



## J. P. Miller - author of *Black Stories Matter* series

New books towered over the tiny school desk. The smell of fresh ink filled the air. Young J.P. Miller was courageous and determined. She loved adventures like Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. She enjoyed using her imagination to act the stories out. J.P. had waited a month for her new Nancy Drew mystery books to arrive. With Nancy Drew, J.P. learned to be a great "detective".

High school was different. J.P. marched to a different beat. She played clarinet and was in the school marching band. Her life was centered on band and sports. She was scoring big on the girls basketball team and setting records in track. Not much time for reading.

The moon was the only light needed to read on most nights. J.P. was a young adult and had graduated from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's Degree and the University of Central Oklahoma with a Master's. She was now enlisted in the U. S. Air Force; serving in Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. People from home donated books to the troops. J.P. took full advantage of their generosity.

Reading rocked J.P. to sleep at night and kept her company by day. She loved reading books created by and about African Americans. But her job as Director of Youth Programs at an air force base helped point out that there were few children's books created by and about people of colour. J.P. tried her hand at writing. In the early 2000s, she self-published two children's chapter books. J.P. was still a long way from being called author.

To become an author, one must learn the craft. J.P. put down the fiction stories that she loved so dearly and picked up nonfiction. Every book J.P. could find or class she found to enroll in, she did. J.P. wanted to be THAT author that created stories where little brown children all over the world would be able to see themselves. The ones that focused on little known facts and events in history involving people of African Diaspora.

J.P. Miller retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2015 and has relied on her early Nancy Drew "detective" skills to research and write stories such as the Black Stories Matter Series. She is also the author of the Leaders Like Us Series by Rourke Educational Media.



**DISCOVER BIOGRAPHIES OF FAMOUS AND  
INSPIRING BLACK PEOPLE IN *BLACK STORIES MATTER***

