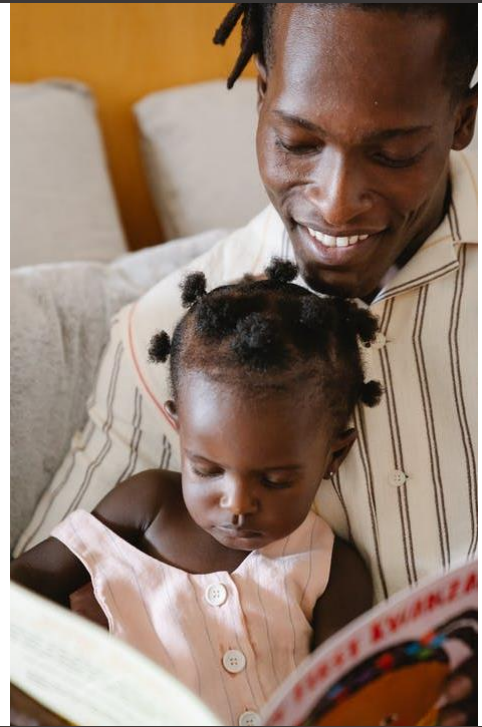


# TURN THE PAGES



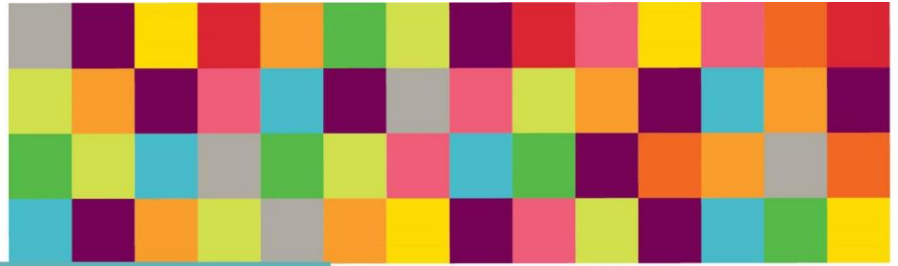
reading in  
**COLOR**



CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG

LIBRARY





attend the library's second annual celebration for the National African American Read-In.



Join the library as we celebrate our second annual virtual read in to celebrate the National African American Read-In. Local authors will read their books and participate in a live panel along with a couple of teens, to discuss the lack of diversity in Children's books. This is an event for the entire family!

## THE AUTHORS



Shaketa Richardson



Harrison Martin



Serenity Kai-Lyn Rankin

## ALSO JOINING FOR OUR PANEL



Charlitta Hatch



Lil Richye



Shirell Bates



Sanaa Wilkins



Janaka Lewis

Free virtual event hosted LIVE on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Facebook & YouTube Pages on Tuesday February 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.



# ABOUT

The National African American Read-In (AARI) is a groundbreaking effort to encourage communities to read together, centering African American books and authors. It was established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. This initiative has reached more than 6 million participants around the world.

- [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org)

## Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Resources

- Start reading any recommended read on any device with the following eBook Resources and More:
  - Hoopla, NC Kids Digital, Overdrive, Tumble Books
- Visit The Reading in Color Playlist on the library's YouTube page for recommended Black Reads from Preschool to Teens.
- Visit the Black Lives Matter Page from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Website, to stay connected with all virtual programs and booklists, to support this initiative and learn more.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG  
LIBRARY

reading in  
COLOR





**Shaketa Richardson** has been an educator for 14 years. She holds a Bachelor's in Arts (Child and Family Development with Birth through Kindergarten license), As well as a Masters in Arts-Teaching from UNC Charlotte.

She is passionate about teaching and is a natural affirmer. She consistently affirms her 3 children and students as she's noticed that when she pours positivity into her students, it helps build relationships and confidence for them to succeed and become their best selves. She is a firm believer that repeating affirmations make your subconscious mind work, by solidifying statements into reality.

TheMelaninEd |  
@themelanin\_ed

**Harrison Martin** was born in Greenville, SC. After graduating from East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, NC, he attended Gardner-Webb University on a full football scholarship. There he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies: Video & Film and his International Master of Business Administration. He loves watching movies, hiking, cooking, and creative writing. Some of his favorite things to eat are steak, doughnuts, and bacon.



