

# Kwame Alexander Kwame Alexander

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## CLARK KANE

*Booked* Atria Books

New York Times bestseller • Newbery Medal Winner • Coretta Scott King Honor Award • 2015 YALSA 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults • 2015 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers • Publishers Weekly Best Book • School Library Journal Best Book • Kirkus Best Book "A beautifully measured novel of life and line."--The New York Times Book Review "With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering," announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

*Kwame Alexander* Sleeping Bear Press

The #1 New York Times bestseller 'At once vivid and simple, lyrical and surgical, expressive and exacting' Lupita Nyong'o Dreams are today's answers for tomorrow's questions. Eleven-year-old Kofi Offin has dreams of water, of its urgent whisper that beckons with promises and secrets. He has heard the call on the banks of Upper Kwanta, West Africa, where he lives. He loves these things above all else: his family, the fireside tales of his father's father, a girl named Ama, and, of course, swimming. But when the unthinkable – a sudden death – occurs during a festival between rival villages, Kofi ends up in a fight for his life. What happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves. Yet Kofi's dreams may be the key to his freedom...

*My Life as a Goddess* Hurst Publishers

This high-interest biography examines the life of Kwame Alexander, the author of *The Crossover*. From his birth in 1968 to winning the Newbery Medal in 2015, students will read about the people and places that influenced his life and career, and will be encouraged to follow their dreams as they are engaged in reading. Developed by Timothy Rasinski and featuring TIME content, this full-color nonfiction book includes essential text features like an index, captions, glossary, and table of contents. The intriguing sidebars, detailed images, and in-depth Reader's Guide require students to connect back to the text and promote multiple readings. The Think Link and Dig Deeper! sections develop students' higher-order thinking skills, and the Check It

Out! section includes suggested books, videos, and websites for further reading. Aligned with state standards, this text features complex and rigorous content appropriate for students preparing for college and career readiness.

*Snowman - Cold = Puddle* Harper Collins

Shortlisted for the Books Are My Bag 2020 Readers Awards 'With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. 'Cuz tonight I'm delivering,' raps twelve-year-old Josh Bell. Thanks to their dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood – he's got mad beats, too, which help him find his rhythm when it's all on the line. See the Bell family in a whole new light through Dawud Anyabwile's dynamic illustrations as the brothers' winning season unfolds, and the world as they know it begins to change.

*Muslim Zion* Crown Books For Young Readers

This high-interest biography examines the life of Kwame Alexander, the author of *The Crossover*. From his birth in 1968 to winning the Newbery Medal in 2015, students will read about the people and places that influenced his life and career, and will be encouraged to follow their dreams as they are engaged in reading. Developed by Timothy Rasinski and featuring TIME content, this full-color nonfiction book includes essential text features like an index, captions, glossary, and table of contents. The intriguing sidebars, detailed images, and in-depth Reader's Guide require students to connect back to the text and promote multiple readings. The Think Link and Dig Deeper! sections develop students' higher-order thinking skills, and the Check It Out! section includes suggested books, videos, and websites for further reading. Aligned with state standards, this text features complex and rigorous content appropriate for students preparing for college and career readiness.

*Knockout* Versify

Goblin, a cheerful little homebody, lives in a cosy, rat-infested dungeon, with his only friend, Skeleton. Every day, Goblin and Skeleton play with the treasure in their dungeon. But one day, a gang of "heroic" adventurers bursts in. These marauders trash the place, steal all the treasure, and make off with Skeleton—leaving Goblin all alone! It's up to Goblin to save the day. But first he's going to have to leave the dungeon and find out how the rest of the world feels about goblins.

