



Hey Black Child

Useni Eugene Perkins , Bryan Collier (Illustrator)

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Six-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier brings this classic, inspirational poem to life, written by poet Useni Eugene Perkins.

*Hey black child,
Do you know who you are?
Who really are?
Do you know you can be
What you want to be
If you try to be
What you can be?*

This lyrical, empowering poem celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young people to dream big and achieve their goals.

Hey Black Child Details

Date : Published November 14th 2017 by Little, Brown

ISBN :

Author : Useni Eugene Perkins , Bryan Collier (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Poetry, Cultural, African American

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From Reader Review Hey Black Child for online ebook

Miya Gaub says

On each page of this book, there are a limited number of words. However, every single word is empowering, encouraging, and optimistic. In the face of racial discrimination, I think it is important for children of all races to feel like they are able to do anything they put their minds to. The words were originally written to be read in a form of a song, but I think they can be just as powerful by reading the words as sentences with meaning without lyrical form. In the book, there are black children pictured doing things that they love. Additionally, a black adult figure who has accomplished the child's dream is also pictured as an example that anything is possible. I like that this book also concludes that if black children continue to do what they love, they would change the world into a place that they wish for it to be. This is beautiful and an exciting way for people to look at the world. I think the message of this book can be seen by children, but should also be picked up by adults. I would push ANYONE to read this book, and to alert them that be should not put expectations on kids based on their race.

Erin says

Beautifully done. An encouraging poem for any audience, especially the final message. The illustrations match the positive, uplifting text.

Margie says

There are books which fill readers with a surge of joy, welling up inside us and growing stronger with each page turn. There are books you want to read aloud and alone standing in a grassy meadow at the top of a hill you navigate with difficulty. There are books you wish to share in a sanctuary filled with people, reading each phrase slowly with purpose so those gathered together can feel the power of those words.

There are books brimming with glorious illustrations, lifting the narrative to new heights. There are books with colors, patterns, light and shadow carefully pieced and placed together, singing off the page like a melody straight from the creator's soul to our hearts. There are books with words and images complementing each other in such excellence they are engraved in our memories. Hey Black Child (Little, Brown And Company, November 14, 2017) written by Useni Eugene Perkins with illustrations by Bryan Collier is all of those books.

My full recommendation: <http://librariansquest.blogspot.com/2017/11/hey-black-child.html>

Earl says

An inspiring celebration of the potential of children. Based on a poem, the possibilities for what they can do and can be are opened up for them to explore.

Baby Bookworm says

This review was originally written for The Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new picture books reviews daily!

Hello, friends! Our book today is the joyful *Hey Black Child*, written by Useni Eugene Perkins and illustrated by Bryan Collier, a poem to encourage, enlighten, and inspire little readers of color.

Using the spare yet impactful text of Perkins's beloved 1975 poem, words and visuals weave together to form a message of motivation for little black boys and girls. The poem asks three simple questions of its listener: Do you know who you are? Do you know where you're going? Do you know you are strong? The answer to all three is the same – it all depends on you, and the only limits are the ones you set for yourself. The world is waiting, so go forth and do great things, and you will build a better world for doing so.

Love. This. Going in, I had no knowledge of Perkins's poem, which is often attributed to other sources. It's a compact powerhouse, using an economy of words to spread a message of self-confidence, faith in oneself, and hope for a better tomorrow. It translates beautifully to book form, with a flawless rhythm that makes it a joy to read aloud and straightforward text that is sure to engage little bookworms. Collier's work is gorgeous as always, and there are some especially breathtaking spreads here: a stargazing young girl with the expansive cosmic universe spread out behind her, balloons rising from a piano as a little girl grows into a ballerina, the real-life faces of dozens of black children forming radiant beams of sunlight. The length is great, and JJ loved it. A perfect staple for any child of color's library at any age, and it's Baby Bookworm approved!

Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews!

Jeanie {coffee girl} says

Hey Black Child by Useni Eugene Perkins is a lyrical poem celebrating black children and inspiring all children to dream big and achieve their goals. The illustrations of this book are both watercolor and collage, making it unique and vibrant just like the words of the poem.

The book includes an author's note which tells the reader that this book was originally a poem written in 1975 for a closing song for his children's musical, Black Fairy and Other Plays. It was written to inspire and motivate black children to achieve their God-given potential regardless of the challenges they face in life. Perkins knows that when given the opportunity, resources, and love; black children can achieve heights that are as majestic as the ancient pyramids of Egypt (which were built by their venerable ancestors).

I love the message of dreaming big and achieving goals. It is an inspirational message to be heard of ALL children. I also love how it is addressed, "Hey Black Child" did you notice it did not say African American? I understand that at one time, to some it was politically correct to address a black person as African American. But if they are not from Africa, what makes them African? I have had this conversation with many people of color and they would be preferred to be described as black, if they are lacking other means of

identification.

Theresa Leone Davidson says

Outstanding book - HIGHLY recommend!

Desiree says

This book is written from a poem by Useni Eugene Perkins. Floyd Cooper does a wonderful job of creating awesome mixed media images to compliment the text on the page. The beauty of black children are shown through vibrantly hued illustrations and large text. Good book for one on one reading, or a unit on self actualization.

KC says

A wonderfully written poem empowering young black people to dream big.

Shari says

Absolutely beautiful illustrated version of Useni Eugene Perkins powerful poem. I'm glad I read it during African American History Month.

Antoinette Scully says

I love books that put a smile on my face as I read them. "Hey Black Child" is a anthem to show you can do anything you try. And the more Black children achieve their dreams, the better we all will be.

Marissa Elera says

A call to action, a parade of encouragement, inspiration for all the black children in the world. Wonderful.

Bookishrealm says

I've been trying to read more picture books with lead characters of color and I decided to pick this one up. It was great. I mean it was absolutely fabulous. I didn't realize that this poem was actually written by Useni Perkins because as she states at the end of the book it has been attributed to a lot of other famous black poets

including Maya Angelou. The artwork was beautiful and it definitely encourages black children to stay confident about everything that they want to accomplish. It's such a positive book that a lot of children should read.

Stacey Giglio says

"Hey Black Child" by Useni Eugene Perkins addresses the changes in the world that need to be made. In this poem the black child is told they can be what they want to be but first they need to learn what they need to learn, do what they need to do and then they will be able to make this a nation they want it to be. The illustrator, Bryan Collier, does an amazing job of using words in the illustrations to convey the feeling of the poem. The message of this poem is loud and clear. The author believes in the "black child" and in the possibility of change but not without hard work.

I would use this poem as a link to social studies for fourth graders and then have students identify figures in history who have made positive changes in our nation. I would love to connect this poem with a biography about a historical figure who made changes in our nation. This poem could also be used to develop students writing. Students could create their own poems that could rhyme or be in poetic prose responding to Perkins about how they are going to learn what they need to learn and do what they need to do to make changes in the world.

Brittany Thurman says

This book is so needed! Glad it's out in the world!
