**African American children’s movies that make you laugh, cry and cheer!**

**Make family night a special night.**

*Movies for African American kids.*

*Black history movies to learn about the past.*

*Enjoy these movies with Black child actors.*



Over the decades, Hollywood has become more diverse in providing family films with leading African American roles. Black culture has its classics whether the story is historical or fiction. Look no further for African American children’s movies that provide positive messages of courage, intelligence and strength to break barriers. *The information in this article is as current as of the publication date. Readers are encouraged to confirm the show or movie prior to watching.*

[**Traveling? Locate an African American museum in your destination.**](https://thevoiceofblackcincinnati.com/african-american-museums-to-visit/)

Black history month is a time to honor your lineage and learn more about the past. See below for movies that give insight into slavery, Black America, Civil Rights and more.

**Black History Movies**[**Harriet (2019)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4648786/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available at the Library
PG-13
The extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman’s escape from slavery and transformation into one of America’s greatest heroes, whose courage, ingenuity and tenacity freed hundreds of slaves and changed the course of history.

[**Black American Since MLK: And Still I Rise (2016)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5640884/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3233691__SBlack%20American%20Since%20MLK__Orightresult__U__X1?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
Documentary with host Henry Louis Gates Jr. chronicles the triumphs, struggles and contradictions of the last fifty years in African American History.

[**Betty & Coretta (2013)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2375664/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2881100__SBetty%20%26%20Coretta%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
TV-14
The widows of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X and how they carry on as single mothers after the assassination of their husbands. Also, both Coretta Scott King ([**Angela Bassett**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2375664/?ref_=nv_sr_1)) and Dr. Betty Shabazz ([**Mary J. Blige**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0004763/?ref_=tt_cl_t4)) will keep their husband’s ideas alive even after death.

[**The Butler (2013)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1327773/?ref_=nv_sr_5)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2928480__SThe%20Butler%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
Cecil Gaines ([**Forest Whitaker**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001845/?ref_=tt_cl_t1)) becomes a butler in the White House. He serves numerous US Presidents over the decades as a passive witness of history with the American Civil Rights Movement gaining momentum even as his family has troubles of its own.

[**4 Little Girls (1997)**](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118540/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2493791__S4%20Little%20Girls%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
TV-14
This film recounts the people and events leading up to one of the most despicable hate-crimes during the height of the civil-rights movement, the bombing of the 16th Street Church in Birmingham, Alabama. In that attack, four little African-American girls lost their lives and a nation was simultaneously revolted, angered and galvanized to push the fight for equality and justice on.

**Rated G/PG**

[**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2019)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7533152/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available on Netflix
PG
Against all the odds, a thirteen-year-old boy (Maxwell Simba) in Malawi invents an unconventional way to save his family and village from famine.

[**Hidden Figures (2016)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4846340/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3250059__SHidden%20Figures__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Johnson crossed all gender, race, and professional lines while their brilliance and desire to dream big, beyond anything ever accomplished before by the human race, firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes.

[**Queen of Katwe (2016)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4341582/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3232680__SQueen%20of%20Katwe%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
Living in Katwe, a slum in Kampala, Uganda, is a constant struggle for 10-year-old Phiona, her mother Nakku Harriet and younger members of her family. She and her younger brother help their mother sell in the market and scavenge for food and water. But her world rapidly changes after being introduced to the game of chess.

[**Woodlawn (2015)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4183692/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3119525__SWoodlawn%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
After a government-mandate, Tony Nathan, a gifted high school black football player, and other black students desegregate Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama in 1973. As cross burnings and riots erupt in the city, Tandy Gerelds, the Woodlawn Colonels football coach, struggles to ease racial tensions between his players.

[**The Princess and the Frog (2009)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0780521/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2777515__SThe%20Princess%20and%20the%20Frog%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
G
A waitress, desperate to fulfill her dreams as a restaurant owner, is set on a journey to turn a frog prince back into a human being, but she has to face the same problem after she kisses him.

