

When I See Me™ Children's Book Fair



Saturday, July 25, 2026

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

**Interactive Learning for Children
Author Signings
Sessions for Aspiring Authors**

WhenISeeMe.com

When I See Me™ Children's Book Fair is on a mission to empower children by providing access to authors with inspiring books that feature Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) as main characters. The goal is to celebrate diversity and address the educational gap of underrepresented children by providing young readers with relatable role models.

Why is it important for children to read books that reflect themselves?

1. Identity Validation. Encountering characters who share their racial or ethnic background is a powerful affirmation of their identity.
2. Cultural Connection. Representation in literature allows them to connect with their cultural background, fostering pride and belonging.
3. Broadening Perspectives. Diverse characters broaden all children, helping them understand and appreciate differences.
4. Empowerment and Aspiration. Seeing characters who look like them succeeding becomes a source of inspiration and motivation.
5. Breaking Stereotypes. Positive representation helps break down stereotypes and dispel harmful biases.
6. Enhancing Self-Esteem. Exposure to positive role models can influence a child's self-esteem to become winners in their own stories.
7. Language and Literacy Development. When children can relate to the characters, they are more likely to engage with the material.
8. Nurturing a Love for Reading. When children see themselves in the stories they read, it fosters a genuine love for reading.

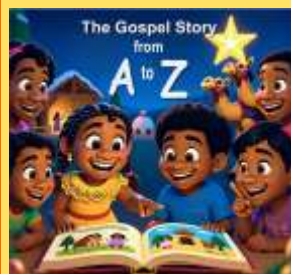
Representation in children's literature is a powerful tool for shaping perspectives, fostering inclusivity, and building a foundation for a more equitable society. It contributes to the development of well-rounded children who are aware of their own cultural identity while respecting and appreciating the diversity that enriches the world around them.



Annie J. Adams, Ph.D.
The House That Love Built

Get ready for an exciting adventure! Join a little brown boy and his grandmother as they go to a special place, a church that's super cool. Like a big hug from Granny Annie, you'll find new things happening on every page. *The House That Love Built* is like going on a treasure hunt of love, warmth, and family.

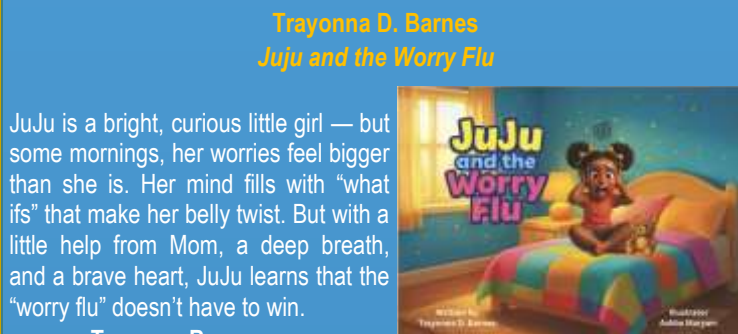
TheHouseThatLoveBuilt.net



Doris Hibbler
The Gospel Story from A to Z

From Angels to Zion, *The Gospel Story from A to Z* brings the life and purpose of Jesus Christ to life for readers of all ages, reminding us that God's story of love, redemption, and hope begins with YOU.

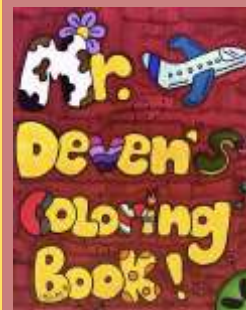
doris.hibbler@sbcglobal.net



Trayonna D. Barnes
JuJu and the Worry Flu

JuJu is a bright, curious little girl — but some mornings, her worries feel bigger than she is. Her mind fills with “what ifs” that make her belly twist. But with a little help from Mom, a deep breath, and a brave heart, JuJu learns that the “worry flu” doesn't have to win.

TrayonnaBarnes.com



Deven Cannon
Mr. Deven's Coloring Book

Let your imagination run wild with this hand-drawn coloring book for children, adults, and families. From playful circus scenes to candy-crying monsters, every page invites creativity, self-expression, and stress-free fun—because there are no mistakes in art.

MrDevensColoringBook.com



A Force for Working Families

As the Industrial Division of CWA, IUE-CWA represents a force of 150,000 active and retired men and women united to seek dignity on the job and a secure future for ourselves, our children, and all future generations. The division is headed by President Carl Kennebrew.

IUE-CWA.org

Valerie J. Lewis Coleman
Oh, The Things I Can Be When I See Me

Oh, The Things I Can Be When I See Me was inspired by a grandmother's conversations with her granddaughters. Filled with historical pioneers and modern-day trailblazers, this picture book empowers girls of color by providing examples of successful women who look like them.

