



Kim Holt

ILLUSTRATION PORTFOLIO



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KIM'S
COLLECTION
OF STUFF™



Me after church in Harlem NY, age 6

Hello!

Thank you so much for taking the time to review my work.

Joy, for me, is drawing people, as you will soon be able to tell.

The following pages are illustrations from some of my art, picture books, and other book projects.

A small bit about me

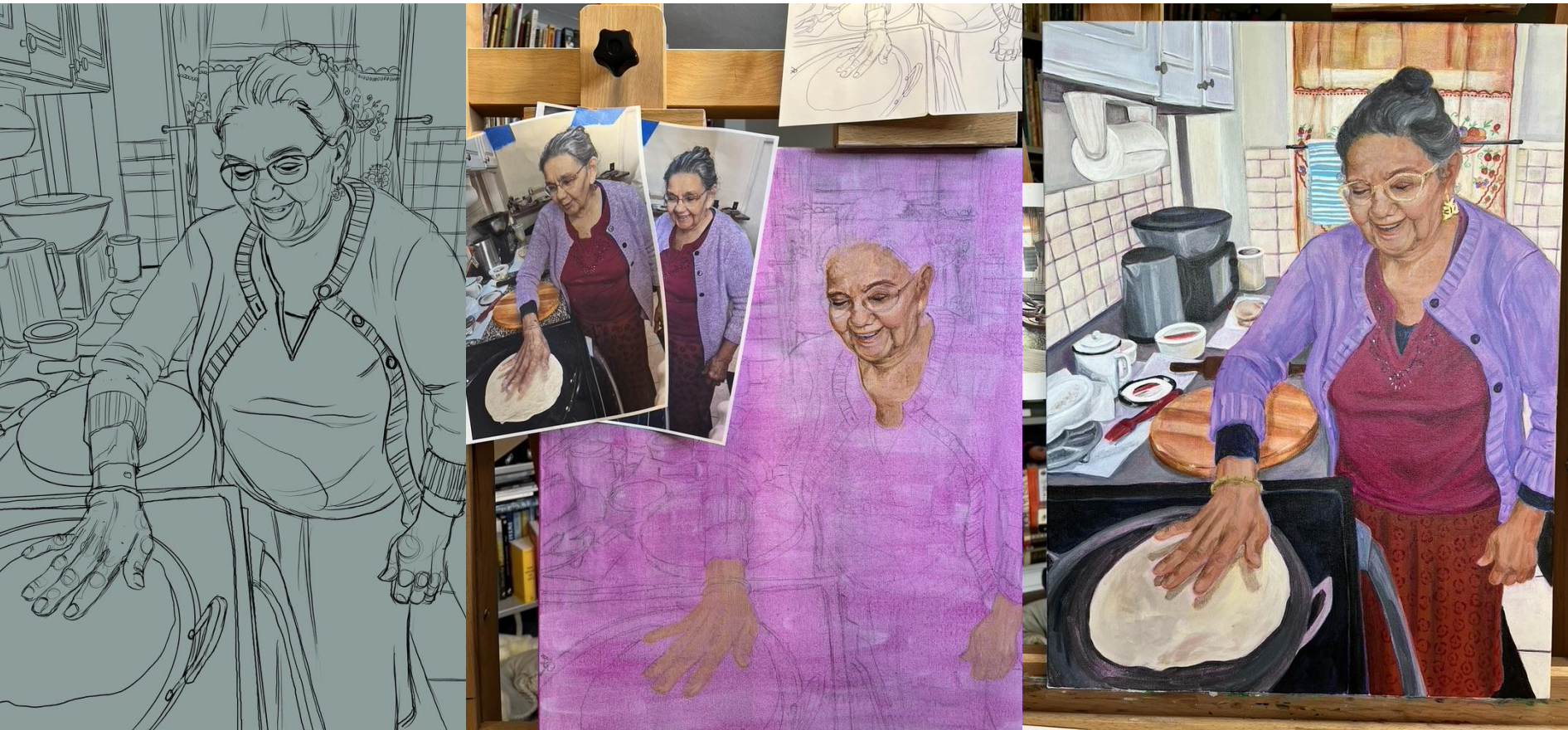
I have had a passion for art and drawing from an early age and found great inspiration growing up directly across from the Brooklyn Museum. I am fascinated by illustrating moments in time that celebrate joy, love, resilience, and the strength of community and family. Capturing personality is very important to me. I want you to feel like you know the characters I bring to life. I have had the honor of being an AI-AP Selected Winner for the past four years. These pieces are based on my family and express our joy and community when coming together.



