

I Am My Ancestors' Wildest Dreams



Kobe Bean Bryant



Chadwick Aaron Boseman



Tupac Shakur



John Robert Lewis



Muhammad Ali



Thurgood Marshall



Ermias "Nipsey Hussle"
Asghedom



Ralph Ellison



Christopher "Notorious B.I.G."
Wallace



Dr. Charles Richard Drew



Tanisia Moore

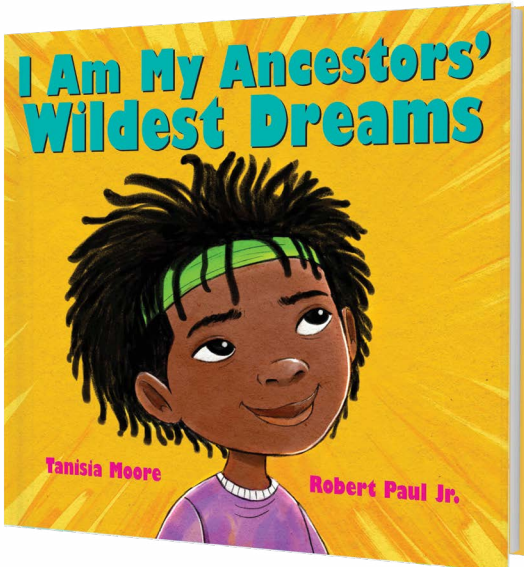
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ACTIVITY GUIDE

POSTER
INSIDE!



HC: 9781338776171 • \$19.99
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YOU are your ancestors'
wildest dreams.
How will you express
YOUR greatness?

**I am fly.
From my crown
down to the kicks
on my feet...**

I AM my ancestors' wildest dreams.

In a story that sizzles and soars, a young child discovers his place in a distinguished lineage. As he meets ten exceptional Black men—historical and contemporary heroes who have paved the way for his own future success—he internalizes and asserts their greatness. Just like them, he can reach his dreams. And just like him, you have within you big potential.



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Tanisia Moore views writing as her avenue for giving hope, sharing life's lessons, and sparking imaginations. She writes uplifting stories for all ages and wrote *I Am My Ancestors' Wildest Dreams*, her first picture book, because she wanted to introduce children to more contemporary Black men and inspire readers to dream and live big. She lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with her husband and three young children. Learn more at tanisiamoore.com.



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Robert Paul Jr. has a love for people and everyone's unique story. He hopes to help children lead fun, positive, and enriched lives through storytelling. He lives in Houston, Texas, with his wife and young daughter. You can see more of his work at steadfast.tv.



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A NOTE FOR EDUCATORS & CAREGIVERS

The title of this book, *I Am My Ancestors' Wildest Dreams*, is a statement with deep resonance among African Americans today. It is an affirmation that nurtures self-esteem, confidence, purpose, a positive connection to those who have come before, and hope for the future—social-emotional skills which require intentional development among Black children in the United States.

The deliberate, methodical, and violent separation of people of African descent from their cultures, homelands, and families during the Transatlantic Slave Trade had lasting effects on the African American population. People from different backgrounds and ethnicities, with different languages, traditions and belief systems, were suddenly grouped together by skin color and forced to find new ways to build community and develop new identities in a strange land with an uncertain future. We imagine that those who survived the horrors of chattel slavery wished mainly to be free and to be treated with dignity as human beings. Beyond that, what else might they have wished for?

With this book, children whose value is still questioned in media, the broader culture, and society can think of themselves as the fulfillment of what was wished for. Imagining themselves alongside historical and recent heroes helps children see how much African Americans have accomplished despite the barriers, and how many ways there are to be successful. While fighting for equal rights and freedoms, we also thrive and inspire with our creativity and resilience.

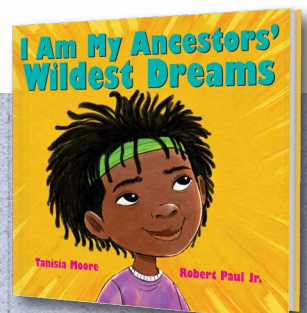
You can share this book with children as an affirmation: a daily positive reinforcement that affects the way a person sees themselves over time. Some children will want to dive into the endmatter to learn more about each figure in the book. Some children will be content to let the words and images wash over them several times before getting interested in details. Follow the child's lead to engage with the book. Over time, help the child understand the larger concepts in the book. For example, ancestors are earlier people in a direct family line, but they can also be thought of more generally as people sharing a cultural background.

As children become familiar with the concept of being their ancestors' wildest dreams, help them take ownership of the phrase by asking what it means to them. Help them to connect to their ancestors by introducing them to more stories and legacies of the past and present. Ask them who inspires them and why. Ask how they can live up to the dreams of those who came before. Talk about how you try to do so. If they are stuck, encourage them to think about the freedoms they can exercise today that their ancestors weren't allowed. Be sure to let children know that just by existing, they are fulfilling someone's dream.

While we have come quite far, plenty of room for improvement remains. Encourage children to dream their own wildest dreams for the future. Ask them to share some of their ideas, and to envision them and believe in them. Remind them that everyone has a role to play, and that they can choose how to contribute to the brighter future they want to see.

ABOUT THE CREATOR OF THIS GUIDE

Autumn Allen is an educator, an editor, and an author of books for children and young adults. Learn more about her work at autumnallenbooks.com.



