

What Color Is My World?

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Inventions, Perseverance, African-American History

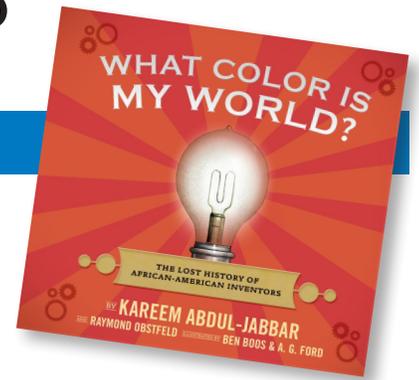
Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: As they fix up their new house, Herbie and his sister discover how many things that we use every day were designed by African-American inventors.

Authors: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld

Illustrators: Ben Boos and A.G. Ford

Content Connections: Science, Math, Engineering, Social Studies



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and

cover illustration. What does the light bulb represent? What about the gears? Look at the book's subtitle—what does “lost history” mean?

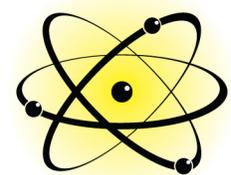
The Pictures: Flip through the pictures and explain the book's unusual format. The main story is broken up by both excerpts from Herbie's journal and profiles of famous African-American inventors. What *genre* is this book?

Prior Knowledge: Revisit the book's subtitle. Why would African-American inventors be less famous than their white peers? Briefly explain that not only

did the history of discrimination in the United States make it harder for African-American inventors to work, it also made them less likely to be recognized or celebrated for their inventions.

Vocabulary: The vocabulary will vary from chapter to chapter.

Purpose for Reading: This book will work best if students access it directly. Read the main story aloud; then put the book on the shelf for free reading or use it as part of a learning station. Tell students to focus on integrating the non-fiction and fiction parts of the book.

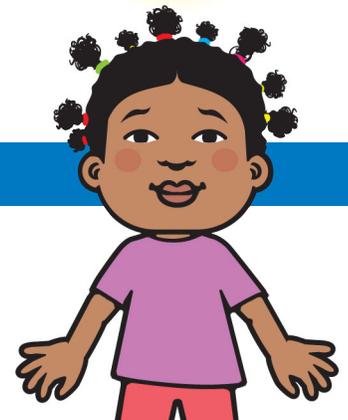


WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why does Herbie keep a journal?
- ◆ Who is Mr. Mital really?

- ◆ What do you think Herbie will be when he grows up?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: “How did the extra information in the book add to the story? Did the story help you to better understand the non-fiction segments?”

Extending Our Thinking: What does Mr. Mital mean when he says that no one really invents anything? Do you agree? Can you think of any examples from the text or the real world to support your argument? Has anyone in history ever invented anything completely new?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.



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