



RON'S BIG MISSION

AUTHORS: ROSE BLUE & CORINNE J. NADEN

ILLUSTRATOR: DON TATE

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Ron's Big Mission](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Nine-year-old Ron loves going to the Lake City Public Library to look through all the books on airplanes and flight. Today, Ron is ready to take out books by *himself*. But in the segregated world of South Carolina in the 1950s, Ron's obtaining his own library card is not just a small rite of passage; it is a young man's first courageous mission. Here is an inspiring story, based on Ron McNair's life, of how a little boy, future scientist, and *Challenger* astronaut desegregated his library through peaceful resistance. ([amazon.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

A former teacher and Headstart program worker in New York City who began her writing career penning fiction for young readers, Rose Blue has become a prolific author of nonfiction written with collaborator Corinne J. Naden that includes biographies of contemporary newsmakers and U.S. state and regional profiles, as well as books that span American social and political history. "I knew I wanted to be a writer since Miss Higgins called on me to read my stories to the first grade while she marked papers."

([biography.jrank.org](#))

Corinne J. Naden has worked as an editor and journalist and has written many books for children. She lives in Westchester, New York. Together with frequent coauthor Rose Blue, Corinne J. Naden is the author of numerous books for elementary-aged readers that focus on U.S. history and culture, as well as books detailing the lives of men and women who have achieved greatness in many areas. "Nonfiction fascinates me," Naden once told *SATA*, "it always has. I remember the sense of anticipation I used to feel on the first day of a high school or college class, pen ready and blank notebook open to capture all the marvelous new information that was going to come my way. I get that same sense today when I sit in front of the computer with brand new materials spread all over the desk, but now I'm the one about to send out all that marvelous new information—perhaps to someone who'll receive it with the same thrill I did." ([biography.jrank.org](#))

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Don Tate is an award-winning author, and the illustrator of numerous critically acclaimed books for children. He is also one of the founding hosts of the blog *The Brown Bookshelf* – a

RON'S BIG MISSION

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Civil Rights
- Segregation
- Courage

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

blog designed to push awareness of the myriad of African American voices writing for young readers, with book reviews, author and illustrator interviews. (dontate.com)

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Can you tell me about the cover?
- What do you think Ron’s “big mission” will be?
- This book happens in 1959 and many things were different than they are today.
- Notice that there are two authors.
- This book is based on a true story.

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 1) How do we know Ron has something important to do?
- (p. 8) I wonder what Ron is going to do in the library?
- (p. 10) Is there a reason Mrs. Fielding said she would check out Ron’s books?
- (p. 9) I wonder why Mrs. Fielding started to say, “But, Ron...”
- (p. 12) Why didn’t the clerk look at Ron?
- (p. 16) How did the policeman react to Ron standing on the desk? Can you predict what will happen next?
- (p. 22) What was the main reason Mrs. Scott gave Ron a library card?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Do you have a library card?
- What is your favorite type of book?
- Has there ever been a time that you have ever stood up for something you believed in?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Ron was interested in flying since he was a little boy. He grew up to be an astronaut. What do you want to be when you grow up? Share your thoughts with the person next to you.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- What genre is this book? (historical fiction, biography)
- Is it fair that Ron can’t check out a library book because he is black?
- Why do you think it is important to stand up for what you think is right?
- How would you feel if you were in Ron’s shoes?
- There are many words to describe Martin Luther King and Ron McNair. Can you think of some?
- How many people in the story really felt Ron should not have library card? What did they do?

- How are things different today than they were in 1959?
- I am going to read from the Author's Note page that tells more about Ron McNair.

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Draw a six-panel comic strip with conversation bubbles telling the story.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write a letter to the author telling why you are writing the letter, what you liked or disliked about the book and ask why the author wrote the book.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Create a new title for the book and illustrate a book cover that matches the new title. Turn your cover over and write one or more paragraphs about the book.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy .RL 3.1, 3.2,3.3,3.4,3.5,3.6