Picture Book Process

Process

I always start with a character.



When developing characters for books or art, I sketch and paint them first. Sometimes, I like to use the computer, or I use natural media. This portrait “Nani and Roti” was commissioned by a friend for her dear grandmother’s birthday. She wanted to capture her grandmother cooking roti for a family dinner and passing along the tradition. I loved capturing her smile and the freckles of age on her skin.

Process

I Love My People – Poses and Dynamics

I explore different poses and settings before settling on what I will share. I really loved drawing this scene of a family gathering for “I Love My People.” In exploring how they should be posed, I wanted the readers eye to move across the page and take in the dynamics happening between the folks gathered. This page expresses fun times, joy, and movement from one interaction to another.



Process

I Love My People – Capturing Action



I enjoyed researching and drawing this scene of the children playing tennis 'like' the pros.

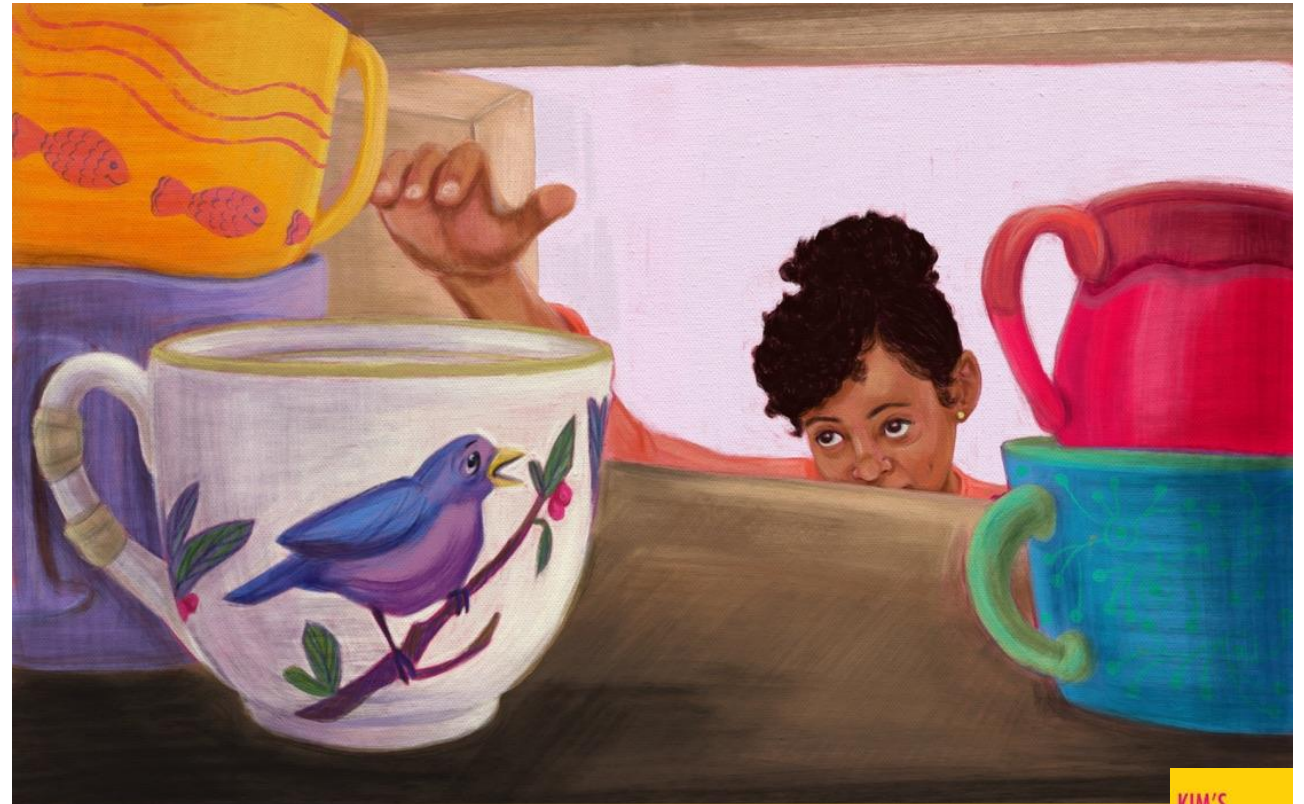
Capturing action, the strength of the pros, their movement on the court, and placing the children in the scene and keeping it airy was a wonderful exercise in economy of space.

