July 21st, 2021

**Black Family Joy: Reading with Teens and Children**
Our July conversation focused on the joy that Black families find in reading diverse books together, and the importance of reading diverse books for all families.

*Missed July’s Action Conversation?*
You can find recordings of all our previous Action Conversations at [youtube.com/ywcapgh](https://youtube.com/ywcapgh)

**Panelists**

- **Tiya Leonard**  
  *Health Assistant, Pittsburgh Public Schools Early Childhood Program*

- **Shavonne Lowry**  
  *Family Advocate, Early Childhood Education*

- **Jordon Williams**  
  *Book Babies Program Manager, Reading is FUNdamental Pittsburgh*

[Read more about our panelists here](#)

**Resources from Conversation:**

- The importance of diverse books for all children: [diversebooks.org/](https://diversebooks.org/)

- Tips and resources about advocating for inclusive books/curricula in schools and libraries:  
  *Why We Need Diverse Books*  
  *National Education Association*  
  *Diversify Our Narrative*  
  *Student Advocacy Group*  
  *1,000 Black Girl Books*  
  *GrassROOTS Community Foundation*

- Our panelists’ favorite childhood reading and recommended for kids:  
  *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*  
  *The Snowy Day*  
  *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*  
  *Charlotte's Web*  
  *Mae Among the Stars*
• Learn about and support local organizations that promote literacy and reading:
  Reading is Fundamental  Operating in seven priority Pittsburgh neighborhoods
  Reading Ready Pittsburgh  Serving Braddock, Munhall and nearby areas
  Literacy Pittsburgh  For adults, children, families

• Panelist recommended books for tweens and early teens by/about diverse authors and characters:
  Amari and the Night Brothers
  The Crossover
  Beyoncé: Shine Your Light
  Children of Blood and Bone
  Class Act

• Recommendations for readers ages teen and up from our audience:
  Assata
  A Raisin in the Sun
  The Hate U Give
  Black Enough

• Resources for low-cost, no-cost books and audio books:
  Carnegie Library’s Overdrive  Borrow free audio books
  Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library  Supplies free books up to age 5
  Reading is Fundamental  Focused on Kindergarten readiness

Please join us at noon on Wednesday, August 18th for a panel discussion on Empowering Girls in STEM

Register at ywcapgh.org/conversations/