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I was inspired by the little girl who quoted this poem recently and was captured on social media so many times. Watch here: Hey Black Child by - Useni Eugene Perkins Hey Black Child, Do you know who you are? Who are you really? Do you know you can be what you want to be? If you try to be what you can be. Hey Black Child, Do you know where you're going? Where are you really going? Do you know you can learn what you want to learn? If you try to learn what you can learn? Hey Black Child, Did you know that you are strong? I mean really strong? Do you know you can do what you want to do? If you try to do what you can do? Hey Black Child, Be what you can learn what you have to learn Do what you can do, and tomorrow your nation will be what you want to be. It's so cute and so powerful, at the same time, to be inspired! This review was originally written for Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new bileru book reviews every day! Hello, friends! Our book today is Joyful Hey Black Child, written by Useni Eugene Perkins and illustrated by Bryan Collier, a poem to promote, educate, and inspire a few readers of color. Using the spare yet impactful text of Perkins's beloved 1975 poem, words and visuals weave together to form a message of motivation for small black boys and girls. The poem asks three simple questions This review was originally written for Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new bileru book reviews every day! Hello, friends! Our book today is Joyful Hey Black Child, written by Useni Eugene Perkins and illustrated by Bryan Collier, a poem to promote, educate, and inspire a few readers of color. Using the spare yet impactful text of Perkins's beloved 1975 poem, words and visuals weave together to form a message of motivation for small black boys and girls. The poem asks three simple questions about its listener: Do you know who you are? Do you know where you are going? Do you know you are strong? The answer to all three is the same - it all depends on you, and the only limitations are the ones you set yourself up. The world is waiting, so go on and do great things, and you build a better world to do it. Love. This. Going in, I had no knowledge of Perkins's poem, which is often attributed to other sources. It is a compact powerhouse, using the economy of words to spread the message of self-confidence, faith in yourself, and hope better tomorrow. It translates beautiful book shapes, with impeccable rhythm, which makes it a pleasure to read loud and simple text that is sure to engage in little bookworms. Collier's work is gorgeous as always, and there are some particularly breathtaking spreads here: a stargazing young girl with an expansive cosmic universe spread behind her, balloons rising from the piano as a little girl grows in a ballerina, the life face of dozens of black children is formed by radiant beams of sunlight. Light. the length is great, and JJ loved it. The perfect staple for any child in the color library of any age, and this Baby Bookworm approved! Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews! ... more Hey Black Child Hey Black Child Do you know who you are Who you actually are Do you know you can be What You Want to Be If You Are Trying To Be That, what you can be Hey black child Do you know where you are going Where your really going do you know you can find out what you want to learn if you try to find out what you can learn Hey black child Do you know you are strong I mean really strong Do you know you can do what you want to do if you try to do what you can do Hey Black Child Be, what you can learn what you can learn Do what you can do and tomorrow your nation will what do you want to be able to with Useni Eugene Perkins ***** Did you miss yesterday's post? Click here to read about Hugh Mulzac, the first African American Merchant Marine Shipmaster. Six-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier brings this classic, inspirational poem to life, written by the poet Useni Eugene Perkins. Hey black child, Do you know who you are? What really is? Do you know you can be As you want to be As you try to be As you can be? This lyrical, empowering poem celebrates black children and tries to inspire all young people to dream big and achieve their goals. ISBN-13: 9780316360302 Publisher: Little, Brown Books for new readers Publication date: 11/14/2017 Pages: 40 Sales rank: 94,648 Product dimensions: 9.30(w) x 11.10(h) x 0.50(d) Age range: 4 -8 years ★ 09/25/2017 Perkins's 1975 poem, originally written as song lyrics (and sometimes misattributed to Countee Cullen or Maya Angelou), features a compact, rhythmic language that is both avuncular and commandingly rhetorical (Hey Black Child / Do you know who you are/Who you really are). Collier (City Shapes) uses a combination of dense, burned watercolors-textures often mimic acrylics and a photo collage imagined as possible to open up authorized African-American children. Each stanza begins with a close, almost photorealistic portrait of a confident, happy child; the following pages show how a child's passion, along with a proud sense of inheritance, forces him or her to become someone who helps make your nation/what you want to be. A girl with keen, bespectacled eyes and a bright smile stands next to a telescope and knows she can become an astronaut; A boy inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement sees the future of politics. Perkins poem is always about stirring recitation; new and old fans will find that Collier images do full justice to it. Age 4-8. Illustrator agent: Marcia Wernick, Wernick & Pratt. (Nov.) Publishers Weekly Praise for Hey Black Child: School Library Top 20 Books of the Year Pick * This book dazzles each and is bound to inspire so many viral videos of black children speaking their abundant future into existence. All black children need to know Perkins's proud poem, probably from the head, because it really is that doggone good. -Kirkus Reviews, starred review * Perkins poem is always about stirring recitation; young and old fans will find that Collier's images do full justice to it. -Publishers Weekly, starred in review * Collier's characteristic watercolor-and-collage masterpieces bring joy and gravity to Perkins's inspirational