

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

# John Steptoe New Talent Award Winners

Virtual  
Event

THURSDAY  
APRIL 24

6PM EST  
5PM CST  
3PM PST



CORETTA SCOTT KING BOOK AWARDS  
**CSKBART**  
ROUND TABLE

**Celebrate the life and legacy of Coretta Scott King with our 2025 John Steptoe New Talent winners!** The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African-American cultural and universal human values. The John Steptoe Award for New Talent was established to affirm new talent and to offer visibility to excellence in writing and/or illustration at the beginning of their career as a published book creator.



**Craig Kofi Farmer** is a Prince George's County native, with two Bachelor of Science degrees from Towson University and one Master of Education degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. He works in higher education administration, helping students achieve work-life balance and self-actualization. When he's not writing, he's analyzing superhero movies, watching psychological thrillers, and deciding exactly what he's going to eat that day. His book, "**Kwame Crashes the Underworld**," is the 2025 Steptoe author award winner. The book is published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing.



**Jamiel Law** is an illustrator, problem solver, and creative thinker. He was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida, where he was first exposed to the arts and the cultures behind them. He strives to make every art piece matter by considering its meaning and importance to himself and the viewer, creating works that resonate with others and establish a genuine connection. When not at his desk, Jamiel can be seen lounging with his family or hooping at a local park. His book, "**Jimmy's Rhythm & Blues: The Extraordinary Life of James Baldwin**," is the 2025 Steptoe illustrator award winner. The book is written by Michelle Meadows and published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.



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