Flipfrog, LLC |  
@flipfrogbooks



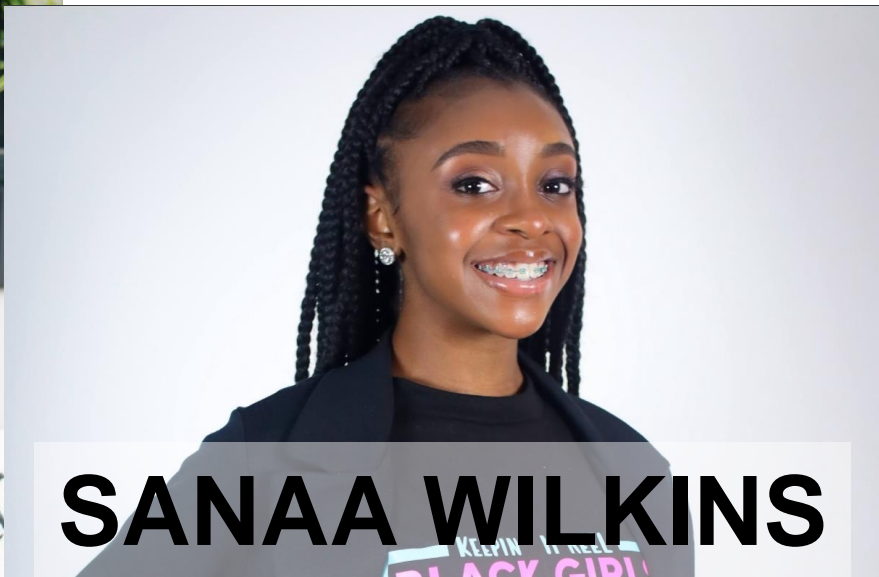
**Serenity Kai-Lyn Rankin** is a Charlotte native, who recently relocated to Rock Hill, SC. She is 12 years old and ever since she was able to hold a pencil she could draw. In her spare time, she literally doodles and writes all day. She illustrated her first children's book in early 2020 (that has not yet released) however, that made her realize how talented she truly was, and it sparked a new goal within her. In December of 2020 she asked her mom to help her write her first children's book. It took her 8 months but her dreams of becoming an author and illustrator had come true. Her book was published on September 15th, 2021. She has already started writing her second book! Her next goal is to make it on Amazon and eventually become a New York Times best seller.

@renydraws



@raisingblackboyjoy  
@me3project

**CHARLITTA  
HATCH**



**SANAA WILKINS**



@jnblue  
@janakab

@backpackplusfamily

**JANAKA LEWIS**



@LilRichye

**RICHYE PORTER**



@Shirell\_Bates

**SHIRELL  
BATES**

# PRESCHOOL RECOMMENDED READS

From the Reading in Color Team, Staff at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

*Ty's Travels by Kelly Starling Lyons*

*When My Cousins Come to Town by Angela Shante*

*My Rainy Day Rocket Ship by Markette Sheppard*

*Lottie Paris and the Best Place by Angela Johnson*

*The Library Book by Tom Chapin*

*When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree by Jamie Deenihan*

*When Grandpa Gives you a Tool Box by Jamie Deenihan*

*Have You Thanked an Inventor Today? By Patrice McLaurin*

*Happy Hair by Mechal Renee Roe*

*I Believe I Can by Grace Byers*

*Princess Truly Series by Kelly Greenwalt*

*Curls by Ruth Forman*

*Cool Cuts Mechal Renee Roe*

*I Am Brown Ashok Banker*

*Bedtime Bonnet by Nancy Amanda Redd*

*M is for Melanin by Tiffany Rose*

*Brave by Stacy McAnulty*

*Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed*

*Ada Twist Scientist by Andrea Beaty*

*Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashiti Harrison*

*Every Little Thing by Cedella Marley*

*Honeysmoke Monique Fields*

*Who Will You Be? By Andrea Pippins*

# Draw your Favorite Famous Person in Black History



# SCHOOL AGE RECOMMENDED READS

From the Reading in Color Team, Staff at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

