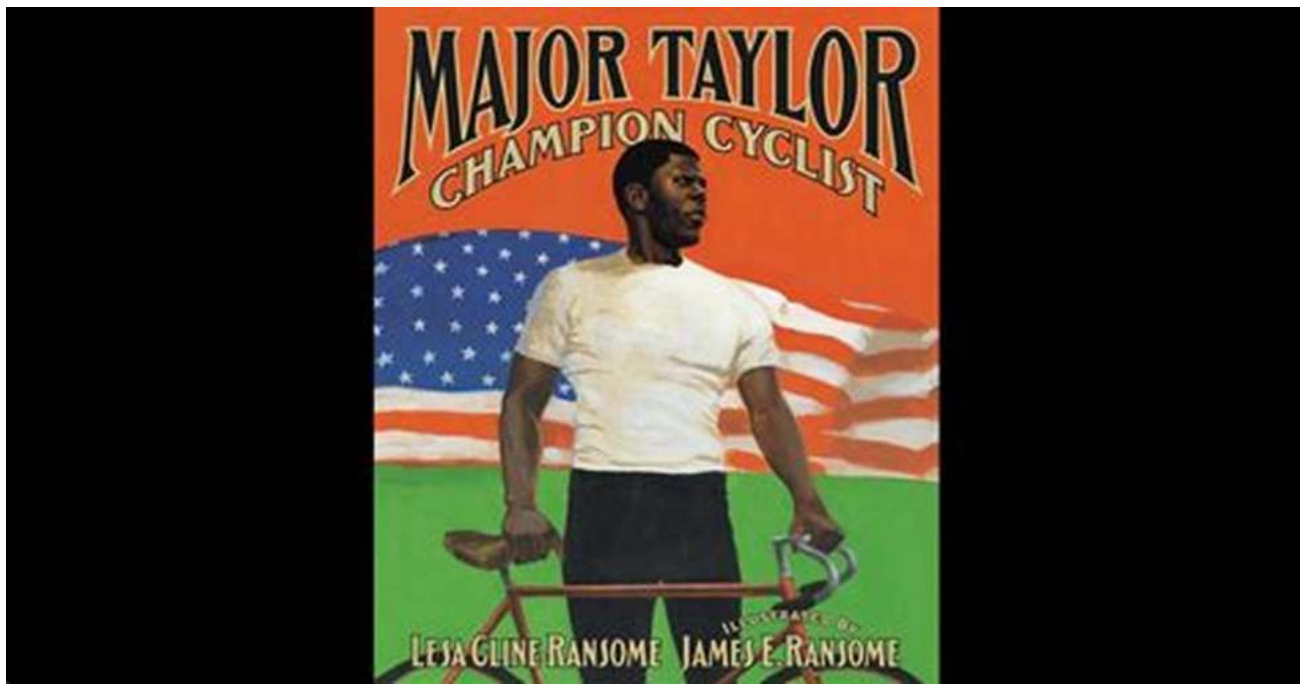


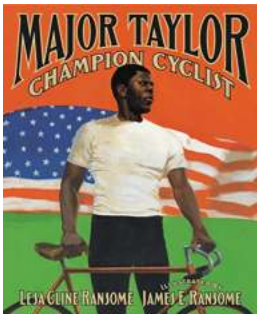
Major Taylor - The Champion Cyclist Extraordinaire



Major Taylor, born Marshall Walter Taylor on November 26, 1878, in Indianapolis, Indiana, was an African-American professional cyclist who rose to prominence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Known for his incredible speed and endurance, Taylor shattered numerous records and broke down racial barriers in the predominantly white sport of cycling.

Early Life and to Cycling

Taylor grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Indianapolis. At a young age, he developed a love for bicycles and began working as a bicycle messenger. His exceptional athletic abilities quickly caught the attention of locals, and Taylor soon found himself competing in amateur cycling races.



Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist

by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 11882 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 40 pages



It wasn't long before his talent was noticed by Louis "Birdie" Munger, a well-known Indianapolis bike shop owner and cycling enthusiast. Munger took Taylor under his wing and became his mentor, providing him with proper training and guidance to become a professional cyclist.

Rise to Prominence

Taylor's extraordinary cycling skills led him to dominate races across the United States. In 1896, at the age of 18, he won his first major race, the Twenty-Five Mile Championship of America. This victory propelled him into the national spotlight and marked the beginning of his impressive career as a professional cyclist.

Over the next decade, Taylor continued to break records and set new standards in the world of cycling. He established a reputation for his unrivaled speed, earning him the nickname "The Worcester Whirlwind" after his numerous victories in Worcester, Massachusetts. Taylor also became the first African-American athlete to win a world championship in any sport, a remarkable achievement considering the racial discrimination prevalent during his era.

