

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Valerie J. Lewis Coleman

Pen of the Writer | When I See Me™

info@penofthewriter.com | 888.802.1802

WhenISeeMe.com

Black Author Launches Children's Journals Helping Young Readers See Their Worth and Write Their Own Stories

Ohio Author Transforms Children's Literacy Movement After Reaching More Than 1,000 Young Readers

NATIONWIDE — June 25, 2026 — What happens when a child finally sees themselves as the hero of a story?

For more than 1,000 children, that moment has sparked confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of reading through the When I See Me™ literacy movement. Founder and author, Valerie J. Lewis Coleman, is now expanding that mission beyond books by introducing three guided journals designed to help children write the next chapter of their own lives.

When I See Me™ Journals
Confidence, Growth, and Self-Expression Journals for Children Ages 5-12

I Am Amazing! Ages 5-8
A Confidence-Building Journal for Children
A When I See Me™ Journal
Valerie J. Lewis Coleman
Illustrated by Vladimir M. Cebu, LL.B.

I Am Growing Every Day! Ages 5-8
A Reflection & Growth Journal for Children
A When I See Me™ Journal
Valerie J. Lewis Coleman
Illustrated by Vladimir M. Cebu, LL.B.

My Voice Matters! Ages 9-12
A Confidence and Self-Expression Journal
A When I See Me™ Journal
Valerie J. Lewis Coleman
Illustrated by Vladimir M. Cebu, LL.B.

WhenISeeMe.com/Journals

★ Empower Kids ★ Build Confidence ★ Inspire Growth

The new journals—*I Am Amazing!* (ages 5–8), *I Am Growing Every Day!* (ages 5–8), and *My Voice Matters!* (ages 9–12)— make their public debut at the Third Annual When I See Me™ Children's Book Fair on Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Designed for children ages 5–12 through age-specific editions, the journals encourage young people to explore their thoughts, celebrate their strengths, express their emotions, and dream boldly through guided writing prompts, creative activities, and confidence-building exercises. The first three titles in the seven-journal collection were created to help children discover their voice, build confidence, and embrace their limitless potential.

“When children see themselves reflected in what they read and write, something changes,” said Coleman. “They begin to believe their ideas matter, their voices deserve to be heard, and their future is filled with possibilities. These journals give children a safe place to celebrate who they are while imagining who they can become.”

Since its founding, the When I See Me™ movement has grown into one of Dayton’s most impactful community literacy initiatives, connecting children with culturally relevant books, diverse authors, and enriching experiences that affirm identity while inspiring a love of reading.

Through its signature [A Book in Every Bag](#)™ initiative, more than 1,000 children have received free books to begin or grow their home libraries. The annual book fair brings together authors, educators, families, community organizations, and volunteers for a day of storytelling, literacy activities, social-emotional learning, and family engagement.

The debut of the [When I See Me™ Journal Collection](#) marks the next chapter of a movement that’s helping children move from seeing themselves in stories to believing they have stories worth telling.

One parent described the impact this way:

“My daughter lit up when she saw a character who looked like her. Now she’s writing her own stories. That confidence is something you can’t put a price on.”

This year's When I See Me™ Children's Book Fair features author meet-and-greets, live read-alouds, interactive workshops, giveaways, family activities, and the official launch of the new journal collection.

Educators, librarians, literacy organizations, youth-serving agencies, conference planners, and community groups are invited to learn how the When I See Me™ movement is helping children strengthen literacy, confidence, and self-expression through books, journals, school programs, and speaking engagements.

Event Information

Third Annual When I See Me™ Children's Book Fair
Saturday, July 25, 2026
11:00AM–4:00 PM



Dayton Metro Library – West Branch
300 Abbey Avenue Dayton, OH 45417

Admission is free.

For more information about the When I See Me™ Children's Book Fair, sponsorship, or community partnerships, visit WhenISeeMe.com.

About When I See Me™

When I See Me™ is a literacy and confidence-building movement dedicated to helping children discover their voice, build confidence, and realize their limitless potential through culturally relevant books, guided journals, author experiences, and community literacy events.

Every child deserves more than a book. Every child deserves to see themselves as the hero of their own story. Through books, journals, and community experiences, When I See Me™ is making sure they do.

For media interviews, speaking engagements, school visits, conference presentations, or additional information, contact Valerie J. Lewis Coleman at info@penofthewriter.com or 888.802.1802.

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