



Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past to Present

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Young, Gifted and Black is a love letter to the ancestors of the author and illustrator, and a gift to the next generation of changemakers. This book reminds us all to celebrate heroes for their journey and pursue the dreams we had as children.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings.

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

ancestor - a person who was in someone's family that came before you

discrimination - unfair treatment of people based on race, age, or gender

indigenous - plants or animals native to an area of land

diverse - different from each other

culture - the art and ideas of a group of people

activist - a person who campaigns for changes

civil rights - the right every human has to be free and equal

After: Who was the first African American arctic explorer? Where did he learn to read and write?

Who advised aspiring directors to "Be passionate and move forward with gusto every single hour of every single day until you reach your goal"?

Who was Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie? What did she discover from reading African authors?

Who was the renowned U.K. author who said, "Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while"?

Which African American female calculated the flight path for the first American mission to space?

Nelson Mandela won what prize? What was his legacy?



DO

Research!

Select one of the Black heroes from this book, or one that you admire, and learn more about them. Spend some time researching their childhood, education, and their legacy. Share your findings with others to learn more about who they admire and why.

