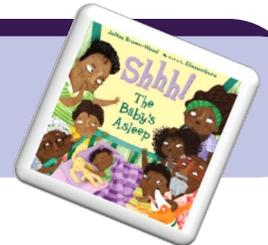
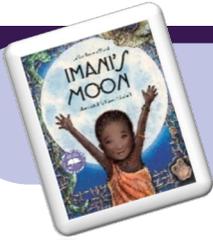


JaNay Brown-Wood, PhD

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR & EDUCATOR

Words on the World: A Newsletter



JaNay Brown-Wood, PhD | *Words on the World*

FEBRUARY, 2021

Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural edition of my newsletter *Words on the World*. My plan for this newsletter is to capture a few of my thoughts about my passions—specifically the realms of children's literature, diversity, literacy, education, early childhood and brain development, and more!

I will also use this newsletter to share about upcoming books and new projects I am working on, as well as to share some updates about me as an author, educator, scholar, and advocate! Thank you for joining me!



Words that Resonate: Dr. Rudine Bishop Sims's *Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors*

Early into my doctoral program, and after I had already written *Imani's Moon* and a draft or two of *Grandma's Tiny House*, I was introduced to the words Dr. Bishop wrote back in 1990. Her [article](#) discusses the importance of children's books and the impact children's literature can have on young readers. Specifically, she coined three terms to illustrate how books can broaden or validate our experiences as humans: mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors.

Her words have impacted a lot of the work I do as an author, an educator, and a scholar. She has offered nuance and provided me terminology to apply to my books and poetry. When I reflect back on my own childhood, I realize that I had access to many windows and sliding glass doors, but not very many mirrors.

There were a few titles that stood out to me like Williams's *Cherries and Cherry Pits* or Steptoe's *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, but even with characters that resembled me, I didn't necessarily connect with their experiences. So, when I place my fingers on the keyboard or jot notes into my notepad, I remind myself why I write. Specifically, I write to provide mirrors for children who look like me *and* who have similar experiences to mine. I want them to find themselves in books on the shelves of libraries and schoolhouses, and in their own in-home libraries, too. But, I also write to provide windows and sliding glass doors. These are vital as well. If we want to build a compassionate and empathetic tomorrow, we need opportunities to learn about and connect with others who are different than us; to set the foundation for acceptance, appreciation, and togetherness.



A little about me, JaNay Brown-Wood, PhD



Headshot by Michelle Wood Photography

I am an educator, scholar, advocate, and an award-winning children's book author. Currently, I am an Assistant Professor at California State University, Sacramento in the Child and Adolescent Development department. I'm committed to spreading the word about the importance of diverse books, early language, literacy, and brain development within home and educational contexts.

My books have received a number of accolades and awards including the NAESP Children's Book of the Year Award, a Bank Street Books Best book selection, and the CELI Read Aloud Book Award through the University of Mississippi. I have had several poems published including *Falling Leaves* in the poetry anthology *Thanku: Poems of Gratitude* (Lerner/Millbrook, 2019) a Chicago Public Library's Best Informational Books for 2019, an American Library Association Notable Children's Book, and a Notable Children's Book for the Global Society. Also, I have at least ten forthcoming books including *Sbbb! The Baby's Asleep* (Charlesbridge, 2021), *Where in the Garden* a four-book series (Peachtree, forthcoming 2021, 2022, and 2023), *Jam, Too* (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, forthcoming 2023), and more!

Interested in booking me? Check out my [Visits](#) page to find out how to book me as a speaker!

My Take on Bishop's Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors



What are Mirrors?

- ▶ Books with characters or storylines that reflect your own experience back to you in a way that is familiar and meaningful. It can feel validating and exciting to read stories that remind you of your own life, and it can be encouraging to read about characters who are just like you but who overcome big obstacles and challenges.



What are Windows?

- ▶ Books that have characters and storylines that give you a glimpse into experiences that are different than your own. They can introduce you to things you've never imagined or considered, expanding your views.



What Sliding Glass Doors?

- ▶ Books that have characters and storylines that pull you into other experiences, giving you a chance to delve deeper into experiences that are different than yours. I think of it as stepping through the door and into someone else's life. This especially helps broaden your experience and perspective—and hopefully helps you build some understanding and compassion as well.

I, too, believe that for a better world, books need to include mirrors, windows, **and** sliding glass doors—all of these! Literature should consist of stories that relate to everyone, allowing for children to see themselves in authentic ways, but also to get a realistic glimpse or allow for a genuine journey into the experiences of others.

So what are YOU sharing with children?

References:

- Bishop, R. S. (1990). Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors. *Perspectives: Choosing and Using Books in the Classroom*, 6(3), ix–xi.
- Myers, W. D. (2014, March 15). Where are the people of color in children's books? *The New York Times*, p. SR1.

“Books transmit values. They explore our common humanity.”—Walter Dean Myers



Where will I be in...

February

We're Speaking

CSLA

Virtual Conference

February 11th & 12th, 19th & 20th

Register at: bit.ly/CSLA2021



www.csla.net

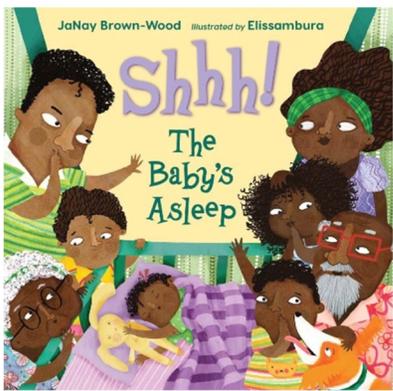


Math for ME: Empowering Students through Diverse Math Stories

Alyssa Mito Pusey, JaNay Brown-Wood, Julie Roach, Marlene Kliman, and Natasha Yim

Saturday, Feb 20th | 11am PST

Book #3 Coming June 15, 2021



Written by JaNay Brown-Wood, Illustrated by Elissambura
Charlesbridge Publishing Inc
ISBN-10: 1580895220
ISBN-13: 978-1580895224

Baby is finally asleep. But everyone is much too noisy! Can Mom, Daddy, Grammy, Pop Pop, Shae, Dante, Rover the dog, and even the neighbor keep quiet? And yes, Baby is eventually awakened. But one savvy little narrator knows just the way to make his baby sister fall back asleep: by reading a good book to her, of course. A hilarious cast of characters will keep readers laughing throughout this amusing celebration of early literacy and intergenerational family relationships.

Click [HERE](#) to pre-order

Website: www.janaybrownwood.com

@janaybrownwood

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