Little Melba and her Big Trombone

By Katheryn Russell-Brown Illustrated by Frank Morrison

Imagine a time when music was swinging.

Come back to the Jazz Age and listen to Little Melba and her big trombone.

Audience:

• K-5

Synopsis:

This picture book biography highlights the life of Melba Liston, a virtuoso trombone player and composer. For as long as she can remember, Melba has always loved music. She listened to the sounds of music and daydreamed about the time when she would make music herself. At the age of 7, she fell in love with the long brass trombone. With her family's encouragement, she taught herself to play. From there, she made history. The back of the book includes additional biographical information and photographs.

Author Website:

- http://krbrown.net/CHILDRENS.html
- http://thebrownbookshelf.com/2015/02/08/day-8-katheryn-russell-brown/ (Interview)

Illustrator Website:

• www.frankmorrisongraphics.com

Curricular Connections:

- African American Studies
- Music (Jazz Age)
- Perseverance
- Biographies

Lesson Ideas:

- Give each student a paper star. Tell them to write down a goal that they would like to accomplish. On the other side, have them write 3 ways that they can achieve that goal.
- Play a selection from YouTube of Melba Liston. Have the students write about how her music is different from the music of today.
- After reading <u>Little Melba and her Big Trombone</u>, read <u>Trombone Shorty</u> by Troy Andrews. Compare the two stories.
- After reading this story, have the students design a "trading card" about Melba Liston's life.

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.R.1
 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA.Literacy.CCRA.W.9
 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Online Resources:

- http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2015/01/author-katheryn-russell-brown.html
- https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/104/Little_Melba_TG_FI NAL.pdf
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvQ22UqrNwA
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZbvEWZtmZM

Suggested Companion Titles:

- Trombone Shorty by Troy Andrews
- Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka
- Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
- Ben's Trumpet by Rachel Isadora
- When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat by Muriel Harris Weinstein