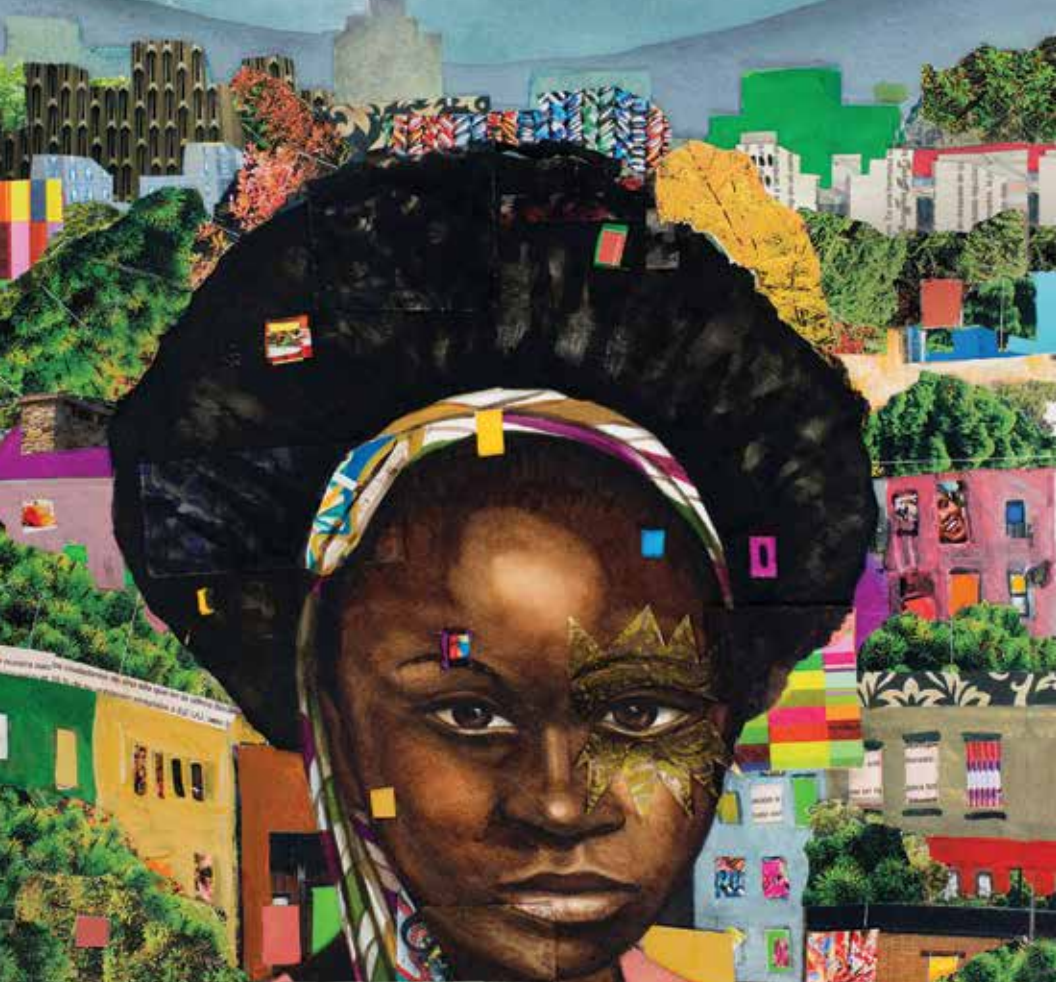


CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS

2018 Discussion Guide



American Library Association
Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table
CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS COMMITTEE

ALA
DIVERSITY, LITERACY
& OUTREACH SERVICES

American
Library
Association

American Library Association Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table Coretta Scott King Book Awards Committee • www.ala.org/csk

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards Discussion Guide was prepared by the 2018 Coretta Scott King Book Award Jury Chair Sam Bloom and members Kacie Armstrong, Jessica Anne Bratt, Lakeshia Darden, Sujin Huggins, Erica Marks, and Martha Parravano.

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.



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.

