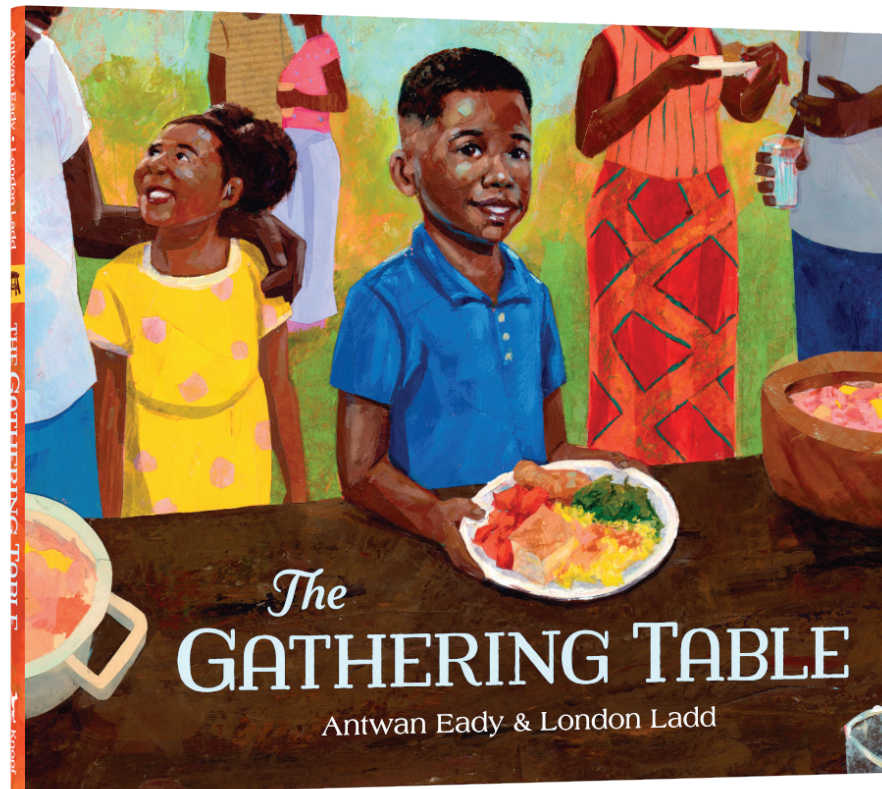


THE GATHERING TABLE

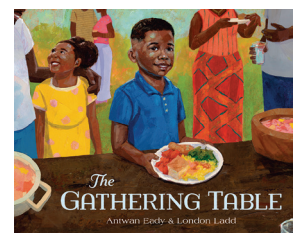
ACTIVITIES



ABOUT THE BOOK

No matter the season, no matter the reason, the love that surrounds this boy's family table is palpable and never ending. From a golden anniversary to Juneteenth, a special wedding to a new baby sister, here is a family that never forgets to come together and celebrate what it truly means to be there for each other.

Heartfelt illustrations complement the lyrical text in this poignant picture book that reveals how Gullah Geechee culture contributes to a family's love, and reminds us the importance of building community one gathering at a time.



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Discussion Questions *for Before and After Reading* **THE GATHERING TABLE**

BEFORE STARTING THE STORY

Show readers the cover of *The Gathering Table*.
Ask them what they see.
Encourage them to call out even the smallest detail.
How do they think the people on the cover are related?

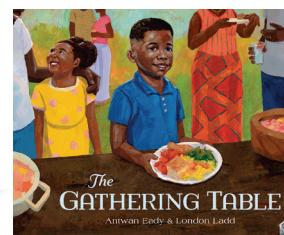
AFTER THE STORY

Ask readers the following questions.

Do you have any traditions in your family?

What do family gatherings look like?

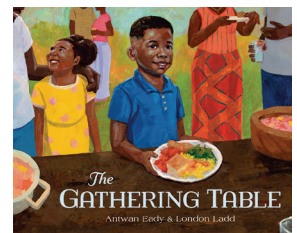
Food is central to the story.
Think of a food you like to eat.
Find a recipe for your favorite dish and make it at home with friends or family.



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Traditions

Think about the family tradition you discussed earlier.
Create an illustration of that gathering, including details about where
that tradition takes place, who attends, and what kind of food or
decorations are included in the gathering.



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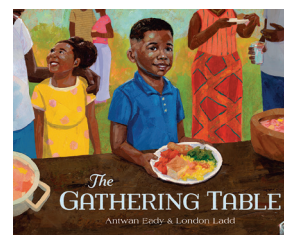
Illuminate the Sky

In *The Gathering Table*, the family celebrates a new year, new dreams, and new life under a sky full of fireworks. Create a fireworks scene of your own following the directions below. Write what your dream for the year is at the bottom of the page.

You'll need toilet paper rolls or kitchen towel rolls, paint, and paper. For a little extra sparkle add some glitter!

1. Start by cutting slits all around one end of the paper roll, approximately a quarter inch apart. Ask a grown-up for help.
2. Place paint in a dish or on a paper plate and stamp the cut end of paper rolls into the paint.
3. Now stamp the paper roll onto the paper to make fireworks.
4. Keep stamping until you are happy with your fireworks, and don't forget to add your dream to the bottom of the page.

My dream is



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