

Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History, Volume 1

Joel Christian Gill

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Joel Christian Gill's *Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* is another must-have to add to school reading lists. Gill's work, named after the Billie Holliday song, tells the fascinating real life stories of nine black men from American history, from escaped slaves to basketball players, magicians to soldiers, chess champions to US Marshals. Gill's book fills a definite void in America's painfully white history books, but on top of that, it's just a really good read. Gill doesn't sugarcoat—not everyone gets a happy ending—but the book is visually witty, engaging, and well researched. History truly comes to life under Gill's skillful hand. The next volume in this series will be eagerly anticipated.

ALLYCE AMIDON (Fall 2014)

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