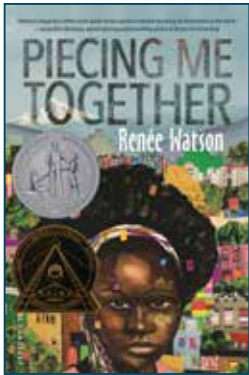
The Coretta Scott King Book Award: A Living Legend

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 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 forty 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.

2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD WINNER AND HONOR BOOKS

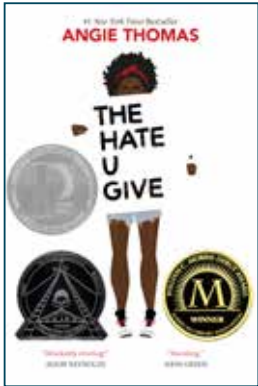
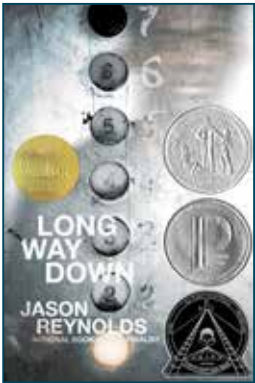


Coretta Scott King Book Award
Author Award

PIECING ME TOGETHER
Written by Renée Watson
Published by Bloomsbury

Coretta Scott King Book Award
Author Honor Award

LONG WAY DOWN
Written by Jason Reynolds
A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum
Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon &
Schuster Children's

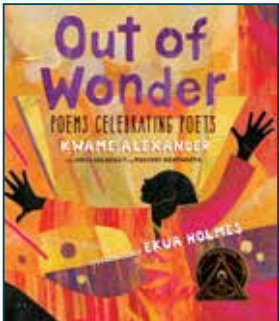


Coretta Scott King Book Award
Author Honor Award

THE HATE U GIVE
Written by Angie Thomas
Published by Balzer + Bray, an
imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

Coretta Scott King Book Award
Illustrator Award

OUT OF WONDER:
POEMS CELEBRATING POETS
Illustrated by Ekua Holmes
Written by Kwame Alexander with
Chris Colderly and Marjory Wentworth
Published by Candlewick Press



2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD WINNER AND HONOR BOOKS

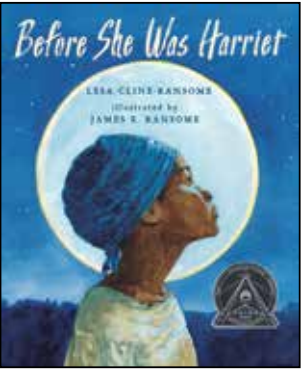
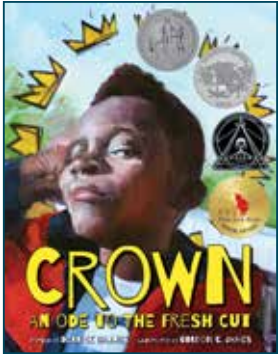
Coretta Scott King Book Award
Author and Illustrator Honor Award

CROWN: AN ODE TO THE FRESH CUT

Written by Derrick Barnes

Illustrated by Gordon C. James

A Denene Millner Book, published by Bolden,
an Agate imprint



Coretta Scott King Book Award
Illustrator Honor Award

BEFORE SHE WAS HARRIET

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

Written by Lesa Cline-Ransome

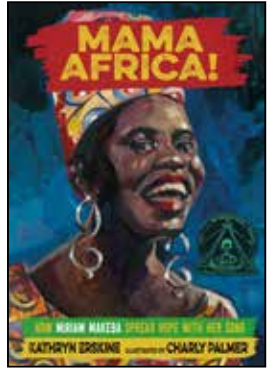
Published by Holiday House

John Steptoe Award for New Talent
Author Winner

THE STARS BENEATH OUR FEET

Written by David Barclay Moore

Published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint
of Random House Children's Books



John Steptoe Award for New Talent
Illustrator Winner

MAMA AFRICA!: HOW MIRIAM MAKEBA SPREAD HOPE WITH HER SONG

Illustrated by Charly Palmer

Written by Kathryn Erskine

Published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young
Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC

"Watson's elegantly crafted novel speaks to the myriad of people searching for themselves in the world."

