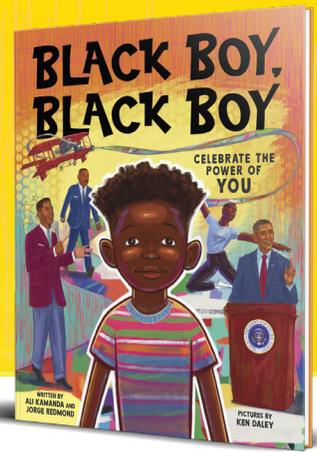


# BLACK BOY, BLACK BOY

WRITTEN BY **ALI KAMANDA AND JORGE REDMOND** | ILLUSTRATED BY **KEN DALEY**

## EDUCATOR GUIDE



Created by Keisha Rembert

*Black Boy, Black Boy* is a vibrantly illustrated, heartfelt love letter to Black boys that celebrates their innate power and unlimited potential. Highlighting the joy and brilliance of Black boys, this picture book connects their greatness with inspirational Black men of the past and present whose journey to excellence illuminates the path for young Black boys. *Black Boy, Black Boy* is a compelling affirmation of who Black boys are and can be. This is a book for children of all ages.

### Notes to Educators

While this book is a beautiful love letter to Black boys, it is also important that this book is read to and by students of all racial, cultural, and gender identifications. Its message and the inspiring men it highlights are perfect topics of discussion in all classrooms as we consider for ourselves and our students how we appreciate Black boys and the contributions of Black men who have been inspirations to us all. If you are an educator who teaches Black boys primarily, this book is a great classroom anchor text to recognize and celebrate the greatness in front of you and for Black boys to be reminded of who they are and can be. With this in mind, there are some activities listed at the end of this guide that are specifically for classrooms with predominately Black boys or the Black boys in your classroom.

### Discussion Questions

Have you ever written a letter (a note, sent a text, or left a message) to someone you love? This book is written like a letter. How is the letter you wrote similar to and different from this book? Why do you think the author might have written this book like a letter to Black boys?

This book is also written like a conversation. The narrator and the boy in the book speak to one another. What do you believe is the message of this conversation? Why is the message important for Black boys? Why is it important to people who do not identify as Black boys?

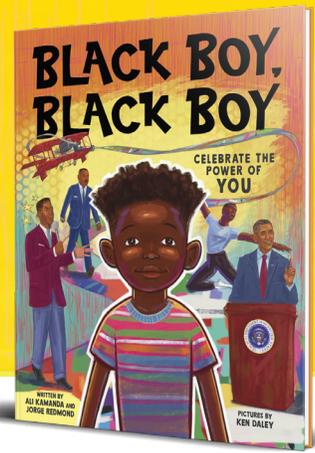
The illustrations throughout the book are bold and vibrant. How do the illustrations match the tone and message of the book?

Notice the authors introduce inspirational Black men throughout book. Why do you think the authors do this? What do you think they want the reader to know and understand? If you were to write a letter to or have

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a conversation with someone to inspire them, what inspiration people would you include from the past or present?

The authors ask questions of Black boys like “what do you see?” (This is asked twice.) and “what do you love?” What do you believe is the purpose of asking these questions?

### Activities

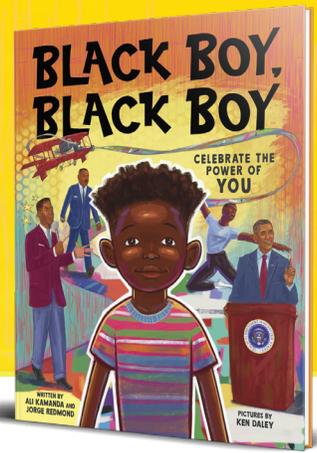
**Word Study:** Authors use various writing techniques to convey their messages. Authors Ali Kamanda and Jorge Redmond use repetition to draw reader’s attention to certain words. They also use similes to connect some of those words to Black boys. A simile is a language tool used to help describe things by comparing them to other things using the words “like” or “as.”

You are also a writer. You can use the same techniques the authors used to make meaning in your own writing. Use the chart below to study the words of *Black Boy, Black Boy* more closely and practice using the writing techniques of the authors, Kamanda and Redmond.

Repeated Words	How the word is used in the book	Connections you can make to the word	Practice. Use the sentence or phrase in the book as a mentor and create your own word in a sentence or phrase
<b>Example:</b> Shine	<b>Simile:</b> Shine like the sun, magnificent and bold	Things are usually shiny... Gold is shiny	I shine like gold, precious and priceless
Courage			
Dream			
Changemaker			
Grow			
Journey			

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**Illustration Study:** Just like authors carefully consider the words they use, illustrators carefully select the colors, shapes, composition, and images on the page to reinforce messages. Illustrator Ken Daley uses bright primary colors throughout this book. Go through the book and look at each illustration. What do you see? What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Also, consider the following questions as you study the illustrations in *Black Boy, Black Boy*.

- What illustrations do you believe best capture the message of the book? Why?
- What are some stylistic choices that the illustrator has chosen to make?
- What style has the illustrator used to convey the message of the book?
- How do the colors enhance this message?
- What feelings do you think the illustrator wants the pictures to produce?

