

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS COMMITTEE
• AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION •

CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

2022 DISCUSSION GUIDE

ALA American
Library
Association

About the Coretta Scott King Book Awards and the 2022 Discussion Guide

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide was prepared by the 2022 Coretta Scott King Book Award jury: Jason Miles Driver, Sr, Mahasin Jullanar Abuwi Aleem, Maria Estrella, Shelia Geraty, Carmen Lynette Boston, Alia R. Jones, and Lettycia Terrones.

The activities and discussion topics are developed to encompass state and school standards. These standards apply equally to students from all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Students will demonstrate their proficiency, skills, and knowledge of subject matter in accordance with national and state standards. Please refer to the US Department of Education website, www.ed.gov, for detailed information.



AWARDS SEAL

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards seal was designed by artist Lev Mills in 1974. The symbolism of the seal reflects both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy and the award's ideals.

The basic circle represents continuity in movement, revolving from one idea to another. Within the image is an African American child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child represent nonsectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength and Atlanta University, the award's headquarters when the seal was designed. At the apex of the pyramid is a dove, symbolic of peace. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood.

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards seal image and award name are solely and exclusively owned by the American Library Association.

The discussion guide has been generously provided by Lerner Publishing Group.

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The Coretta Scott King Book Awards

A LIVING LEGEND



The Coretta Scott King Book Awards have grown since their conception in the late 1960s. At a dinner gala of the New Jersey Library Association in May 1970, Lillie Patterson was honored for her biography *Martin Luther King, Jr.: Man of Peace*. In 1972, the first Coretta Scott King Book Awards breakfast was held at an ALA conference site. Official affiliation with the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) came in 1980, and in 1982, the American Library Association recognized the Coretta Scott King Book Award as an association award. During the 2003 ALA Midwinter meeting, the Coretta Scott King Task Force joined the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). The affiliation with EMIERT gave the group a new name: the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee. Success of the committee can be attributed to the work of tireless volunteers and visionary founders. For a more complete history, consult *The Coretta Scott King Awards Book: From Vision to Reality*, edited by Henrietta M. Smith, American Library Association, 1994; and *The Coretta Scott King Awards: 1970–2009, Fourth Edition*, by Henrietta M. Smith, American Library Association, 2009.

For more than fifty years, books by African American writers and artists have been honored by receiving the Coretta Scott King Book Award.

This award promotes understanding and appreciation of African American culture and the culture of all peoples. The award is designed to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to honor Mrs. Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood. The multidimensional characteristics of the authors' and illustrators' works reflect the African American experience from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Opportunities to celebrate the rich and powerful experiences depicted in these books lie in the hands of the adults in children's and young adults' lives.

This discussion guide is, therefore, dedicated to those teachers, parents, librarians, booksellers, and caregivers who are committed to enriching the lives of children and young adults through quality literature. Among their many other functions, book awards provide a simple means for casual browsers in bookstores, libraries, and schools to find material that is engaging, well crafted, and satisfying both emotionally and intellectually. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards particularly introduce the best in African American literature to all children. The award now graces dozens of titles, from picture books for the smallest children to novels and nonfiction for teenagers. In this guide, we have examined some of these titles from different angles and perspectives.

