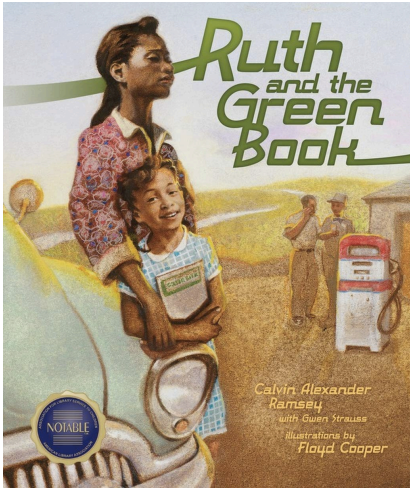




"We Are Grateful, Otsaliheliga" by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac



About *Ruth and the Green Book*: Ruth was so excited to take a trip in her family's new car! In the early 1950s, few African Americans could afford to buy cars, so this would be an adventure. But she soon found out that Black travelers weren't treated very well in some towns. Many hotels and gas stations refused service to Black people. Daddy was upset about something called Jim Crow laws. Finally, a friendly attendant at a gas station showed Ruth's family *The Green Book*. It listed all of the places that would welcome Black travelers. With this guidebook—and the kindness of strangers—Ruth could finally make a safe journey from Chicago to her grandma's house in Alabama. Ruth's story is fiction, but *The Green Book* and its role in helping a generation of African American travelers avoid some of the indignities of Jim Crow are historical fact. Ages 7–11.

Read Aloud Tips:

- Use a map to show students the distance between Chicago and Alabama. Discuss what people may need for a long trip.
- Give examples of how different life might be for black Americans during the 1950s.
- Introduce the book, author and illustrations.
- Think about ways that issues could be debated as a class (use the debate centers).

About The Author: Calvin Alexander Ramsey is a man of numerous talents. Not only does he write award winning picture books for children, he is a photographer, a folk art painter, and a playwright. His plays have won awards as they traveled across the country to Washington, D.C., Atlanta; Omaha, Nebraska; San Francisco; and Alaska. That schedule surely agrees with Calvin because he has called many cities home: Martha's Vineyard; New York City; Santa Monica, California; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and the U.S. Virgin Islands of St. Croix and St. John. Now he lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



Additional Resources:

Find more information on other books that can be used in your class library at literacy.roosevelt.edu.

"Cooper masterfully captures the emotions of the characters, filling his pages with three-dimensional individuals. This story touches on a little-known moment in American history with elegance, compassion and humanity."

- Kirkus Reviews