—Jacqueline Woodson, award-winning and bestselling author of *Brown Girl Dreaming*

PIECING ME TOGETHER

Renée Watson



BLOOMSBURY

PIECING ME TOGETHER

Written by Renée Watson

Published by Bloomsbury

Piecing Me Together is a coming-of-age tale that eloquently explores the many facets of Jade, a brilliant and creative teen on the brink of young adulthood. Watson pulls the reader into Jade's world by sharing her love of the Spanish language. Although this book is a quick read, it does not talk down to young readers. Watson effectively explores the complex relationships between women: mother-daughter, friendships, and mentorships. Students will walk away from this novel wondering what will become of Jade. Her world will become a piece of them.



Photo Credit: NAACP

Activities and Discussion Questions

- Jade creates collages with everyday things she finds in her neighborhood. What does that say about how she views her neighborhood? How do you view your neighborhood?
- What assumptions do people make about your neighborhood? What don't they know? Are their assumptions correct?
- When does Jade experience herself as “too black” or check her behavior so she won't be seen that way?
- The novel states, “White people can handle black sadness better than black anger.” What does that mean? Do you agree with that statement?
- What part of yourself, what identity, do you limit or hide in order to fit in?

Related CSK Titles

Brown Girl Dreaming, written by Jacqueline Woodson, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House; *When I Was the Greatest*, written by Jason Reynolds, a Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *The First Part Last*, written by Angela Johnson, published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Out of Wonder

POEMS CELEBRATING POETS

KWAME ALEXANDER

with CHRIS COLDERLEY and MARJORY WENTWORTH

ILLUSTRATED BY **EKUA HOLMES**



OUT OF WONDER: POEMS CELEBRATING POETS

Illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Written by Kwame Alexander with
Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth

Published by Candlewick Press

While the poems in *Out of Wonder* were written to pay “lyrical homage” to twenty illustrious poets such as Walter Dean Myers, Robert Frost, and Pablo Neruda, Holmes creates visual poetry with her masterful illustrations. Her vibrantly colored, richly textured collage infuses the book with the fullness of the Black Art aesthetic. The generous trim size, varied compositions, and repeated sunburst motif make this book a work of art in its own right.



Photo Charles Walker, Jr.

Activities and Discussion Questions

- Pick your favorite page in the book. Notice the way Holmes uses patterns (flowers, snowflakes, leaf shapes) in her art. Read the poem on the page aloud. How did Holmes use the words in the poem to inspire her art?
- Holmes makes collages, which are created when an artist takes pieces of other items (photographs, torn pieces of paper, sometimes even sticks or feathers) and glues them onto paper to make a new piece of art. Create your own collage using materials around your home.
- In *Out of Wonder*, Holmes created her art based on the poems in the book. Look at the collage you just created and reverse the process: write a poem based on your art.
- Choose your favorite poem from the book. In the back of the book, find the poet that your favorite poem celebrates and read that poet’s biography. Go to your local library and see if you can find a biography on your poet. If you are unable to find a book, see if you can find an article online about your poet.

Related CSK Titles

The Blacker the Berry, written by Joyce Carol Thomas and illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Joanna Cotler Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes*, edited by David Roessel and Arnold Rampersad and illustrated by Benny Andrews, published by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.; *Black Cat*, written and illustrated by Christopher Myers, published by Scholastic Books for Children & Young Adults.; *Meet Danitra Brown*, written by Nikki Grimes and illustrated by Floyd Cooper, published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

"So much heart here. And so much talent."
—Matt de la Peña, Newbery Medalist for *Last Stop on Market Street*

THE STARS BENEATH OUR FEET



David Barclay Moore

THE STARS BENEATH OUR FEET

By David Barclay Moore

Published by Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books

Twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom are still grieving over his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting. Lolly has always loved Legos, and his mother's girlfriend brings him a Christmas gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Now, Lolly must find his own way forward. His path isn't clear—and the pressure to join a “crew,” as his brother did, is always there. Lolly finds that building a fantastical Lego city at the community center provides him with an escape—and an unexpected bridge back to the world.



