

What Color Is My World?

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

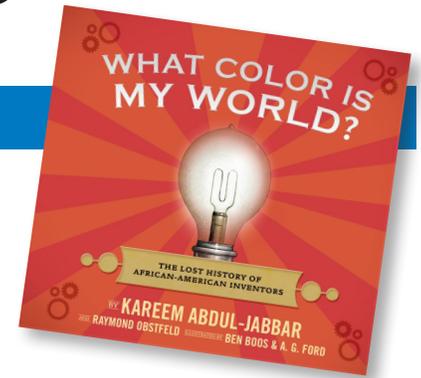
Themes: Inventions, Perseverance, African-American History

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



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, build background: Can your child name any famous inventors? Any famous *African-American* inventors? Think about the book's subtitle—

what does “lost history” mean?

While reading, look under the flaps: The authors give you more information about each inventor. Skim the information while you read the story; then read the story again more closely.

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What does Mr. Mital mean when he says no one invents anything? Do you agree?
- ◆ Why does Herbie keep a journal?
- ◆ Who is Mr. Mital really?
- ◆ What do you think Herbie will be when he grows up?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

ICY INVENTIONS

Did you know the popsicle was invented by an 11-year-old boy? Invent your own fun flavors!

Materials: small plastic cups, aluminum foil or plastic wrap, popsicle sticks

Combine your favorite flavors (juice, drink mixes, blended fruit, etc.) to make popsicle mix. Fill cups with mixture. Cover the cups with foil or plastic wrap and stick a popsicle stick into the middle of each. Freeze until solid. Remove popsicles and enjoy!

RUBE GOLDBERG

Materials: whatever you have around the house

A Rube Goldberg machine is a complicated machine that performs a very simple task. Help your child

invent one! Pick an easy task (knocking a cup over, for example); then help your child set up a complex chain reaction of as many steps as possible to complete it. Use only what you find around the house. (Watch www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOFcC-Dm7U to see a sample machine.)

JOURNAL-ISM

Keep a journal like Herbie! Every day for a week, write down at least 3 new facts you learned that day. At the end of the week, look back at what you've written. You'll be shocked at how much you've learned!

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.inventivekids.com for fun games and resources for young inventors!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT INVENTORS

Neo Leo, Gene Barretta (2009),
The Day-Glo Brothers, Chris Barton (2009),
Balloons over Broadway, Melissa Sweet (2011).

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