Racial Discrimination and Challenges

Despite his remarkable success on the cycling track, Taylor faced constant racial discrimination throughout his career. In an era marked by segregation and racism, Taylor often endured hostility from both fellow cyclists and spectators. He was frequently subjected to racist slurs, physical attacks, and unfair treatment, both on and off the racecourse.

Nevertheless, Taylor remained resilient and focused on his goals. He used his victories as a platform to fight against racial prejudice, proving that talent and determination could transcend discrimination.

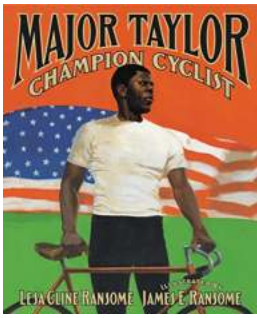
Legacy and Impact

Major Taylor's achievements paved the way for future generations of African-American athletes. His relentless pursuit of excellence and refusal to succumb to societal barriers inspired countless individuals to dream big and overcome adversity.

In 1989, Major Taylor was posthumously inducted into the United States Bicycling Hall of Fame. His legacy continues to be celebrated, with numerous cycling clubs and events named in his honor. In 2002, a monument dedicated to Taylor was unveiled near his birthplace in Indianapolis, further cementing his place in sporting history.

Major Taylor's story transcends the sport of cycling. By defying racial stereotypes and achieving unprecedented success in a white-dominated field, he became a symbol of hope and inspiration for generations to come. Taylor's remarkable journey serves as a reminder that true greatness knows no boundaries and that the human spirit can overcome even the most daunting obstacles.

Today, Major Taylor's legacy lives on, inspiring athletes and dreamers alike to push beyond societal limitations and reach for greatness.



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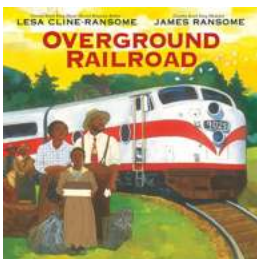
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Discover the inspiring true story of extraordinary professional cyclist Major Taylor in this nonfiction picture book from Coretta Scott King Award winners Lesa Cline-Ransome and James E. Ransome.

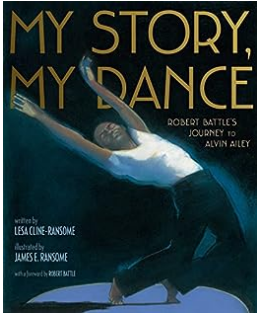
In 1891, Marshall Taylor could ride his bike forward, backward, even perched on the handlebars. When his stunts landed him a job at the famous Indiana bike shop Hay and Willits, folks were amazed that a thirteen-year-old black boy could be such a crackerjack cyclist.

Little Marshall Taylor would use his dedication, undeniable talent, and daring speed to transform himself into Major Taylor, turning pro at the age of eighteen, winning the world championship title just three years later, and battling racism and the odds to become a true American hero.



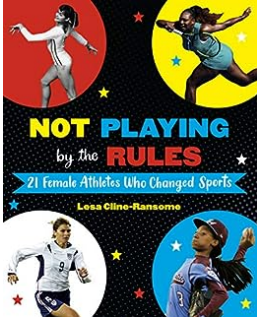
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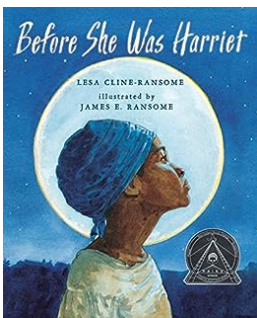
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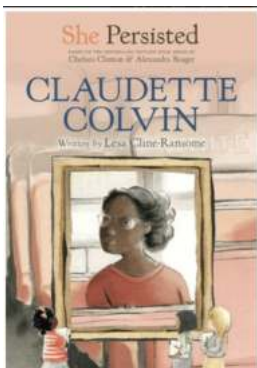
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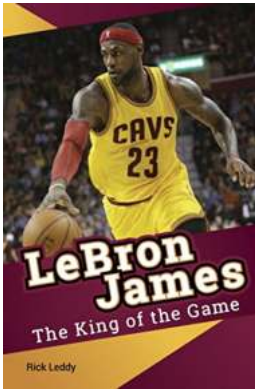
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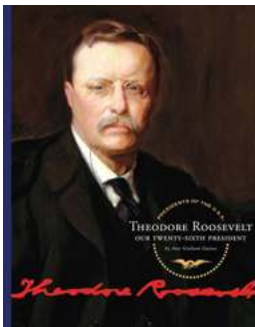
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