*Game Changers: Kwame Alexander* HarperCollins

New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today Bestseller! Gold medal-winning Olympic gymnast and Dancing with the Stars champion Laurie Hernandez shares her story in her own words in this debut book for fans of all ages—with never-before-seen photos! At sixteen years old, Laurie Hernandez has already made many of her dreams come true—and yet it's only the beginning for this highly accomplished athlete. A Latina Jersey girl, Laurie

saw her life take a dramatic turn last summer when she was chosen to be a part of the 2016 US Olympic gymnastics team. After winning gold in Rio as part of the Final Five, Laurie also earned an individual silver medal for her performance on the balance beam. Nicknamed "the Human Emoji" for her wide-eyed and animated expressions, Laurie continued to dance her way into everyone's hearts while competing on the hit reality TV show *Dancing with the Stars*, where she was the youngest-ever winner of the Mirrorball Trophy. Poignant and funny, Laurie's story is about growing up with the dream of becoming an Olympian and what it took to win gold. She talks about her loving family, her rigorous training, her intense sacrifices, and her amazing triumphs. Be prepared to fall in love with and be mesmerized by America's newest sweetheart all over again.

*SLAY* Crown Books for Young Readers

From NPR correspondent and New York Times bestselling author, Kwame Alexander, comes a powerful and provocative collection of poems that cut to the heart of the entrenched racism and oppression in America and eloquently explores ongoing events. A book in the tradition of James Baldwin's "A Report from Occupied Territory," *Light for the World to See* is a rap session on race. A lyrical response to the struggles of Black lives in our world . . . to America's crisis of conscience . . . to the centuries of loss, endless resilience, and unstoppable hope. Includes an introduction by the author and a bold, graphically designed interior. A collection of three powerful poems that take on racism and Black resistance in America by New York Times best-selling author Kwame Alexander. Includes an introduction by the author.

*Black Star* BlackWords

Incredible stories. Award-winning storytellers. Epic adventure, mystery, and fun? We've got it all in *Ghostwriter*--the extraordinary new series from the hit Apple TV+ show, created by your friends at Sesame Workshop. This diverse poetry notebook by Kwame Alexander is next in the *Ghostwriters* series, offering introductions to different styles of poems (list poems, haikus, etc.) with poems, inspirational quotes, and free write prompts and activities. Also includes bonus activities: Games Quizzes Puzzles Vocabulary Reading Comprehension and Crafts!

*How to Write a Story* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Afraid of singing in front of a large crowd, Indigo dreams about Acoustic Rooster and his band and, after a storm flattens their barn, helps organize a concert fundraiser to rebuild it. *He Said, She Said* Andersen Press Limited  
 The riveting second book in the #1 New York Times bestselling *Door of No Return* trilogy stars Kofi's granddaughter, Charley, who's set on becoming the first female pitcher to play professional ball but who soon has to contend with the tensions about to boil over in her segregated town. You can't protect her from knowing. The truth is all we have. 12-year old Charley Cuffey

is many things: a granddaughter, a best friend, and probably the best pitcher in all of Lee's Mill. Set on becoming the first female pitcher to play professional ball, Charley doesn't need reminders from her best friend Cool Willie Green to know that she has lofty dreams for a Black girl in the American South. Even so, Nana Kofi's thrilling stories about courageous ancestors and epic journeys make it impossible not to dream big. She knows he has so many more to tell, but according to her parents, she isn't old enough to know about certain things like what happened to Booker Preston that one night in Great Bridge and why she can never play on the brand-new real deal baseball field on the other side of town. When Charley challenges a neighborhood bully to a game at the church picnic, she knows she can win, even with her ragtag team. But when the picnic spills over onto their ball field, she makes a fateful decision. A child cannot protect herself if she does not know her history, and Charley's choice brings consequences she never could have imagined. In this thrilling second book of the Door of No Return trilogy, set during the turbulent segregation era, and the beginning of The Great Migration, Kwame Alexander weaves a spellbinding story of struggle, determination, and the unflappable faith of an American family.

**Nobody Likes a Goblin** HarperCollins

Poetry + Math + Science = A new way of looking at spring Math meets metaphor in this eye-opening exploration of spring. Each clever equation is a tiny, perfect poem that prompts readers to look at the ordinary and see the miraculous. Can you look at an egg in a nest and see a jewelry box? How are sunlight and heat like an alarm clock? Engaging sidebars reveal the science behind the signs of spring.

