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FAMILY FEAST!

ABOUT THE BOOK

When it comes to a family feast, it's all hands on deck! Big Ma and Pops have been up early in anticipation of everyone's arrival. Aunts, uncles, and cousins gather from all over to help prepare their big meal. Clanging pots, chopping vegetables, sharing recipes, and swiping little treats are part of the fun! After the cooking is done, all of the relatives come together to pray, eat, and enjoy their special moment as a family.

Newbery Honor and Children's Literature Legacy Award winner Carole Boston Weatherford and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner Frank Morrison deliver a heartwarming peek at the love and the chaos that ensue when a family comes together and connects through food.



TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

A feast is a large meal shared with other people. In the story *Family Feast!*, we see a family come together, not only to share a meal but to spend time together and love one another. The whole family helps make the meal a success.

- Have you ever helped make a meal with your family or friends? What did it feel like to help? What role did you play in helping create the meal?
- What are some of your favorite things to eat? Design your own dinner plate and draw your family feast.

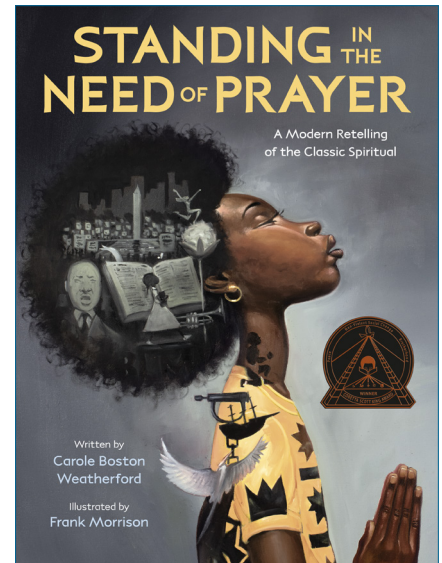


STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER

ABOUT THE BOOK

This inspirational book encapsulates African American history and invites conversations at all levels. Carole Boston Weatherford's riveting text and Frank Morrison's evocative and detailed paintings are informative reminders of yesterday, hopeful images for today, and aspirational dreams of tomorrow.

Starting from 1619 and stretching more than four hundred years, this book features such pivotal moments in history as the arrival of enslaved people in Jamestown, Virginia; Nat Turner's rebellion; the integration of the US military; the Selma to Montgomery marches; and peaceful present-day protests. It also celebrates the feats of African American musicians and athletes, such as Duke Ellington and Florence Griffith Joyner.



TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

The words “standing in the need of prayer” are repeated throughout the book. The words come from a famous hymn of the same name and remind us of the struggles, milestones, and triumphs of Black Americans.

The backmatter explains the images you see on each page.

- Find an image that inspires you. Check the backmatter to learn more about that specific image. In what ways would you support the people in the image you've chosen? How would you use your voice or privilege to make things better?
- With an adult's help, find a map of the United States. Look at the pages of *Standing in the Need of Prayer* that discuss the Great Migration. Check the backmatter to find the cities where Black Americans relocated from the South. Do you live in or close to these places? What do you think it would have felt like to move to a new place?

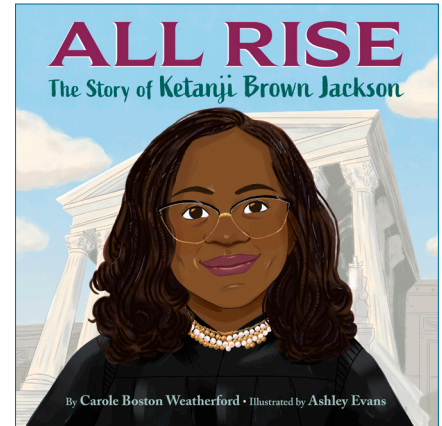


ALL RISE: THE STORY OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

ABOUT THE BOOK

From the time their daughter was born, Ketanji Brown’s parents taught her that if she worked hard and believed in herself, she could do anything. As a child, Ketanji focused on her studies and excelled, eventually graduating from Harvard Law School.

Years later, in 2016, when she was a federal judge, a seat opened on the United States Supreme Court. In a letter to then-President Barack Obama, Leila Jackson made a case for her mother—Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. Although the timing didn’t work out then, it did in 2022, when President Joe Biden nominated her. At her confirmation, Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first Black female Supreme Court Justice of the United States.



TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

Ketanji Brown Jackson is the first Black female Supreme Court justice. Throughout the book, we see the words, “Ketanji rose” as a way to describe Ketanji’s journey to being nominated to the Supreme Court.

- Supreme Court Justice Jackson said, “It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.” With an adult’s help, research who the past Supreme Court justices have been. What do you think it means for the United States to only have one type of person uphold the laws of a country? What might it mean to have people who look and believe differently from each other working together to uphold the laws of the country? Would you want to be a Supreme Court justice? Why or why not?
- The phrase “Ketanji rose” is repeated throughout the book. Those words reference a famous poem by Maya Angelou. They also help illustrate how Justice Jackson had to overcome many obstacles to be appointed the first Black woman Supreme Court justice. Can you think of a time when you had to overcome something? Was there a time when someone didn’t think you were good enough to do something? How did that make you feel? What would you say to someone who thought your age, race, or gender meant you weren’t good enough to do something? Using a journal or a separate piece of paper, write your answer.

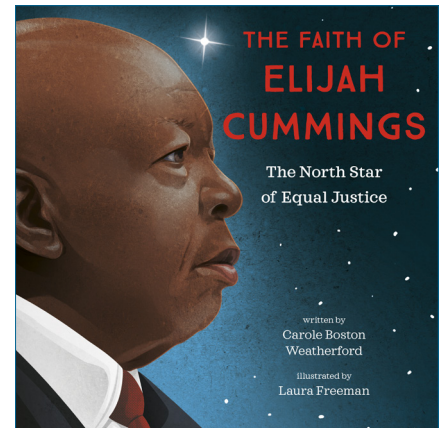
THE FAITH OF ELIJAH CUMMINGS: THE NORTH STAR OF EQUAL JUSTICE

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Elijah Cummings was a little boy, he struggled in school. His teachers thought he talked too much and asked too many questions. They said he'd never be able to read or write well.

Despite his difficulties, Elijah never gave up. He persevered, having faith that with hard work, he'd be able to achieve his goals.

Best known as a voice for people of color and an advocate for equal opportunity, Elijah Cummings was a man of faith and dignity, a beacon of justice, and an unrelenting warrior for equality and change.



TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

Elijah Cummings truly understood what it meant to be of service to others. His family taught him the importance of working hard and getting an education, and the “moral responsibility to do everything in our power to help people live the best lives they can.”

- Elijah Cummings saw the importance of making a difference, not only in his community but for the country. With an adult's help, find the names of the leaders in your community. Learn about what they value and the work they are doing to make your community better. Do you agree with your leaders? Are there things you think they should do better? What would you do if you were a community leader? What things do you think would make your community a better place?
- The subtitle of this book is “The North Star of Equal Justice.” Take a look at the cover and first page of the book. Did you notice the big bright star above Elijah Cummings's head? That is the North Star. The North Star is also known as Polaris. It has been used for hundreds of years as a way of finding true north. Why do you think the author decided to call Elijah “The North Star of Equal Justice”?



LET IT SHINE!

A CELEBRATION OF YOU

ABOUT THE BOOK

Read or sing along to affirmations that will inspire children as well as adults to dream big and commemorate every success. The powerful text reminds readers that everyone has potential for greatness; it shines brightly from within and sparks your determination to reach for the stars, even when you feel doubt.

The vibrant illustrations focus on kids and adults enjoying everyday moments like reading, gardening, and reuniting, as well as commemorating milestones and achievements, like graduating or winning a medal. Certain images also pay homage to historical changemakers such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Shirley Chisholm, and others who paved the way for the Black community.



TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

Have you ever heard the song “This Little Light of Mine”? It is a very famous song. The author reworks the lyrics of the song to describe the triumphs and strengths of Black Americans. From the time of enslavement to the present day, Black Americans have used the song as a way to celebrate our strengths and abilities.

