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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Celebrate Black Children's Book Week with two virtual author showcases
Student author showcase, Feb. 28; Author Kwame Alexander, March 1

ATHENS, Ga. — Athens area students will have the opportunity to hear from student authors and *New York Times*-bestselling author Kwame Alexander in two virtual author showcase events, Feb. 28 and March 1.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 9:30 am, a panel of five local student authors will discuss their books and answer questions in an event that will be streamed live from Gaines Elementary School. Featured guests include:

Jadin Fielteau, an aspiring digital artist who is a newly published author and illustrator of *The Woodlander*, a fantasy graphic novel. Jadin is a homeschooled 10th grader who is currently working on the second book in her three-volume series.

Avery Lewis, a 7th grade student at Clarke Middle School. Her first book, *March, March, March!*, was published during her 5th grade year at Timothy Road Elementary School through Leap for Literacy, a non-profit organization founded by Stan Tucker.

Arieyonna Flint, a kindergartener at J.J. Harris Elementary. Arieyonna is the author of *Butterflies Can Draw Everything*. She likes to draw, color and paint, but most of all she loves learning new things.

Kyrie Daniel, a kindergarten at Gaines Elementary School. She is the author of *My Mom and Dad and a Tree*. She loves to learn new things and loves when people read to her.

Beau Shell, a University of Georgia freshman, is the owner and founder of Lil Ice Cream Dude Cool World Ice Cream Shop, and the author of *The Coolest Birthday Ever!* Beau has been building his ice cream empire since 2012 when he received his first ice cream cart for his 8th birthday. Since then, Beau has worked over 800 events and served thousands in the Athens and Atlanta area.

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The event will open with a storytelling performance by Stephen Nobles, whose YouTube channel *Storytime with Mr. Stephen* encourages youth in Athens and throughout the nation to find joy in reading.

On Wednesday, March 1, at 9:30 am, the fun continues with a special virtual author visit featuring renowned poet, educator, publisher and author Kwame Alexander. Alexander has won numerous awards for his work, including the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, the Coretta Scott King Author honor, three NAACP Image Award nominations and the 2017 inaugural Pat Conroy Legacy Award. He is the author of 36 books, including *Swing*; *Becoming Muhammad Ali*, co-authored with James Patterson; *Rebound*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious UK Carnegie Medal, The Caldecott Medal, and a Newbery Honor-winning picture book; *The Undefeated*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, and a Newbery Medal-winning middle grade novel, *The Crossover*.

Clarke County School District classrooms will stream both events for their students, and the public can view the events at the Athens-Clarke County Library.

Students are invited to submit their questions for both the student authors and Alexander in advance by using a google form, available at <https://bit.ly/BCBWauthors>.

Black Children's Book Week, Feb. 26 through March 4, is a global celebration of Black children and the people who ensure Black children are represented in books and other children's media.

The Athens-Clarke County Library, Joy Village School, Clarke County School District, Books for Keeps and Friends of Athens-Clarke County Library have partnered to present these events.

For more information, call (706) 613-3650 or visit athenslibrary.org/athens. The Athens-Clarke County Library is located at 2025 Baxter Street, Athens.

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