

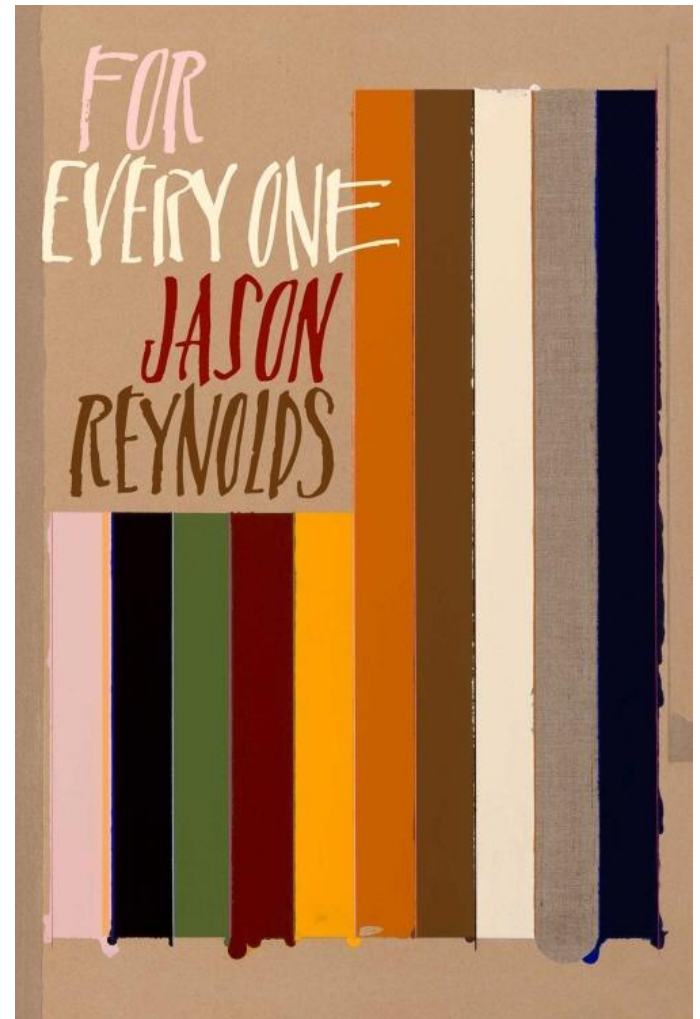
Biographical info

Jason Reynolds was born in Washington D.C but raised in Oxon Hill Maryland and with rap as inspiration, he started writing poetry when he was 9 years old and continue writing poetry for 2 decades. He published his first novel *When I Was the Greatest* in 2014 and won the Coretta Scott King and John Steptoe award for New Talent. In four years, he wrote seven more novels and his book *Brave as you* (2016) won the Kirkus Prize, the NAACP image award for Outstanding Literary Work for Youth/Teen as well as the Schneider family book award in 2017. In 2017, he started writing poetry again and the book *Long Way Down*, was named a Newbery Honor book, Printz Honor Book and the best young adult work by the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Awards.

Jason Reynolds

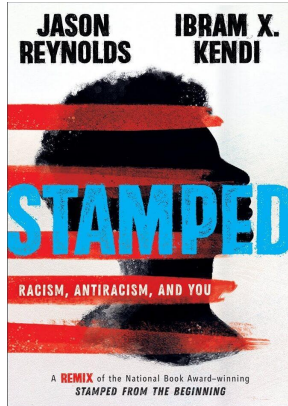
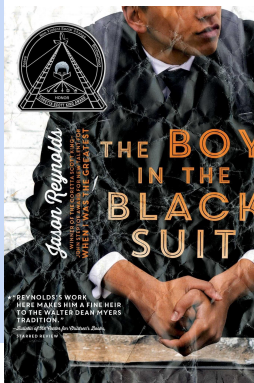


I read the book *For Every One* by Jason Reynolds. I felt that there were so many great teaching opportunities within this book. Considering that this book is a 4 Chapter poem, I thought that this would be a great chance to incorporate poetry and creativity into the classroom. *For Every One* is a motivating poem that tells a story of Reynolds dreams and his explanation of the differences between all people and their dreams. I think that it would be great to have the students each write a poem about there biggest dream. This would be a great way to get the students thinking about their goals and dreams while also learning more about poetry.



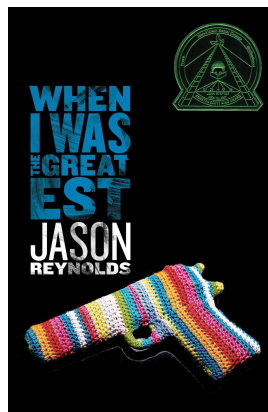
9 more books by Jason Reynolds

The Boy in the Black Suit follows Matt, who is dealing with the loss of his mother, an alcoholic father, and a newfound friend/love interest, while also working at a funeral home (Goodreads).



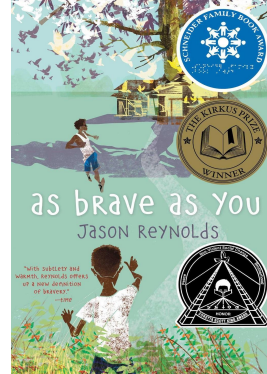
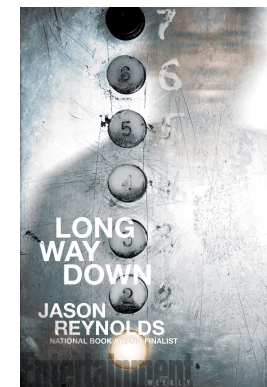
Stamped is “NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are. A book about race.” (Goodreads). It describes racism in America, and how America can move forward to an antiracist future.

When I was the Greatest follows the life and hardship of Ali, a teen living in urban New York state.

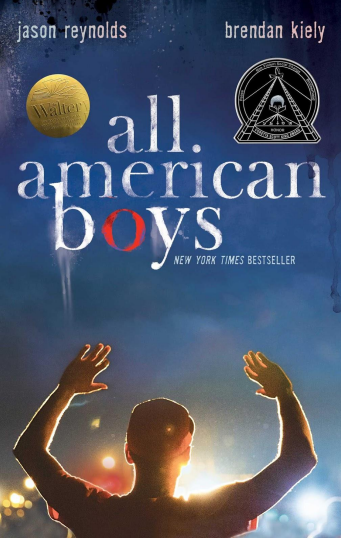


Miles Morales: Spiderman is a graphic novel that follows Miles as he navigates being spider-man.

Long Way Down follows Will for 60 seconds of his life, as he decides whether or not to kill the person who murdered his brother.



As Brave As You is a coming of age story that deals with grief, growing up, morality, and bravery.



All American Boys follows two young men that are living through the aftermath of police brutality; one at the hands of an officer, the other an eye witness.



Look Both Ways takes place in a neighborhood full of school aged children. Reynolds writes from 10 different perspectives and is creative with their connections.

Lesson Plans

Ghost is one of the books in the *Track* series. It follows “fast but fiery group of kids from wildly different backgrounds, chosen to compete on an elite track team” (Simon&Shuster).



These books all revolve around diverse groups of school aged students. Some are more mature than others, so lesson plans should vary based on teacher discretion. There are several examples of worksheets online that apply to many of Reynold’s books. For example, a worksheet on *Ghost* proposes that students discuss external and internal conflict (Scribd). Other books can be used similarly, and students can fill out worksheets, create posters, participate in socratic seminars, do think-pair-shares, etc. There is also an opportunity for students to connect the stories in Reynold’s books to their lives and the lives of people they know.