

JADA JONES

★ DANCING QUEEN ★

KINDNESS

Jada's Guide to
Random Acts
& Community
KINDNESS
Campaigns



JADA JONES: KINDNESS QUEEN

Jada's Guide to Random Acts and Community Kindness Campaigns

ABOUT THE GUIDE

Author Kelly Starling Lyons dedicated the new Jada Jones book to “everyone who shows kindness and creates change where they are.” How can you get everyone in your community or classroom committed to kindness and change? Award-winning character educator Barbara Gruener and Curious City team up to offer a whole dance card of ideas.

“I remember the ripple of kindness from the book my teacher read to us during English Language Arts. It just kept spreading and growing” —**Jada Jones: Dancing Queen**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Jada Jones: Dancing Queen

By Kelly Starling Lyons

Illustrated by Nneka Myers

Published by Penguin Young Readers Group

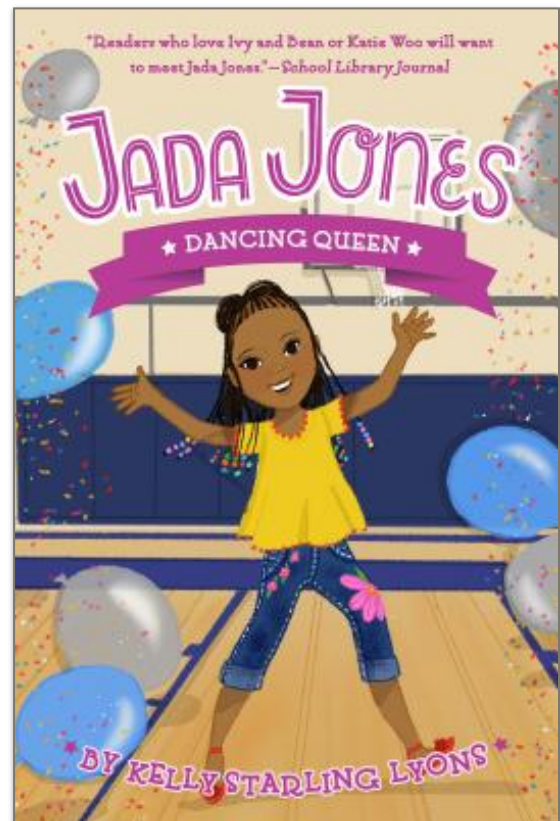
Series: Jada Jones #4

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Hardcover ISBN-13: 9781524790592

Age Range: 6 - 8 Years

When the student council decides to host a dance as a fundraiser for coats for students in need, Jada feels nervous and queasy. She's excited to give back, but she can't dance! Still, she's determined to help the cause and show she cares. She practices her moves, gets help from friends, and even does research at the library to prepare—but will it be enough to help her create change in her community?



Find other stories about Jada in **Jada Jones: Rock Star** (Book 1), **Jada Jones: Class Act** (Book 2), and **Jada Jones: Sleepover Scientist** (Book 3). All of the cover illustrations are by Vanessa Brantley Newton.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

With the release of the fourth book in the Jada Jones series, **Kelly Starling Lyons** celebrates 15 years of creating books for children. In addition to this series, Kelly is the author of the picture books **Going Down Home with Daddy** (Caldecott Honor), **Ellen's Broom** (Coretta Scott King Illustration Honor), **Sing a Song: How "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Inspired Generations** (ALSC Notable Children's Book), **Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon** (Junior Library Guild Selection), **Hope's Gift** (IRA/CBC Children's Choices List), **Tea Cakes for Tosh** (Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People), and other titles. Kelly lives in North Carolina where she is working on her next book.