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING AUTHOR AWARD WINNER

Unspeakable *The Tulsa Race Massacre*



Written by
Carole Boston Weatherford

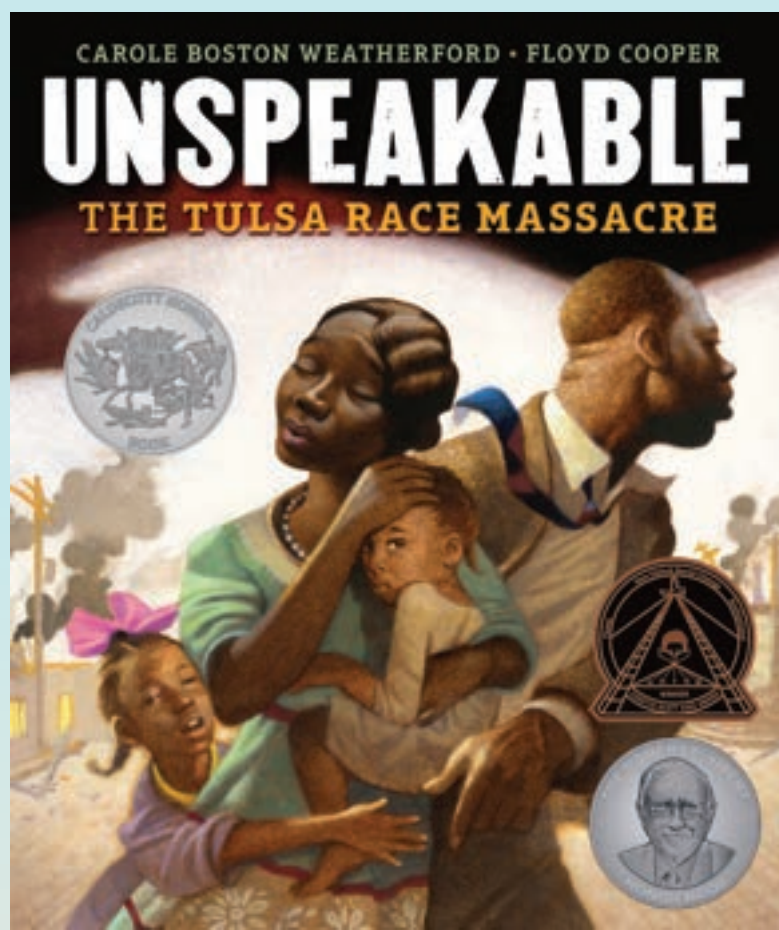
2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING ILLUSTRATOR AWARD WINNER

Unspeakable *The Tulsa Race Massacre*



Illustrated by
Floyd Cooper

Published by Carolrhoda Books,
an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does community mean to you? Describe your ideal community.
2. What business would you want to establish in your community and why?
3. Ask your parents or grandparents about the history of where they lived and how they got there.
4. What does it mean to be equal?
5. Describe how you can be kind to all human beings? Why is this important?

RELATED CSK TITLES

The Undeclared, illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Kwame Alexander, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*, written by Mary Williams and illustrated by R. George Christie, published by Lee and Low Books; *Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*, written by Julius Lester, published by Hyperion Books for Children

For additional discussion questions created by Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul and further resources, please visit: <https://lernerbooks.com/unspeakable>

Unspeakable is a poetic account of the infamous Tulsa race riot of 1921. Carole Boston Weatherford simply and eloquently details the events leading up to and the aftermath of the one of the darkest periods of American history. The author's note, illustrator's note, and source notes add valuable content, making this picture book an invaluable resource for teaching aids related to African American History about how Black communities thrived autonomously during post-slavery America.

In Memory of **FLOYD COOPER**



“Eventually, truth will always win out...

With such a change comes resistance to that change, an unwillingness to accept the change, to accept the truth. That can lead to uncomfortable times. But there is a better day on the other side of change. After the wounds have healed, a much better day awaits! Our young will live in better times together in acceptance of the way things really are if we give them the truth.”

—FLOYD COOPER (1956-2021)



2022 JOHN STEPTOE AWARD FOR NEW TALENT (Illustrator Winner)

The Me I Choose to Be



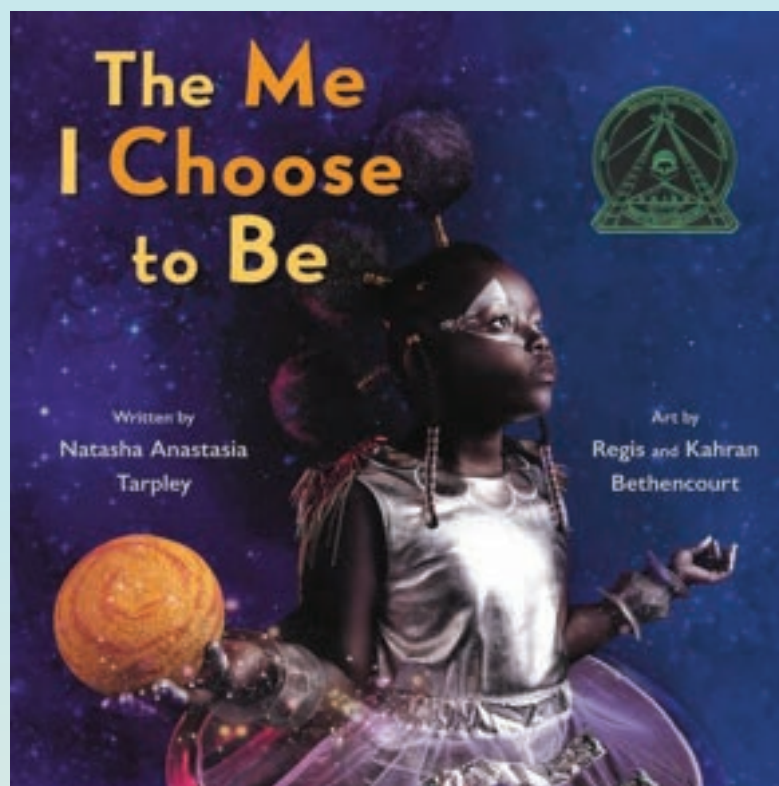
Written by
**Natasha Anastasia
Tarpley**