Photo Credit: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

Activities and Discussion Questions

- Lolly makes a decision to throw away the Lego instructions and build using his imagination. Do you think he should have thrown away the instructions? Why or why not?
- Is Lolly an architect, an artist, or both? Create your own city by drawing on paper or building with Legos. Name your city. What are some of your favorite buildings in the city you have created?
- What choice did Lolly make at the end about joining a crew? Do you think he and his friend made a good choice? Why or why not?
- Do you have any unlikely friendships? What can you learn from friends who are different than you?

Related CSK Titles

The Boy in the Black Suit, written by Jason Reynolds, a Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *The Crossover*, written by Kwame Alexander, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers; *Somewhere in the Darkness*, written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Scholastic Press.

MAMA AFRICA!



HOW MIRIAM MAKEBA SPREAD HOPE WITH HER SONG

KATHRYN ERSKINE ILLUSTRATED BY CHARLY PALMER

MAMA AFRICA!: HOW MIRIAM MAKEBA SPREAD HOPE WITH HER SONG

Illustrated by Charly Palmer

Written by Kathryn Erskine

Published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books,
an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC.

Mama Africa tells the story of the late Miriam Makeba's life and her role in highlighting the insidious system of apartheid in South Africa through her music and activism. Charly Palmer masterfully brings the text to life with his use of the painterly technique to mediate between the figurative realism of Makeba's life and symbolic abstraction, with which he attempts to convey the wider societal context.

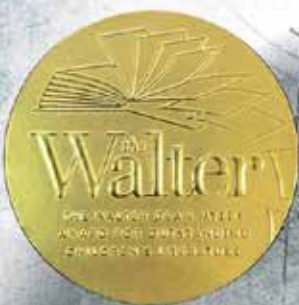


Activities and Discussion Questions

- There are many references to South Africa that may be unfamiliar. Use a variety of sources to find out more about the country, the people, and the system of apartheid. What are some of the similarities and differences between South Africa and the United States?
- Throughout the book, the author mentions many song titles by Miriam Makeba. Try to find as many of the songs mentioned as possible (or others by Makeba) and listen to them. How does the music make you feel? What do you learn about South Africa and apartheid by listening to her music? Are there contemporary songs with which you are familiar that speak out against injustice? What are they and who performs them?
- Charly Palmer depicts the protests against apartheid and the horror of the Soweto massacre of innocent children in a powerful and visually complex way. Think about the many protests and issues of social justice that occur in the United States today. How would you capture or convey such a scene through art? Create your own images.
- If you could change one thing about the world to make it a better place, what would it be?

Related CSK Titles

Nelson Mandela, illustrated and written by Kadir Nelson, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers; *Seeds of Change*, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler and written by Jen Cullerton Johnson, published by Lee & Low Books, Inc.; *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker*, illustrated by Christian Robinson and written by Patricia Hruby Powell, published by Chronicle Books LLC.; *I Have a Dream: Martin Luther King, Jr.*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson and written by Martin Luther King, Jr., published by Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books.



LONG WAY DOWN

JASON
REYNOLDS

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST



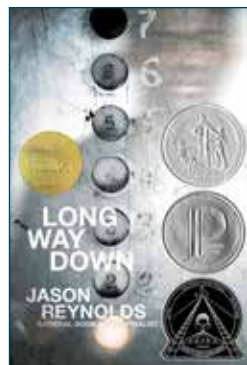
2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

LONG WAY DOWN

Written by Jason Reynolds

A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

After losing his brother Shawn to gun violence, Will intends to follow the unspoken code of conduct by avenging Shawn's death. On his way down from the eighth floor of his apartment building to the ground level, Will is greeted by seven ghosts known to him before their untimely deaths. The story takes place in the span of just over one minute, and each chapter is numbered based on the floor, starting at seven and descending from there. Written in unforgettable free verse, Reynolds empathetically explores ongoing cycles of violence within urban communities. A thought-provoking, thrilling ride, all the way down.



Activities and Discussion Questions

- Will talks about “beef” and how it is passed down, or “inherited like a trunk of fool’s gold.” What does the word “beef” mean to you? Do you believe it is passed down, as Will stated? Why or why not?
- What are “The Rules”? Have you heard of these rules before? What do you think Will means when he writes, “They were meant for the broken to follow”?
- Do you think Will is right in wanting to avenge his brother’s death? Identify two or three additional ways for Will to channel his emotions.

