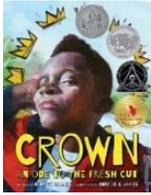
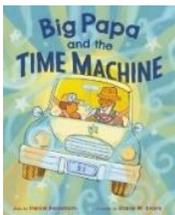
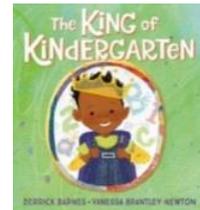


Celebrating Black Voices: Picture Books



Barnes, Derrick. [Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut](#). Illustrated by Gordon C. James. How amazing can walking out of the barbershop with the perfect haircut make you feel? Stunning paintings and vibrant storytelling provide a joyful celebration of community, culture, and self-esteem.

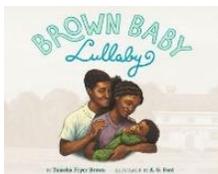
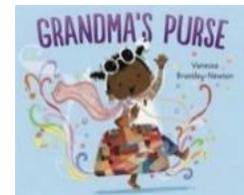
Barnes, Derrick. [The King of Kindergarten](#). Illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton. Empowered with the belief that nothing is too difficult, a boy is ready to take on every single first-day-of-school challenge with smiling self-confidence, upbeat enthusiasm, and a bit of royal shine.



Bernstrom, Daniel. [Big Papa and the Time Machine](#). Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. Worried about starting school, a child takes a ride with grandpa in his big old Ford and journeys into the past to learn about Black history, the importance of family love, and how to find the courage to face challenges and fears.

Brantley-Newton, Vanessa. [Grandma's Purse](#).

A little girl can't wait for a visit from Grandma Mimi, who arrives with lots of hugs, warm words, and a handbag packed full of treasures. An engaging intergenerational tale filled with affection and fun-to-discover surprises.

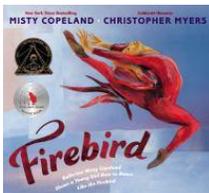
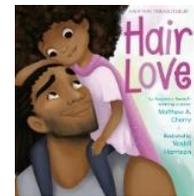


Brown, Tameka Fryer. [Brown Baby Lullaby](#). Illustrated by A.G. Ford.

From playtime, to bath time, to bedtime, a family's evening routine is lovingly portrayed in cozy, warm-hued illustrations and a text that seamlessly blends Spanish words with English words. Soothing, sweet, and perfect for bedtime.

Cherry, Matthew A. [Hair Love](#). Illustrated by Vashti Harrison.

It's an important day for Zuri (Mommy's coming home!), and she wants to have an extra-special hairstyle. Fortunately, Daddy is there, ready and willing to help his daughter look and feel her best.

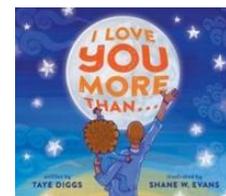


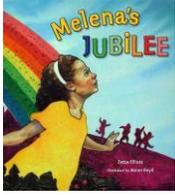
Copeland, Misty. [Firebird](#). Illustrated by Christopher Myers.

Copeland, an American Ballet Theater soloist, shares encouragement with a young ballet student, promising that if she works hard and dreams big she too can "become a swan, a beauty, a firebird for sure." Soaring language and vibrant illustrations provide an uplifting tale.

Diggs, Taye. [I Love You More Than ...](#). Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.

In this tender story of parental love, a father reassures his young child that though they cannot always be together, the little one is always in his thoughts and in his heart.

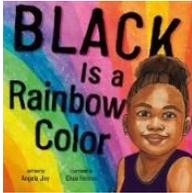
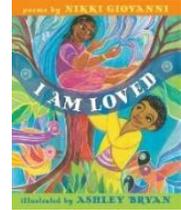




Elliott, Zetta. [Melena's Jubilee: The Story of a Fresh Start](#). Illustrated by Aaron Boyd. Yesterday, everything seemed to go wrong, but today is a new day and Melena is determined to do all her chores, treat everyone with kindness and generosity, and take nothing for granted.

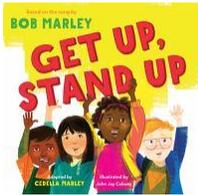
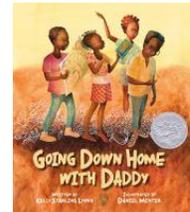
Giovanni, Nikki. [I Am Loved](#). Illustrated by Ashley Bryan.

A series of 11 poems that explore the many forms and wonders of love inspire shared affection, self-reflection, and deeper discussion. An eloquently written and stunningly illustrated offering by two beloved, award-winning book creators. (J-811.54 GIOV)



Joy, Angela. [Black Is a Rainbow Color](#). Illustrated by Ekoa Holmes. Black may not be a color in the rainbow, but it is so much more. Dazzling paintings and descriptive text celebrate Black culture and provide an excellent starting point for exploring Black history.

