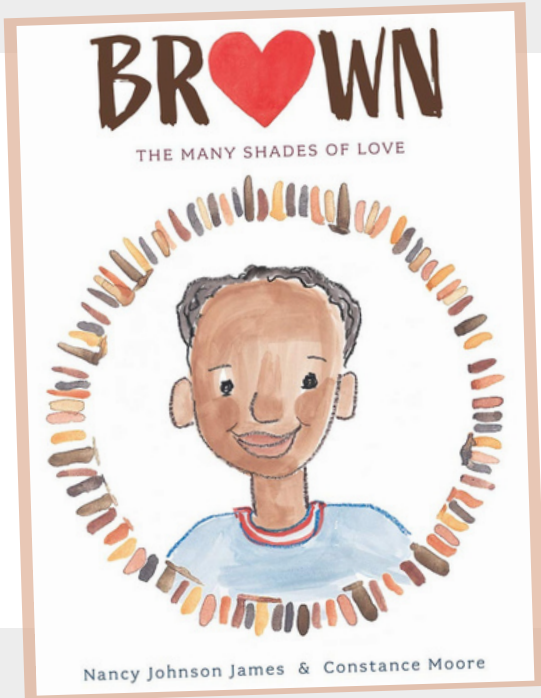


A CCSS-aligned Text Set Companion for **BROWN, THE MANY SHADES OF LOVE**



Celebrating all the beautiful browns in one child's colorful family

Mama's brown is chocolate, clear, dark, and sweet. Daddy's brown is autumn leaf, or like a field of wheat. Granny's brown is like honey, and Papa's like caramel. In this loving and lovely ode to the color brown, a boy describes the many beautiful hues of his family, including his own—gingerbread.

Written by Nancy Johnson James

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Harry N. Abrams



Nancy Johnson James is a poet, educator, activist and children's book author. Her most recent publication, "*Brown: The Many Shades of Love*" will be released by Cameron and Company Press September 2020.

Nancy has been an educator of children with exceptional needs for more than 15 years. Prior to becoming an educator, Nancy worked in the fields of community economic development and arts and social justice. Her children's stories encourage young readers to explore and celebrate their identities in a that is fun and accessible.

Nancy has a BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College and an MFA from Saint Mary's College of California as well as multiple teaching credential and a certificate in nonprofit management. Nancy is also a student of the history and dance forms from Africa and the African Diaspora. Her poems and lesson plans have been published in several print and online publications.

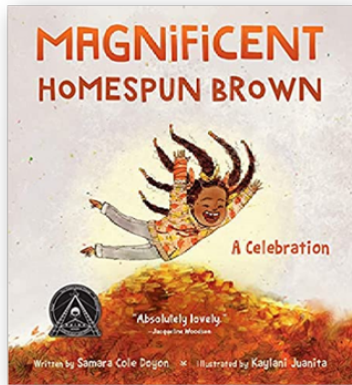
THEMATIC OVERVIEW

family || skin color || poetry || art-making || love || relationships || community || color mixing
social emotional learning || observation || heredity || self-esteem || acceptance || metaphor || ELA
scientific observation skills || color theory || centeredness || mindfulness || diversity || BIPOC

COMPREHENSION CONVERSATION

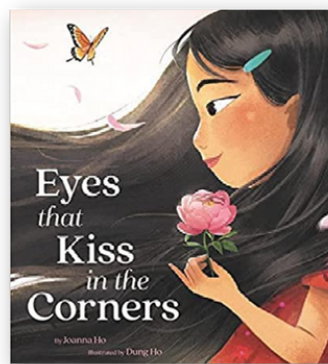
- Are there reasons why some colors are more pleasing than others? How so?
- Identify color combinations that are most pleasing to you.
- Describe the skin color shade that looks just right to you. Why is this shade your favorite?
- The word *heredity* means ancestry, inheritance, and character. A person's skin color is inherited by the shades of their parents' skin. Compare and contrast your skin tone and those of your classmates. Examine the similarities and differences. Identify how heredity defines the skin tones of all people, everywhere.

Fiction Pairing for BROWN, THE MANY SHADES OF LOVE



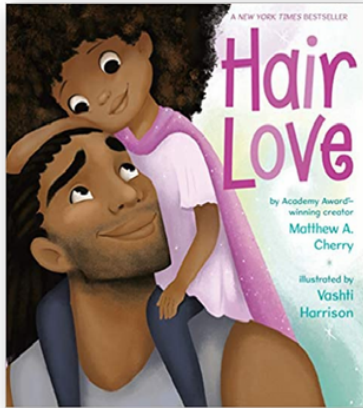
Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration by Samara Cole Doyon

Magnificent Homespun Brown is a story -- a song, a poem, a celebration -- about feeling at home in one's own beloved skin, singing a carol for the plenitude that surrounds us and the self each of us is meant to inhabit.



Eyes That Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho

A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's -- eyes that kiss in the corners, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future.



Hair Love by Matthew Cherry

Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he'll do anything to make her -- and her hair -- happy.



Abuela by Arthur Dorros

Come join Rosalba and her grandmother, her abuela, on a magical journey as they fly over the streets, sights, and people of NYC which sparkles below. The exhilaration in Rosalba's and Abuela's story is magnified by the loving bond that only a grandmother and granddaughter can share.

Non-fiction Pairing for BROWN, THE MANY SHADES OF LOVE



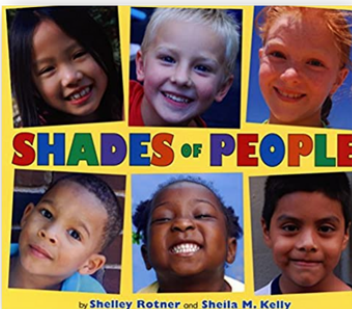
Mix It Up! by Herve Tullet

Follow the artist's simple instructions, and suddenly colors appear . . . mix . . . splatter . . . and vanish in a vivid world powered only by the reader's imagination. The result is not only enchantment and giggles, but a real and deeper understanding of colors brought by a true master of his craft.



All the Colors We Are by Katie Kissinger

Reading this book frees children from the myths and stereotypes associated with skin color and helps them build positive identities as they accept, understand, and value our rich and diverse world.



Shades of People by Shelley Rotner

A celebration of the diversity of everyday life at school, at the beach, and in the city, diverse groups of children invite young readers both to take notice and to look beyond the obvious.



Different Differenter: An Activity Book About Skin Color by Jyoti Gupta

Different Differenter is a beautifully-illustrated, full-color, activity book for children that thoughtfully addresses everyday skin color consciousness (and bias) in a way that's easy to understand.