Related CSK Titles

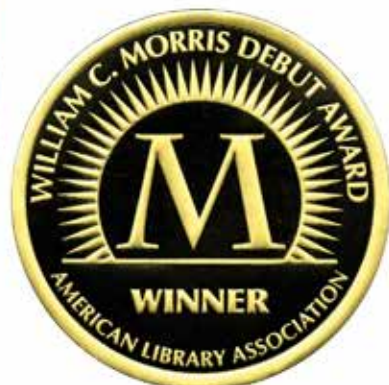
Monster, written by Walter Dean Myers, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Children's Books; *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*, written by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke, published by Lee & Low Books, Inc.; *Bronx Masquerade*, written by Nikki Grimes, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

#1 *New York Times* Bestseller

ANGIE THOMAS



**THE
HATE
U
GIVE**



"Absolutely riveting!"

JASON REYNOLDS

"Stunning."

JOHN GREEN

2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD AUTHOR HONOR

THE HATE U GIVE

Written by Angie Thomas

Published by Balzer + Bray,
an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

In Thomas's scorching, timely debut, sixteen-year-old Starr is the lone witness when a white police officer shoots and kills her childhood friend Khalil. The tragedy acts as a catalyst for all-too-familiar scenes of unrest in Starr's Garden Heights community. While dealing with the chaos in her neighborhood and working through her own grief and anger, Starr must also navigate her ritzy (and largely white) private school. This wise, multi-layered novel has the feel of a new classic.