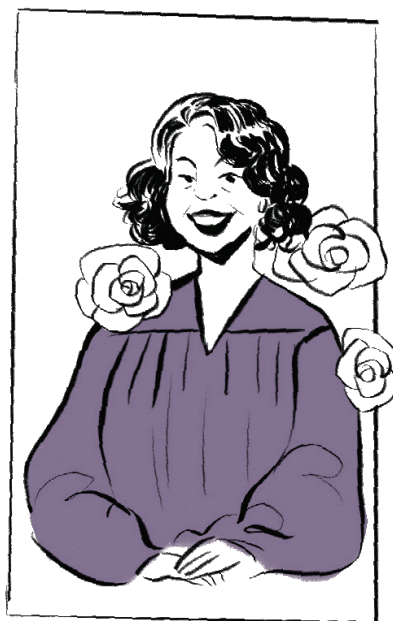
Nneka Myers has been known to paint worlds filled with color, texture, life, and diversity. Based in Toronto as a character designer and illustrator, her artwork can be found in TV animation, children's books, comics, and social media illustrations. When she is not a busy bee, she can often be found looking for inspiration in vintage fashion, drinking tea with friends, or playing video games.

BEFORE THEY WERE CHANGEMAKERS: CHARACTER AND BIOGRAPHY ACTIVITY

In the book, Ms. Flowers covers her walls with images of people who have made a difference. She decorates their photos with yellow roses to signify friendship.

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"Before they were changemakers, Ms. Flowers says, they were somebody's friend. Just like us."

—**Jada Jones: Dancing Queen**
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Brainstorm with readers what qualities make a changemaker. Brainstorm a list of qualities that make a good friend. Where are the similarities? Have readers list who in their community or the greater world is or has been a changemaker. Consider a visit to

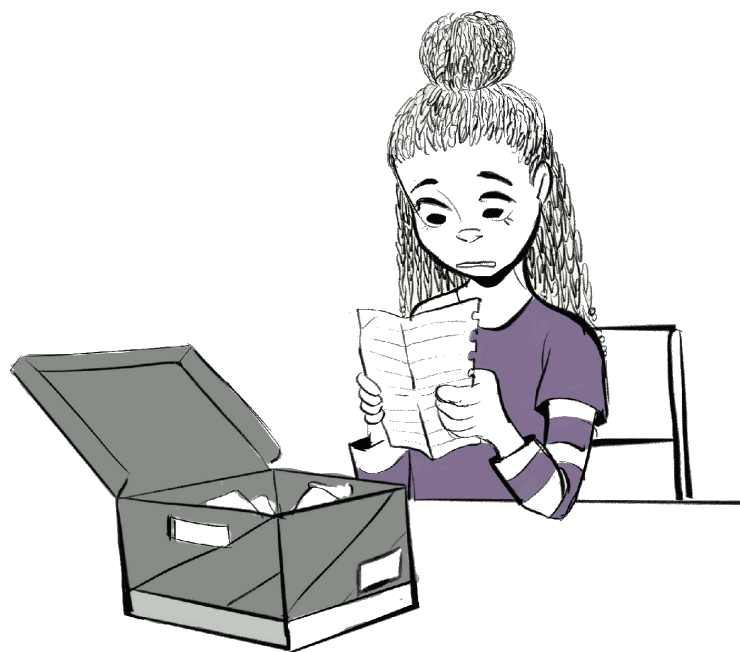
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the library to browse the biography section. Invite readers to collage or draw a changemaker on the provided Changemaker sheet (page 14). If you want to add some 3-D yellow roses to your display, try a folding craft like this:
<https://youtu.be/xGsSy5iP8wI>.

CHANGEMAKERS & KINDNESS CREATORS: SUGGESTION BOX & BULLETIN BOARD

Some of the most effective campaigns for kindness and change are generated by kids themselves. In the book, the idea for Caring Week starts with a note in the suggestion box, grows with the brainstorming of the student council, and is implemented by every member of the school community.



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“I knew it would not be the same when this was over. It started with one wish for a coat and turned into so much more.” —**Jada Jones: Dancing Queen**
.....

After reading **Jada Jones: Dancing Queen** (Penguin) and another book such as **Each Kindness** by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Penguin), ask readers to work individually or in groups to write down ideas for kindness and change. Make those ideas anonymous just like a suggestion box. Display or read the suggestions aloud. Divide the ideas into random acts of kindness (things an individual can do) or team acts of kindness (acts that will take a team, classroom, or whole community). What community change can grow from their idea?