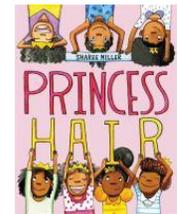
Lyons, Kelly Starling. [Going Down Home with Daddy](#). Illustrated by Daniel Minter. There is so much to do at a family reunion—from the car trip to the farm where Daddy grew up, to a tractor ride, to meals and memories shared with relatives. All the kids are planning special tributes, such as reading a poem or sharing a song, but what will Lil Alan's contribution be? Find out in this grand story of a large, loving, and proud family.



Marley, Cedella. [Get Up, Stand Up](#). Illustrated by John Jay Cabuay. In this adaptation of a popular Bob Marley song, Cedella Marley honors her father's message by rousing children to resist bullying and stand up for their own rights and those of others.

Miller, Sharee. [Princess Hair](#).

"All princesses wear crowns, but underneath their crowns, not all princesses have the same hair." Brightly illustrated and buoyantly told, this picture book celebrates all sorts of styles, including puffs, twist outs, dreadlocks and more!

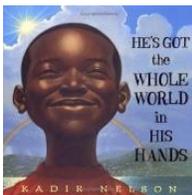
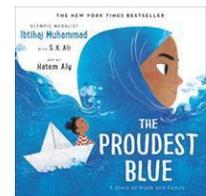


Mora, Oge. [Saturday](#). Ava and her hard-working mother are looking forward to spending the day together doing all sorts of fun things, but when their plans repeatedly go awry, they find a way to salvage their outing and enjoy their time together.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj with S. K. Ali. [The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family](#).

Illustrated by Hatem Aly.

In this effervescent story of family love and cultural pride, Faizah describes how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school.



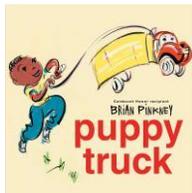
Nelson, Kadir. [He's Got the Whole World in His Hands](#). Depicting a young boy and his loving parents and siblings, this gorgeously illustrated picture book version of a beloved spiritual celebrates family and community. (J-782.254 N427H)



Nyong'o, Lupita. [Sulwe](#). Illustrated by Vashti Harrison. Born "the color of midnight," Sulwe despairs when her classmates make fun of her dark skin, and even tries to lighten herself by using an eraser or wearing Mama's makeup, until she is taken on a nighttime journey by a shooting star and finally begins to realize her own beauty.

Peoples-Riley, Daria. [I Got Next](#).

As a young boy prepares for a basketball game, he gets a pep talk from his shadow ("Time to put your game face on!") and works hard to do his very best. Check out the author's [This Is It](#) for another irresistible tale about a joyous young dancer who also grows in confidence and skill.

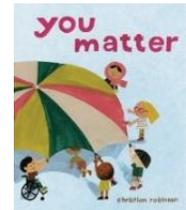


Pinkney, Brian. [Puppy Truck](#).

Carter really wants a puppy, but when he receives a truck instead, his positive attitude and unbounded imagination result in a great day at the park.

Robinson, Christian. [You Matter](#).

Expressive text and delightful paintings assure readers that every living thing has value. This comforting book reveals new perspectives, touches upon the universality of emotions, and builds self-awareness as well as empathy for others.

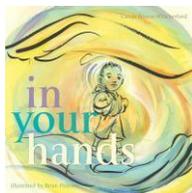
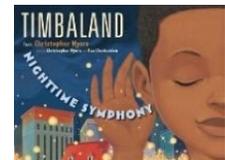


Schofield-Morrison, Connie. [I Got the Rhythm](#). Illustrated by Frank Morrison.

As an exuberant girl rollicks through a city park, she responds to the energizing sights, sounds, and smells around her by creating a spontaneous dance that invites everyone to join in. A toe-tapping, heart-lifting appreciation of everyday life.

Timbaland, & Christopher Myers. [Nighttime Symphony](#).

As a thunderstorm rages outside their city window, a loving father soothes his young son by helping him find the beauty in the sights and sounds of the storm. Rhythmic text and bright-hued illustrations create an imaginative and reassuring lullaby.



Weatherford, Carole Boston. [In Your Hands](#). Illustrated by Brian Pinkney.

Luminously illustrated and lyrically told, this moving poem from a mother to her newborn son describes her dreams for Omari's future and her hopes that he will always be safe, ending with a resounding refrain, "Black lives matter. Your life matters."

Woodson, Jacqueline. [The Day You Begin](#). Illustrated by Rafael López.

It may be hard to reveal your inner self to others, especially when no one else in the room is quite like you, but maybe you will find that if you share your story, you just might find common ground—and a new friend. An inclusive and inspirational ode to embracing the beauty in your life and sharing it with others.