[**Akeelah and the Bee (2006)**](https://www.amazon.com/Akeelah-Bee-Widescreen-Angela-Bassett/dp/B000G1R394/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1496689323&sr=8-1&keywords=akeelah+and+the+bee+dvd&tag=lov0f6-20)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/search/C__SAkeelah%20and%20the%20Bee%20__Orightresult__U?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
The inspirational story of Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer), an eleven-year-old girl from south Los Angeles with a gift for words. Despite the objections of her mother Tanya (Angela Bassett), Akeelah enters various spelling contests.

[**The Proud Family Movie (2005)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0448090/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2638633__SThe%20Proud%20Family%20Movie__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
G
Penny and her family are lured on an all-expenses-paid vacation where a mad scientist captures them, refusing to let them go because Oscar won’t reveal his on of his secret Proud Snacks formulas.

[**Remember the Titans (2002)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0210945/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1760422__SRemember%20the%20Titans%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
A Black and a White high school are closed and the students sent to T.C. Williams High School under federal mandate to integrate. The year is seen through the eyes of the football team where the man hired to coach the Black school is made head coach over the highly successful white coach.

[**The Color of Friendship (2000)**](https://www.amazon.com/The-Color-of-Friendship/dp/B018YJ326W/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1496689135&sr=1-1&keywords=Color+of+Friendship,+The+disney&tag=lov0f6-20)
Available on [**Amazon**](https://www.amazon.com/Color-Friendship-Not-Specified/dp/B018YJ326W/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1529510823&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Color+of+Friendship)
G
This movie showcases the love of cultures no matter who you are or what you believe we are all human and need to love and embrace each other. No matter the color or background everyone can still get along and even become the best of friends.

[**Cinderella (1997)**](https://www.moviefone.com/movie/rodgers-hammersteins-cinderella/1117606/main/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2732400__SCinderella%201997__P0%2C1__Orightresult__U__X1?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
G
Cinderella (Brandy) chafes under the cruelty of her wicked stepmother and her evil stepsisters, Calliope and Minerva until her Fairy Godmother (Whitney Houston) steps in to change her life for one unforgettable night.

[**Cool Runnings (1993)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0106611/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2793284__Scool%20runnings__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
In the freezing weather Derice, Sanka, Junior and Yul are only laughed at, since nobody can take a Jamaican bobsledding team led by a disgraced trainer seriously. But team spirit and a healthy self-confidence may lead to a few surprises in the upcoming Winter Games.

[**And the Children Shall Lead (1985)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0088720/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available on [**Amazon**](https://www.amazon.com/Words-Heart-Children-Shall-Lead/dp/B001RRFNNE/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1529510591&sr=1-1&keywords=and+the+children+shall+lead)
PG
Mississippi in the early ’60s is the setting for this story of a 12-year-old African-American girl who, along with her white friends, tries to ease increasing racial tensions. To build a better community that exemplifies equality and human rights.

[**The Wiz (1978)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0078504/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1840612__SThe%20Wiz__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
A kindergarten teacher (Diana Ross) living in Harlem is lost in a blizzard, wakens in the wonderland of Oz, and must find her way home. Cast members also include Michael Jackson, Nipsey Russell, Richard Pryor.

[**Cooley High (1975)**](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0072820/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1880783__SCooley%20High%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG
In 1964, a group of high school friends who live on the Near North Side of Chicago enjoys life to the fullest…parties, hanging out, meeting new friends. Then life changes for two of the guys when they meet a pair of career criminals and get falsely arrested in connection with stealing a Cadillac. We follow their lives through the end of high school and the dramatic end to their school year.

**Rated PG-13/TV-14**

[**The Hate You Give (2018)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5580266/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3501646__SThe%20Hate%20You%20Give__P0%2C5__Orightresult__U__X3?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
Starr ([**Amandla Stenberg**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3964350/?ref_=tt_ov_st_sm)) witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what’s right.

