

# HACKMATAACK

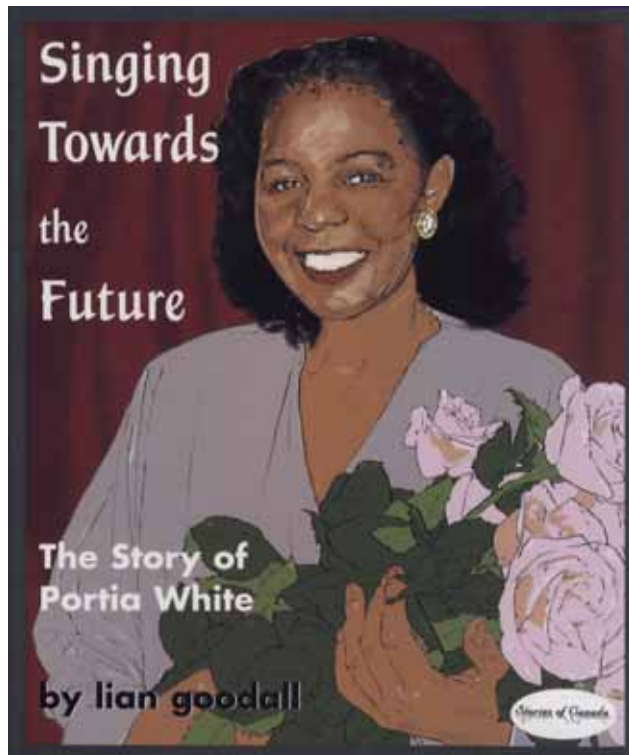
## 2006

### ***Singing Towards the Future: The Story of Portia White***

by Lian Goodall

Portia White was born in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1911 and grew up with ten siblings in Halifax. In the late 1930s, she had to overcome many challenges to reach her goal of becoming a concert recital singer — lack of money, training, and some people's attitudes towards the colour of her skin. Yet, Portia was determined, and this gifted singer succeeded in touring across Canada, through the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America before she retired to teach music in Toronto.

With individual, family and community support, and personal determination Portia realized her belief: "First you dream and then you lace up your boots."



#### **Thematic Links:**

Black history in Canada  
Famous people of Atlantic Canada  
Reaching goals  
Music

#### **Activity Ideas:**

- Listen to Portia's music, or view a film about her life. Then, design a concert poster.
- Prepare questions for a radio interview with Miss White.
- Organize Miss White's next tour, showing on a map where she should visit.
- Some famous Black Canadians in this book are singer Measha Brueggergosman, Senator Don Oliver, writer George Elliott Clarke, filmmaker Sylvia Hamilton. Research more about these or other achievers.
- Make and decorate a "Path to Success Chart." Label Portia's "Career Goal," show her "Challenges", list the "Tools" she used to reach her goal (teacher, family and more), and the parts about her "Self" that helped her (good voice, sense of humour, and others). Now make one for you!