Illustrated by
**Regis and Kahran
Bethencourt**

Published by Little, Brown and Company

Bright and cheery double-page spreads of photographs fill this wonderful picture book replete with themes of pride and unlimited potential for all young Black readers. Each photo collage is filled with color and movement, connecting a beautiful Black child to each stanza. Natasha Anastasia Tarpley's lyrical verses offer readers statements of self-love and the power of potential in all of us. The book reminds us that representation matters.

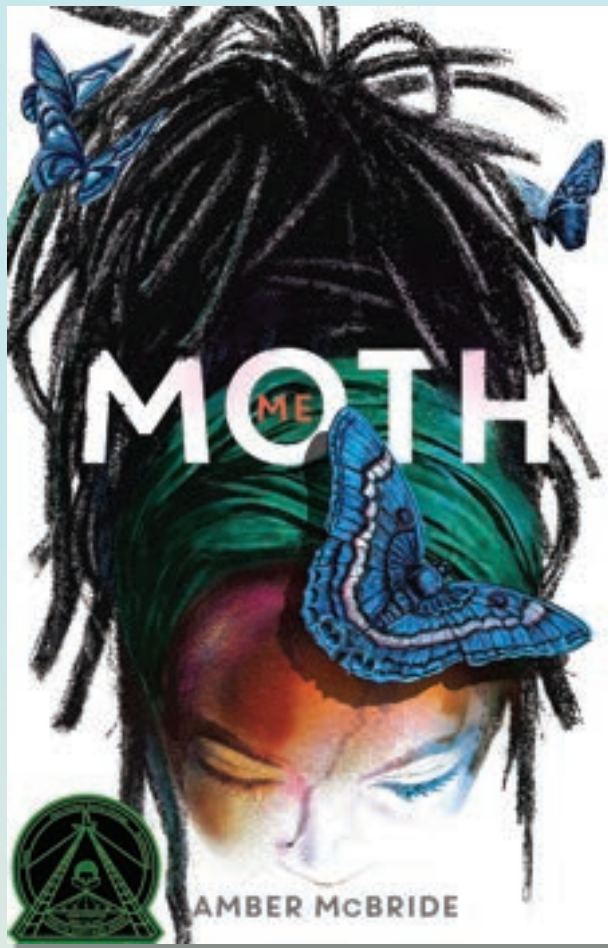


ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you dream of becoming when you grow up? What type of workers inspire you?
2. Which page in the book is most like you? Why?
3. What are you most curious about? Ask your teacher or caregiver about it and learn more!
4. How do you think the illustrators created the photos for this book?
5. Describe who you are—use words to talk about yourself.
6. Draw a self-portrait.

RELATED CSK TITLES

Beautiful Blackbird, illustrated by and written by Ashley Bryan, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers; *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, written by Derrick Barnes and illustrated by R. George Christie, published by Agate Publishing; *Radiant Child*, written and illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, published by Little, Brown and Company



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "Moth" is the protagonist's name, not her nickname. Have you ever thought about changing your name? If so, what would you be called?
2. Moth mentions the ancestors multiple times in the text. What is the significance of her and Sani's ancestors in their lives? Who are your ancestors, and how do you pay homage to them?
3. Moth uses the transformation of a moth egg as an allegorical reference. How do these references relate to Moth's own development?
4. How does Moth and Sani's relationship change over time?
5. Storytelling is central to Moth and Sani's relationship. Why are stories important to them, and how have stories shaped your life?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Home Is Not a Country, written by Safia Elhillo, published by Make Me A World; *Brown Girl Dreaming*, written by Jacqueline Woodson, published by Penguin Group; *King and the Dragonflies*, written by Kacen Callender, published by Little, Brown and Company

2022 JOHN STEPTOE AWARD FOR NEW TALENT (Author Winner)

Me (Moth)



Written by
Amber McBride

Published by Feiwell and Friends

A novel in verse, *Me (Moth)* is the story of how Moth and Sani learn how to comfort and encourage one another through identity, loss, deep familial relationships, and relationships to the land as well. *Moth* dishes on information of American's dark past, and it tells the true story for Black Americans and Native Americans in the process. Its emotive storytelling showcases Moth's strategies for survival, her stark loneliness, and vulnerability and courage.

