Sonoma Valley Museum of Art
SUGGESTED CHILDREN’S BOOKS
Title, Author, Illustrator

In Her Hands: The Story of Sculptor Augusta Savage
Alan Schroeder, JaeMe Bereal
In Her Hands is about Augusta Savage, Sculptor. It tells the story of her as a young artist growing up, always playing in the mud and sculpting animals out of clay. It also shares how she got into her first art school against steep odds.

Art from Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter
Kathy Whitehead, Shane Evans
Art From Her Heart is about Clementine Hunter. The book has a good message about not waiting to make art and starting where you are while using what you have at hand. The book talks about the artist being excluded from her own art show because of the color of her skin.

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin
Jen Bryant, Melissa Sweet
A Splash of Red is about artist Horace Pippin. It explores his lifelong love of creating things and how he used his art practice to rehabilitate himself and shift careers after an injury.

Life Doesn’t Frighten Me
Maya Angelou and Sara Jane Boyers, Jean-Michel Basquiat
Life Doesn’t Frighten Me is composed of paintings by Jean-Michel Basquiat, paired with a poem written by Maya Angelou. It addresses childhood fears head on with bold words and colorful paintings. A good book for when the world feels big and scary.
**Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment**  
Parker and Jessica Curry, Brittany Jackson  
*Parker Looks Up* is written by 4-year-old Parker Curry and her mother about her transfixing first encounter with Amy Sherald's painting of First Lady Michelle Obama, hanging in the National Portrait Gallery. It conveys the transformative potential of a child experiencing art that represents their own unique heritage and background.

**Tar Beach, Faith Ringgold**  
*Tar Beach* is lovely and imaginative, full of texture and color, and written and illustrated by quilt and collage artist Faith Ringgold. Cassie Louise Lightfoot is the lucky little girl who gets to float up over the New York City and wear the George Washington Bridge "like a giant diamond necklace."

**Magic Trash: A Story of Tyree Guyton and His Art**  
J. H. Shapiro, Vanessa Brantley-Newton  
*Magic Trash* is the story of Tyree Guyton, who used art to revitalize his neighborhood in Detroit. It has a lovely rhythm and feel, as well as a great message about a community coming together around creating art.

**Great Migration, Jacob Lawrence**  
*Great Migration* is written and illustrated by Jacob Lawrence. There are several children's books written about him, but this one is composed of his actual words and paintings. The original body of work is split between two museums but here, they come together to tell an American story.
**Mixed**, Arree Chung  
*Mixed* addresses the issue of color and race head-on in a way that is simple and clear even for a young child, using primary and secondary colors.

**Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave**  
Laban Carrick Hill, Bryan Collier  
*Dave the Potter* references a relatively unknown potter and poet by the name of Dave who was a slave and worked and lived in South Carolina in the 1800s. It has a very tactile feel and any child who has worked in clay (or wants to) will find it compelling.

**Get Up, Stand Up**  
Cedella Marley, John Jay Cabuay  
*Get Up, Stand Up* is written by Bob Marley's oldest daughter, Cedella, and tells a tale of overcoming differences and working together.

**Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat**  
Javaka Steptoe  
*Radiant Child* is about Jean-Michel Basquiat growing up, becoming an artist, and creating art in his own unique way.

**Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews**  
Kathleen Benson, Benny Andrews  
*Draw What You See* is about Benny Andrews and gives an overview of his life and work. It also mentions his efforts to teach children experiencing the trauma of Hurricane Katrina to use art as a way to cope.
Beautiful Blackbird, Ashley Bryan
Beautiful Blackbird is by famous children's book author and illustrator Ashley Bryan. It is based on a folk talk by the Ila-speaking people of Zambia. The central theme, presented memorably, is "Black is Beautiful." This book is a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner.

I Have a Dream
Martin Luther King Jr., Kadir Nelson
I Have a Dream presents the words of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous speech, illustrated by contemporary artist Kadir Nelson. It can be read in your own voice, or it includes a recording of the original speech on cd. It makes the words of the speech come alive in a beautiful, visual way.

Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America
Carole Boston Weatherford, Jamey Christoph
Gordon Parks captures some of the story of how this famous photographer found his niche and grew to be a compelling and important artist in history.

My Hands Sing the Blues: Romare Bearden's Childhood Journey
Jeanne Walker Harvey, Elizabeth Zunon
My Hands Sing the Blues is about a young Romare Bearden and his family's journey to New York during the Great Migration. It has a fun, jazzy feel with lots of onomatopoeia.