Consider displaying your reader suggestions with the Our Ideas for Kindness and Change bulletin board sheets (pages 15-16)

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Need some inspirations or additional ideas? Look at Barbara Gruener's Acts of Kindness Inside and Acts of Kindness Beyond Our Walls later in this guide.

CROWNING KINDNESS: SHOUT-OUTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Author Kelly Starling Lyons will be calling out Kindness Queens, Kings, and Kids on her social media using the hashtag **#CrowningKindness**.

Do you want to crown your school, community, or an individual king, queen, or kid for their kindness? Fill in the Crowning Kindness template (page 17) and snap a photo or use the

PNG image file available at CuriousCityDPW.com (search for Jada Jones) to frame a picture. If you can, share that picture with Kelly Starling Lyons using the hashtag **#CrowningKindness** and **#JadaJonesSeries** and tag her on Twitter (@kelstarly) or Facebook.



EXPLORE THE EMPOWERMENT OF CROWNS: SUGGESTED READING

Ever since Jean-Michel Basquiat first painted his iconic crowns, they have been powerful symbols for African American young people like Jada. Explore the empowerment of crowns with books like **Life Doesn't Frighten Me** by Maya Angelou and illustrated by Jean-Michel Basquiat (Abrams) or **Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut** (Agate Publishing) by Derrick Barnes and illustrated by Gordon C. James. What do crowns stand for? What does it mean when we bestow a crown on others or ourselves?



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CROWNING THE “I” IN KINDNESS: COMMUNITY PHOTO BOOTH

Schools and communities all over the country have found a way to place their kids and adults in the center of kindness. These communities have built displays with the words “kind” or “kindness” covering entire walls. If the letters are as tall as a person and the “i” position is left blank, any community member can stand in for and, thus, be the “I” in KIND/NESS. Consider a crown as the dot in the “i” to reinforce that we can crown kindness. (There is a crown to cut-out on page 18). Snap pictures and consider sharing them with #CrowningKindness and #JadaJonesSeries.

COATS FOR CARING & OTHER DRIVES AND FUNDRAISERS FOR KIDS IN NEED

In the book, Jada and the Council Crew decide to collect donated coats and hold a fundraiser to purchase coats. What does your community need? If you are in a school setting, have your students interview the social worker, nurse, and/or school secretary to ask them what students most need. Here are some amazing things that are actually happening in schools across the country.



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“I looked at my dragon bank. I had been saving for a rock tumbler for months...But this was much more important.” —**Jada Jones: Dancing Queen**
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Clothing: Many schools are setting up clothing closets with new and gently used clothes that are open to all students. Student Brayden Martin of Butler, Ohio, started a GoFundMe fundraiser page for a clothing closet for foster kids. His first goal was to raise \$400. By last count, he had raised \$8,000! Explore more: <https://local12.com/news/local/butler-co-teen-raises-more-than-8000-that-will-be-used-to-help-foster-families>

Backpacks: In Houston, Texas, a student named Reagan Forrest fundraised and packed backpacks for the homeless. She called the program We've Got Your Back(pack). Explore more: <https://abc13.com/5808604>. Imagine holding a fundraiser for backpacks filled with school supplies to start the new year or welcome new students throughout the year.

Food Insecurity: Some schools are opening small free stores with food and toiletries. Explore food insecurity with books like **Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando** by Andrea Wang and illustrated by Kana Urbanowicz (little bee).

School Lunch Debt: Other schools are holding fundraisers to pay off student lunch debt. In St. Paul, Minnesota, citizens raised tens of thousands of dollars to pay off student lunch debt in honor of Philando Castile. Philando was a beloved St. Paul school cafeteria supervisor who often paid for his students' lunches. He was tragically shot and killed by a police officer, and people have been honoring his legacy by erasing student lunch debt. Explore more: <https://www.theroot.com/philando-castiles-mom-donated-8-000-to-clear-school-lu-1834748110>

In Vermont, a student's fundraiser to erase student lunch debt caught the eye of the state's governor! In 2020, the state is considering a bill to make lunch free for all Vermont students. Explore more: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/01/14/lawmakers-pitch-first-in-the-nation-plan-for-free-school-meals/>

Pads & Tampons: Inspired by the new graphic novel **Go With the Flow** by Lily Williams and Karen Schneemann (First Second) and the Oscar-winning documentary *Period. End of Sentence*, some students, staff, and community members are talking openly about the cost of feminine hygiene products and breaking down the barriers to discussing them. Pads and tampons are appearing free in school and library restrooms and being collected for the homeless.

