



Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Bippity Bop Barbershop*, by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Best for: K - 2

Summary: This book is about a young boy named Miles who goes to the barbershop for the first time. At first, he is afraid of the scissors, the razor, and choosing a new hairstyle. His father and the barber help reassure him and guide him through his first haircut and at the end of the book he is welcomed into the group as an equal instead of a young kid.

Why we chose this book: For many African-American men, the barbershop is a place of belonging and community. We love that this book highlights the significance of the barbershop through the eyes of a child who is going there for a haircut for the first time. This book celebrates the diversity of black hair styles, as Miles sees many different styles when trying to decide on a hair style for his cut.

Central themes: identity, black hair, belonging, bravery

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about a little boy who goes to the barbershop to get his hair cut. Has anyone here been to a barbershop before? What was it like?"

"If you could get your hair cut in any style, what would you like? Why?"

After Reading: Debrief with students

"What was Miles afraid of when he gets into the barber chair? How does he become braver?"

"How do the other men in the barbershop treat Miles before and after his haircut?" (They call him Little Man in the beginning and then Miles at the end. At the end they say they can't call him Little Man anymore – he's growing up!)