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

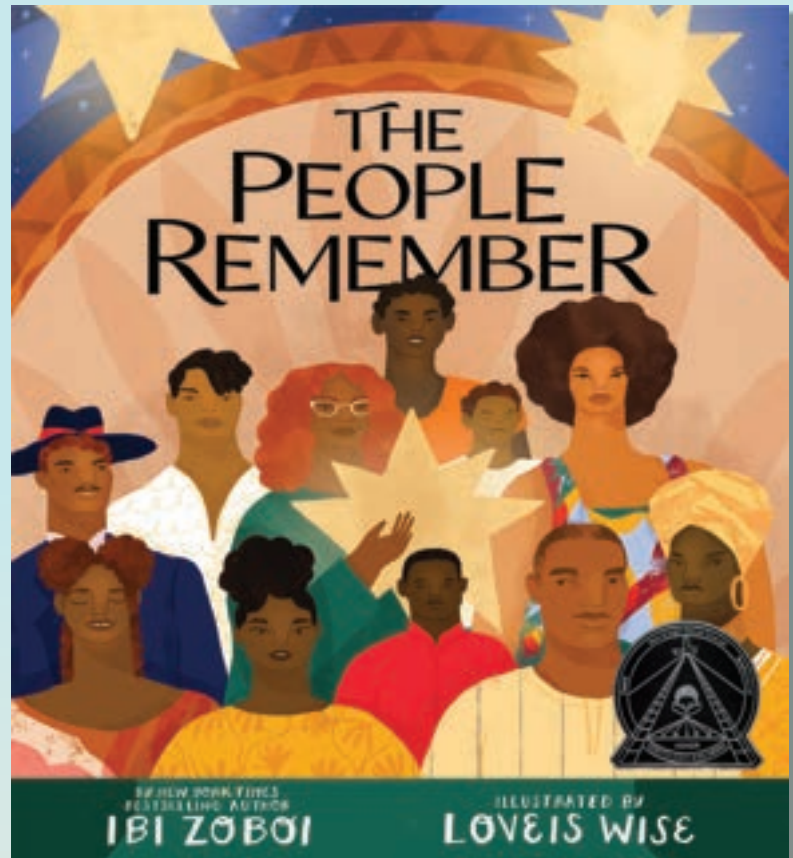
The People Remember



Written by
Ibi Zoboi

Balzer + Bray, an imprint
of HarperCollins Publishers

This lyrical, free-verse picture book, *The People Remember*, movingly connects young readers to the seven principles of Kwanzaa, while highlighting critical moments in African American diaspora. The book accessibly discusses complex topics, such as the Middle Passage, the plight and escape of those enslaved, emancipation, the Great Migration, civil rights, and the contemporary cries for justice in the Black Lives Matter movement—while also celebrating the many moments of joy and innovation of Black people in America. Thus, the book connects African Americans with their African roots and heritage, as well as enabling young readers and families of all backgrounds to become enlightened.



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Author Ibi Zoboi continually uses the phrase “The People Remember” throughout the picture book. What are your thoughts on why she uses the saying to introduce young readers to critical moments in African American history as well as to highlight uplifting, joyous accomplishments?
2. The book beautifully links the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Please pick a principal that you like the most and explain how you would celebrate it with your loved ones if you had the opportunity.
3. How can young readers begin and/or continue tough conversations centering on the difficult topics expressed in *The People Remember*? Please explain how you could create a safe place for discussion without being hurtful to others when opinions are voiced.
4. After reading *The People Remember* and thoroughly discussing the subject matter, educators could have each child explore the subject matter. Perhaps they could compile a work of art, write a poem, represent an important figure, etc. There are unlimited possibilities.