*Clean Getaway* by Nic Stone

*Fresh Princess* by Denene Miller

*Michelle's Garden* by Sharee Miller

*I Got the Rhythm* by Connie Schofield-Morrison

*My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World* by Malcolm Mitchell

*New Kid* by Jerry Kraft

*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia

*When Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson

*We Are Family* by LeBron James

*I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes

*A Soft Place to Land* by Janae Marks

*The Adventures of Zoe Washington* Janae Marks

*The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes

*Zoey and Sassafras* Series by Asia Citro

*Carson Chooses Forgiveness* by Tony Dungy

*Black Boy Joy* by Kwame Mbalia

*Paradise on Fire* by Jewel Parker Rhodes

*Root Magic* by Eden Royce

*Jaden Toussaint Series* by Marti Dumas

*Finding Langston* Lesa Cline Ransome

*King and Kayla Series* by Dori Butler

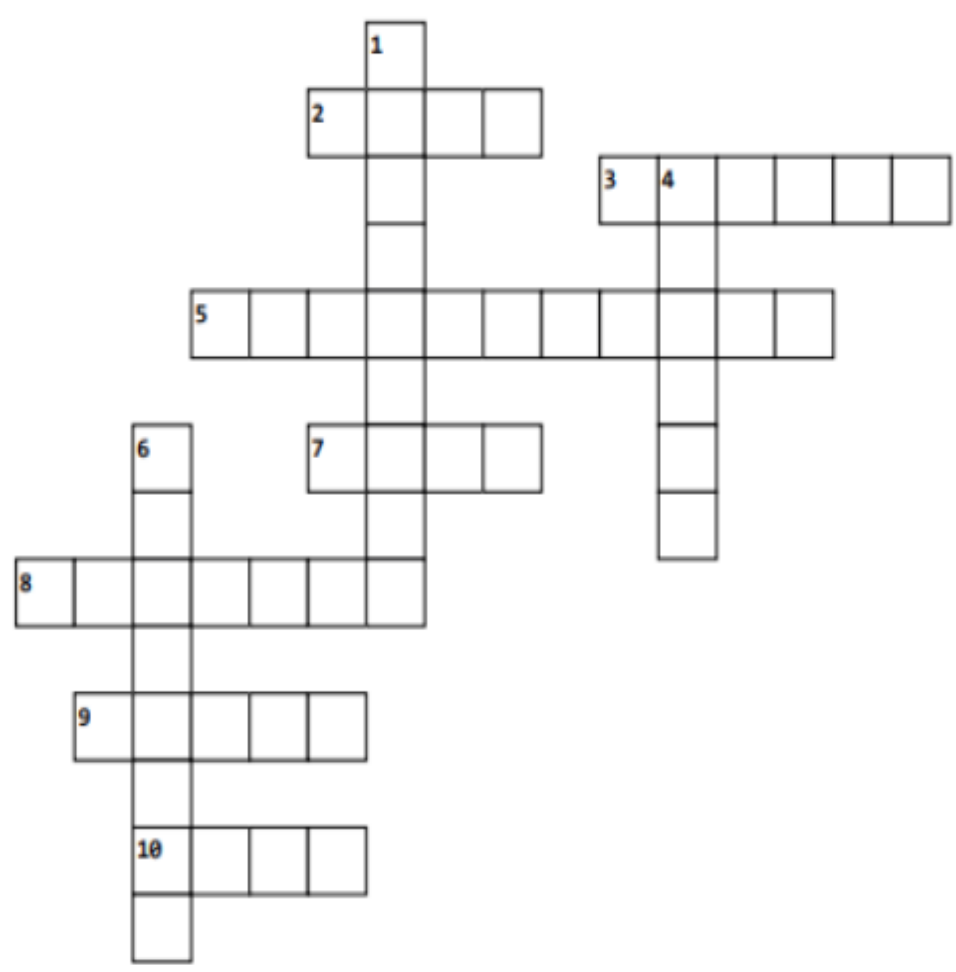
*Keep Your Head Up* by Alya King Neil

*Amari & the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston

*Before the Ever After* by Jaqueline Woodson



# NAARI Crossword Puzzle (School Age)



### Across

- 2. not afraid of danger or difficult situations; very confident
- 3. the people who are related to you (parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins)
- 5. a person who makes art for books
- 7. a man who wears a crown
- 8. a place you can borrow books from
- 9. a woman who wears a crown
- 10. to move upward