PASSION TO SKILL

The ancestors in this book had different skills, talents, and roles. They became known for what they did best. Think about activities you like to do. Be creative! Do you like to talk to people? Do you like to sing, act, write, draw, paint, play a sport, cook, take care of others? Think about how you could grow one of your passions into a strong skill. Are there people who could teach you, friends you could practice with, places you can go for inspiration, books or videos you can study?

Write down your ideas and draw a picture that reminds you of your goal. Keep this paper and look back at it regularly to track your progress or update your goal!

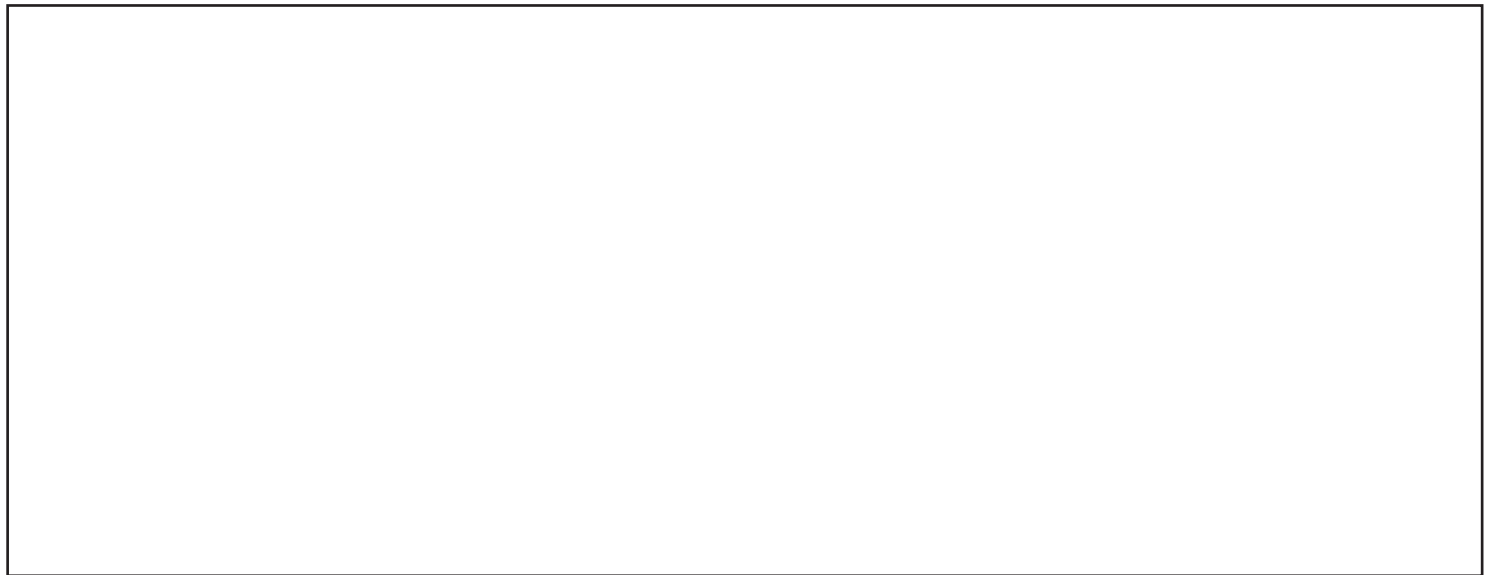
My name is _____ and I like to _____.

I can _____

to grow my skills at _____.

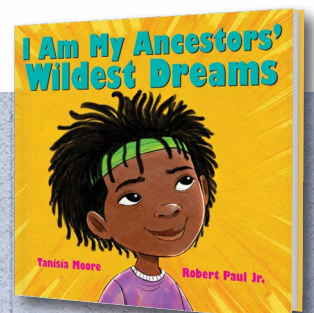
One day, I might use my skills to _____

_____.



REPRODUCIBLE activity sheet from the activity guide for
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WHO INSPIRES YOU?

Some of the ancestors in the pages of this book are well-known and some are not. You don't have to be famous to make a difference in someone else's life! Who are some people who have made a difference for you? Draw a portrait of someone who inspires you to be your best, or draw an "aspirational ancestral tree" with branches that connect you to multiple people who inspire you. If your drawing features someone you know, you can share it with them when you are finished!

Name: _____ Title: _____

This person helps me believe in myself because _____

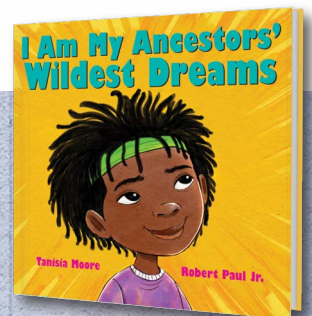


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LETTER TO THE FUTURE

Imagine yourself as an ancestor and think about the future generations of people in your family (maybe they are yours or a relative's; children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews). Those people are your descendants. What dreams do you have for them? What do you hope they will be able to do that you haven't seen happen yet? Draw a picture of that future or write a letter to your descendants to tell them your hopes for them.

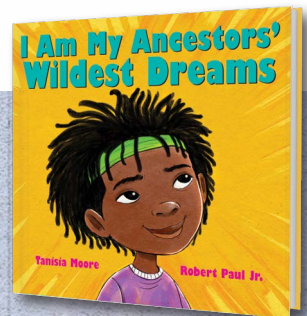


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MAKE SOME GOOD TROUBLE

If you were going to create some “good trouble” like John Lewis, what would you speak up about? What would you encourage others to do? Add a note or symbol to the sign on this coloring page, or use a separate sheet of paper to create a life-sized sign, to spread your message.



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