RELATED CSK TITLES

The Undeclared, written by Kwame Alexander published by Versify; *I, Too, Am America*, written by Langston Hughes, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*, written by Kadir Nelson, published by Balzer + Bray; *My People*, written by Langston Hughes, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Nima's relationship with her given name is a recurring theme in *Home Is Not a Country*. How does Nima's relationship with her name evolve throughout the story and what evidence can you find of this in the text? What story does your name tell? What is the power in your name?
2. On page 23, Nima shares the "little-known fact" that her country has "255 pyramids remaining today," yet the name of her country is never mentioned within the text. Research and determine which country has 255 pyramids. List five additional facts you've learned about this nation that you didn't know before.
3. Nima, her mother, and her friend Haitham are all victims of Islamophobia, which is the dislike or prejudice against Muslims or their religion, Islam. How do these experiences with Islamophobia affect their experiences individually and collectively? Research what you can do to support others if you are a bystander to Islamophobia or other acts of prejudice and injustice against others.
4. Mama Fatheya frequently warns Nima about the spirit world and creatures "just outside our line of sight". Given Nima's experience, was Mama Fatheya right in her warnings about the jinn? What stories have been told in your families and cultures about spirit worlds or realms of existence beyond typical human perception?

RELATED CSK TITLES

Me (Moth), written by Amber McBride, published by Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group; *Her Stories: African American Folktales*, written by Virginia Hamilton, published by Scholastic/Blue Sky Press; *Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo*, written by Tom Feelings, published by Dial Books for Young Readers; *Africa Dream*, written by Eloise Greenfield, published by Crowell; *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*, written by John Steptoe, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

Home Is Not a Country



Written by
Safia Elhillo

Published by Make Me A World, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House

Described by Safia Elhillo as as a "love letter to the diaspora communities" she grew up in, *Home Is Not a Country* is a novel-in-verse that centers the experience of Nima, a second-generation, Muslim American daughter of an African immigrant who longs for home: a home constructed from photographs, stories, memory, and imagination. A hauntingly beautiful narrative about the power of memory, belonging, and family.

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

Revolution in Our Time *The Black Panther Party's* *Promise to the People*



Written by
Kekla Magoon

Published by Candlewick Press

Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People, brings alive the history and lasting impact of the Black Panther Party. The Panthers actualized “revolution in our time” through the Ten-Point Platform Program, which outlined their demand for freedom and the “power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.” Magoon’s comprehensive history maps the emergence of the Black Panther Party within the long history of Black Radical Tradition. Weaving abundant primary sources and a gripping narrative style, Magoon details the Panther’s self-defense actions, community organizing of breakfast programs for children, the establishment of health clinics, the core leadership of Black women, and their vanguard in art as protest—illuminating for young readers how struggles for Black liberation and freedom shape present-day efforts for justice and dignity.

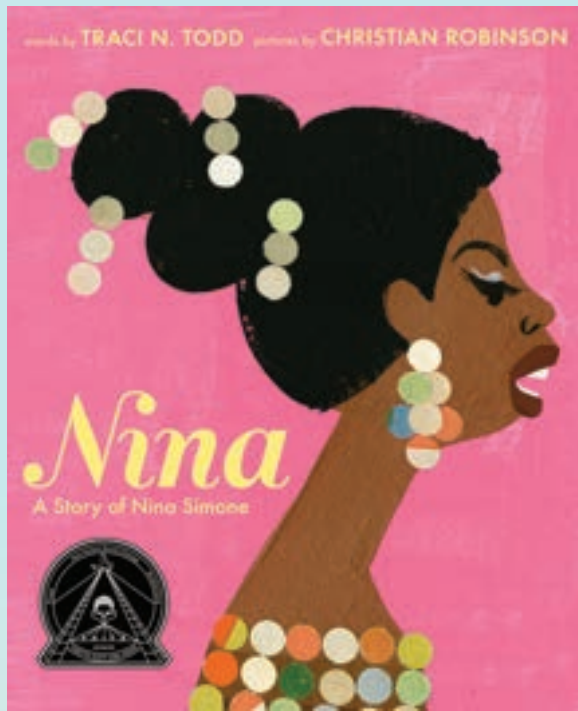


ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What role did Black women have in the leadership of the Black Panther Party? Using the “Key People” and “Index” sections, locate the names of at least three Black women and describe their connection to and activity in the Black Panther Party.
2. The Black Panther Party prioritized political education through a social justice curriculum. Organize a small study group to read and discuss the books listed in the Black Panther Party reading list found on page 102.
3. The Black Panther Party leveraged art, poetry, music, and expression to communicate the message of freedom and self-defense. What strategies did the Ministry of Culture use to share the message of the Black Panther Party with the community? Research Emory Douglas using your library website or the Internet to locate examples of his political posters. How do these images carry power today?

