

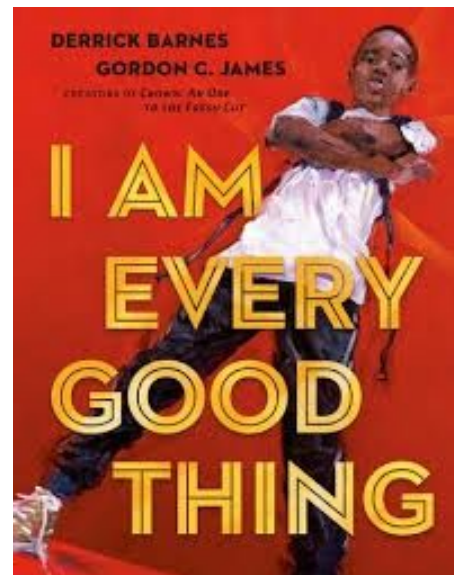


***I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes**



Derrick D. Barnes is a native of Kansas City, MO. He is a graduate of Jackson State University with a degree in Marketing. He is the author of *CROWN: An Ode To The Fresh Cut* which won a multitude of literary awards, making it one of the most decorated picture books in the history of children’s literature, along with the ultra popular series entitled *Ruby and the Booker Boys*, and the highly acclaimed novel *We Could Be Brothers*. He is also known for writing best selling copy for various Hallmark Card lines, and as the first African American male staff writer for Hallmark. He’s the Chief Creative Officer and founder of his own creative copywriting company, [Say Word Creative Communications](#); he crafts funny, colorful words for companies that need a little help being creative.

The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through—as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid, because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you—and shows you—who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!



RRS connection to TEKS: Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.*
- *Composition II: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres.*
- *Inquiry and research*

Relevant Vocabulary:

- Black joy
- Self-love and respect
- Curiosity
- Creativity
- Bravery
- Kindness
- Humor
- Difference maker
- Leader
- Astronaut
- Scientist
- Scholar and Explorer
- Champion
- Ancestor
- Empowerment
- Community Cultural Wealth

Pre-reading engagement:

- What does an author do? Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the book?
- What do you think the book will be about?
- What does an illustrator do? Find out more about illustrator Gordon C. James.
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- Read the author's biography together. What did you learn about Derrick Barnes?.

While/post reading engagement:

- What is the boy in the story like? What words could you use to describe him?
- What's the best thing about being you? Make a drawing to show us all of your strengths.
- What are some things this boy is good at?
- You all have so many strengths too! Turn and talk to your neighbor and tell them what things you know you are good at.

- Let's pay close attention to the illustrations. Do these people seem like they are having fun? How do you know?
- Think about a time when you accomplished something great. Take a moment to draw a picture of that moment and how it made you feel.
- In the story, our main character says he is "a brother, a son, a nephew, a favorite cousin, a grandon... a friend". What important roles do you play in your family and in your community?
- Even though this young boy is strong and awesome, he also has needs and sometimes gets scared. Think about a time when you were afraid. Who or what helped you feel better?
- What do you notice on the second to last page of the book? Point out any faces you recognize! What do you know about these people?
- Think about a question you would like to ask Derrick during his virtual author visit.
- Also, don't forget to keep your eyes open for everything that makes your family and community great- that's your community cultural wealth!

Useful links:

- Author's website: <https://derrickdbarnes.com/>
- Barnes Interview w/ EW: <https://ew.com/books/whats-in-a-page-derrick-barnes/>
- Barnes Interview w/ BookPage:
<https://bookpage.com/interviews/25487-derrick-barnes-gordon-c-james-childrens#.X1JQTGdKjGI>
- James Interview w/ The Booking Biz:
<https://thebookingbiz.com/2020/03/interview-gordon-c-james-on-long-days-motorcycles-and-acceptance/>
- Barnes video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azN5desiTTM>