### Down

- 1. a place and the people who live in it or a group of people who all have something in common
- 4. a person who writes books
- 6. month when the National African-American Read-In takes place (also Black History Month)

# NAARI Word Search

This Word Search is centered around the elements of National African American Read-In. It is geared towards School Age kids.

O E X V G N N E P E J A X L E  
 T F A F F I R M A T I O N H P  
 X A X N G F Y T I S R E V I D  
 C R W O X I B U C X J Y O O B  
 A I I I Z E B A C O N C P K T  
 T F U S F T J V G C T X F O L  
 E U V U F E J K H J X T B C D  
 R T E L I Q M A H Y D E R Q T  
 P U C C A U R D L B E G K E U  
 I R Q N I A T L E V I T E U E  
 L E P I C T O V G J L T J V C  
 L Q M T F H S J K O L I C H Y  
 A B E J W Y G U H T U S F F U  
 R R A Z O K Y S J M B S Y O L  
 S S W E L Y B Y B L A C K B K

AFFIRMATION  
 BULLIED  
 BACON  
 CHARACTERS  
 DIVERSITY

JOY  
 JUSTICE  
 CATERPILLAR  
 TREE

FUTURE  
 BLACK  
 INCLUSION  
 WHOLLY

THE skin YOU LIVE IN

# TEENS

## RECOMMENDED READS

From the Reading in Color Team, Staff at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

*Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams

*The Burning-Black Wall Street & the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921* by Hillary Beard

*Grown* by Tiffany Johnson

*Blackout* by

*The Cost of Knowing* by Brittany Morris

*The Black Kids* by Christina Hammonds Reed

*Simone Breaks All the Rules* by Debbie Rigaud

*The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Moore

*Midnight Without a Moon* by Linda Jackson

*Chorine Sky* by Mahogany L. Browne

*Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo

*Love is a Revolution* by Renee Watson

*Now That I've Found You* by Kristina Forest

*Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas

*Not So Pure and Simple* by Lamar Giles

*Opposite of Always* by Justin A. Reynolds

*All the Things We Never Knew* by Liara Tamani

*Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone

*Charming as a Verb* by Ben Philppe

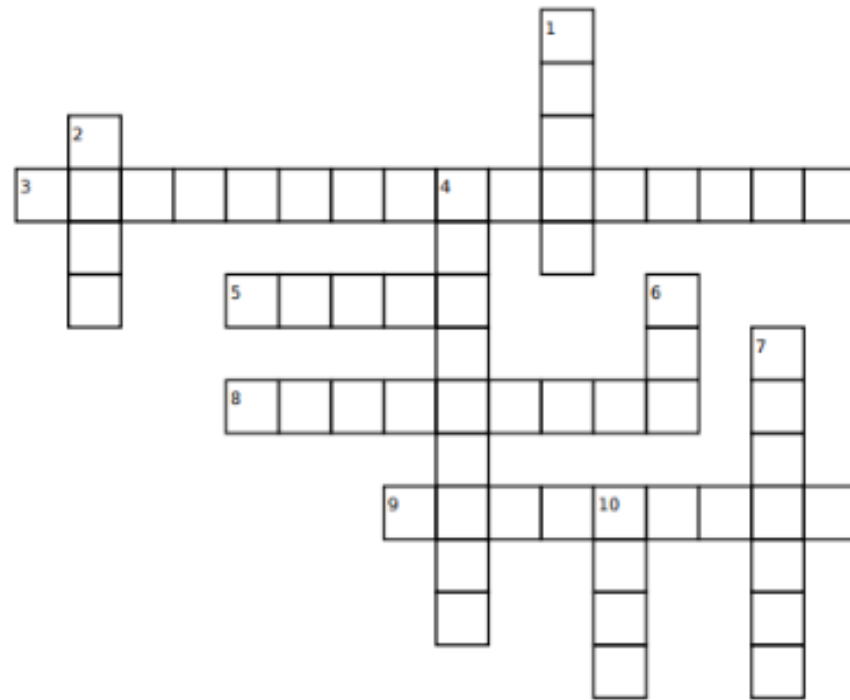
*You Should See Me in a Crown* by Lea Johnson

