



In conversation with
Antwan Eady,

author of

THE GATHERING TABLE

The Gathering Table opens with the line “In my family there are traditions.” What are your family’s traditions?

For sixteen years, my parents held gatherings around the tables in our lives. This took place the first Saturday in October. And while some traditions remain and some have changed, the gatherings in our lives are constant. We gather for holidays, for fun, and for celebrations of friends and family, just like readers will see in *The Gathering Table*. But as important as it is to honor those traditions, creating new traditions is okay, too. That’s what I’m looking forward to now.

At the center of this story is a table that hosts countless celebrations throughout the seasons. What does the table represent?

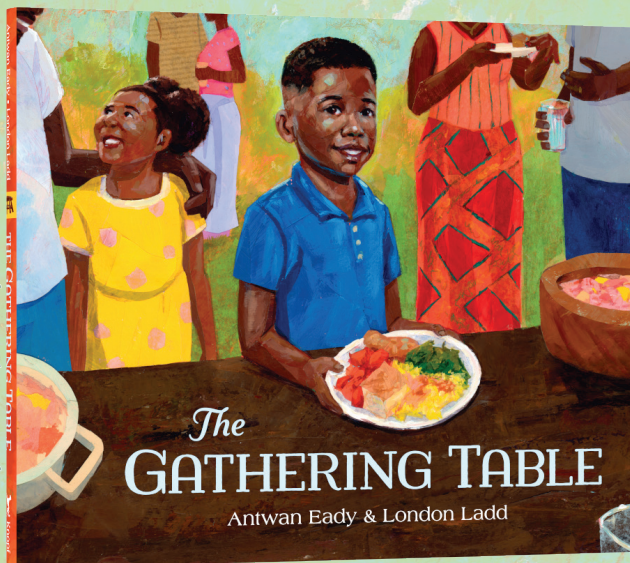
The table represents so much. Here, the table represents history and the preservation of heritage. It’s a bridge, connecting generations. A place where they learn about, and from, one another. The table’s a place where storytelling happens. It’s a keeper of laughter, life, and love for all who surround it.

This is a joyful story that celebrates family and the importance of coming together. Why do you think this is an important message for young readers?

It’s important because young dreamers are torchbearers in the making. They’re the ones who will carry on customs and traditions as so many have done before them. I trust young dreamers and believe they’re able to take stock of the world around them just as our narrator does in *The Gathering Table*. Yes, the table is filled with food and fun, but there’s so much that goes on beyond the surface. I implore young dreamers to discover and observe those tiny, beautiful things, especially while they have them.

The Gathering Table is illustrated by acclaimed illustrator London Ladd. Do you have a favorite spread?

There’s a spread toward the end that features our narrator, his grandmother, and the lines, “Here/we are safe. Here/we are loved. Here/we are free.” London’s illustrations here compliment the text so well, and when I see that spread, it’s exactly what I imagined when writing those lines. There’s a sense of calm, peace, and belonging that we see on the narrator’s face. It’s the kind of peace that so many of us long for and deserve. I look forward to readers sharing their favorite spreads with us.



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