

DREAM STREET

TRICIA
ELAM
WALKER
&
EKUA
HOLMES

Caldecott Honoree and
Coretta Scott King Medalist



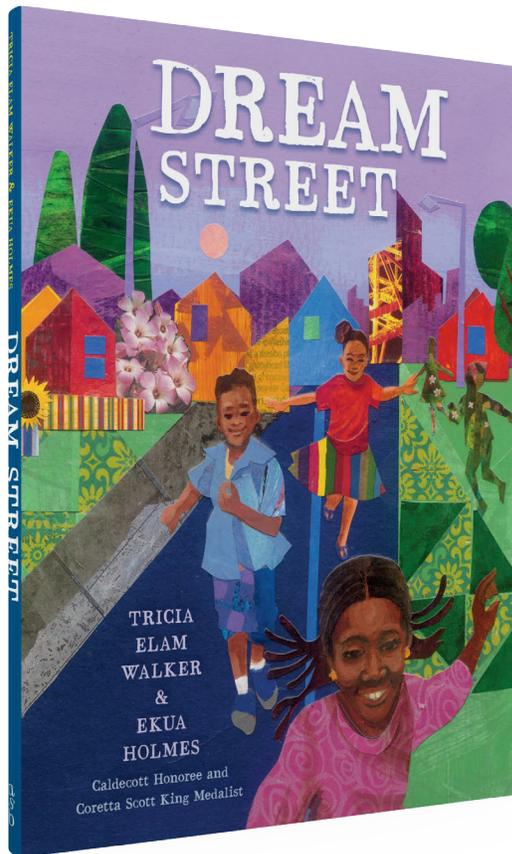
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EDUCATORS' GUIDE

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Welcome to Dream Street—the best street in the world! It's where love between generations rules, everyone is special, and the warmth of a neighborhood shines. Here is the perfect book for parents to use to introduce children to the importance of community.

Meet kids like Azaria, who loves to jump Double Dutch one leg at a time; Zion, whose dream is to become a librarian; and cousins Ede and Tari, who dream of creating a picture book together one day. Meet grown-ups like Mr. Sidney, a retired mail carrier who greets everyone with the words, “Don’t wait to *have* a great day. *Create* one!” and Ms. Sarah, whose voice is only a whisper but who has stories between the lines of her face that she’ll share when you come close.

Illuminating this vivid cast of characters are vibrant illustrations that make this neighborhood—based on Roxbury, the neighborhood in Boston where Holmes and Walker grew up—truly sing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Photo credit: Marvin Joseph



TRICIA ELAM WALKER is the author of the acclaimed picture book *Nana Akua Goes to School*, which received the 2021 Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award and the Children’s Africana Book Award, as well as four starred reviews. The *Wall Street Journal* hailed it as “a picture book . . . that captures a complex vulnerability that every child feels at one point or another.” Tricia also wrote a novel for adults, *Breathing Room*, under the name Patricia Elam. She is a cultural and fashion commentator and blogger, and has written for National Public Radio, the *Washington Post*, *Essence*, *HuffPost*, and more. She practiced law for sixteen years prior to teaching writing in Washington, DC, and Boston. Currently, Tricia is an assistant professor of creative writing at Howard University, and resides in Takoma Park, Maryland, with her husband. Visit her at triciaelamwalker.com.

Photo credit: Carol Branning



EKUA HOLMES is the acclaimed bestselling illustrator of several award-winning picture books, including *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer* (Caldecott Honor, NAACP Image Award, Coretta Scott King–

John Steptoe Award, Sibert Honor), *Out of Wonder* (Coretta Scott King Award, *New York Times* bestseller), and *The Stuff of Stars* (Coretta Scott King Award).

A painter and collage artist, she graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

Visit her at ekuaholmes.com.



Art © 2021 by Ekua Holmes

This guide was prepared by Cicely Lewis, a media center specialist at Meadowcreek High School, Norcross, Georgia, and the founder of the Read Woke program.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DEFINING AND CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Define *community*. Explain to students that the school is a community. Everyone in the school works together to make the school work. Who are the members of your school community? Use the interview questions below to guide a class brainstorm of interview questions. Have students interview someone from your school community. They should share their findings with school administration or display them somewhere in your school to celebrate your school community.



Members of a School Community

- Principal
- Cafeteria Worker
- Student
- Custodian
- Librarian
- Parent
- Teacher
- Bus Driver
- Counselor

Sample Interview Questions

- What is your position?
- What are your duties?
- How do you contribute to the community?
- Which other people in the community do you rely on to help you?
- What is the best part of your job?



DREAMS OF CHANGE

Mari Copeny was only eight years old when she wrote a handwritten note that got the attention of former President Barack Obama. Known as Little Miss Flint, Mari dreamed of helping her community, but she didn't stop there. Her small act shed light on the water crisis in her community and raised money to help clean the water. There are many young people on *Dream Street* with big dreams. Can kids make a difference? Hold a classroom discussion about how young people can help bring about change in the community.

Share experiences or stories from your community or worldwide.



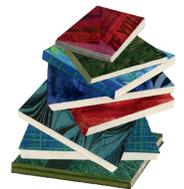
INSPIRE CHANGE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a famous civil rights leader. Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have A Dream” speech on August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington. He wanted to raise awareness—the speech was a call for equality and freedom. It encouraged the passage of the Civil Rights Act. This shows the power of words to inspire change. *Dream Street* illustrates the importance of community. Discuss with your students the importance of activism within a community and how they can use their words to inspire change they would like to see. Have students brainstorm issues in their community about which they would like to raise awareness. Have them write a letter to any elected official. Have students share their letters with each other and mail them.

CAREER RESEARCH

There were several careers mentioned in the book. Have students research them. Create a chart for students to list careers and job qualifications, attire, and the importance to the community. Host a Career Day and have volunteers from the neighborhood visit or share videos about their profession. Some professions to explore and discuss together include . . .



- Librarian
- Lawyer
- Store Owner
- Illustrator
- Mail Carrier

JAZZ

The Phillips brothers are named for famous musicians. Listen to Duke Ellington's greatest hits. Working in groups, students should select one of the musicians and research five facts about them, using print and digital resources. Have students share their findings, research process, and sources with the class.

- **Dudley Brooks** (1913–1989), jazz pianist and composer
- **Dexter Gordon** (1923–1990), jazz saxophonist
- **Donald Byrd** (1932–2013), jazz and blues trumpeter
- **Duke Ellington** (1899–1974), leader of jazz orchestra, composer
- **Denardo Coleman** (1956), jazz drummer



DREAM CHART



Each of the characters on *Dream Street* has a dream. We know that in order to make dreams come true, you must take action. Complete the chart below to show how the characters are making their dreams a reality and how you can do the same.

Character's name	Steps the character is taking to make their dreams a reality
Character's dream	

Character's name	Steps the character is taking to make their dreams a reality
Character's dream	

Your name	Steps you are taking to make your dreams a reality
Your dream	

POETRY

Select a character from *Dream Street* and complete the “I Dream” poem for the character based on your readings. You can also create an “I Dream” poem about yourself or someone from history who made a difference. Share your poetry in a classroom reading.



CHARACTER:

I dream _____

I imagine _____

I hope _____

I work hard to _____

I help others to _____

NAME:

I dream _____

I envision _____

I hear _____

I aspire to _____

I make change by _____

I dream _____