*This is America* by Kim Johnson

*Dear Martin* by Nic Stone

*Jackpot* by Nic Stone

# NAARI CROSSWORD PUZZLE (YOUNG ADULT)



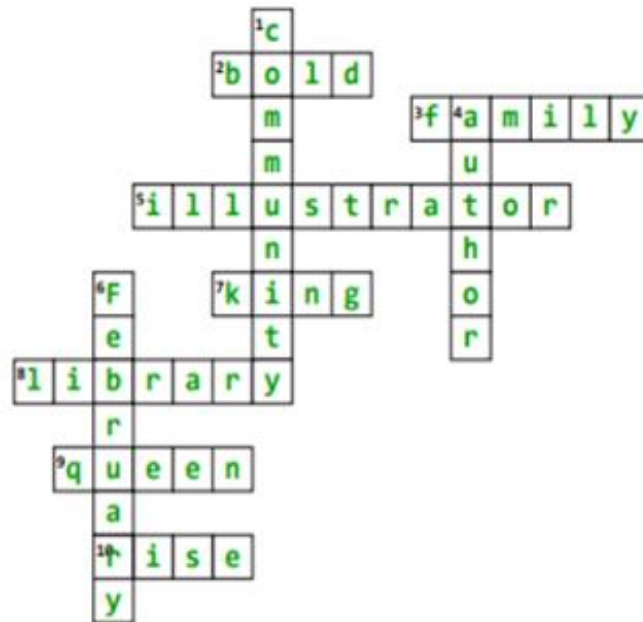
## Down:

1. to create stories, poems, and music
2. the spiritual part of a person; sometimes used to describe food and music
4. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common
6. another word for family (starts with K)
7. the ideas, customs, traditions, and way of life of a group of people; "For the \_\_\_\_\_"
10. to move from a lower to a higher position

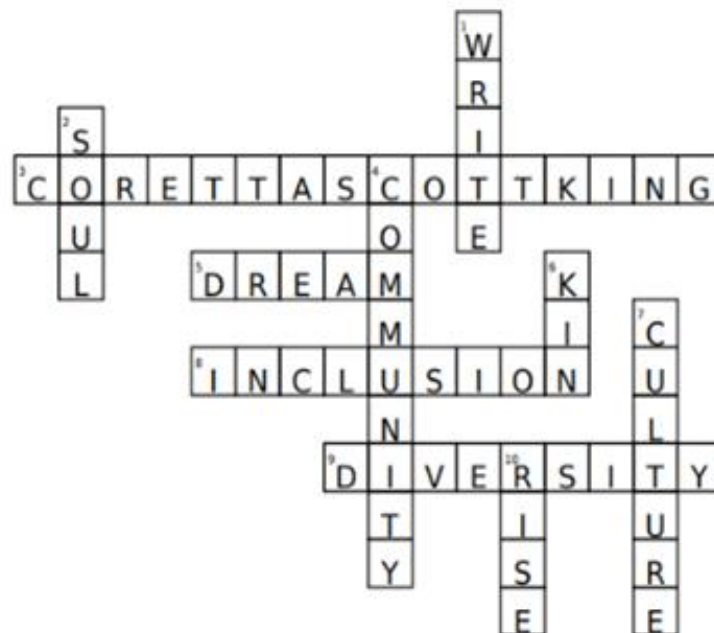
## Across:

3. namesake of awards given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values (also MLK Jr.'s wife)
5. Martin Luther King Jr. had one of these
8. the act of including somebody or something
9. including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds

## NAARI Crossword Puzzle (School Age)



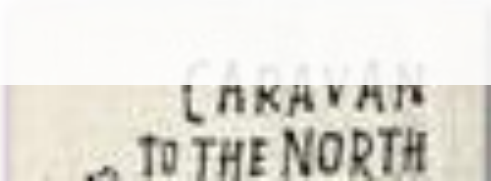
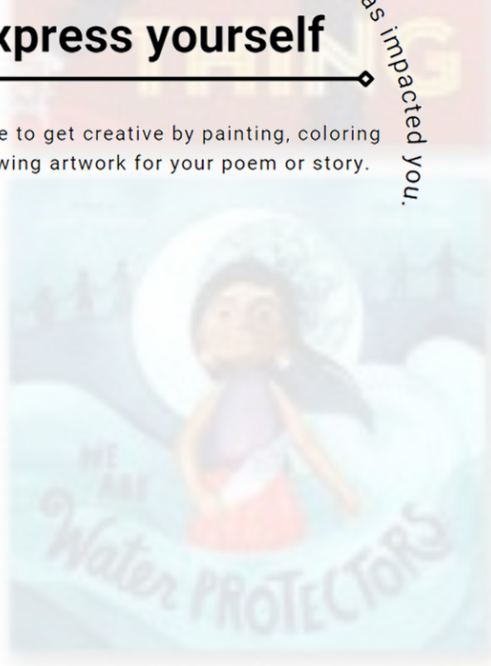
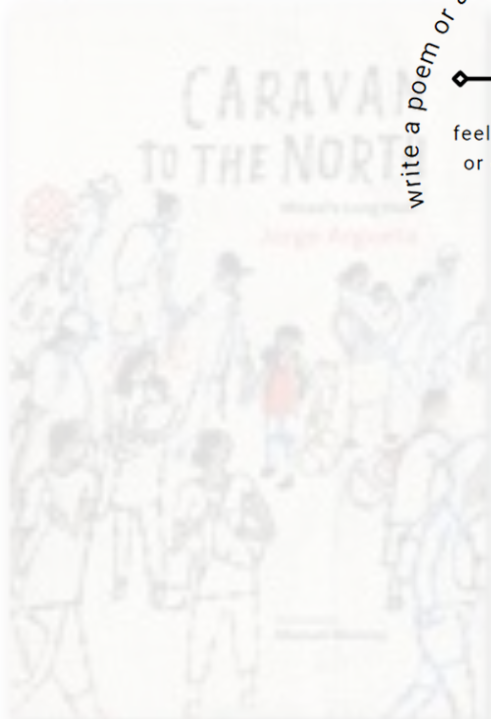
## NAARI CROSSWORD PUZZLE (YOUNG ADULT)



write a poem or a story about a person or a book that has impacted you.

## express yourself

feel free to get creative by painting, coloring or drawing artwork for your poem or story.





# MEET THE TEAM

Our team consists of a few staff members across our system who have a passion for promoting books that feature diverse characters and providing them to students in a fun and creative way, to foster a love for literacy. We partner with different Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools to do this and have impacted many students from grades 3-8.