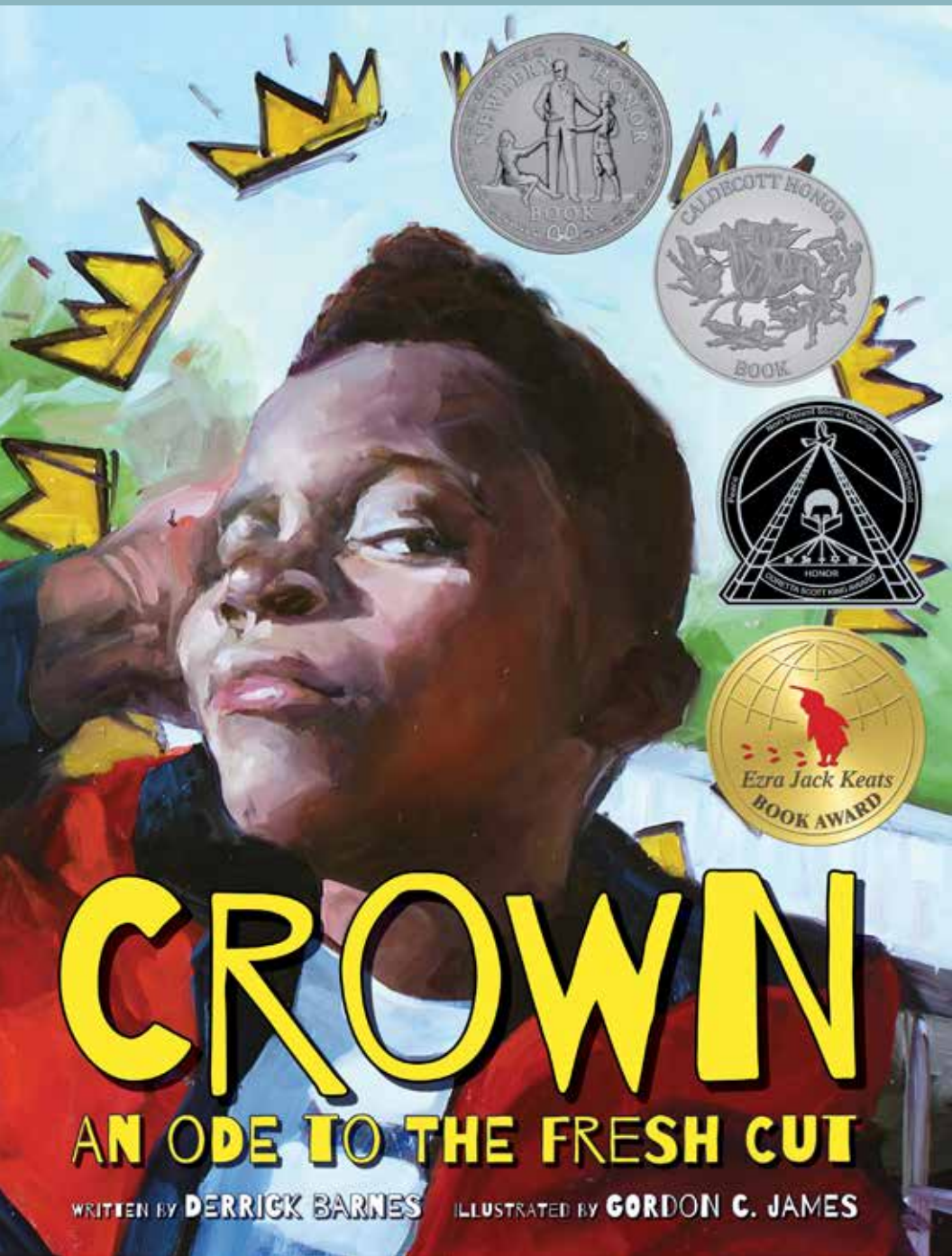
Photo Credit: Anissa Hidouk

Activities and Discussion Questions

- Before Khalil is killed, he and Starr discuss the meaning of 2Pac's "THUG LIFE" acronym. Why do you think the author chose part of this acronym as the book's title? And in what ways do you see this play out in today's society?
- After Starr shares her version of the events leading up to the shooting, the detective shifts the discussion to Khalil's past. When this happens at the police station, how does Starr react? At several points in the story characters or the media refer to Khalil's possible involvement in drugs in ways similar to how the detective does. Why do you think the conversation was shifted in this way?
- When the residents of Garden Heights hear about Khalil's death, unrest arises. Starr's parents argue about keeping the family at home in Garden Heights or staying with Uncle Carlos in the suburbs, far removed from the unrest. Talk about your thoughts on this topic—what would you decide if you were Starr's parents? Why?
- Starr initially is scared to speak up about witnessing Khalil's death, but eventually she vows that she will "never be quiet." What are some recent examples of people using their voice to protest inequality? What are ways you can use your voice to work for social justice in your community?

Related CSK Titles

All American Boys, written by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, a Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *How It Went Down*, written by Kekla Magoon, published by Henry Holt, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, *Who Am I Without Him?: Short Stories about Girls and the Boys in Their Lives*, written by Sharon G. Flake, published by Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Publishing/Hyperion Books for Children.



CROWN

AN ODE TO THE FRESH CUT

WRITTEN BY **DERRICK BARNES**

ILLUSTRATED BY **GORDON C. JAMES**

CROWN: AN ODE TO THE FRESH CUT

Written by Derrick Barnes

Illustrated by Gordon C. James

A Denene Millner Book, published by Bolden,
an Agate imprint

Crown follows a young black boy as he walks into his local barbershop for his weekly haircut. Afterward, he feels “Magnificent. Flawless. Like royalty”—and ready to take on the world. With its rich, vibrant pictures and exuberant, dynamic second-person text, this book provides an electric jolt of pride, self-confidence, self-love, and swagger as well as a sense of community and history. A not-to-be-missed celebration of the beauty of black boyhood.



Activities and Discussion Questions

- Share a story about an experience that made you feel special, valued, and “ready to take on the world.” Tell your story aloud to your class, a family member, or a friend. Then write down and illustrate your story.
- Examine the art in *Crown* and talk about how the images make you feel. What is your favorite image from the story? Why and how is the image significant to you?
- An ode is a praise poem. Find some examples of published odes. Now find the language in *Crown* that makes it an ode. Then write an ode of your own on a subject of your choosing. Start by brainstorming lists of adjectives and verbs. Expand that list to phrases and then into a poem.

