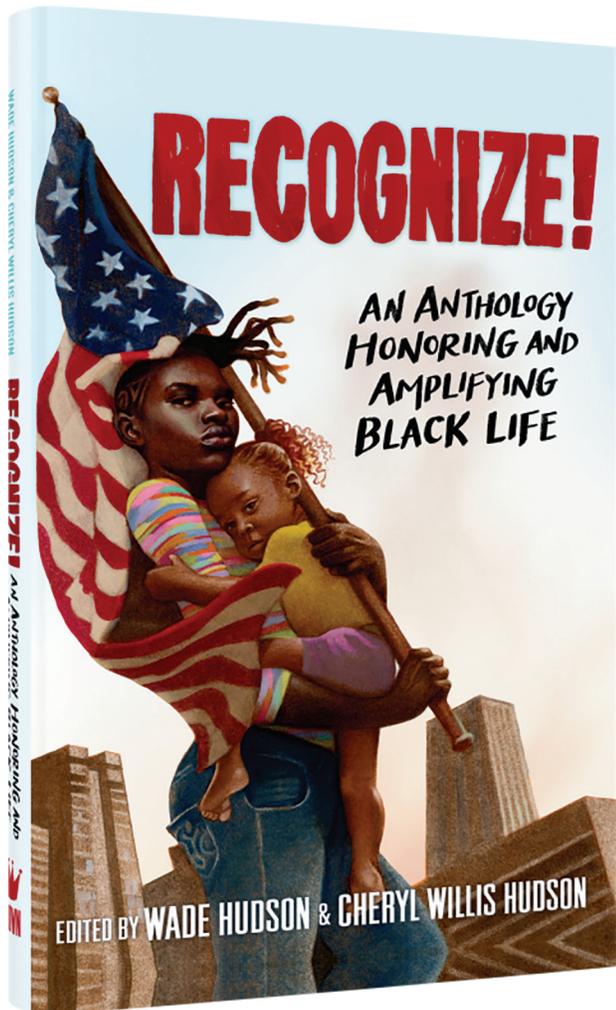


RECOGNIZE!

AN ANTHOLOGY
HONORING AND
AMPLIFYING
BLACK LIFE

EDITED BY WADE HUDSON & CHERYL WILLIS HUDSON

Art © 2021 by Floyd Cooper. Hand lettering by Adrian Meadows and Sylvia Bl.



Grades 5 and up
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ABOUT THE BOOK

In the stunning follow-up to *The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth*, award-winning Black authors and artists come together to create a moving anthology collection celebrating Black love, Black creativity, Black resistance, Black history, and Black life.

BLACK LIVES HAVE ALWAYS MATTERED.

Prominent Black creators lend their voice, their insight, and their talent to an inspiring anthology that celebrates Black culture and Black life. Essays, poems, short stories, and historical excerpts blend with an eight-page full-color insert of spellbinding art to capture the pride, prestige, and jubilation that is being Black in America. In these pages, find the stories of the past, the journeys of the present, and the light guiding us toward the future.

BLACK LIVES WILL ALWAYS MATTER.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson are the cofounders of Just Us Books, Inc. For over thirty years they have written, published, and collaborated on books that reflect the diversity of Black history, heritage, and experiences, including the treasury collections *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices*, which received four starred reviews and was a Jane Addams Peace Association Honor Book, and *The Talk*, which was named a *New York Times*, NPR, New York Public Library, Chicago Public Library, and Center for Multicultural Literature Best Book of the Year. In addition, Cheryl is the author of *Brave. Black. First.: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World* published in collaboration



Photo credit: Stephan Hudson

with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Wade is the author of the memoir *Defiant: Growing Up in the Jim Crow South*. The husband-wife team live in East Orange, NJ.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Before engaging with this text, teachers, librarians, and other discussion leaders should take the time to interrogate your own biases. Acknowledge the stereotypes and biases about Black people that you are aware of and may have internalized. Consider how they affect your teaching. How do these perceptions develop into anti-Black action?

- Floyd Cooper, the artist who designed the cover, said he was inspired by these words from Doc Rivers: “It’s amazing why we keep loving this country, and this country doesn’t love us back.” (pp. 147–148) How does Cooper’s art honor Black life in a country that “doesn’t love us back”?
- What does it mean to *amplify*? How can you amplify things that are important to you?
- Black Lives Matter! What synonyms can you think of for *matter*?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why did Jerdine Nolen color in her new book? (pp. 3–8)
- One of the purposes of this book is to remind us that Black Lives Matter. Why do you think Hank Aaron, a baseball player, is included in this book? (pp. 23–26)
- Nic Stone was perplexed by the need to state the obvious: that Black Lives Matter. What led her to understand the need for this proclamation, and what effect did this have on her? What did she begin to do? (pp. 39–44)



Art © 2021 by James Ransome.

- The book includes an excerpt from Frederick Douglass’s speech “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” (pp. 61–64)
 - Douglass was asked to speak on the Fourth of July to make a point that white abolitionists were unable to make. What was that point?
 - Summarize the speech. What is Douglass saying? Do you find his arguments persuasive?
 - Compare Douglass’s message to the message of at least one other text in the book. What similarities do you notice? How are they different?
- Describe the artwork the student created in “Self-Reflection” by Kwame Mbalia. (pp. 69–73) How does the story end? Did you like it? Why do you think Mbalia chose to end the story like this?
- In 1957, teenager Daisy Bates wrote a letter to Roy Wilkins, then executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In the letter, which is reprinted in this book (pp. 81–84), Bates describes the antiracist work that she and some of her classmates were involved in. What were some of the things they did? What were the results?
- Curtis Hudson wrote that playing guitar and writing songs was “a path to [his] own personal freedom.” (p. 124) What do you think freedom meant to him? How did his work help him achieve freedom?
- In “Back to Myself” (pp. 125–129), Tiffany Jewell writes about how she, a biracial Black person, was made to feel like she didn’t matter. What helped her feel whole? Where can we look for messages that remind us that we matter?
- Why is art important to the Black Lives Matters movement? Use examples from the book.