poem. With a compelling rhythm that begs for recitation, the poem celebrates the power and potential of black children... An inspiring celebration and a call to action, this book is a great choice for every library. The School Library Journal, starred in review Punchy text and exhilarating art makes this a wonderful selection of story lessons or class discussion where children can voice their dreams. —Book list From Publisher ★ 09/01/2017 Presa-Gr 3 — Collier's characteristic watercolor and collage masterpieces bring joy and gravity to Perkins's inspiring poem. With a compelling rhythm that begs for recitation, the poem (often mistakenly countee Cullen) celebrates the power and potential of black children. Illustrations of a couple of young black faces with a vision of their successful future as astronauts, artists, politicians, and more and feature some of the artist's favorite motifs, including soaring balloons and rays of light. The visuals also promote historical courage to lyrical affirmation, layering images from African civilizations, the civil rights movement, and Black Lives Matter into spreads, joining books triumphing on African-American roots and the ongoing struggles against racism and oppression. The poem concludes with a reminder of the importance of contributing to black children and the adults they grow up to be: Be what you can be / Learn what you have to learn / Do what you can do / And tomorrow your nation / Will be what you want to be. The author and illustrator notes ensure that dedicated readers can appreciate all the fine details of the text and visual. VERDICT An inspiring celebration and call to action, this book is a great choice for every library. -Robbin E. Friedman, Chappaqua Library, NY School Library Journal Edited by Azizi Powell, several websites, YouTube videos, and comments on YouTube discussion threads indicate that Countee Cullen is the author of the inspirational poem Hey Black Child. Other websites, YouTube videos, and discussion thread comments attribute that poem to Maya Angelou. However, after reading several online articles and comments I believe the real author of Hey Black Child is Useni Eugene Perkins. This post showcases the poem Hey Black Child and provides information about your author. YouTube video of three-year-old PeTehn reciting that

poem is also included in this post. The content of this post is presented for cultural, inspirational, purposes. All copyrights remain with their owner. Thanks to Useni Eugene Perkins for his cultural heritage. Also thanks to Pe'Tehn Raighn-Kem, who has featured a video embedded in this post, thanks to the publisher of that video, and thanks to all those who are quoted in this post. INFORMATION ABOUT THE USENI EUGENE PERKINS From Useni Eugene Perkins is a distinguished poet, playwright and youth worker. Born in Chicago on September 13, 1932, he was the son of sculptor And Eva Perkins. Being exposed to art at a young age by his father would prove to be a major influence on his later years... [In 1966], Perkins became executive director of the Better Boys Foundation in Chicago, a social agency involved in community, social, educational and cultural development. Raised in housing projects in Chicago, and having established a career as a sociologist dealing with troubled youth, he authored the 1976 book Home Is A Dirty Street: The Social Oppression of Black Children. After leaving office with the Better Boys Foundation in 1982, Perkins became an executive consultant in Chicago with INESU Consultants, where he stayed for two years. He was still very active in writing, penning several sociological books about African American youth, as well as publishing books on poetry and authoring various games that were produced in theaters in Chicago. ... ***** MORE INFORMATION AND COMMENTS ABOUT HEY BLACK CHILD From Hey Black Child Hey Black Child was originally a song that was adapted for the poem, written by Chicago-based and born writer Useni Eugene Perkins (NOT Countee Cullen) for his play Black Fairy. It was made at the Lamont Zeno Theater of the Better Boys Foundation on Chicago's South Side for more than 5,000 children and adults in Chicago, and then in Detroit, from 1974 to 1975. So anniversary wishes are in order! And much thanks to Useni Eugene Perkins for his inspiring work. Somewhere for me, I knew that the author of the poem was the Chicago links (Chi-town get up!), so I'm glad to have corrected it to continue the thread honoring Chicago poets in those shadow days of National Poetry Month. ... and who knows? Maybe one day I'll be part of re-staging the Black Fairy :) -snip- This website includes a sound file for this poem: Music blackdaylight. ArinMaya's vocal arrangement and voice(s). Several commenters wrote that they remember having posters for the poem Hey Black Child. Other commenters wrote that they had quoted a poem hey black child in Black History month oratorical contests. WORDS HEY BLACK CHILD (Useni Eugene Perkins) Hey Kid, do you know who you are? Who are you really? Do you know you can be what you want to be? If you try to be what you can be. Hey Black Child, Do you know where you're going? Where are you really going? Do you know you can learn what you want to learn? If you try to learn what you can learn? Hey Black Child, Did you know that you are strong? I mean really strong? Do you know you can do what you want to do? If you try to do what you can do? Hey Black Child, Be what you can learn what you have to learn To do it, what you can do and tomorrow your nation will be what you want to have Source: *** RÄV EXAMPLE: Maya Angelou's Hey Black Child, quoted 3-yr old Pe'Tehn Raighn Kem Keri Bolding, Published March 5, 2015 AMAZING 3-yr old Pe'Tehn Raighn-Kem can read, write and pay tribute to one of the most famous famous writers of all time. She memorized author Maya Angelou's poem Hey Black Child in just a week and quoted a poem to the audience during the Chicago daytime talk show Windy City LIVE. -snip- Selected comment: Pemon Rami, 2015 Hey Black Child was not written by Maya Angelou or Countee Cullin. This was written by Useni Eugene Perkins about the pla[y] Black Fairy which I directed in 1975. Thanks for visitng pancocojams. Visitor comments are welcome. Welcome.

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