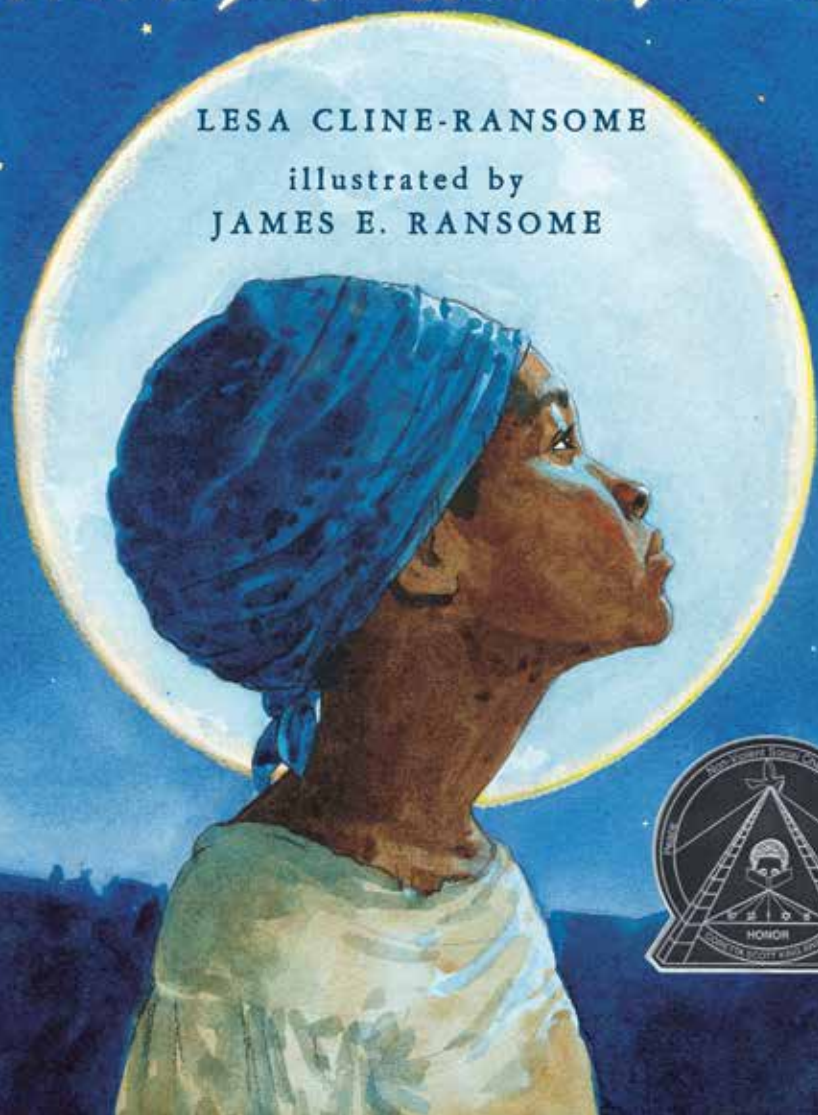
Related CSK Titles

Uncle Jed's Barbershop, written by Margaree King Mitchell, illustrated by James E. Ransome, published by Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, *H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination*, written and illustrated by Christopher Myers, published by Egmont USA, *My People*, text by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr., published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *Nathaniel Talking*, written by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Jan Gilchrist, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group..

Before She Was Harriet

LESA CLINE-RANSOME

illustrated by
JAMES E. RANSOME



2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARD ILLUSTRATOR HONOR

BEFORE SHE WAS HARRIET

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

Written by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Published by Holiday House

James E. Ransome vividly delineates the life of Harriet Tubman through his watercolor images. Before leading numerous enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad, Harriet was many things: a young woman fighting for the right to vote; a Union spy helping to win the war; a nurse caring for wounded soldiers; a daughter to Ben and Rit. Ransome's beautiful portraits help us to understand Harriet's journey through life and the difficulties she faced to help end slavery. Through the bright yellows and greens and dark blues of the night sky, the reader feels what Harriet felt and learns that, through her dedication and perseverance, she lived to see her dream of freedom come true.