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Fundraising: Fundraising can take so many fabulous forms. No matter how you pledge to make change, we have a form for that. Look for the Kindness Pledge sheet (page 19). Portions of the form have been left blank so that you can add a description and your own pledge sheet columns. Look for a .JPEG to adapt at CuriousCityDPW.com (search for Jada Jones).

KINDNESS AND CHANGE: SMART SLOGANS, SAVVY SIGNS

When an anonymous request came to the Council Crew for a new coat, Jada penned the phrase “Coats for Caring” for the coat drive. What slogans or phrases can your individuals or group come up with? Slogans like Coats for Caring or We’ve Got Your Back(Pack) can attract more attention and make great signage and flyers. Here are some tools your students already know how to use.

Alliteration: For example, while the title of our featured book is “Dancing Queen,” we also thought Jada was a “Kindness Queen.” The name related to the title and had admirable alliteration. We even thought we could praise changemakers with a little more alliteration by using “Crowning Kindness.”

Homonyms: It is also fun to change up words. One school created small gardens in their neighborhood with pollinator-friendly plants and included signs that said “Bee Kind to Pollinators: Plant Plants that Help Bees and Butterflies”

Synonyms: Using a Thesaurus, have readers look up other words for kindness, change, thanks, and so on. One school rhymed “Gratitude” with “Attitude” and ran a campaign to lift their Gratitude Attitude.



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Art Ed: The art educators in your community may love to teach students about how to design a poster, lay out a sticker, make a rubber stamp, or other tools for delivering a message through art. Kindness and calls for change can multiply when we use the tools at hand creatively.

Explore how four girls used slogans, signage, and art tools to protest the use of an outdated and cruel town artifact in the chapter book **Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers** by Celia C. Pérez (Penguin).

ACTS OF KINDNESS INSIDE OUR WALLS

Jada's Coats for Caring idea quickly morphed into a Caring Week "where everyone is reminded to show kindness."

.....
"Something else happened. Though caring week was over, someone put a card in my cubby that said: You're awesome. I saw older kids tying the shoelaces of kindergartners. Kids invited new friends to sit with them at lunch...it just kept spreading and growing."

—Jada Jones: Dancing Queen

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Here are some things Kindness Queen and character educator Barbara Gruener has seen her school communities and schools across the country enact on campus:

- Make Smile Cards to put onto car windshields in your school parking lot.
- Leave notes of encouragement anonymously in cubbies, lockers, and library books.
- Thank a former teacher, coach, or friend for being a gift.
- Meet someone new and offer to sit with them at lunch or play with them at recess.
- Invite guests to teach a skill (like knitting) and use that skill for good.



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- Make Friendship Bracelets to welcome new students.
- Put affirmations on Post-Its all over school.
- Remember to thank the staff in your building who help make the school run, but who you may not know. For example, thank the janitor, cafeteria staff, office staff, aids, and so on. Know their names and greet them when you see them.
- Ask the school secretary's permission to count the mail cubbies in the office. Work with friends and make a thank you for each cubby.
- Listen to people with your whole body.
- Serve as the morning greeter (or after-school launcher) at the door.
- Ask to do a kindness PSA over morning announcements.
- Push around a Beverage Buggy and offer cold water and fresh fruit to your school faculty and staff. Check out these Kind Kids in Clear Lake, Texas:
https://youtu.be/o_iN3fwbk_I
- Host a hat/PJs day; students pay \$1 to wear PJs and/or \$1 to wear a hat. Donate the proceeds to a cause that students vote on.
- Learn to say your classmates' names. Read the book **My Name is Sangoel** by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed and illustrated by Catherine Stock (Eerdmans) or **Your Name is a Song** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and illustrated by Luisa Uribe (The Innovation Press) to explore best practices on respecting classmate's names.

