Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School
by Janet Halfmann; illustrated by London Ladd

Born into slavery, Lilly Ann secretly learned to read and write from her master’s children—and then read everything she could get her hands on. Wishing to share her knowledge with others, she secretly taught hundreds of other enslaved people despite the great risks.


A pioneer in education, Lilly Ann Granderson faced many challenges to her efforts to teach and to encourage others to pursue education. Have students discuss what education meant to Lilly Ann and to the people who learned from her, then get students thinking about what education means to them. How do they feel about their own educational experience? Who do they think is responsible for helping them get a good education? Have students write a letter or tribute to an educator or someone in their lives who has helped them learn, sharing how having that knowledge has affected their lives.

Share more books featuring life-changing teachers:
- The Art of Miss Chen by Patricia Polacco
- My Teacher by James Ransome
- The Upside Down Boy/El niño de Cabeza by Juan Felipe Herrera
- Armando and the Blue Tarp School by Edith Hope Fine
- Mary McLeod Bethune by Eloise Greenfield

FEBRUARY 2019

February is:
- Black History Month
- National African American Read-In