



**Title:** Hands Up!

**Author:** Breanna J. McDaniel

**Illustrator:** Shane W. Evans

**Imprint:** Dial Books

**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers

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**ISBN:** 9780525552314  
and 9780593326640

**Format:** Hardcover and Paperback

**Age Range\*:** 4-8

**Grade Range:** Up to Gr 3

# BOOK RESUME: HANDS UP!

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

This triumphant picture book celebrates Black joy by reclaiming a charged phrase and showing readers how resistance can be part of their everyday lives.

A young Black girl lifts her baby hands up to greet the sun, reaches her hands up for a book on a high shelf, and raises her hands up in praise at a church service. She stretches her hands up high like a plane's wings and whizzes down a hill so fast on her bike with her hands way up. As she grows, she lives through everyday moments of joy, love, and sadness. And when she gets a little older, she joins together with her family and her community in a protest march, where they lift their hands up together in resistance and strength.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "McDaniel's debut picture book offers a jubilant paean to a universal, everyday occurrence . . . Spare, deeply expressive mixed-media pictures by Evans feature vivid colors and inventive textures, and they underscore the power of helping hands. . . . An uplifting celebration of advocating for oneself, aiding those in need, and connecting with one's community."

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "This successfully delivers a message of everyday celebration in one simple gesture. As an introduction for children to social activism, this book will serve well. A terrific read-aloud for one-on-one and small group sharing."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

★ "Sobering and celebratory both, writer and artist triumphantly assure all audiences, especially young black readers, 'You matter.'"

—*Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"This book turns the phrase [hands up] on its head to give little ones confidence and pride, culminating in activism."—*USA Today*

"In dynamic multi-media art, family, friends, and community fill one African-American girl's life with love. . . . *Hands Up!* can singularly or simultaneously serve as a kid-friendly preview of growing up, as catalyst for a conversation about the dangers of being black in America, and/or as determined reclamation of a loaded phrase."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"The epitome of #blackgirljoy . . . Empowering."—*Mashable*

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“A warm and necessary message of empowerment for black children, helping them see that raising their hands is a celebration of their humanity.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A book that highlights the joys of black and brown childhood while it positions very young children as leaders and agents of change.”—*The Horn Book*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- A BCALA Children and Youth Award Honor Book
- A South Dakota Prairie Bloom Award selection
- A CCBC Choices selection

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [TeachingBooks.net resources](#)

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