ThingsICanBe.com



Valerie J. Lewis Coleman
Oh, Lo Que Puedo Ser Cuando Me Veo

El cuento *Oh, Lo Que Puedo Ser Cuando Me Veo* fue inspirado por las conversaciones de una abuelita con sus nietas. Llenas de pioneras históricas y exploradoras modernas, este libro empodera a niñas de color al proveerles ejemplos de mujeres de éxito parecidas a ellas.

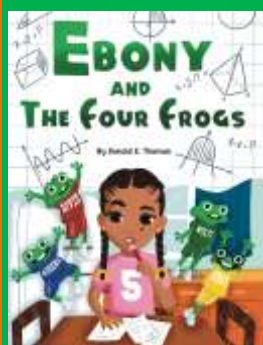
ThingsICanBe.com



Donald E. Thomas
Ebony and The Four Frogs

Ebony loves basketball, reading to her dog, and school, although she sometimes struggles with math. One evening, she tumbled into a magical math land, where she encountered four energetic frogs. With their fun and engaging teaching methods, Ebony found a deep love for math and boosted her confidence in tackling challenges.

WhatIfBooks.us



Raye Kimberlin
Little Libby Wants to Feed People

Inspired by true events, *Little Libby's Wants to Feed People* follows a young girl whose childhood dream of helping hungry neighbors grows into the Lebanon Food Pantry—proving that kindness, service, and one small idea can make a lasting difference.

LittleLibbyBooks.com



Valerie J. Lewis Coleman
When I See Me Confidence Journals

Children deserve more than pages. They deserve mirrors. When a child sees themselves reflected with dignity, courage, creativity, and strength, something shifts. Confidence takes root. Voice finds rhythm. Identity stands taller.

The When I See Me™ journals exist to do more than encourage. They exist to activate. To remind every child that their feelings matter. Their growth matters. Their voice matters. Their story matters. We are not raising passive readers. We are raising heroes. Through affirmation, reflection, imagination, and bold self-expression, we help children own their story — and rise as the hero. Because the world does not change when children are silent. It changes when they know who they are.

WhenISeeMe.com/journals



Thanks to our volunteers who helped make today amazing!

Craig C. Coleman, Sr.	Shawn Lewis
Pamela Fair	Laura Lewis-McDole
Linda J. Hawkins	Gail P. Miller
Lamarr E. Lewis	Shazon Ruby
Lisa Lewis	Braylee Ruby Murphy
Lyric Lewis	Sheree Welch
Samara Lewis	Natasha White

2025 Most-Requested Titles

1. *The Astounding Faith Adventures of Abraham and Aurora* by Stephanie L. Covington, PhD
2. *If I Were a Princess* by Minta Speller

Save the Date
Saturday, July 24, 2027

Thanks to our donors, we raised over **\$3700** for A Book in Every Bag! To learn more and donate, visit bit.ly/wheniseeme2026



WhenISeeMe.com

Our Authors

Annie J. Adams, PhD*	_____
Trayonna D. Barnes	_____
Tyson Bell	_____
Renae Bolton	_____
Deven Cannon	_____
Valerie J. Lewis Coleman**	_____
Stephanie Covington, PhD*	_____
Gloria Dillon, DMin*	_____
Colette R. Ford	_____
Doris Hibbler	_____
Sharia Horne	_____
Kemba Hubbard*	_____
Calea Jane	_____
Raye Kimberlin	_____
Brian Muhammad	_____
Grace Oladele (child author)	_____
Minta Speller*	_____
Donald E. Thomas*	_____
Jenai Whitmore	_____
*Returning author	
**When I See Me™ founder	

Event Schedule

Community Room

11:00 AM Author Signings

Altrusa Club / Dolly Parton Imagination Library _____

Imagine Klepinger Community School _____

Shook Conference Room- POWER Kids Imagination Station

Lewis Family Consulting Magic of Emotionsville _____

Kids Read Now _____

Creativity Space

11:30 AM *Read Aloud with Mayor Shenise Turner-Sloss*

12:00 PM *Red Light, Green Light: The Dos and Don'ts of Writing for Children*

Panelists: Annie J. Adams, PhD, Trayonna D. Barnes,
Gloria Dillon, DMin, Calea Jane

1:30 PM *Read Aloud with Daquan Neal*

2:00 PM *Seek-n-Find the Perfect Illustrator*

Presenter: Valerie J. Lewis Coleman

Get stickers from each of the authors and Imagination Station activities
then visit the Redemption Table for your child's

Chick-fil-A gift cards donated by Jerell Ringer



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Facebook.com/groups/WhenISeeMe

A special thanks to our sponsors...



Dayton Metro Library