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

- In her “Last Will & Testament,” Mary McLeod Bethune left an important list of principles to live by. (pp. 111–114) Either list ways you live by Mary’s principles, or create a list of your own principles and explain how you live by each one.
- Adedayo Perkovich says she honors her ancestors by claiming her space. “The space I take up as a poet, an amateur painter, a Meklit, Khalid, Chloe x Halle, Harry Styles, and Sheku Kanneh-Mason fan, and clumsy *Avatar: The Last Airbender* superfan, carrying all of my burdens and bright spots, has value.” (p. 119) How do you take up space? Make a poster claiming and celebrating your space and what makes you and your ancestors proud.
- Use the Harambee activities described in “Recognize!” by Cheryl Willis Hudson (pp. 131–135) to plan your own event. Choose a song to begin the ceremony. Invite people to share their recognitions. Don’t forget to practice!
- Don Tate’s comic strip reminds us that when Black Lives Matter protests peaked around the world in the summer of 2020, we were also in the middle of a global pandemic. (pp. 87–94) Read the following articles to learn more about systemic racism and how people of color were affected by the pandemic. Work in small groups to prepare an infographic informing others about one of the issues discussed in the articles. You may need to do additional research to gather more data for your graphic. [This website](#) will help you create your infographic.
 - “The Virus Is Showing Black People What They Knew All Along” by Patrice Peck theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/12/pandemic-black-death-toll-racism/617460
 - “Institutional Racism Contributes to COVID-19’s ‘Double Whammy’ Impact on the Black Community, Fauci Says” by Jacqueline Howard cnn.com/2020/06/23/health/coronavirus-pandemic-racism-fauci-bn/index.html
 - “The Coronavirus Pandemic Is Hitting Black and Brown Americans Especially Hard on All Fronts” by Harmeet Kaur cnn.com/2020/05/08/us/coronavirus-pandemic-race-impact-trnd/index.html
 - “‘A pandemic in a Pandemic’: Coronavirus Deepens Racial Gaps in America” by Matthew Lavietes, Oscar Lopez, Ellen Wulforst reuters.com/article/us-usa-race-money-insight/a-pandemic-in-a-pandemic-coronavirus-deepens-racial-gaps-in-america-idUSKBN25G1EW
 - ‘An Unbelievable Chain of Oppression’: America’s History of Racism Was a Preexisting Condition for COVID-19” by Alan Gomez, Wyattte Grantham-Philips, Trevor Hughes, Rick Jervis, Rebecca Plevin, Kameel Stanley, Dennis Wagner, Marco della Cava, Deborah Barfield Berry, and Mark Nichols usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2020/10/12/coronavirus-deaths-reveal-systemic-racism-united-states/5770952002
 - “Why Are There Still So Few Black Executives in America?” by Jessica Guynn and Brent Schrottenboer usatoday.com/in-depth/money/business/2020/08/20/racism-black-america-corporate-america-facebook-apple-netflix-nike-diversity/5557003002

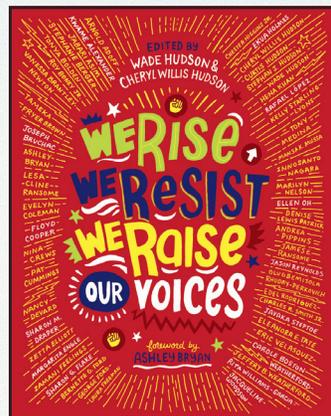
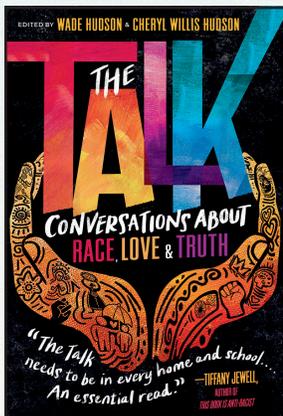


FOUR STARRED REVIEWS FOR RECOGNIZE!

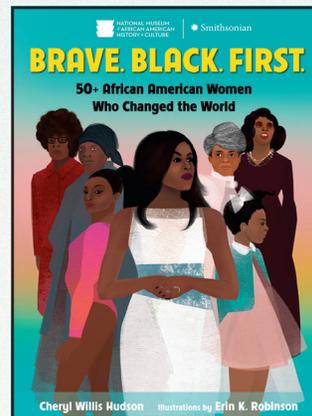


- ★ “[A] poignant, passionate, and purposeful collection of Black voices for young readers.”—*Booklist*
- ★ “A multifaceted, sometimes disheartening, yet consistently enriching primer on the unyielding necessity of those three words: Black Lives Matter.”—*Kirkus Reviews*
- ★ “An empowering, powerful compendium that asserts how ‘Black lives matter. / Black lives have always mattered.’”
—*Publishers Weekly*
- ★ “Equal parts inspirational and gut-wrenching, this collection has a range of audiences and purposes. It can be used in class discussions, for pleasure reading, or as rallying cry for change.”—*School Library Journal*

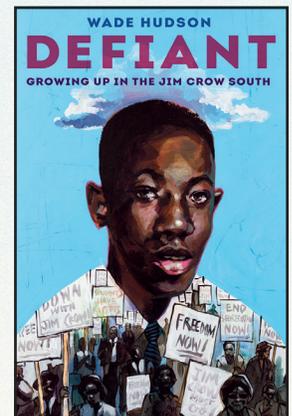
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