

Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut

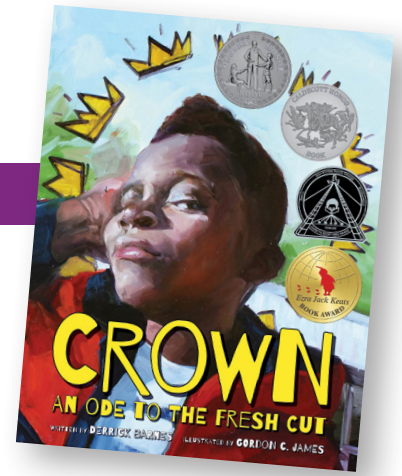
A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Community, Culture, Self-confidence

Book Brief: The barbershop is a place of transformation, where boys enter as lumps of clay and leave feeling like royalty, confident and ready to conquer the world. A fresh cut sharpens their look, lifts their spirits, and reminds them of their limitless potential.

Author:
Derrick Barnes

Illustrator:
Gordon C. James



TIME TO READ!

The Cover: Look at the cover of the book with students and ask, “What do you see on the cover of this book? How do you think the boy feels?” Discuss student responses and keep them in mind for the picture walk.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, “How do you feel after you get a new haircut?” (Optional: Pair-Share)

Vocabulary: This story will introduce words relating to self-expression. Use Picture Cards: *confidence, brilliant, important, beautiful, magnificent*. Ask students if they know of words in their home language(s) that mean the same thing as these words.

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about the words the author uses to show the boy’s feelings about getting a haircut.”

WHILE WE READ

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (LEVELS 1-4)

Throughout the story, pause and ask...

- **Level 1:** “Point to the hairstyle on this page.”
- **Level 2:** “Did the barber use scissors on this page? Yes or no?” Students can answer yes/no or use a physical response such as thumbs up/down or nodding their head.
- **Level 3:** “What is the boy thinking about on this page?”
- **Level 4:** “What do you think will happen next now that the boy has a haircut?”

LET’S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: “What words did the author use to describe the boy’s feelings as he got a haircut?”

Extending Our Thinking: Have you ever done something that made you feel confident? What was it? Why do you think it made you feel good about yourself?

BOOK ACTIVITY: Dramatic Play Barber Shop

Materials: pretend scissors, pretend hair dryer, brushes and combs, mirrors, aprons, empty bottles for shampoo and products

Allow students to freshen up their look by creating a salon or barber shop in your dramatic play area. Provide checklists for students to decide what services they would like to have done. Offer real magazines and photographs for inspiration. Post signs that say, “walk-ins welcome” and “salon hours.” Include a cash register and price list for real-world math connections. Aspiring barbers can put on an apron, grab a pair of pretend scissors, and get styling. Oh, so fresh!