RELATED CSK TITLES

A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919, written by Claire Hartfield, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; *March: Book One*, written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, published by Top Shelf Productions; *March: Book Three*, written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, published by Top Shelf Productions; *One Crazy Summer*, written by Rita Williams-Garcia, published by HarperCollins Publishers; *The Rock and the River*, written by Kekla Magoon, published by Aladdin, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division; *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, written by Mildred D. Taylor, published by Dial; *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*, written by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, published by Candlewick Press



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "To be young, gifted and black" is one of Ms. Simone's signature songs. Listen to and watch her sing it on one of the many YouTube videos featuring the song.
2. In the book we learn that Nina Simone was not accepted to her dream school, the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, because she was Black. Have you ever been told that you were not good enough to pursue an interest or passion? Write about how you felt after being told that a goal or dream was not possible. Were you angry? Or hurt? Share how you achieved or plan to achieve your dream.
3. Children also participated in the Civil Rights Movement. Have you ever heard of the Children's March or The Birmingham Children's Crusade of 1963? Ask your librarians how to find print and access electronic resources so you can learn more about it.
4. Nina Simone liked to wear fabulous clothes and wore her hair in a variety of styles. Try a different look one day. Change your hair style or wear a print or something with a pattern. How did trying something new make you feel? Was it fun to try something different?
5. Christian Robinson uses a lot of bright colors with print and patterns in the book. Collage is one of the art mediums he uses. Use old magazines or leftover wrapping paper to make an art piece that incorporates collage. Or use collage to create an object or clothes for the characters in your picture.

RELATED CSK TITLES

Let the Children March, written by Monica Clark-Robinson, illustrated by Frank Morrison, published by Clarion Books; *R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul*, written by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker*, written by Patricia Hruby Powell, illustrated by Christian Robinson, published by Chronicle Books LLC; *Mama Africa! How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with Her Song*, written by Kathryn Erskine, illustrated by Charly Palmer, published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC; *Rosa*, written by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier, published by Henry Holt and Company

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

Nina A Story of Nina Simone



photo credit: Christine Han

Written by
Traci N. Todd



Illustrated by
Christian Robinson

Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons,
An imprint of Penguin Random House

With vibrant colors and luscious paint strokes infused with collages, Christian Robinson accurately captures Nina Simone's beauty and radiance throughout her career. Ms. Simone was a fabulous dresser, and the art wonderfully showed her confidence with her many style decisions. The reader learns about Nina's prolific music ability as an adult but also her life as a child prodigy growing up in North Carolina. Traci N. Todd incorporates history of the time of Ms. Simone's childhood and the Civil Rights movement she learned to embrace. At the end of the book there is a more detailed biography to complement the story about her.

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING ILLUSTRATOR HONOR BOOK

We Wait for the Sun



photo credit:
Dovey Johnson Roundtree
Educational Trust

Written by
**Dovey Johnson
Roundtree
& Katie McCabe**



Illustrated by
Raissa Figueroa

Published by Roaring Brook Press,
an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group

As a child, African-American, Civil Rights champion Dovey Johnson Roundtree developed a loving bond with her grandmother as seen in the pre-dawn walk conveyed in the intimate picture book *We Wait for the Sun*. Katie McCabe, co-author with Dovey Johnson Roundtree in *Mighty Justice: My Life in Civil Rights*, gleans the loving connectedness between Dovey and her grandmother while they, along with other women, engage in blackberry picking. The evocative nighttime atmosphere expressed through deep midnight blue and purple tones soften to warm orange and yellow colors in the breaking dawn to create a magical experience for both the characters and the reader. Extensive back matter includes an author's note, archival photographs, timeline, and bibliography.



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Using *We Wait for the Sun*, illustrated by Raissa Figueroa, write about a special tradition that celebrates family bonds, paying attention to place and mood. Use watercolors to show the transition between night and day. Play around with text color.
2. *We Wait For the Sun* was the first book illustrator Raissa Figueroa created exclusively on the iPad and Procreate app. Use a combination of traditional media and digital art to illustrate a personal story inspired by nature.
3. Illustrator Raissa Figueroa shared that art was a literal lifesaver for her. She notes, "There's something that happens when I'm 'in the zone' so to speak that feeds my soul and makes time, to-do lists, wants and worries, fears and anxieties, heck, even life slip away." Reflect on an activity or hobby that brings you great joy and purpose.