**Research:** There are several Black men highlighted in this book. Select a man featured in the book, and conduct your own research to learn more about his journey. Share your findings with your peers.

## For Black Boys

**Believe in Yourself:** “Believe in yourself and all you can do” is a line from the book. It is important that you know the power and greatness inside of you.

**In the mirror on the next page, use the following prompts to complete the sentences about you.**

I shine bright when I...

I am courageous because...

My dreams will be realized when I...

I am a changemaker because I... / I will be a changemaker when I...

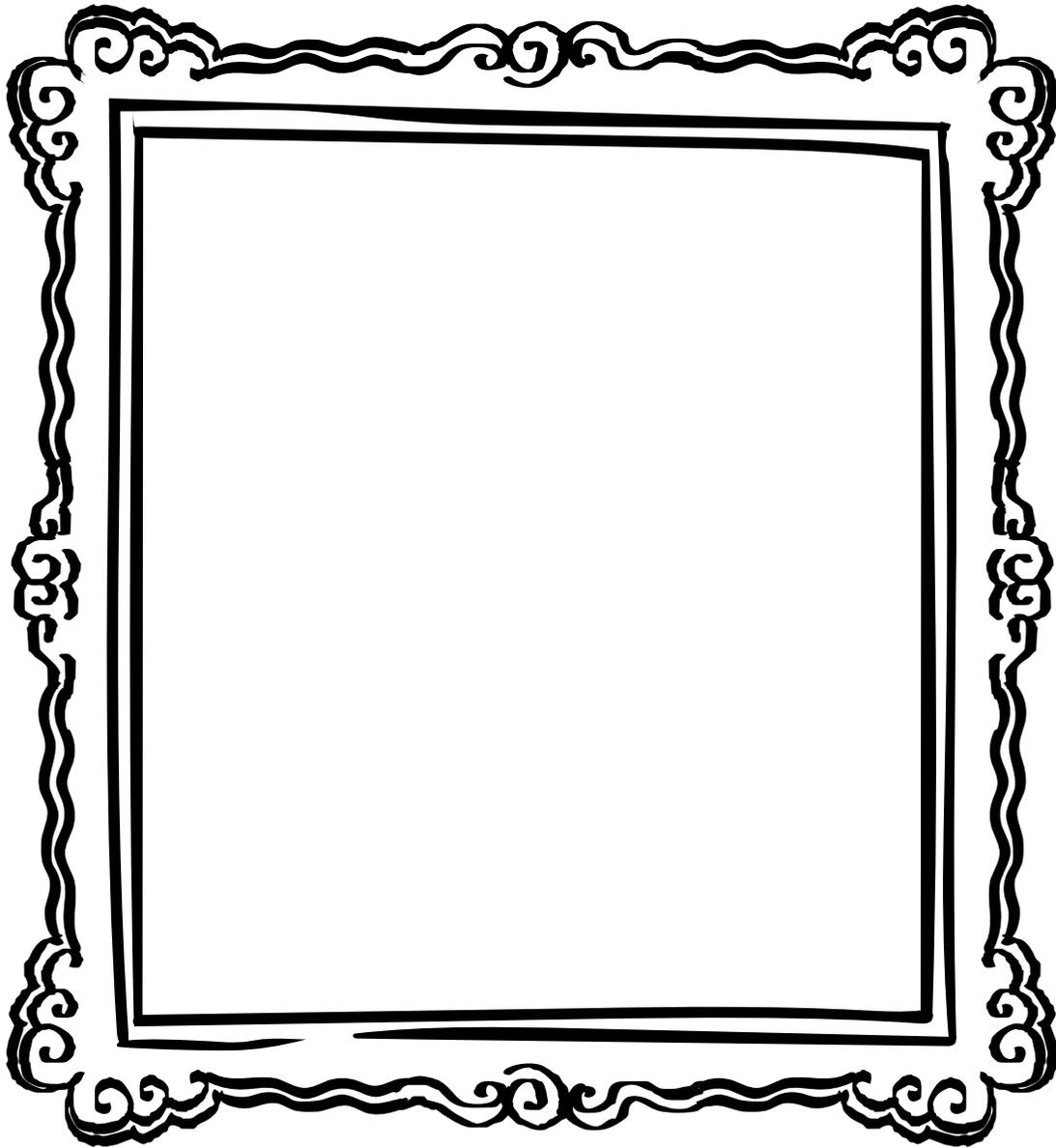
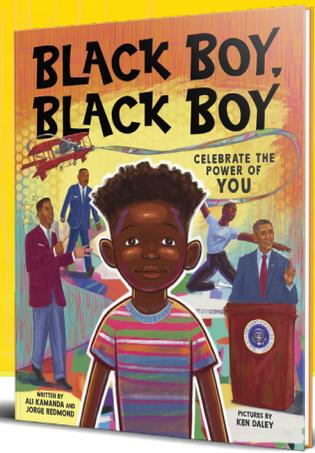
I believe I am...

I believe I can...

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**Just Like Me:** Research several of the Black men featured in the book. Share your learning with peers in a format of your choosing and include how the men are like you. Think about the traits you share or the ambitions you share with the men to identify the similarities between yourself and who you researched.