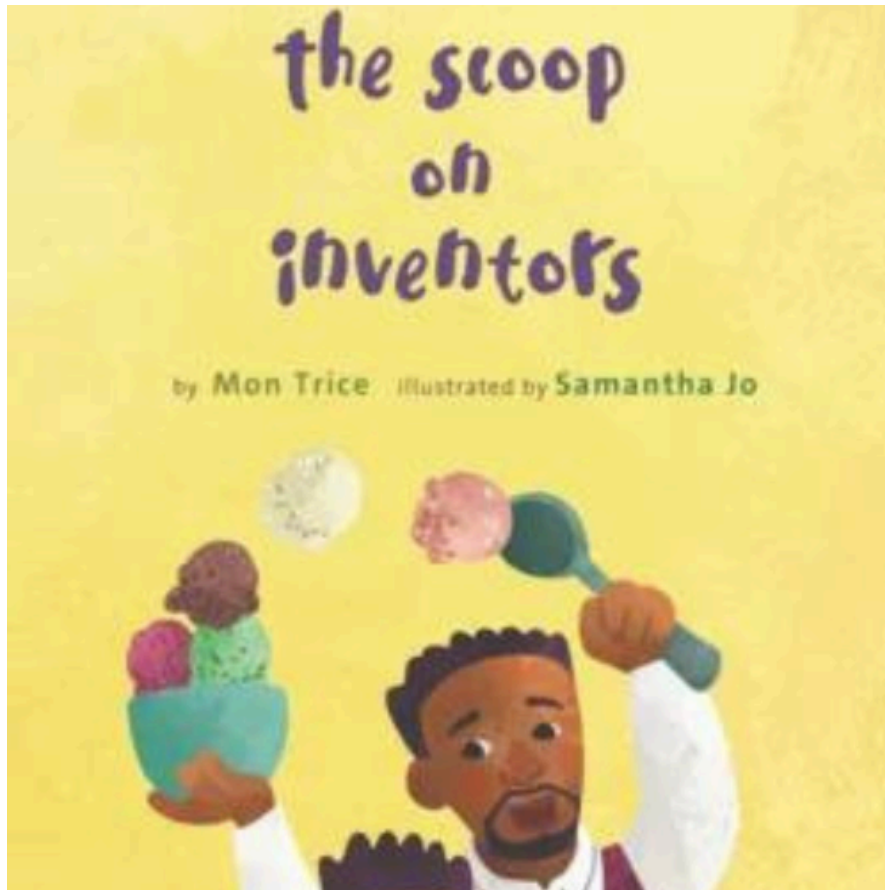


ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Inclusion & Disability

Identity & Heritage

Hidden Histories

Family Learning

Innovation

LEARNING OUTCOME

Children will:

- Learn about important inventions created by African Americans
- Reflect on representation and inclusion in school learning
- Recognize the role of innovation in improving everyday life
- Understand that contributions can come from all communities, even when history books don't mention them
- Develop critical thinking about whose stories are being told

LESSON PLAN

This lesson introduces children to lesser-known inventors and encourages pride in heritage and curiosity about everyday objects. It fosters inclusive learning and historical awareness.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- Can you name an inventor and what they made?
- Have you ever learned about inventors from different countries or backgrounds?
- Everything in your house has been invented by someone. Can you name a few discoverers?

During Reading:

- Pause as each invention is mentioned and ask if students have used it.
- Ask: Have you ever thought about who made these items?
- Invite children to share their reactions to Dré's feelings.

After Reading:

- Why was Dré disappointed after his school lesson?
- What did Dré learn from his dad?
- Why is it important to learn about inventors from all backgrounds?
- What invention would you create to help your family?

Activities:

- Inventor Gallery: Children research and present one African American inventor.
- Design an Invention: Kids draw and describe a useful tool they would invent.
- Hidden Figures Wall: Create a class mural of underrecognized inventors and scientists.

RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- The Scientist: Dr Firdausi Qadri – Tucked away in Bangladesh, Dr Firdausi finding ways to prevent bacteria from spreading
- Look Out, Luthando! – Luthando needs eyeglasses. Find out who invented them?

RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Highlights the importance of inclusive education and teaching diverse histories.
- SDG 8 & 9: Honors the contributions of African American inventors in fields of work and innovation.
- SDG 10: Challenges systemic underrepresentation by showcasing diverse voices in STEM history.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will feel empowered by learning about inventors who look like them, gain awareness of bias in education, and be inspired to create and ask questions about the world around them. They will also understand that creativity and scientific thinking are universal—present in every culture, race, and community.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.

That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.