Activities and Discussion Questions

- Harriet Tubman was a suffragist. Define the word *suffragist*. Talk to an older female adult in your life and ask them to describe what it was like to vote for the very first time.
- The Civil War was a war between the northern and southern states. Which states fought on which side? On a map, highlight the Union (northern) states in yellow and the Confederate states (southern) in green.
- Harriet helped her parents Ben Ross and Harriet “Rit” Green flee from slavery and find safety in Canada. Why was it safe to go to Canada? Using your map from the previous activity, highlight the route in blue that you think Harriet and her parents may have taken to flee from Maryland to Canada.
- As a young girl, Harriet learned to read the “woods and the stars at night” from her father. Slaves learned to follow certain signs to make sure they were heading north, such as moss growing on the north side of the tree or the North Star. Write a list of other clues in nature that might have helped guide Harriet from slavery to freedom.

Related CSK Titles

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life, written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan, a Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing; *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Kadir Nelson, published by Jump At The Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of the Disney Book Group; *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom*, written and illustrated by Shane W. Evans, a Neal Porter Book, Neal Porter Book/Roaring Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING-VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

ELOISE GREENFIELD

Eloise Greenfield was born in Parmele, North Carolina, and currently resides in Washington, DC. Early in her life, she discovered a love of reading and writing and realized there were few books that showed the fullness of African American life. She published her first book in 1972 and went on to write and publish over forty books about the African American experience. Winner of multiple awards for her writing, Ms. Greenfield has a rich body of work that both inspires and enriches readers.



Eloise Greenfield has had a profound effect on the development of African American literature for children. She is a multiple Coretta Scott King Author Winner and Honoree, beginning with her CSK Author Honor Award for *Paul Robeson* in 1976, her Author Award for *Africa Dream* and Author Honor for *Mary McLeod Bethune* in 1978. In 1980, *Childtimes: A Three-Generation Memoir*, which she wrote with her mother, Lessie Jones Little, demonstrated Eloise's facility with storytelling for all ages. She received additional Author Honors for *Nathaniel Talking* in 1990, for *Night on Neighborhood Street* in 1992, and for *The Great Migration* in 2012. Her beautifully crafted positive visions of African American life span decades and resonate today. While never shying away from challenges, her themes of the resilience and humanity of African American children are powerful and have contributed to the firm foundation that lifts this generation of writers. Whether the work is poetry or prose, her lyrical writing elevates its subject and the reader.

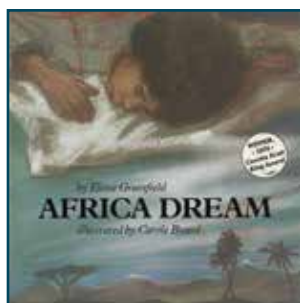
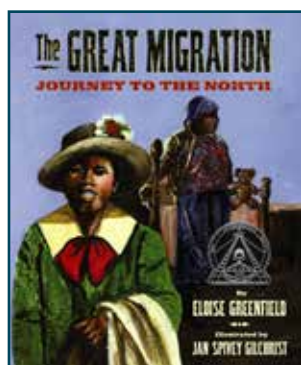
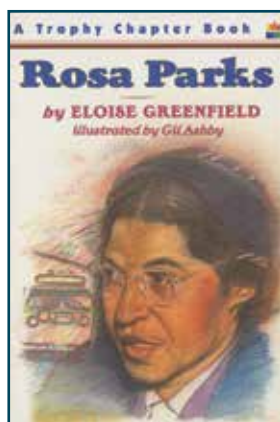
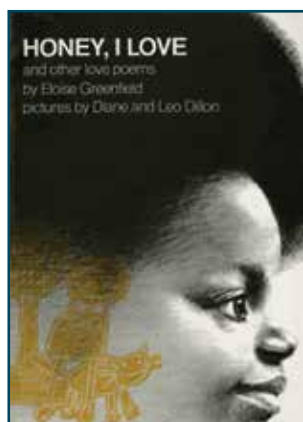
Eloise Greenfield is a remarkable trailblazer whose marvelous books of poetry and prose have influenced many and continue to resonate with children today.

About the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement



VIRGINIA HAMILTON was an award-winning author of children's books. She wrote more than thirty-five books throughout her career, including *M. C. Higgins, the Great*, for which she won the 1975 Newbery Medal. During her lifetime, Hamilton received numerous awards, including the Coretta Scott King Book Award, the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Award, and the Hans Christian Andersen Award.

2018 CORETTA SCOTT KING-VIRGINIA HAMILTON AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT





ALA American Library Association

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