WEEKEND STORYTIME

with Jamia Wilson

Saturday, April 4th, 2020
Parenting for Liberation partnered with author, Jamia Wilson, to curate a space that centers Black children by offering to read from her two incredible books “Young, Gifted and Black” & “Big Ideas for Young Thinkers.” The children engaged in songs, activities, and Q&A.
● Black Mama of 2, ages 16 & 11
● Social justice movement builder centering relationships and community in service of justice
● Founder of Parenting for Liberation

Movement Makers

● Movement builder, Storyteller, and Feminist Activist and Writer
● Executive Director and Publisher of the Feminist Press at CUNY
Grounding Chant
“I Love Myself”
by K Love the Poet

I love myself
I mean every single thing
From the skin that I’m in*
To my soul energy
I do my dance like
I do my dance like
I do my, do my, do my dance like
MEET 52 BLACK HEROES FROM PAST AND PRESENT

YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK

words by JAMIA WILSON
illustrated by ANDREA PIPPINS

NELSON MANDELA

JAMIA WILSON

ANDREA PIPPINS
About the Book...

Meet 52 Heroes from the Past & Present.

A collection of short biographies and stories about Black changemakers to encourage, inspire, and empower the next generation of changemakers.
Herione of the Crimean War, Mary Seacole, pioneered as a nurse who cared for British soldiers at the battlefront.

As a child, young Mary learned about Caribbean medicine from her mother, a free black Jamaican woman. A natural healer, she practiced nursing skills and pets before tending to humans.

By 1854, Mary was living in London when the suffering of soldiers in the Crimean War went public. At the start of the war, her application to join Florence Nightingale's nursing team was rejected—like many others who were refused due to their race or class. Determined to help, Mary put her nursing skills to use and went to war at her own expense.

In 1855, she built the British Hotel near Balaklava to care for injured soldiers. She helped contain the cholera outbreak by distributing remedies in hospitals on the Crimean frontlines.

Although she passed away in 1881, “Mother Seacole” is remembered for bravely running a business, kindly caring for ill and injured warriors, and defying discrimination during an era when Black women’s rights were limited.
Reflection

Mary Seacole showed bravery through her care for others. Who is providing care for others now? How do you care for yourself and others?
Mary Seacole

NOVEMBER 23, 1805 - MAY 14, 1881

KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Young, Gifted and Black is full of people who worked hard and fought for what they believed in. Have a think about who inspires you. What is it about this person that makes them so special? Draw a portrait in the space above of someone that you would like to see featured in Young, Gifted and Black.
About the Book...

Teaches children to think critically and discuss ideas in a world that needs bright young thinkers.

Sections include: Identity, Life, Truth, Culture, and Creativity.
WHAT IS IMAGINATION?

Our imagination gives us the freedom to explore endless possibilities without any limits. It is a powerful and useful part of the mind that allows us to expand our horizons and envision new pathways or potential realities.

Our imaginations are alive, fluid, open, and full of possibility if we allow ourselves to play, make new things, and explore fresh ideas. Growing up, I relied on my imagination to lead my curiosity and to act as an anchor that brought me back to the sanctuary of my own nature, thoughts, and dreams. It helped me feel safe, confident, and free whenever someone told me I couldn’t do or say something because I was a girl, or because I was born with a disability. It provided comfort and healing, while also offering me ways to tap into my strengths, embrace my dreams, and accept myself. As Muhammad Ali said, “The person who has no imagination has no wings.”

When physicist Albert Einstein said “imagination is more important than knowledge,” he understood that knowledge could be gained with time and practice, but imagination is the fire that fuels creativity and change. He argued that we can’t “solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.” Calling on us to apply both reason and imagination when asking and answering big questions.

Imagination is about world-making. It helps us understand ourselves and anything outside of us with a fresh perspective. That’s why humans connect deeply with storytelling, fantasy, and lore (tradition stories and knowledge).

American science-fiction writer Octavia E. Butler acknowledged the importance of pairing knowledge with creativity to capture imaginations through her work. “Fantasy is totally wide open, you really have to do is follow the rules you’ve set. But if you’re writing about science, you have to first learn what you’re writing about.”

Although many great minds have insisted on the importance of imagination, practices in our schools and the workplace don’t always mirror this mindset. British educator Ken Robinson has spoken about how we are born with creativity and “get educated out of it.” He argues that being imaginative is as important as being able to read and write, but that schools currently focus on training children to be good, obedient workers, rather than encouraging their creativity and diverse ways of thinking.

Robinson’s belief that “imagination is the source of all human achievement” is at the heart of the imaginated “learning revolution” that he wants to see take place in schools and beyond.

What do you think? How might we use our imagination to grow at school and beyond?

“The power of imagination created the illusion that my vision went much further than the naked eye could actually see.”

NELSON MANDELA
(1918–2013)
South African president and activist.
Reflection

What are you imagining for the future right now? How are you using your imagination at home?
Activity:
Imagine a world filled with possibilities. What does this world look like for you? Draw it out!
WE'VE COME TO THE END OF THIS BOOK BUT IT'S JUST THE START OF YOUR PHILOSOPHERING ADVENTURES.

Now it's time to take what you've learned and use it to help you think creatively about your own big questions and ideas.

Are these ideas that keep you up at night? What questions do you wish you could learn more about? What's your big "why?"—or your big "how?" Is there a vision you have for the world that you haven't written or spoken about yet? Connect with others and ask away!
Stay Connected!

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Coming Soon via Feminist Press
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THANK YOU!