## Team Leads & Event Hosts



**Jasmine M., MLS**  
Team Lead



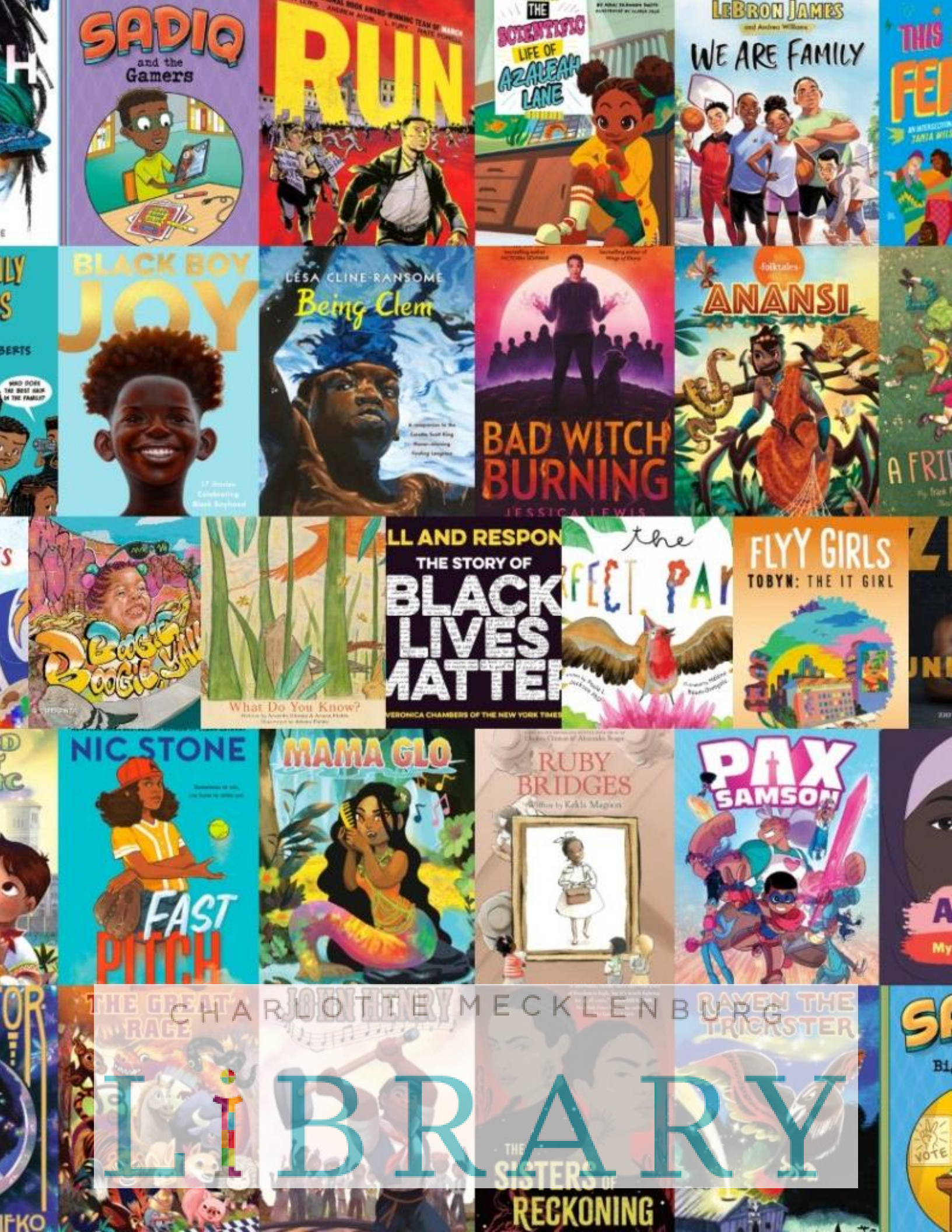
**Sydney P., MLIS**  
Team Co-Lead

LaShai T. Janai T. Amrita P. Karina B. Miciah B.

Catch up with us every month on our Reading In Color Playlist on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's YouTube page for recommended books and highlighted resources.

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG

**LiBRARY**



**SADIQ**  
and the Gamers

**RUN**

**THE SCIENTIFIC LIFE OF AZAREAH LANE**

**LEBRON JAMES**  
and Andrew Williams  
**WE ARE FAMILY**

**THIS FEB**

**BLACK BOY JOY**

LÉSA CLINE-RANSOME  
**Being Clem**

**BAD WITCH BURNING**  
JESSICA LEWIS

**ANANSI**

**A FRI**

**2 BOOTS BOOGIE**

**What Do You Know?**

**ALL AND RESPOND**  
THE STORY OF  
**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**the FEET PA**

**FLY GIRLS**  
TOBYN: THE IT GIRL

**UNI**

**NIC STONE**  
**FAST PITCH**

**MAMA GLO**

**RUBY BRIDGES**  
Written by Kekeli Magon

**PAX SAMSON**

**A**  
My

**THE GREAT RAGE**

**JOHN HENRY**

**MECKLENBURG**

**RAVEN THE TRICKSTER**

**SA**  
BL

**LIBRARY**

**SISTERS OF RECKONING**

**VOTE**