

Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut

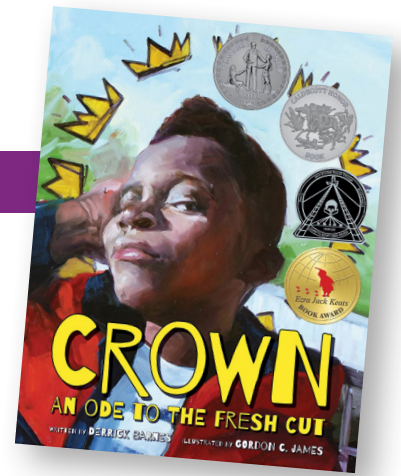
A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

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!



Before: Read the title of the story and look at the cover. Ask your child what they think will happen in the story.

During: As you read, ask, “What haircut did the boy ask for?”

After, ask questions:

- How did the haircut make the boy feel?
- How does the boy feel about the barber? What makes you think that?
- What do you think the boy will do next?

INTENTIONAL TALK

Thinking Beyond the Text, An important skill for new readers to develop is to make connections between what they are reading and the world around them. In this way they bring their own thoughts to what they are reading and develop a greater understanding of a story or text. It also helps them share their thoughts and ideas with others.

As you read *Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut* encourage your child to find a part of the story that reminds them of your own community, or even things they’ve heard or seen before reading this book. This will help them make connections and see how the book fits into their world to create meaning with the story.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Community Barbershop/Salon

Next time you visit your local barber shop or salon see if you can notice the similarities between the book and the barber shop. Listen to the conversations and notice the people. How do people feel when they first sit in the chair and when they are done?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY DERRICK BARNES

- [The King of Kindergarten \(2019\)](#)
- [I am Every Good Thing \(2020\)](#)
- [Kind of the Classroom \(2020\)](#)