Drawing this scene reinforced how much I like the challenge of capturing movement in my art whether it is bold or subtle.

Picture Book Development

The Tea Cup

I have been working on developing my own picture book. A gentle, heartwarming story about friendship told from the perspective of a teacup. As the teacup reflects on her relationship with a little girl, the artwork tells the story of two girls meeting and becoming best friends - and the argument that almost ends that friendship. The teacup is there for all the fun moments in the girls' relationship, and during their fight, she sits inside the cabinet, waiting to be chosen again. With a sweet resolution, this story is as warm and cozy as drinking a cup of tea with a good friend.



Additional Books

Fight for the Right to Read:

Samuel Wilbert Tucker and the 1939 Sit-Down Strike for Library Reading Equality

I got to research and capture SW Tucker which was quite interesting. I found out that he went to Howard University around the same time as my grandfather. I am also a Howard graduate. I appreciated learning all that he did to make sure libraries were fully integrated.



Peaches

In every scene, I reflected on my grandmother who taught me everything I know about cooking and who is one of my biggest influences. In the same way, I illustrated this grandmother and her relationship with her granddaughter.



The Bronx is My Home



To say I had fun drawing Santiago and Mami is an understatement. This book taught me so much about the Bronx, a place I visited often but never knew like this. The book reminds me of when you are a kid and have a day you swear you will never forget. The best day ever.

Justice Rising

12 Amazing Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement

The women portrayed in the following images were a joy to draw. I enjoyed styling their clothing while maintaining a level of historical accuracy. I love bold colors, and this was an excellent opportunity use them.. I strived to capture the women in some recognizable moments in history. As I was drawing, I kept thinking about how would their friends and family would feel seeing their portraits. I wanted to stay true to who they were and give a glimpse into their connections to their communities at large.



Simone Biles

It was an honor to spend time learning about and drawing Simone Biles. Capturing her energy was so much fun. I am not athletic at all, but I admire the drive and passion she has for her sport. I hope my interpretation of that comes through in the book's pages.



Simone Biles (Random House)

