

# Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to The Very Hungry Caterpillar

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## We Need Your Feedback!

We would like to gain a better understanding about how our customers feel about the recent trend to "genrefication," or organizing libraries by genre as opposed to more traditional means of classification. Proponents argue that genrefication produces a more user-friendly library that makes sense to young readers and helps promote literacy. Please consider taking this brief [survey](#) to help us serve you better!

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**TITLES KIDS ARE TALKING ABOUT**  
**- BOOKS TO CHANGE OUR WORLD -**

### Elementary

*What Is Given From The Heart*

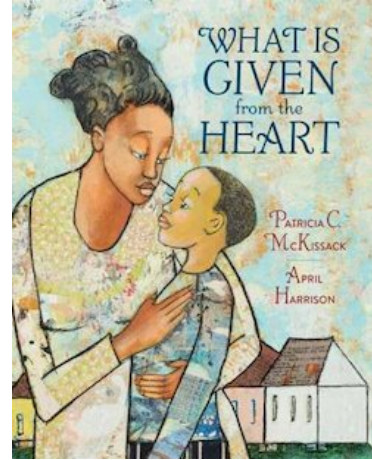
by Patricia C. McKissack

RL 3.3 IL P-2

This final, magnificent picture book from three-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and Newbery Honor author Patricia McKissack is a poignant and uplifting celebration of the joy of giving.

One Sunday before Valentine's Day, Reverend Dennis makes an announcement during the service--the Temples have lost everything in a fire, and the church is collecting anything that might be useful to them.

James thinks hard about what he can add to the Temples' "love box," but what does he have worth giving?



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## Middle School

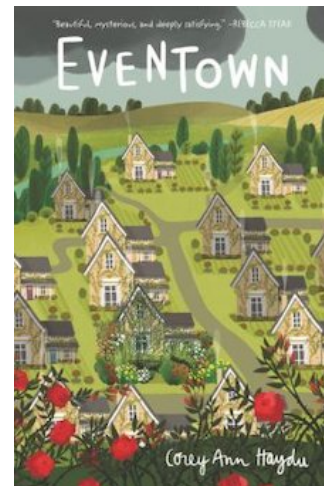
### *Eventown*

by **Corey Ann Haydu**

RL 4.0 IL 4-7

When Elodee's mom gets a new job in Eventown, moving seems like it might just fix everything.

Indeed, life in Eventown is comforting and exciting all at once. Their kitchen comes with a box of recipes for Elodee to try. Everyone takes the scenic way to school or work--past rows of rosebushes and unexpected waterfalls. On blueberry-picking field trips, every berry is perfectly ripe.



Sure, there are a few odd rules, and the houses all look exactly alike, but it's easy enough to explain--until Elodee realizes that there are only three ice cream flavors in Eventown. Ever. And they play only one song in music class.

Everything may be "even" in Eventown, but is there a price to pay for perfection--and pretending?

