



Book review: Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History

Anti-racist religious education



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP
AND METHODIST SCHOOLS





Little Leaders: Bold Women In Black History by Vashti Harrison

Review by: Saima Saleh

What is this book about?

Biographies about famous and successful Black women.

What did you love about it?

- It informs the reader about black women who all made it big, providing info about positive, black role models.
- It covers a wide range of role models, of which many are still alive, making it highly relevant to learning in today's classrooms.

How did this book have an impact on you as a teacher of RE? Does it imply new ways of doing your job?

When I have used it in the classroom, all pupils, especially black girls, have 'glowed with pride'. When using this this book, it has helped me to highlight positive black, female role models.

The fact that I've used it in English lessons and not RE lessons, shows that it is cross-curricular.

This book is inspirational!

I would recommend this book to other teachers of RE because...

It can be used to show how powerful black women can be and that black people are not always portrayed as the 'under-dogs' in books. It does tell the reader about the hardships of being black and how these were overcome.

Could the book be used for teacher development and / or for and with pupils themselves? How?

Teachers could read these biographies to help them understand the lives of these black women and that their lives weren't easy.

Children could write biographies based on other black/ Asian people. Children could extend work on 'fairness' based on the biographies in the book that highlight hardships and how they were overcome. What do religions say about fairness and equality?

Children could also investigate why these differences happened and how things got better.



Can you give an example of a key quote from the book (keep to about 50 words), and why you chose it?

"Every step of the way was a challenge. Long before her first day, Ruby had to take an exam just to gain admission to the school- one that was written in such a way that black students were less likely to pass." Ruby Bridges, activist.

I chose this as it's about someone who strived for better things. This encapsulates the struggle of many black women and their stories about how they overcame their obstacles