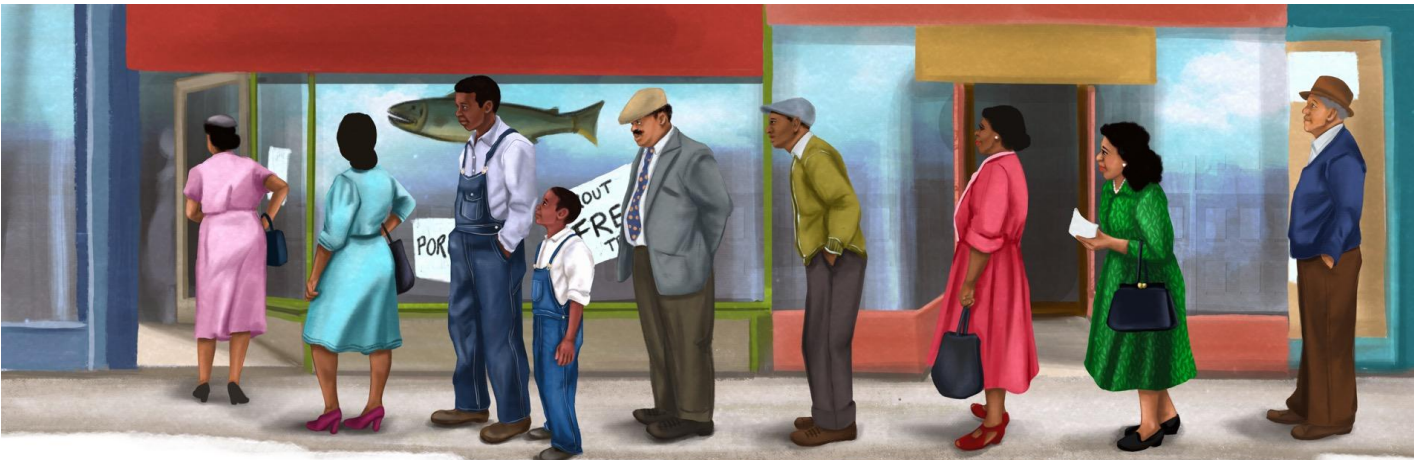


School Publishing



Research is essential for me when I draw. I learn quite a bit and like to make sure I am accurate for the setting or period. I collect hundreds of photos and have a cataloging system for them.

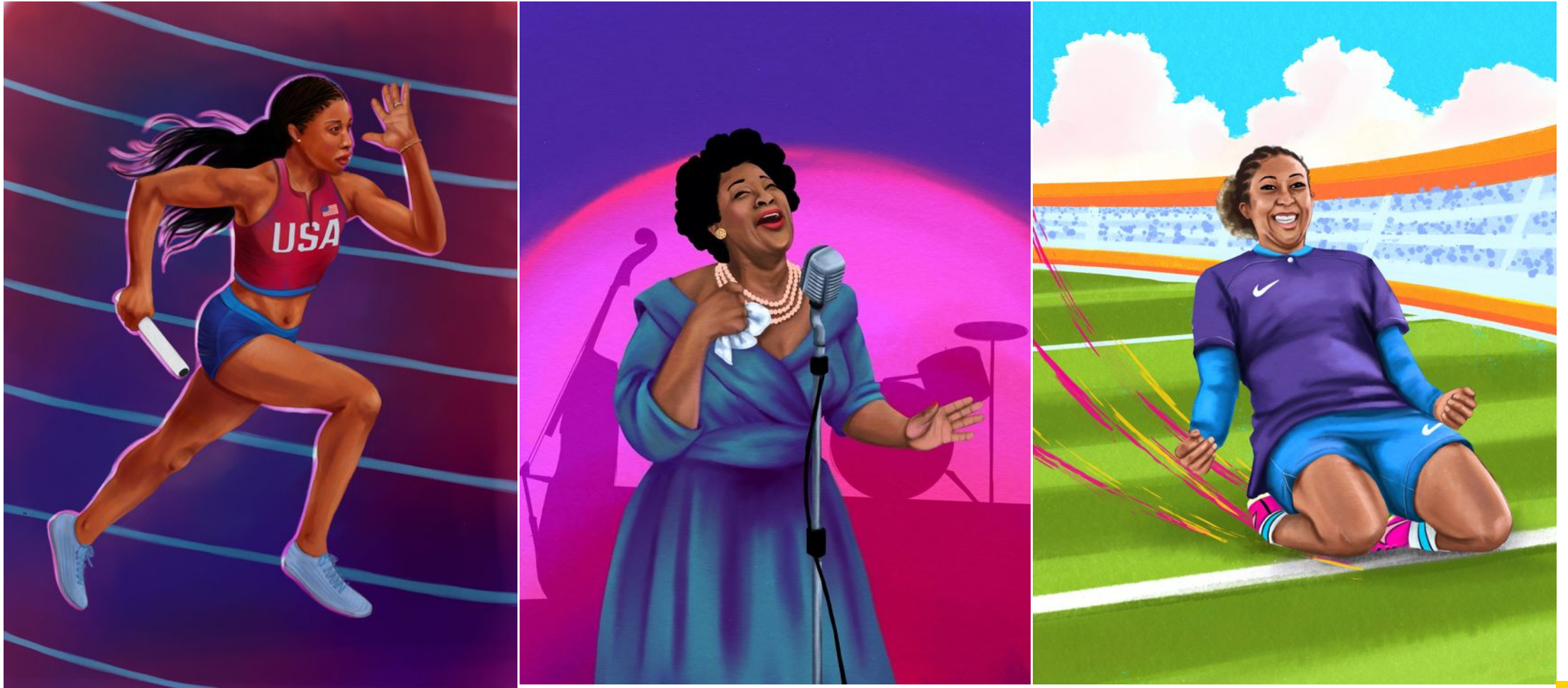
Doing my research, I learned a lot about the history of that time, the clothing, food, housing, and the state where I live, Maryland. I used that knowledge when drawing to ensure I included the small details. This particular story was told from the perspective of Harriet Tubman's best friend.