RELATED CSK TITLES

Soul Food Sunday, written by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by C. G. Esperanza, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers; *Me and Mama*, written by Cozbi A. Cabrera, published Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; *Thank You, Omul*, written and illustrated by Oge Mora, published by Little, Brown Young Readers; *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*, written by Suzanne Slade; illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers; *Ellington Was Not a Street*, written by Ntozake Shange and Kadir Nelson, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; *In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers*, written by Javaka Steptoe, published by Lee & Low Books



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your family's favorite foods to cook together? Pick one dish and ask your caregivers, grandparents, or other family members how that dish became so important in your family.
2. If your family has access to Netflix, watch the first episode of the series *High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Changed America*. After watching, discuss how you felt about it. Have you been to Benin? What is one thing you learned about Black food?
3. The boy in this book gets tired from the hard work of preparing the food for Soul Food Sunday, but keeps going and tries his best. At the end, he puts together a surprise for his family, all on his own. When is a time that you independently created something to share with your friends or family? Were you proud of your creation?
4. Esperanza's illustrations are bright and colorful with zigzags and shapes throughout. For an art project, think of one of your favorite foods to eat. Draw it large on a sheet of paper. Now take a ruler and draw lines through it, breaking it into random shapes. Next, color it in with two realistic colors and three more colors that you normally wouldn't expect to see. For example, a hamburger with brown and yellow, but also colors like purple, blue and black! Get creative and have fun!

RELATED CSK TITLES

Thank You, Omu, written and illustrated by Oge Mora, published by Little, Brown Young Readers; *As Brave as You*, written by Jason Reynolds, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division; *My Family Plays Music*, written by Judy Cox, illustrated by Elbrite Brown, published by Holiday House; *In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall: African Americans Celebrating Fathers*, written by Alan Schroeder, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe, published by Lee & Low; *Brown Honey in Broom Wheat Tea*, written by Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by HarperCollins; *Black Dance in America: A History Through Its People*, by James Haskins, published by T.Y. Crowell

2022 CORETTA SCOTT KING ILLUSTRATOR HONOR AWARD

Soul Food Sunday



Written by
Winsome Bingham



Illustrated by
C. G. Esperanza

Published by Abrams Books for Young Readers,
an imprint of ABRAMS

In this colorful and soulful peek into Black family life, a young boy takes his place in the kitchen with his Granny to help her whip up a delightful Sunday feast. Winsome Bingham and C. G. Esperanza take the reader step by step through a Soul Food Sunday, from the arrival of the family, to the careful preparation of the food, to the final results, convening at the table to eat! Granny gives her grandson positive affirmations by praising his work as they glide through cooking soul food classics like greens and mac & cheese. Esperanza's joyful and vivid illustrations bring the story to life. He deftly plays with broad strokes of paint, pops of color, and engaging perspective. *Soul Food Sunday* is a vibrant celebration of Black family, food, and love.

2022 Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

NIKKI GRIMES



photo credit: Aaron Lemen

For four decades, Nikki Grimes has captivated young people with her expressive poetry and prose. Grimes has been widely recognized for her distinguished contribution to children's/ young adult literature, winning major awards including the 2020 ALAN Award, 2017 Children's Legacy Award, 2016 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and 2006 NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. She is also the recipient of one Coretta Scott King author award and five CSK honors. After more than seventy-seven books, she has sealed her legacy by weaving poetry and novels in verse into an impressive body of work.

Words and writing started early for Nikki Grimes who was born on October 20, 1950, and grew up in Harlem, New York. She won her first writing award in the eighth grade and published her first poems during high school. She attended Livingston College (Rutgers University) and majored in English with a minor in African Languages.