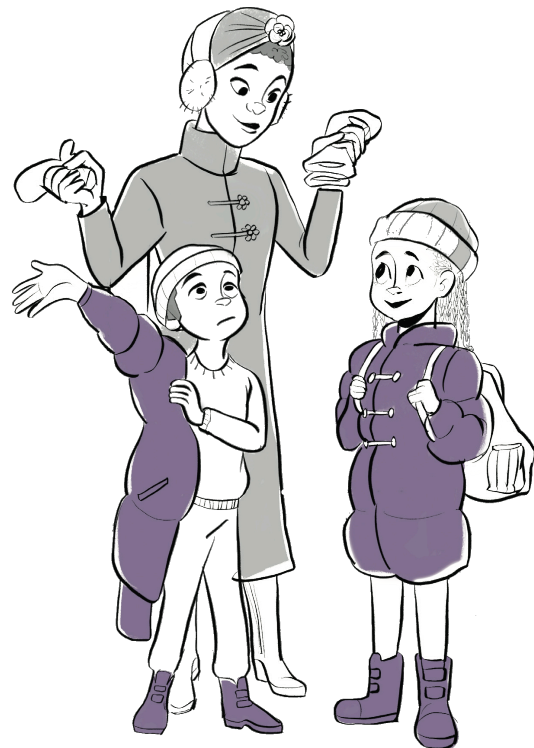
ACTS OF KINDNESS BEYOND OUR WALLS

Once kindness and change start inside the walls of a school or library or home, they start to spill out into the larger community.

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"I walked through the crowd. There were so many people. Parents, teachers, kids from different grades...Everyone smiled and danced."

—Jada Jones: Dancing Queen

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Here are some things that Kindness Queen and character educator Barbara Gruener has seen happen off campus in communities across the country:

- Put toiletries and water in a sock for those struggling with homelessness.
 - Surprise a far-away friend with a Skype chat or Facetime call.
 - Paint rocks with a kindness theme and put them into a special spot at your school or hide them around town for unsuspecting people to find and enjoy.
 - Color placemats for a local homeless shelter.
 - Gather old sheets, blankets, and other supplies for the pets at an animal shelter.
 - Host a coin drive for a cause like Heifer Project or Kids For Peace Kind Coins campaign.
 - Make get-well cards for the local pharmacy to attach to prescriptions.
 - Call and check on someone, just because.
 - Arrange to sing at a nursing home or retirement center.
 - Bake something to share kindness from your kitchen.
 - Make a Valentine or special holiday card for a deployed serviceman or woman.
(Visit anysoldier.com for addresses or ask your community for addresses of their family members and friends who are on an active deployment.)
 - Distribute water to thirsty people such as construction workers or lawn care employees.
 - Email an inspirational, uplifting song to someone.
 - Use a special talent, like playing the piano, to lift someone's spirits.
 - Serve as the morning greeter at the door.
 - Write a Kindness slogan onto an address label sticker and stick them to coffee-cup sleeves from your local Coffee Shop or onto plasticware packets at your local Food Take-Out spot.
 - Decorate placemats with your Kindness messages or pictures, then take them to a local fast-food restaurant to be used to line their trays.
 - Start a service-learning project, like Knit One Save One, to teach a skill and use it for good.
- <https://youtu.be/1R8A8f9oufU>



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JADA'S PICKS: KINDNESS PICTURE BOOKS

- **Thank you, Omu!** by Oge Mora (Little, Brown)
- **Saturday** by Oge Mora (Little, Brown)
- **Each Kindness** by Jacqueline Woodson and illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Penguin Young Readers Group)
- **The Name Jar** by Yangsook Choi (Random House)
- **We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga** by Traci Sorell and illustrated by Frane Lessac (Charlesbridge)
- **I Walk With Vanessa** by Kerascoët (Random House)
- **Be Kind** by Pat Zietlow Miller and illustrated by Jenn Hill (Roaring Brook)
- **The Day You Begin** by Jaqueline Woodson and illustrated by Rafael Lopez (Penguin Young Readers Group)
- **I Am Love** by Susan Verde and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds (Abrams)