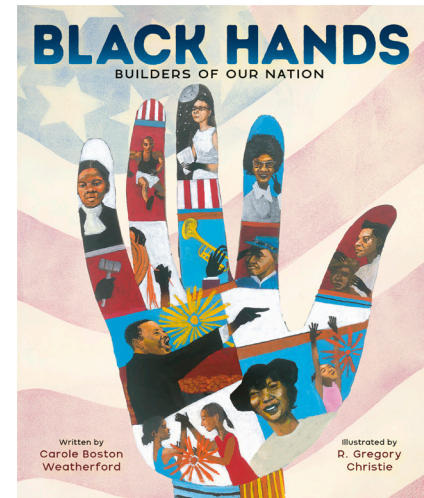
- Think of all the ways you shine. How do you think your strengths help or inspire other people? Make a list of the ways you shine. Be sure to share your light and list with others. You’re an inspiration!
- The backmatter lists a few different recordings of the song. There are many famous singers who have sung this song. From Sister Rosetta Tharpe to Bruce Springsteen, the song has had many different interpretations. With the help of an adult, look up and listen to a few versions of the song. Which is your favorite? Why? What new lyrics would you add to the song?



BLACK HANDS: BUILDERS OF OUR NATION

ABOUT THE BOOK

Since the United States won independence in 1776 and even before, African Americans have contributed greatly to the nation's culture, politics, economy, and landscape. *Black Hands* celebrates the countless contributions of African Americans—from building the White House, birthing jazz, and landing a man on the moon to pushing for social justice. Black excellence, however, has too often been overlooked.



TITLE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY

From the construction of national monuments to the toiling of soil, Black hands have built the United States with little to no recognition. We learn all the ways Black Americans have literally shaped and structured the United States.

- *Black Hands* showcases all the ways in which Black Americans have played an integral role in the shaping of the United States. The backmatter shares information regarding each specific image in the book. Take a look at the backmatter. Is there something new you learned? Think about your daily life, from the clothes you wear to the area you live in, how do you think Black hands have shaped your experience? Why is it important to know the ways in which other people have affected your life or culture?
- Black Americans have contributed greatly to American culture. Many times, their contributions go unrecognized or are denied. Think about the work you do in school. How would you feel if someone told you that you didn't actually do that work? Or that it's not that big of a deal that you did the work you did. How would that make you feel? Would you want to keep working hard? Would you speak up and tell them they were wrong? Go to the backmatter of the book and find one new thing that you learned. Take that information and teach two people about the contribution of Black Americans. In this way, you help others learn more about the ways in which Black hands "point the way for more to follow."



THEMATIC ACTIVITIES



From Carole's website:
The daughter of a printer, Carole Boston Weatherford was practically born with ink in her blood. She began writing at age

six and soon after saw her poems in print. Her eighty-plus books have garnered two NAACP Image Awards and eighteen American Library Association Youth Media Awards, including a Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Award, and four Caldecott Honors. Her career achievements have been recognized with the North Carolina Award for Literature, the Nonfiction Award from the Children's Book Guild, and induction into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame. A retired English professor, she lives in Maryland.

Carole has dedicated her work to empowering young children. Her ability to showcase the power, strength, and beauty of Black Americans throughout history serves as a reminder that there is so much to be learned about Black culture in America. Her words jump off the page, inviting you to look closer, luring you in to explore and learn alongside the characters.

As you explore Carole Boston Weatherford's insightful catalog, here are a few activities to integrate into your classroom.

- What do you notice about the word choices in Weatherford's works?
- In a 2008 interview Carole stated: "I want the books that I write that are set during the

Jim Crow Era and the Civil Rights Era to nudge today's kids toward justice. We've gone a long way, but we still have a long way to go." What do you notice about the way Carole Boston Weatherford explores the history of Black Americans? How does she depict the experience of Black Americans? What are some words she uses to describe Black Americans?

- Take a look at a list of Carole Boston Weatherford's books. Have you read any? Are there any you hope to read? Make a list of books by Carole Boston Weatherford that you'd like to read and visit your local or school library to check them out.
- Many of Carole Boston Weatherford's books are a celebration of the Black experience in America. Why do you think it's important to celebrate a culture's history? Why do you think it might be important to specifically celebrate Black American culture in America? Who are a few Black Americans that Carole Boston Weatherford references or celebrates in her books? Did you know of these individuals before you read her work?
- If you could ask Carole Boston Weatherford anything, what would you ask her?
- How do you think Carole Boston Weatherford's work has changed the way Black children understand history? How has Carole Boston Weatherford changed the way you understand United States history?

This guide was created by Vera Ahiyya. Vera has taught kindergarten and first grade for the last sixteen years. She is the author of *Rebellious Read Alouds*, *You Have a Voice*, and *KINDERgarten*. You can find her online at thetututeacher.com.