



## Children's Booklist 2025: Black Joy

### Picture Books and Early Readers



#### Swim, Mo, Swim!

by David A. Adler

On Field Day, Mo swims a lot faster than he knew he could, not because his team might win but because a fish keeps nibbling his toe. Part of the award-winning Mo series.



#### The band in Our Basement

by Kelly J. Baptist

A pair of siblings who are supposed to be in bed hear a jazz band in the basement and sneak down to discover how a surprise band member turns the jam into a family affair.



#### The Queen of Kindergarten

by Derrick Barnes

MJ is more than ready for her first day of kindergarten! With her hair freshly braided and her mom's special tiara on her head, she knows she's going to rock kindergarten.



#### Together We Ride

by Valerie Bolling

A brave little girl, with a guiding hand from her dad and an enthusiastic bark from her pup, discovers the freedom that comes from riding a bike.



#### Here are the Seeds

by JaNay Brown-Wood

Similar to "The House That Jack Built," this engaging read-aloud follows two children as they plant seeds to grow! Learn how a healthy garden grows and what balance is necessary for plants to survive.



#### Zuri Ray and the Backyard Bash

by Tami Charles

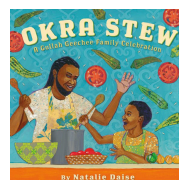
With summer coming to an end, a backyard bash is an absolute must. But when the party doesn't go exactly according to plan, will Zuri be able to let loose and improvise?



#### Parker Grows a Garden

by Parker Curry

With the help of her Nana and Mom Mom, Parker grows her own backyard garden, cultivating special relationships with her two grandmothers while nurturing her plants.



#### Okra Stew

by Natalie Daise

Papa has something special planned for tonight's family dinner-and Bobo can't wait! Excited to learn how to make okra stew like his ancestors, Bobo helps Papa with the recipe. Enjoy this mouthwatering feast!



#### Vivi Loves Science: Wind and Water

by Kimberly Derting

Vivi helps her community clean up the beach after a storm and learns about how wind and water shape the landscape. Part of the Loves Science series.



#### The Last Stand

by Antwan Eady

Selling eggs, plums, peppers and pumpkins at Papa's stand in the farmer's market, one little boy learns the importance of family, community and hope.

# Black Joy

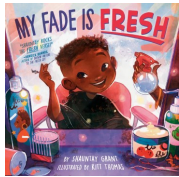
## Picture Books and Early Readers



### Kicks

by Van G. Garrett

Celebrating only the flyest, floatiest, you-est kicks you can get, this playful tribute to sneakers has something to offer anyone who prizes a great pair of shoes!



### My Fade is Fresh

by Shauntay Grant

Staying true to herself, a little girl speaks up at the barbershop and leaves with the freshest fade on the block, in this rhyming story that encourages young girls to be self-

confident.

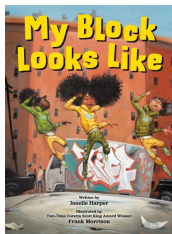


### I'm From

by Gary Gray

A small Black boy invites readers into his world filled with homemade pancakes, schoolyard and family games, and bedtime rituals, in this poetic account of all the

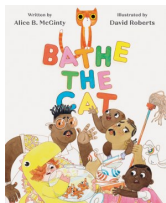
people, places and things that shape who he is.



### My block Looks Like

by Janelle Harper

Recognizing the beauty of the bodegas, subways and playgrounds that characterize everyday life in the Bronx, this proud picture book pays homage to the ways its residents have shaped pop culture through music, visual art and dance.



### Bathe the Cat

by Alice McGinty

To avoid getting a bath, the family cat keeps scrambling the list of chores with hilarious results, in this purr-fectly entertaining read-aloud story.



### Lola's Nana-Bibi Comes to Visit

by Anna McQuinn

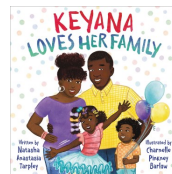
When her Nana-Bibi arrives from Tanzania, Lola, barely able to contain her excitement, spends the week shopping, having dance parties and making special moments to last a lifetime.



### The Spark in You

by Andrea Pippins

A young girl unleashes her inner spark and expresses her creativity and uniqueness during Carnival's lively atmosphere



### Keyana Loves Her Family

by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

When movie night doesn't go as planned, Keyana, who worked hard to make everything perfect, gets some much-needed help from those she loves most.



### Summer is Here

by Renée Watson

Celebrating iconic childhood joys, this beautiful ode to a summer day, from sunrise to sunset, follows one young girl who has the perfect day swimming, jumping rope and eating ice cream.



### Girl Dad

by Sean Williams

Told in upbeat rhyming verse, this empowering picture book from the CEO of The Dad Gang celebrates the strong men who raise, love and uplift strong girls.



### May's Big Messy Family!

by A. T. Woehling

From breakfast to bedtime, May and her seven siblings lovingly run amok and make a beautiful mess



### Patrick and the Not So Perfect Party

by Anne Wynter

Planning the perfect party for his birthday, Patrick, who likes everything just-so, discovers his not-so-perfect big brother made a mistake on the invitation and thinks his birthday is ruined.



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