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## High School

### *The Black Coats*

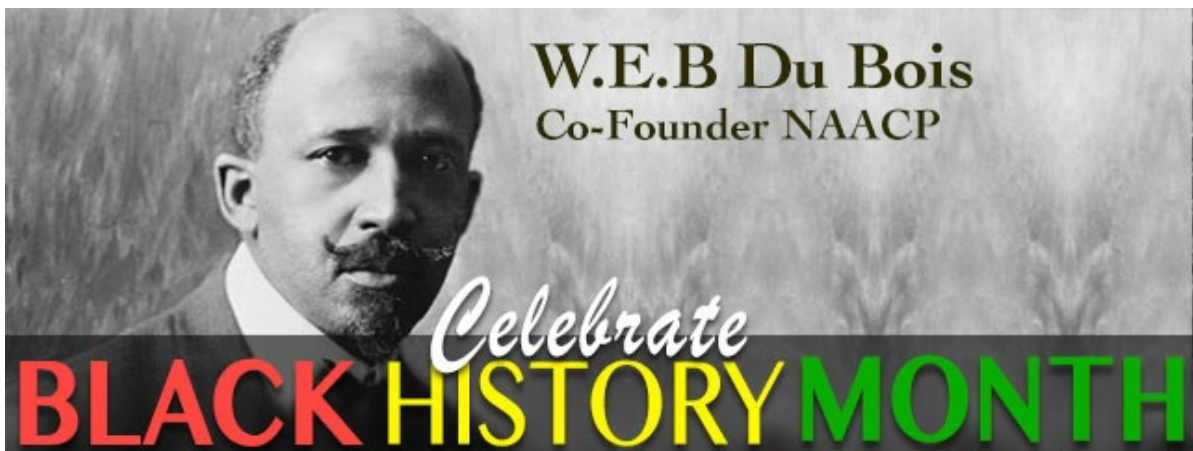
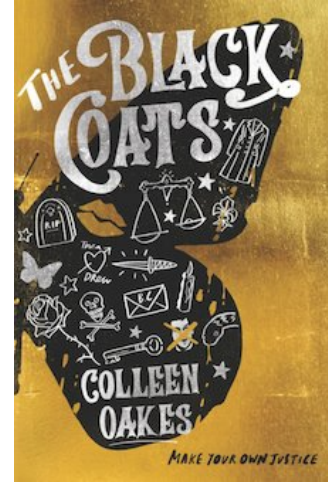
by **Colleen Oakes**

RL 7.0 IL 9-12

The enigmatic Black Coats have been exacting vengeance on men who have hurt girls and women for years. The killer of Thea's cousin went free, and Thea has just received an invitation to join the Black Coats' "balancings"--acts of revenge meant to teach a lesson.



Justice for Natalie has never felt so close. But as the balancings escalate in brutality, Thea's clear-cut mission begins to unravel and she must decide just how far she is willing to go for justice. Because when the line between justice and revenge is paper thin, it's hard not to get cut.



### Remembering intellectual, author and activist W.E.B. Du Bois

February 23 is the birthday of an icon of black history: sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, and author William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) Du Bois, 1868-1963.

Born a few years after the end of the Civil War, W.E.B. Du Bois was raised in the small Massachusetts town of Great Barrington, living with his mother and grandparents after his father left the family in 1870. Although the town was fairly tolerant for its time, Du Bois still felt the sting of racism and the pain of his father's abandonment. Still, his brilliance was recognized and encouraged by his teachers.

Great Barrington's First Congregational Church raised funds to send Du Bois to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he earned a bachelor's degree but

experienced up close the racist oppression of the Jim Crow South. After Fisk, he attended Harvard College, earning a second bachelor's degree in 1890 and winning a scholarship to attend graduate school, as well as a prestigious fellowship to study at the University of Berlin. In 1895, he became the first black person to earn a doctorate from Harvard.

Du Bois' stellar professional career included the 1899 publication of a landmark sociological study (the first of its kind to focus on African Americans) that examined the history, society, and culture of the black population in Philadelphia. Based in part on this work, Du Bois developed a strong belief that society's most gifted members--those he dubbed "the Talented Tenth"--were obligated to work to improve society as a whole. He rejected integration, instead believing that black people should nurture their own, separate social and cultural institutions while simultaneously contributing to the greater society.

Du Bois lived to be 95, and his contributions to U.S. civil rights and scholarship are too numerous to list here. But he is especially remembered for his involvement in organizations such as Niagara Movement in New York, and as co-founder of the first national civil rights group, the NAACP, formed in 1909 in response to the Springfield, Ill., race riot of 1908, which opened the eyes of many Americans to the persistence of racism and the need for change.

Your students can learn more about Du Bois with these Perma-Bound [titles](#).

To find a variety of additional titles related to African American history, and the individuals who helped shape it, visit our [Black History Month web page](#).

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