JADA'S PICKS: CHANGEMAKER PICTURE BOOKS

- **Grandfather Gandhi** by Arun Gandhi & Bethany Hegedus and illustrated by Evan Turk (Simon & Schuster)
- **Be the Change** by Arun Gandhi & Bethany Hegedus and illustrated by Evan Turk (Simon & Schuster)
- **Turning Pages: My Life Story** by Sonia Sotomayor and illustrated by Lulu Delacre (Penguin)
- **Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas** by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman (Lee & Low Books)
- **Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins** by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, illustrated by Jade Johnson (Walter Foster Jr.)
- **Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon** by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Lee & Low Books)



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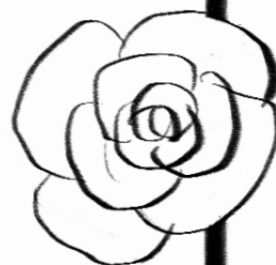
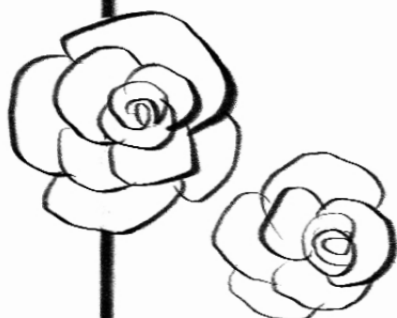
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- **Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton** by Don Tate (Peachtree Publishing Company)
- **Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis** by Jabari Asim, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Penguin)
- **The Vast Wonder of the World: Biologist Ernest Everett Just** by Melina Mangal, illustrated by Luisa Uribe (Lerner Publishing Group)
- **Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins** by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (Henry Holt & Co)
- **Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library** by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Eric Velasquez (Candlewick Press)
- **Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shetterly, illustrated by Laura Freeman (HarperCollins)

JADA'S PICKS: PICTURE BOOKS THAT CROWN

- **Sing a Song: How "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Inspired Generations** by Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrated by Keith Mallett (Penguin)
- **Life Doesn't Frighten Me** by Maya Angelou and illustrated by Jean-Michel Basquiat (Abrams)
- **Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut** by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Agate Publishing)
- **Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat** by Javaka Steptoe (Little, Brown)
- **Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crabcakes Later)** by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard, illustrated by James Ransome (Note: Hats in Black communities are sometimes called crowns) (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- **Hair Love** by Matthew Cherry, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (Penguin)
- **Hey Black Child** by Useni Eugene Perkins, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Little, Brown)
- **Beautiful Blackbird** by Ashley Bryan (Simon & Schuster)

“Before they were changemakers, they were somebody’s friend. Just like us.” —Jada Jones: Dancing Queen



CHANGEMAKER

IDEAS FOR KINDNESS & CHANGE



**"It started with one wish &
turned into so much more."
—Jada Jones: Dancing Queen**

RANDOM ACTS
Of KINDNESS
(things you can do)

TEAM ACTS Of
KINDNESS
(what we can do together)

CROWNING KINDNESS

Do you want to crown your school, community, or an individual king, queen, or kid for their kindness?

Fill in this Crowning Kindness template and snap a picture or use the PNG image file available at CuriousCityDPW.com (search for Jada Jones). If you can, share that picture with Kelly Starling Lyons using the hashtag #CrowningKindness and #JadaJonesSeries and tag her on Twitter (@kelstarly) or Facebook.

I BESTOW A KINDNESS CROWN ON



#CrowningKindness

Inspired by the #JadaJonesSeries by Kelly Starling Lyons & Penguin Workshop

CROWNING THE “I” IN KINDNESS: COMMUNITY PHOTO BOOTH

Schools and communities have found a way to place their kids and adults in the center of kindness by building displays with the words “kind” or “kindness” covering entire walls. If the letters are as tall as a person and the “i” position is left blank, any community member can stand in for and, thus, be the “I” in KIND/NESS. Consider a crown as the dot in the “i” to reinforce that we can crown kindness. Snap pictures and consider sharing them with [#CrowningKindness](#) and [#JadaJonesSeries](#).



PLEDGE KINDNESS

Inspired by the #JadaJonesSeries by Kelly Starling Lyons & Penguin Workshop. More at #CrowningKindness.