[**Fences (2016)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2671706/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available at the Library
PG-13
A working-class African-American father ([**Denzel Washington**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000243/?ref_=tt_cl_t1)) tries to raise his family in the 1950s while coming to terms with the events of his life.

[**The Fits (2015)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4238858/?ref_=nv_sr_2)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3210733__SThe%20Fits__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
Not Rated
While training at the gym 11-year-old tomboy Toni ([**Royalty Hightower**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7513399/?ref_=tt_cl_t1)) becomes entranced with a dance troupe. As she struggles to fit in she finds herself caught up in danger as the group begins to suffer from fainting spells and other violent fits.

[**Selma (2014)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1020072/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_3)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/search/C__SSelma__Orightresult__U?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
A chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. Features [**David Oyelowo**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0654648/?ref_=tt_ov_st_sm).

[**42 (2013)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0453562/?ref_=nv_sr_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2878445__S42__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
In 1946, Jackie Robinson is a Negro League baseball player who never takes racism lying down. Branch Rickey is a Major League team executive with a bold idea. To that end, Rickey recruits Robinson to break the unspoken color line as the first modern African American Major League player.

[**Beasts of the Southern Wild (2012)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2125435/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2818713__SBeasts%20of%20Southern%20Wild__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
Faced with both her hot-tempered father’s fading health and melting ice-caps that flood her ramshackle bayou community and unleash ancient aurochs, six-year-old Hushpuppy (**[Quvenzhane Wallis](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4832920/?ref_=ttfc_fc_cl_t1" \t "_blank)**) must learn the ways of courage and love.

[**The Great Debaters (2007)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0427309/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2633166__SThe%20Great%20Debaters%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
Professor Melvin Tolson ([**Denzel Washington**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000243/?ref_=tt_cl_t1)) coaches the debate team to a nearly undefeated season that sees the first debate between U.S. students from white and Negro colleges and ends with an invitation to face Harvard University’s national champions.

[**The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0454921/)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2715146__SThe%20Pursuit%20of%20Happyness%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt), Netflix
PG-13
Forced to live out in the streets with his son, Christopher Gardner continues to sell bone density scanners while concurrently taking on an unpaid internship as a stockbroker, with slim chances for advancement to a paid position. Before he can receive pay, he needs to outshine the competition through 6 months of training and sell his devices to stay afloat.

[**Coach Carter (2005)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0393162/?ref_=nv_sr_2)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb2626740__Scoach%20carter__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
Coach Carter cancels all basketball team activities and locks the court until the team shows acceptable academic improvement. Carter eventually finds he has affected them more profoundly than he ever expected.

[**Drumline (2002)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0303933/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1870870__SDrumline__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
A band director recruits a Harlem street drummer ([**Nick Cannon**](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0134244/?ref_=tt_ov_st_sm)) to play at a Southern university.

[**Crooklyn (1994)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109504/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_0)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1837965__SCrooklyn%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
Crooklyn is a memory of growing up in Brooklyn in the early 1970s, a time that now seems like a golden age before crack, guns and gangs ruled the inner city streets. It tells the story of the Carmichaels, a family with four boys and a girl, who lives in a brownstone on a street where everybody possesses a lot of life and love.

[**The Color Purple (1985)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0088939/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb1809020__SThe%20Color%20Purple%20__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
This film follows the life of Celie (Whoopi Goldberg), a young black girl growing up in the early 1900s. The first time we see Celie, she is 14 – and pregnant – by her father. We stay with her for the next 30 years of her tough life.

[**The Last Dragon (1985)**](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0089461/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_2)
Available at the [**Library**](http://catalog.cincinnatilibrary.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb3170387__SThe%20Last%20Dragon__P0%2C4__Orightresult__U__X7?lang=eng&suite=cobalt)
PG-13
In New York City, a young man (**[Taimak](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0846818/?ref_=tt_cl_t1" \t "_blank)**) searches for a Master to obtain the final level of martial arts mastery known as the Glow.

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