Author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats was born in New York city on March 11, 1916. His parents were poor polish immigrants? Ezras early work as an artist include comic books and childrens books. None of the books he illustrated featured black kids, so when Ezra wrote his own books he included kids of all cultures one of his best-loved character's, a black boy named Peter appeared in The Snowy Day, Pet Show and five other books.