

INTRODUCING: History Detectives

*The Transformative Justice Coalition and the Voting Rights Alliance, in honor of Black History Month, are continuing the annual tradition of our **daily** special series devoted to sharing the legacies and stories of the sheroes, heroes, and events in the fight for Black suffrage. This series was created in 2017 and will introduce all new original articles this year- with a twist.*

The 2026 #VRABlackHistory Series will center around the United States' 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It will also center around teaching kids the Black History voting rights advocacy that surrounds the United States Constitution and its amendments, as well as different forms of government, with a new children's series: "History Detectives". This will be a series parents, guardians, teachers, and siblings can read to the children in their lives, with a lesson guide which includes what each story will cover as well as a short fun quiz.

The "History Detectives" Series follows three kids, Hope – aged 12-, Abraham – aged 12-, and Imani- aged 8-, as well as their dog Prince, as they work in a secret kid detective agency aimed at helping figures or events in history stay on track anytime there's an anomaly caused by "The Twister", a villain who twists time with the goal of impeding progress, like a tornado tearing through and erasing history.

The "History Detectives" article draft attached has not only been put through the Dale-Chall Readability Test, giving an average of a 4th through 6th grade reading level; but, has also been tested with children, and is made with input from the author's soon-to-be 14-year-old daughter to ensure it's engaging for kids. And did you know the author is also pregnant, due in February?! That makes this series all the more timely!

But we didn't forget about the adults! Each of the "History Detectives: Voting Rights Unit" articles (aside from this prologue) will also be paired with a counterpart article for adults to read. The adult counterparts will filter out the children's story, and dive deeper into the historical figures or events the "History Detectives" article covered.

In addition to these daily newsletters all February long, this series also incorporates daily social media posts; an interactive calendar; and, website blog posts to spread the word broadly.

Did you finish the first book? Test what your kids learned with this fun quiz!

1. What did Imani learn about what her sister was up to?

2. What is “America 250”?
3. Is it the Declaration of Independence or the Decoration of Independence?
4. Why is the Declaration of Independence important?
5. When was the Declaration of Independence signed: 1853, 1920, or 1776?
6. What was Hope’s dog’s name?
7. Where is Miss Barbara sending the History Detectives?
8. Are you excited about tomorrow’s story and learning Black history?!