For "Finding Langston" I researched 1932 Chicago for clothing and environments in the city and country.

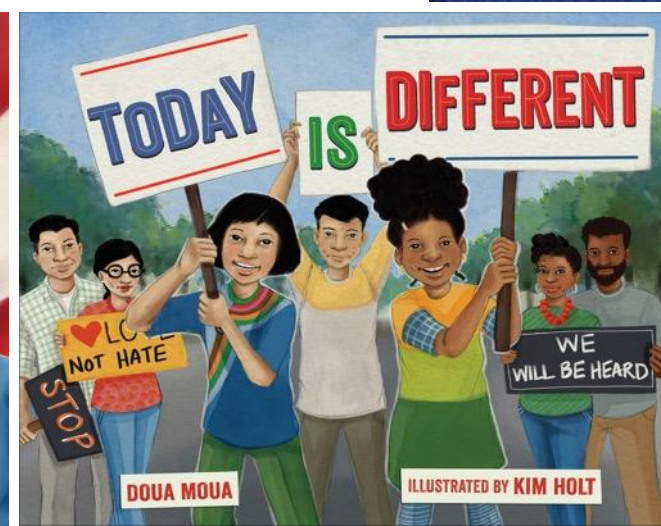
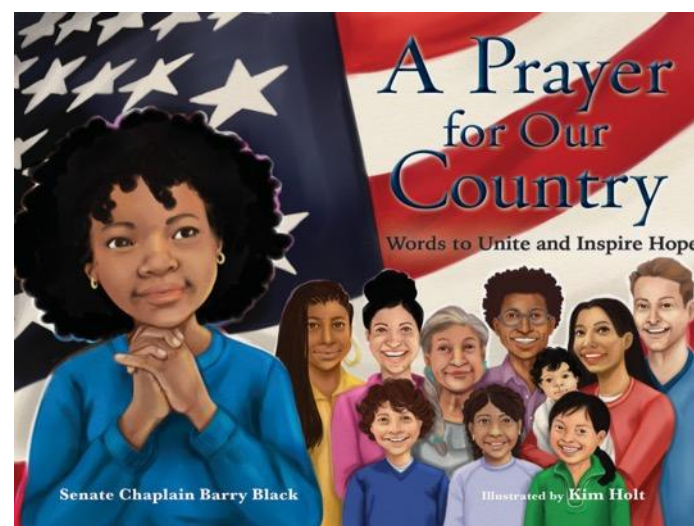
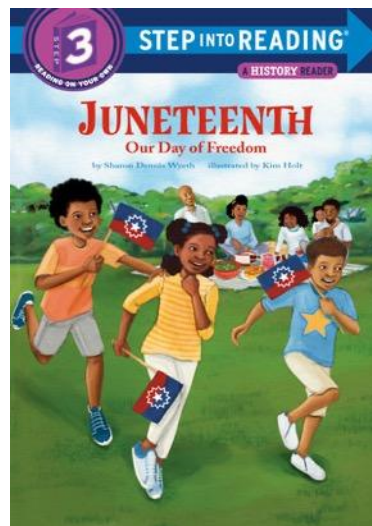
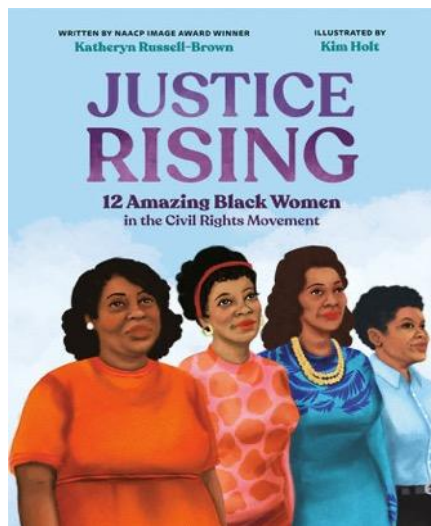
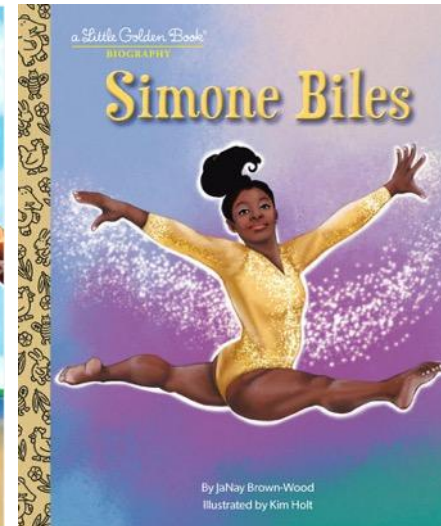
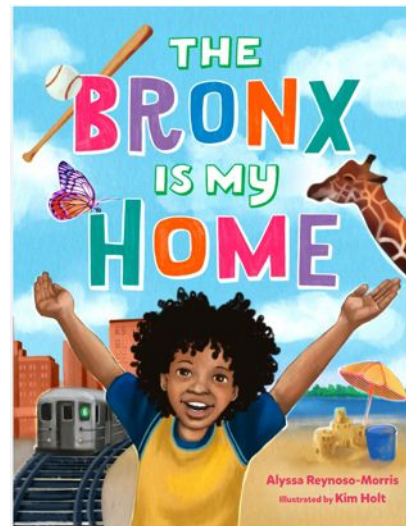
