

# Book Celebrations

## JULY



We typically look to Independence Day as the main holiday in July, but there are other causes and milestones to celebrate. Starting this year, the emergency number 9-8-8 will connect those experiencing a mental health episode to trained crisis professionals. Also, July is considered Black American Family Month in the U.S. This is a great opportunity to acknowledge the many different experiences of Black families, especially family histories that persevered slavery, the Civil Rights movement, police brutality, and more.



## BOOKS FOR KIDS



Click me for the Amazon link!

### THE WORRYSAURUS

Written by Rachel Bright | Illustrated by Chris Chatterton

Worrysaurus has a fun picnic planned, but he cannot stop worrying about all the possible ways the day could be ruined. From the idea of rain to getting lost along the way, readers will follow along with Worrysaurus as he learns to chase his own fears and doubts away.

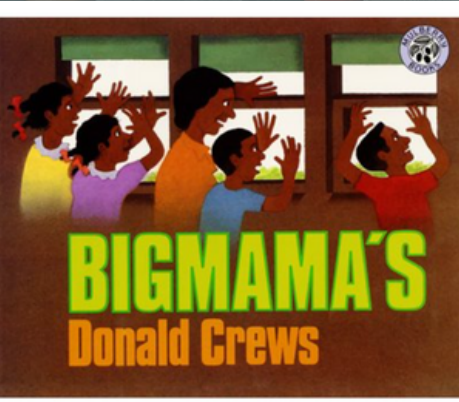
In honor of Mental Health Awareness



### FEAST FOR 10

Written & Illustrated by Cathryn Falwell

There is lots of shopping, cooking, and cleaning to do before everyone sits down to eat. In this family, all members pitch in to help make dinner a joyful time.



## BIGMAMA'S By Donald Crews

Four children and their mother take the train to visit their grandmother in Florida. Author Donald Crews invites readers to grow alongside his family, play outside, explore new surroundings, and make connections across generations.



## RUBY FINDS A WORRY By Tom Percival

Ruby is a happy little girl that develops a small worry. Soon, the worry turns bigger than she ever imagined. A new friend helps her to realize that worrying can be normal and to express anytime she is anxious.

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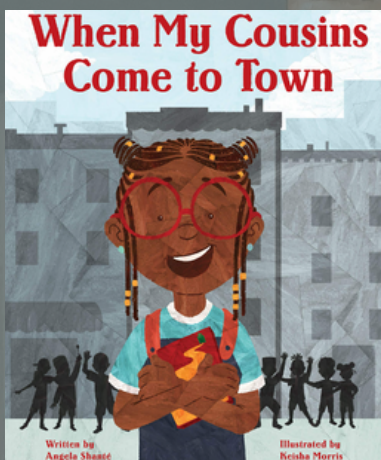


## NEW HOME

By Tani Adewumi | Illustrated by Courtney Dawson

Tani was six years old when he and his family fled Nigeria and became refugees in New York City. He would go on to become the New York State Chess Playing Champion. This story is based on author Tani Adewumi's childhood.

Journeys of coming to the U.S.



## WHEN MY COUSINS COME TO TOWN

By Angela Shanté Johnson | Illustrated by Keisha Morris

A little girl waits eagerly for her cousins' annual visit. This summer, she is determined to carve out her own identity among her family of all boys and earn her own special nickname. A perfect story about loving ourselves without having to prove anything to anyone.



## THE SEASON OF STYX MALONE

By Kekla Magoon

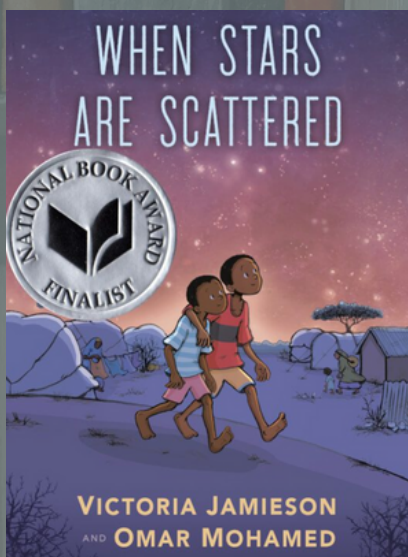
Brothers Caleb and Bobby are ready for a summer of fun, but they still dream of adventures outside their home town. They then meet their cool new neighbor Styx Malone, a 16 year-old who brings high stakes and big secrets.



## THE MIGHTY MISS MALONE

By Christopher Paul Curtis

Deza is one of the brightest kids in her class and she has high hopes for her future. That is cut short when the Great Depression hits her hometown of Gary, Indiana. She and her family leave in search of security elsewhere, but Deza must find strength within herself to push through hardship. A great read for those in grades 4-7.



## WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED

By Omar Mohamed & Victoria Jamieson

Illustrated by Iman Geddy

Author Omar Mohamed shares his own experiences of growing up in a refugee camp in Kenya where food and medical supplies are short. When Omar gets the chance to go to school, he thinks it may be his only chance to help his family. It also means he has to leave them behind. This graphic novel is a powerful read for grade levels 4-7.

Journeys of coming to the U.S.



# BOOKS FOR ALL



## THE VANISHING HALF

By Brit Bennett

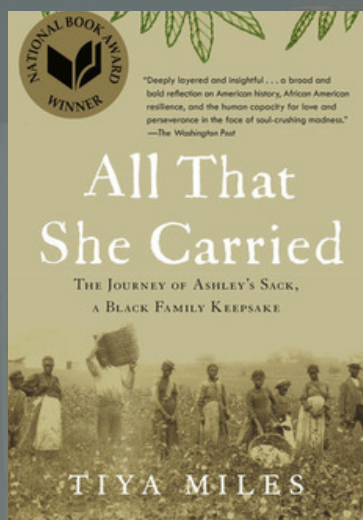
*The Vanishing Half* was named the Best Book of 2020 by the New York Times and more. The Vignes twin sisters run away from their small, southern Black community in their late teens. They eventually split up with one sister returning a decade later. The other sister is up north, married... and passing for white. Very soon, their own daughters will meet.



## MEMPHIS

By Tara M. Stringfellow

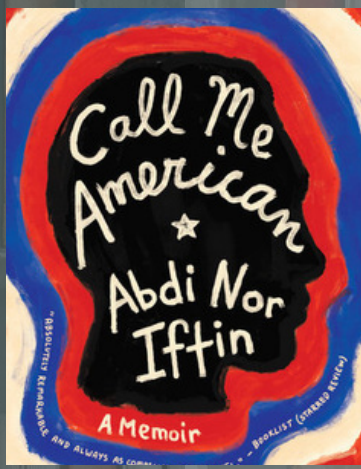
A story that covers multiple generations of women, *Memphis* starts with Joan and her family escaping her violent father. Now in Memphis, where her mother is from, Joan grows into an adult and comes face-to-face with the lineage of women she is from and the difficult choices they have had to make for her to be there.



## ALL THAT SHE CARRIED

By Tiya Miles

Slavery of Black people in the United States has made tracing family trees nearly impossible. Yet, Tiya Miles is able to tell the story of Rose, an enslaved woman from 1850s South Carolina. Rose's defiance against the odds creates longevity for her family and places an important story of historical truth-telling in the hands of the reader.



## CALL ME AMERICAN

By Abdi Nor Iftin

As a child, author Abdi Nor Iftin loved American culture. So much so that his nickname in his refugee village was America Abdfi. This memoir follows Iftin's eventual journey to the United States to escape radical Islamist group al-Shabaab. And even his arrival in the U.S. is not easy.

Journeys of coming to the U.S.

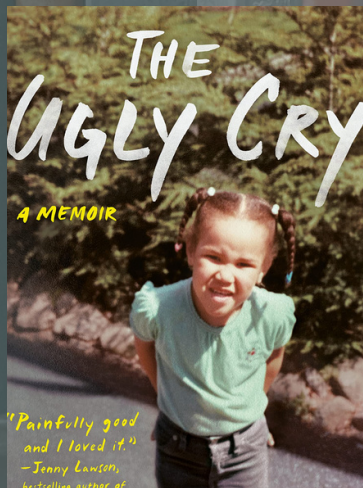


## THE ASTONISHING COLOR OF AFTER

By Emily X.R. Pan

Leigh, who is half Asian and half white, travels to Taiwan to meet her maternal grandparents for the first time after her mother's death. Once in Taiwan, Leigh is determined to find the bird she believes her mother has become, but she also discovers family secrets and relationships.

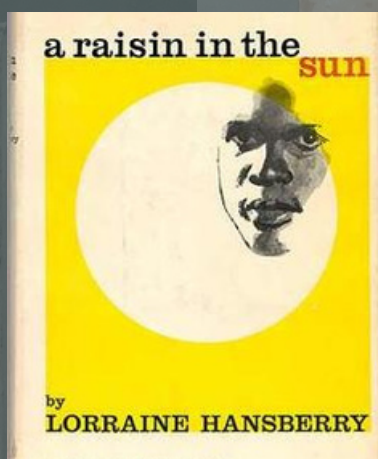
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## THE UGLY CRY: A MEMOIR

By Danielle Henderson

Danielle Henderson grows up in mostly white upstate New York raised by her grandparents after her own mother chooses a life of addiction. In her own words, Henderson describes her childhood and teenage years with illustrative words that depict immense pain but also humor that will make your sides hurt from laughter.



## A RAISIN IN THE SUN

By Lorraine Hansberry

This iconic play depicts the triumphs and tribulations of a working-class Black family on the South Side of Chicago. Hansberry's work has been performed on stage and screen often since its 1959 Broadway debut, so why wouldn't you add this to your summer reading list?