**Surf's Up** Andersen Press Limited

In this electrifying follow-up to Kwame Alexander's Newbery winner *The Crossover*, soccer, family, love, and friendship take center stage. A New York Times bestseller and National Book Award Longlist nominee. Twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend and sometimes teammate Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read. This electric and heartfelt novel-in-verse bends and breaks as it captures all the thrills and setbacks, action and emotion of a World Cup match. "A novel about a soccer-obsessed tween boy written entirely in verse? In a word, yes. Kwame Alexander has the magic to pull off this unlikely feat, both as a poet and as a storyteller." —The Chicago Tribune Can't nobody stop you Can't nobody cop you... ILA-CBC Children's Choice List · ALA Notable Children's Book · Book Links' Lasting Connections · Kirkus Best Book · San Francisco Chronicle Best Book · Washington Post Best Book · BookPage Best Book

*Swing* Simon Pulse

Levi just wants to be treated like a typical kid. As a baby, he had a serious disease that caused him respiratory issues. He's fine now, but his mom and overprotective brother still think of him as damaged, and his schoolmates see him as the same class clown he's always been. He feels stuck. So when his dad—divorced from his mom—suggests he take up boxing, he falls in love with the sport. And when he finds out about a school with a killer boxing team and a free-study curriculum, it feels like he's found a ticket to a new Levi. But how can he tell his mom about boxing? And how can he convince his family to set him free?

**Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band** HarperCollins

Longlisted for the 2014 National Book Award Never has there been a book of poems quite like Gabriel, in which a short life, a bewildering death, and the unanswerable sorrow of a father come together in such a sustained elegy. This unabashed sequence speaks directly from Hirsch's heart to our own, without

sentimentality. From its opening lines—"The funeral director opened the coffin / And there he was alone / From the waist up"—Hirsch's account is poignantly direct and open to the strange vicissitudes and tricks of grief. In propulsive three-line stanzas, he tells the story of how a once unstoppable child, who suffered from various developmental disorders, turned into an irreverent young adult, funny, rebellious, impulsive. Hirsch mixes his tale of Gabriel with the stories of other poets through the centuries who have also lost children, and expresses his feelings through theirs. His landmark poem enters the broad stream of human grief and raises in us the strange hope, even consolation, that we find in the writer's act of witnessing and transformation. It will be read and reread.

**The Playbook** Chronicle Books

Twelve-year-old Haven channels her anxiety about the climate crisis into a fight against the factory suspected of polluting the river running through her town.

**The Crossover** Free Spirit Publishing

A heart-swelling debut for fans of *The Silver Linings Playbook* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Sometimes life isn't as simple as heroes and villains. For Zelda, a twenty-one-year-old Viking enthusiast who lives with her older brother, Gert, life is best lived with some basic rules: 1. A smile means "thank you for doing something small that I liked." 2. Fist bumps and dabs = respect. 3. Strange people are not appreciated in her home. 4. Tomatoes must go in the middle of the sandwich and not get the bread wet. 5. Sometimes the most important things don't fit on lists. But when Zelda finds out that Gert has resorted to some questionable—and dangerous—methods to make enough money to keep them afloat, Zelda decides to launch her own quest. Her mission: to be legendary. It isn't long before Zelda finds herself in a battle that tests the reach of her heroism, her love for her brother, and the depth of her Viking strength. When *We Were Vikings* is an uplifting debut about an unlikely heroine whose journey will leave you wanting to embark on a quest of your own, because after all... We are all legends of our own making.

