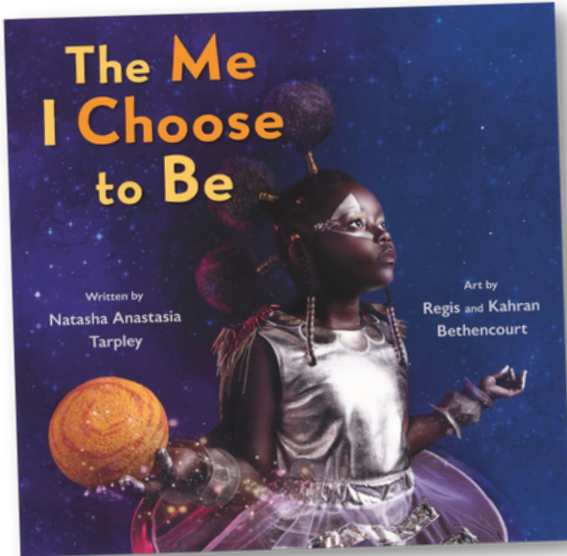


A CCSS-aligned Text Set Companion for **THE ME I CHOOSE TO BE**



What will you choose to be?
A free spirit?
A weaver of words?
A star dancing across the night sky?
A limitless galaxy?

The possibilities are endless in this uplifting ode to the power of potential. With lyrical text by bestselling author Natasha Anastasia Tarpley and images by Regis and Kahran Bethencourt—the team behind CreativeSoul Photography—each page of *The Me I Choose To Be* is an immersive call for self-love that highlights the inherent beauty of all Black and brown children.

ISBN: 978-0316461542 Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
Written by Natasha Tarpley

Natasha Tarpley is a bestselling children's book author with over 20-years' publishing experience. Her classic picture book, *I Love My Hair!*, an ode to Black childhood and natural beauty, is a staple on national school and library reading lists, and a favorite among readers around the world. Her new picture book, *The Me I Choose To Be*, affirms the power of Black children to choose who and what they want to be. Natasha has also written for children's television and is the writer and Co-Creator of the award-winning children's narrative podcast, *Opal Watson: Private Eye* (Pinna.fm). Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Essence Magazine* among other publications.



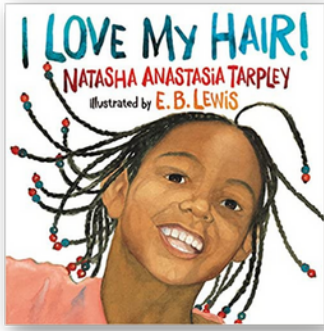
THEMATIC OVERVIEW

empowerment || individualism || expression || power || exploration || self-discovery
self-acceptance || celebration || spontaneity || creativity
cultural pride || internal and external beauty || poetic || thought-provoking

COMPREHENSION CONVERSATION

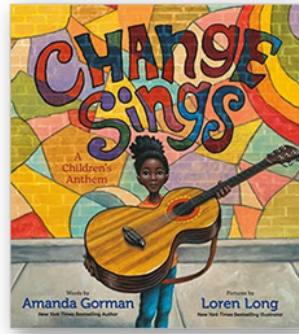
- The term *free-spirit* means independent, out-going, and carefree. The message communicated in *THE ME I CHOOSE TO BE*, encourages young people to develop a free-spirited outlook on their personal potential. Describe what being free-spirited means to you. Identify ways you might explore becoming more independent, out-going, or carefree.
- Describe the character traits of your favorite superhero. List what your superpowers would be if you were to become a superhero. How many of these powers do you possess already? Explain your answer.
- To experience self-acceptance, a person feels satisfaction in their abilities and accomplishments regardless of the judgement of others. Is it possible for someone to be quiet and shy and yet possess the gift of self-acceptance? Explain your answer.

Fiction Pairing for THE ME I CHOOSE TO BE



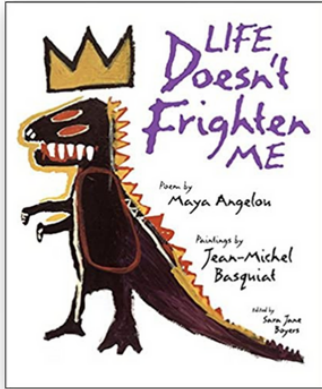
I Love My Hair! by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

In this imaginative, evocative story, a girl named Keyana discovers the beauty and magic of her special hair, encouraging black children to be proud of their heritage and enhancing self-confidence.



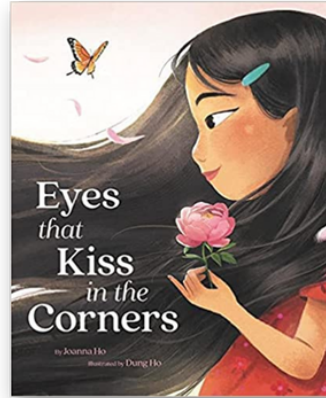
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem by Amanda Gorman

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together.



Life Doesn't Frighten Me by Maya Angelou

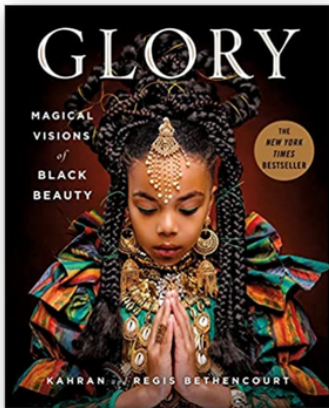
Visionary full-color artwork accompanies a stirring poem--by the famed inaugural poet and author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*--that celebrates courage, strength, and fearlessness.



Eyes That Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho

Drawing from the strength of these powerful women in her life, she recognizes her own beauty and discovers a path to self-love and empowerment. This powerful, poetic picture book will resonate with readers of all ages.

Non-fiction Pairing for THE ME I CHOOSE TO BE



GLORY: Magical Visions of Black Beauty by Kahran Bethencourt

With stunning images of natural hair and gorgeous, inventive visual storytelling, *GLORY* puts Black beauty front and center with more than 100 breathtaking photographs and a collection of powerful essays about the children.



The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones

The 1619 Project's lyrical picture book in verse chronicles the consequences of slavery and the history of Black resistance in the United States.



The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story by Nikole Hannah-Jones

This is a book that speaks directly to our current moment, contextualizing the systems of race and caste within which we operate today.



The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth by Wade Hudson

Thirty diverse, award-winning authors and illustrators invite you into their homes to witness the conversations they have with their children about race in America today.