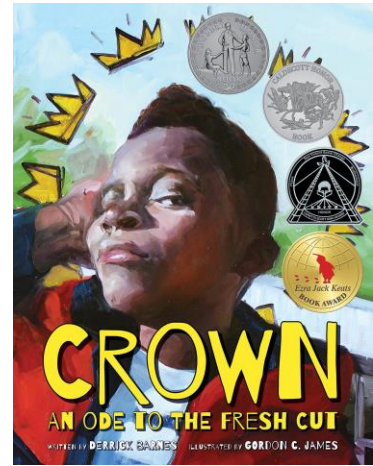




Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut

Written by Derrick Barnes
Illustrated by Gordon C. James
Grades K-5
Date of Publication: 2017
ISBN: 978-1572842243



Reading Guide by L.A. Conservancy Staff

Questions

1. The Barbershop the boy visits in the story is a business, a type of place where people can receive services, such as a haircut. What kind of businesses do you find in your neighborhood? Do you have a favorite business that you visit with your family? What kind of business is it? Is it a barbershop like the one in the story? Is it a store or a restaurant? Draw a picture of your favorite business and write 3-5 sentences about why it is a special place for you.
2. The Los Angeles Conservancy defines legacy businesses as long-standing neighborhood anchors where people connect, memories are made, and our sense of community is nourished. Legacy businesses are also a major source of employment and in some areas, an essential neighborhood amenity. Are there legacy businesses where you live? What are the names of the businesses and what happens there? How long have these businesses been open? Go on an adventure with your family and create a map of 3-4 businesses in your neighborhood.
3. Think about the different people the boy meets at the barbershop. He describes one as a “CEO of a tech company that manufactures cool” and another as a “black angel waiting to guide and protect him.” Who are the other people the boy meets? Who are the people you meet when you visit businesses in your neighborhood? How would you describe them? How are these community members important for you or your neighborhood?
4. In what ways is the Barbershop or “the shop” in the story an important place for the boy and other characters? What clues, details in the illustrations or sentences, tell us that “the shop” is a special place?



**LOS ANGELES
CONSERVANCY**



5. Read the author’s note at the end of the story to learn more about why barbershops are and have been important places for Black and Brown boys to learn from community members and also a place where they leave the barber’s chair with “an elevated sense of pride.” Think back to one of the businesses you thought about for questions 1 and 2. How does this business bring people together? What makes it an important place? How do you think people feel when they visit the business or after they leave?