**Animal Ark** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

The inspiring sequel to the 2015 Parent's Choice Winner, *How to Read a Story!* Step 1: Choose an idea for your story. A good one. Step 2: Decide on a setting. Don't be afraid to mix things up. Step 3: Create a heroine—or a hero. Now: Begin. Accomplished storytellers Kate Messner and Mark Siegel playfully chronicle the process of becoming a writer in this fun follow-up to *How to Read a Story*, guiding young storytellers through the joys and challenges of the writing process. From choosing an idea, to creating a problem for their character to resolve, to coming to *The End*, this empowering picture book breaks down the writing process in a dynamic and accessible way, encouraging kids to explore their own creativity—and share their stories with others! • Perfect for educators, librarians, and parents who are helping children develop early writing and reading skills • Great read-aloud book for preschool- and kindergarten-aged children interested in learning to read • Helps teach Common Core Curriculum skills Young readers who love *We Are in a Book!*, *How Rocket Learned to Read*, and *Also an Octopus* will love the reading and writing lessons and inspiration in *How to Write a Story*. • Read-aloud books for kids ages 3-5 • Learning to write books for kids • Kindergarten, pre-K creativity books Kate Messner is an award-winning author whose many books for kids have been selected as Best Books by the New York Times, Junior Library Guild, Indie Bound, and Bank Street College of Education. She lives on Lake Champlain with her family. Mark Siegel is the author of many graphic novels and children's picture books, including the *5 Worlds* series, as well as the illustrator of *How to*

*Read a Story* and the Robert F. Sibert Honor Book *To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel*. He lives in New York.

**The Undeclared Knopf**

"Smart, fast, clever, and funny (As f\*ck!)" (Tiffany Haddish), this collection of side-splitting and illuminating essays by the popular stand-up comedian, alum of Chelsea Lately and *The Mindy Project*, and host of truTV's *Talk Show the Game Show* is perfect for fans of the New York Times bestsellers *Why Not Me?* by Mindy Kaling and *We Are Never Meeting in Real Life* by Samantha Irby. From a young age, Guy Branum always felt as if he were on the outside looking in. From a stiflingly boring farm town, he couldn't relate to his neighbors. While other boys played outside, he stayed indoors reading Greek mythology. And being gay and overweight, he got used to diminishing himself. But little by little, he started learning from all the sad, strange, lonely outcasts in history who had come before him, and he started to feel hope. In this "singular, genuinely ballsy, and essential" (Billy Eichner) collection of personal essays, Guy talks about finding a sense of belonging at Berkeley—and stirring up controversy in a newspaper column that led to a run-in with the Secret Service. He recounts the pitfalls of being typecast as the "Sassy Gay Friend," and how, after taking a wrong turn in life (i.e. law school), he found stand-up comedy and artistic freedom. He analyzes society's calculated deprivation of personhood from fat people, and how, though it's taken him a while to accept who he is, he has learned that with a little patience and a lot of humor, self-acceptance is possible. "Keenly observant and intelligent, Branum's book not only offers uproarious insights into walking paths less traveled, but also into what self-acceptance means in a world still woefully intolerant of difference" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). *My Life as a Goddess* is an unforgettable and deeply moving book by one of today's most endearing and galvanizing voices in comedy.

**Solo** NorthSouth Books

Imagine having a Newbery Medal-winning author in your classroom as an advisor and a friend, providing personal and practical advice on how to teach writing workshop in the modern-day classroom. With *The Write Thing*, you can do just that! Kwame Alexander is the New York Times-bestselling author of *The Crossover*. With more than 10 years of experience conducting writing workshops in schools, Alexander shows how to shake up the "traditional" writing workshop and make writing fun again! His magnetic personality, infectious enthusiasm, and love of teaching come through to inspire all students to write. *The Write Thing* teaches you how to move students step-by-step from ideas, to drafts, to finished works. Not only will you successfully motivate your students to write, you'll take that motivation one step further by providing guidance on how to create student-driven publications of their work. The confidence students will attain when they see their writing authentically published will be off the charts! The book has three parts: Writing, Publishing, and Presenting. The Writing section features Lessons in Action that teach students to produce writing that is worthy of being published. With a focus on poetry, Alexander's writing workshop uniquely meets the needs of reluctant writers. The Publishing section focuses on how to prepare and print digital and physical copies of students' work. The Presenting section provides suggestions to help students confidently present their poetry and other written pieces. Other exciting features include Kwame Time! videos for both teachers and students that bring Alexander into the classroom. Kwame's Quick Tips feature easy-to-implement ideas that have worked for Alexander. With an insightful foreword by author Kylene Beers, teacher success stories, and the most helpful appendix ever written, this essential resource will teach you how to tailor writing workshop to meet the particular needs of your students.

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