

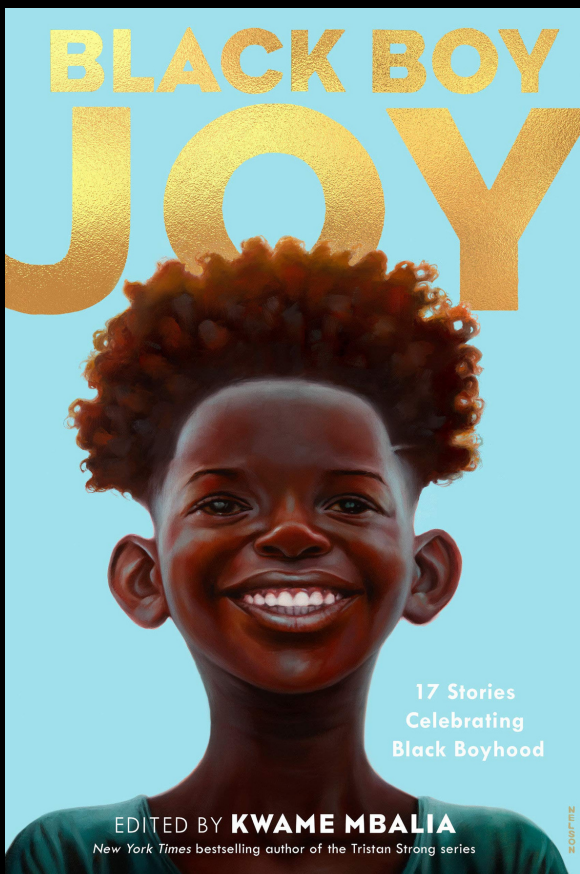
Community Matters Family Book Club

Discussion Guide

Book Pick:

Black Boy Joy

Edited by Kwame Mbalia



Republic P-47N Thunderbolt, Public Domain, U.S. Air Force

This Month's Theme: Juneteenth

This June we will celebrate Juneteenth. Use this guide, along with the book Black Boy Joy to celebrate Black authors. Like any book club, please navigate these conversations with patience and kindness. Our intent is to better understand ourselves and the world around us.

Sincerely,
Mary, Michelle, Jenny, Tiffany, Christina, Sam
The Community Matters Planning Team

Date and Time

Thursday, June 9th @ 6 pm CST

Thursday, July 14th @ 6 pm CST





Conversation Starters

What is Juneteenth? Why is Juneteenth so important to Americans?

Which story/author was your favorite and why?

In Black Boy Joy many different authors tell stories. Why is it important to be able to share your stories and read the stories of others?

Themes

- Popularity
- Covid
- Extinction
- Gender Identity
- Tuskegee Airmen
- Inter-generational Relationships

Discussion Questions

1. In "The Legendary Lawrence Cobbler" Von's Dad says "fear is just forgetting everything is all right." Do you think that is true? Why/why not?
2. Von accidentally used chili powder in the cobbler instead of cinnamon but Von's Dad thought it was an improvement. When have you made a mistake that actually made something better?
3. In "First Day Fly" Jason Reynolds irons his jeans, steams his shirt and carefully cleans his shoes for the first day of school. How do you get ready for the first day of school?
4. In "Epic Venture" Wes' grandfather tells him stories about his life as a pilot when he was young. Do you have a storyteller in your life? What type of stories do they tell?

Discussion Questions: Continued...

5. In "The Definition of Cool" Des wants to dance on the jumbotron but almost gives up because he is afraid of what the other kids will think. When have you been afraid to do something because of what people might think?
6. At the end of "The Definition of Cool" the cool kid, Kordell, asks Des if he would teach him some dance moves. How does this change the way you think about what it means to be cool?
7. In "Coping" the skate park is closed because of Covid so CJ and Taye start skating to deliver groceries from the food bank to people who can't get to the grocery store. How did your favorite activities change because of Covid?
8. When CJ's Mom talks about fear she says "...sometimes the best way to get past that fear is to get past yourself. Be of service to others." What ways have you found to help others? Did helping make you feel better too?
9. In "The Gender Reveal" Big Nanny helps Malcolm create the outfit he really wants instead of the outfit Malcom feels others will have an easier time accepting. How does this help Malcom know it is ok to be himself?
10. Throughout most of "The McCoy Game" Jamal seems to be a little jealous of Dre's basketball skills and thinks his cousin stopped caring about going to space. Later Dre admits he gave up after failing the test to get into space camp. Do you think their relationship will improve now?

Additional Resources

[National Archives - Original 'Juneteenth' General Order](https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/juneteenth-original-document)
www.archives.gov/news/articles/juneteenth-original-document

[National Museum of African American History & Culture](https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth)
nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth

[Encyclopedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Juneteenth)
www.britannica.com/topic/Juneteenth

[Kids National Geographic - Celebrating Juneteenth](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/celebrating-juneteenth)
kids.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/celebrating-juneteenth

[University of Pittsburgh - Talk to Children About Juneteenth](https://www.pitt.edu/pittwire/features-articles/how-talk-children-about-juneteenth)
www.pitt.edu/pittwire/features-articles/how-talk-children-about-juneteenth