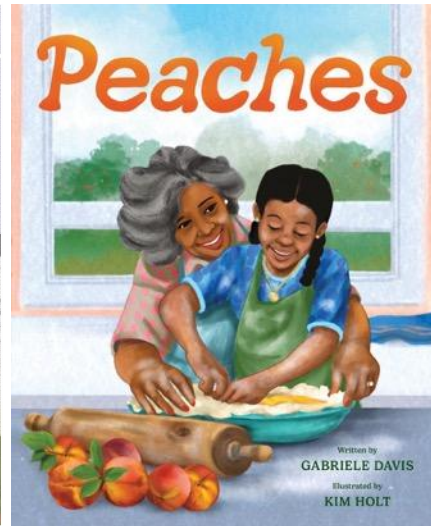
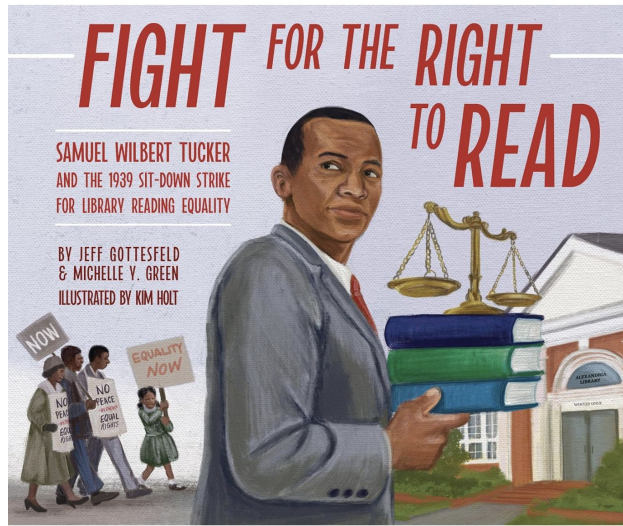
Rebel Girls

Capturing these trailblazing women for the Rebel Girls books was a fantastic opportunity for me to explore color, composition, and energy.



Rebel Girls – Allyson Felix, Ella Fitzgerald, and Lauren James (Nike)

My Books



Thank You!