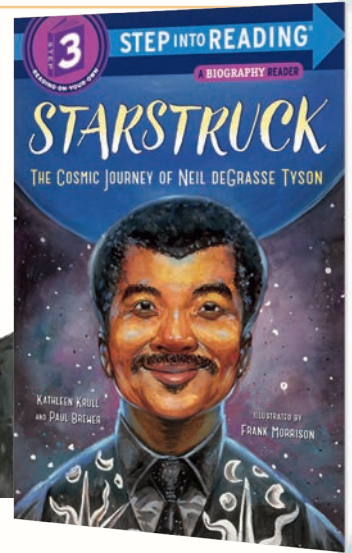




## MORE FROM FRANK MORRISON



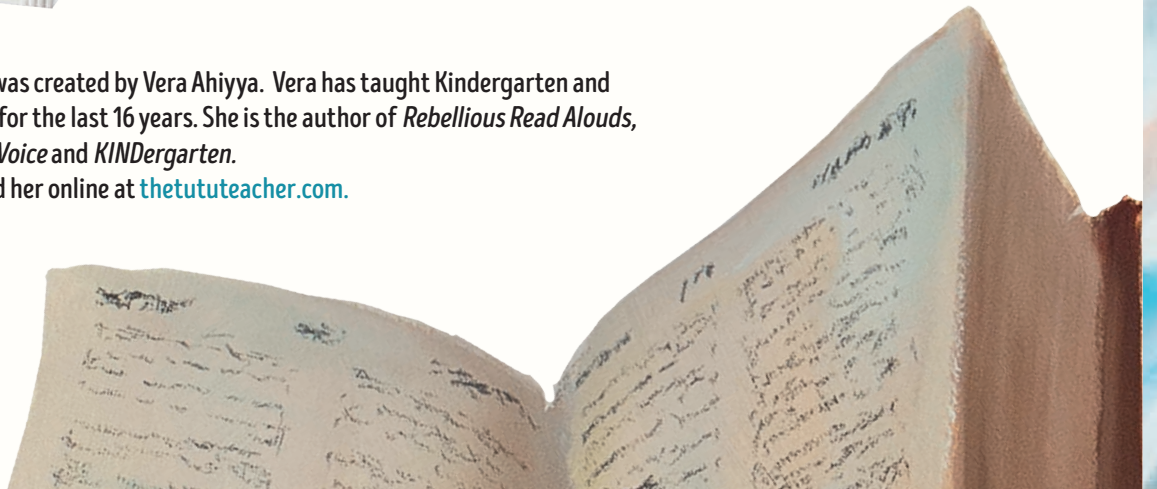
A Step into Reading easy-to-read biography on science superstar Neil deGrasse Tyson



Perfect for newly independent readers—discover the amazing life of one of America's top ballerinas, Michaela DePrince



This guide was created by Vera Ahiyya. Vera has taught Kindergarten and first grade for the last 16 years. She is the author of *Rebellious Read Alouds*, *You Have a Voice* and *KINDergarten*. You can find her online at [thetututeacher.com](http://thetututeacher.com).



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