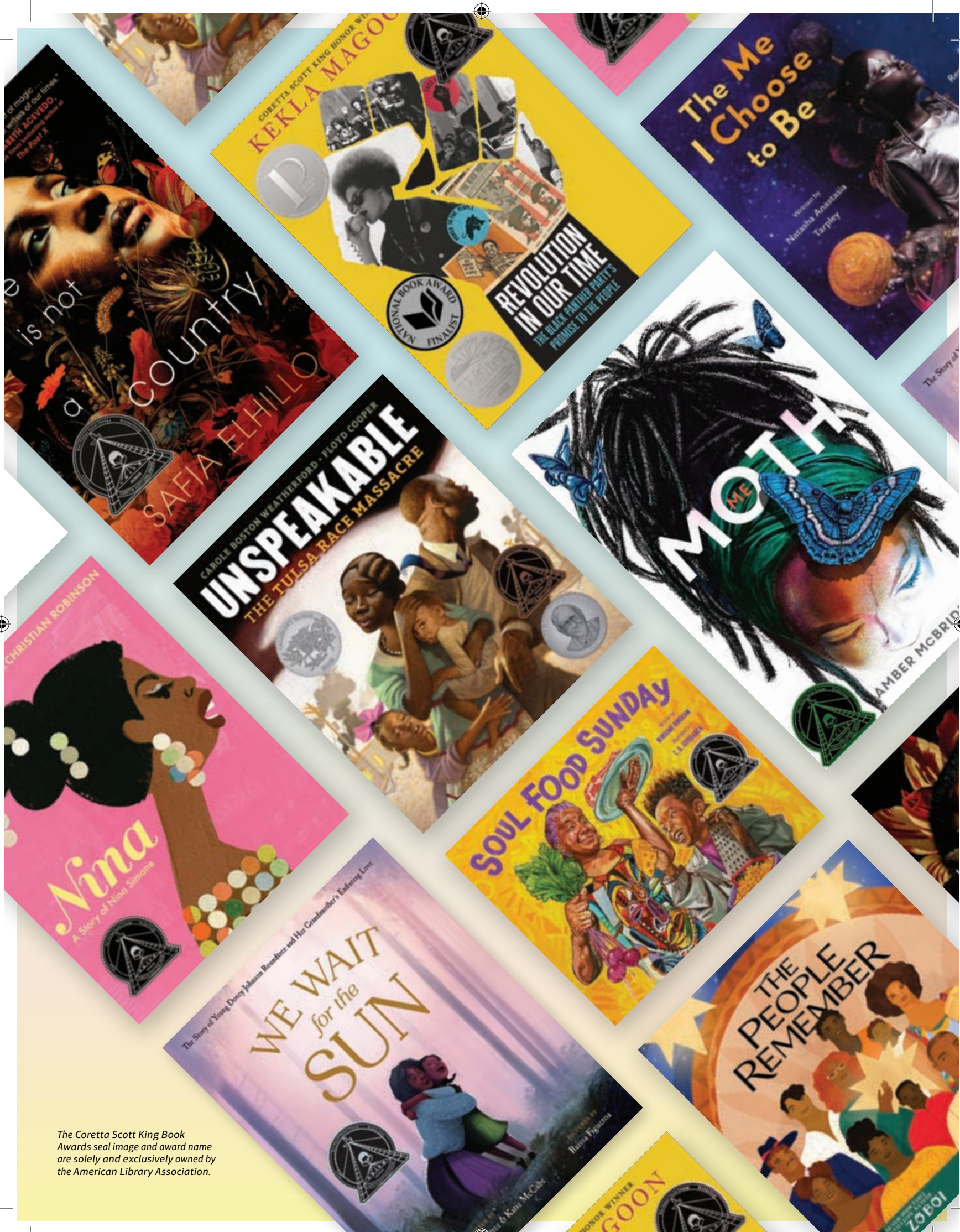
Grimes' work is heavily based on her life experiences. Her first CSK honor, *Jazmin's Notebook*, focuses on an African American teenager in the 1960s who is determined to use her gift of writing to create a bright future for herself. *Bronx Masquerade*, her first CSK author award, is set in the high school she attended, William Howard Taft High School. In her memoir, *Ordinary Hazards*, she discusses two important people in her life, a high school English teacher and Holocaust survivor, and James Baldwin. From her English teacher she learned to believe in herself and from Baldwin she learned the beauty and power of words.

As an author of books for children and young adults, Grimes states that she strives to tell stories that entertain, inspire hope, and help readers find meaning in their lives. She makes an emotional connection to her readers by employing unique and compelling poetic and narrative forms like the golden shovel, haiku, frame story, two-voice poems, free verse, poetry slam, and monologues.

The VHALA committee wants to emphasize, recognize, and honor the power of the abiding “hope” that is expressed throughout Grimes’ life-long, award-winning writing achievements. It is our “hope” that the presentation of this 2022 CSK award will celebrate the significance of Grimes’ life changing impact on children, teens, professionals, and adults. In every aspect of her offerings, no matter for which audiences, young and old, or creative format, verse, prose, or selected poetry techniques, she creates a hope in the reader that leaves a lasting impression, a heartfelt mark on the soul that will remain.

It is our declaration that Nikki will continue to spread her message of **HOPE** through her poetry collections, novels in verse, and biographies of inspiring lives of memorable and historic characters, and that these presentations will fuel other writers who come after her to present their own creative offerings with hope and excellence.





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