



BLACK IS A RAINBOW COLOR by Angela Joy; illustrated by Ekua Holmes
Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2020
ISBN: 9781626726314 (Hardcover)
*Age Range: 4-8

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A child reflects on the meaning of being Black in this moving and powerful anthem about a people, a culture, a history, and a legacy that lives on.

Red is a rainbow color.
Green sits next to blue.
Yellow, orange, violet, indigo,
They are rainbow colors, too, but

My color is black . . .
And there's no BLACK in rainbows.

From the wheels of a bicycle to the robe on Thurgood Marshall's back, Black surrounds our lives. It is a color to simply describe some of our favorite things, but it also evokes a deeper sentiment about the incredible people who helped change the world and a community that continues to grow and thrive.

Stunningly illustrated by Caldecott Honoree and Coretta Scott King Award winner Ekua Holmes, *Black Is a Rainbow Color* is a sweeping celebration told through debut author Angela Joy's rhythmically captivating and unforgettable words.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "Joy's words and Holmes's art are a perfect pairing where the verse is as vivid as the paints and collage. Children (and parents) of all colors will be rereading this one plenty." —[Washington Post](#), "Best Books of 2020"

★ "Both a beautiful celebration of black culture and an excellent first black history book for young children." —[Kirkus Reviews](#), **starred review**

★ "A treasure trove of positivity, strength, and pride for anyone seeking to uplift and educate young people." —[The Horn Book](#), **starred review**

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★ “A beautifully told and illustrated celebration of African American people and ethnology, *Black Is a Rainbow Color* thoughtfully explores what the Black experience means to a child . . . A must-have for children's collections.” —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

“With *Black Is a Rainbow Color*, debut author Angela Joy pens a loving tribute to all the ways black is beautiful. Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Award-winner Ekuia Holmes's brilliant collage illustrations elevate the text's themes of resilience and strength.” —[Shelf Awareness](#)

“A distinctive narrative. . . . Ekuia Holmes’ stunning illustrations visually extend this immersive, celebratory look at African American identity.” — [The Cooperative Children’s Book Center](#)

“An exceptionally designed, written and thoughtful new book appropriate for kids of all ages and ethnicities.” — Red Tricycle

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- A National Council of Social Studies & Children’s Book Council 2021 Notable Social Studies Trade Book
- An Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Notable Book
- A 2020 Jane Addams Children’s Book Award Honoree
- An NCTE 2021 Notable Poetry Book
- A New York Public Library Best Book of 2020
- A Washington Post Best Book of 2020
- A Horn Book Fanfare Best Book of the Year
- A Booklist Lasting Connections Selection
- A Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature Best Book of 2020
- A San Francisco Chronicle Book to Help Raise Awareness
- A Woman’s Day Book Every Family Should Own

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Play the Black is a Rainbow Color playlist on Spotify](#)
- [Share an interview with Angela Joy](#)
- [Read an interview with Angela Joy and Ekuia Holmes](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books interview with Angela Joy](#)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

“Book banning is not the author's problem. It is not the school teacher's problem. It is not an issue that needs to be addressed by the ‘other.’ Book banning is a devastating attack on American society that needs to be addressed by the Americans who, historically, have enjoyed the full array of American freedoms. Only they can fight and win the battle against censorship. Yet with liberty wet on their lips, they speak not.” — Angela Joy

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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