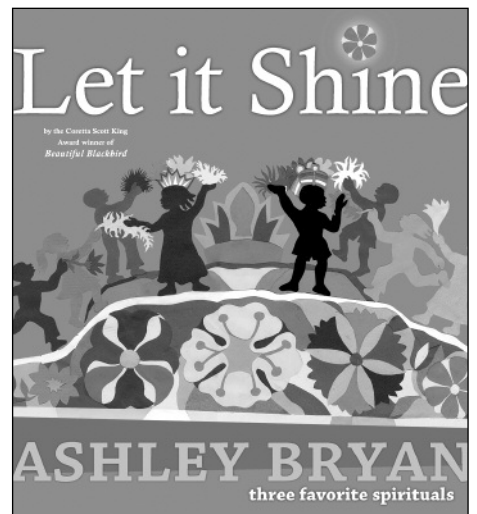


Let it Shine

three favorite spirituals

TEACHER'S GUIDE



About the Book

With a kaleidoscope of color and cut paper, Hans Christian Andersen Award nominee and two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner Ashley Bryan celebrates three favorite spirituals: “This Little Light of Mine,” “Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In,” and “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” The power of these beloved songs simply emanates through his joyous interpretations. Come, sing, and celebrate!

THIS LITTLE LIGHT



This lit—tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? (No!) I'm gon-na let it shine.
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gon-na let it shine.
Ev—'ry where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.



This lit—tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
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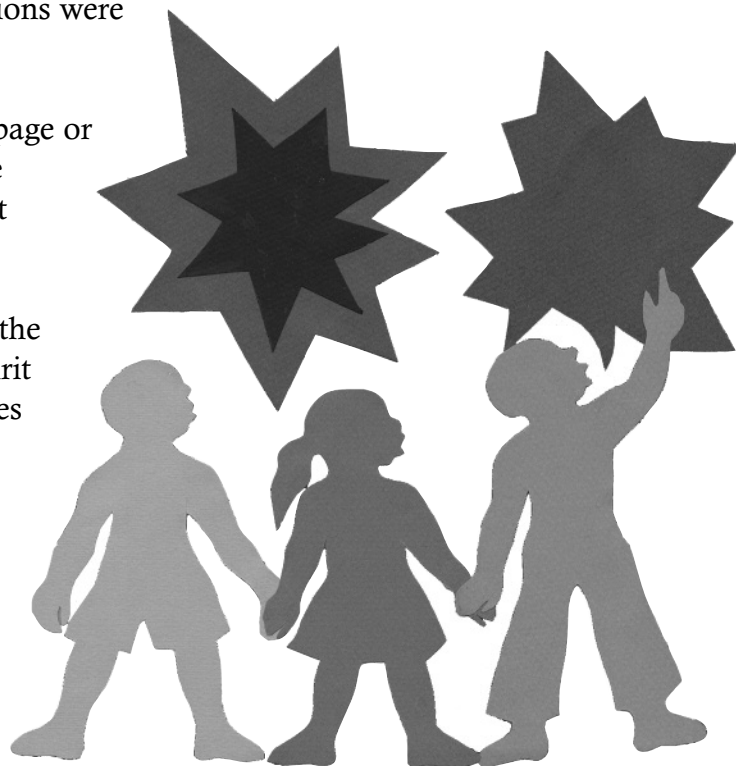
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Ev—'ry where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine.



Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Discussion Topics

1. What is a spiritual? Find out more about these inspiring African-American folk songs. Begin by consulting Ashley Bryan's note at the end of *Let it Shine*. Then conduct further research on spirituals in the library or online. Afterwards, lead a class discussion about the history of spirituals. Try to answer the following questions: Who created the spirituals? Why were they created? Why are these songs called "spirituals"? How are spirituals more than just songs?
2. There are thousands of songs known as spirituals. Why do you think Ashley Bryan selected these three favorite spirituals to include in this book? Take a poll in your class, and ask each student which of the three spirituals in the book is his or her favorite, and why?
3. Talk about spirituals in today's world. Ask your students what role spirituals play in our society? How have spirituals influenced the music of today?
4. Read, sing, and study the words and illustrations for each spiritual in *Let it Shine*. Then try asking your students the following questions:
 - a. What does the word "light" mean in "This Little Light of Mine"? Does every student in your class agree on this meaning?
 - b. Try speaking "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In" instead of singing it. Is this easy or hard to do?
 - c. What is the overall message in "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"?
5. Ashley Bryan's artwork in *Let it Shine* is vibrant and unique and will capture the imaginations of every child who reads or looks at the book. Take a closer look at the endpapers of the book. How do these endpapers give your students a clue as to how Bryan created his illustrations? Are your students surprised to find out that the illustrations were rendered in construction paper?
6. Ask each of your students to select a favorite page or pages in *Let it Shine*. Why did they select these page(s)? What do your students like best about Bryan's illustrations in the book?
7. Ashley Bryan encourages readers to celebrate the spirituals in *Let it Shine*. He says, "May the spirit move you to make them your own." What does Bryan mean by this?
8. What is Black History Month? Why is it celebrated? How do you plan on celebrating Black History Month in your classroom?

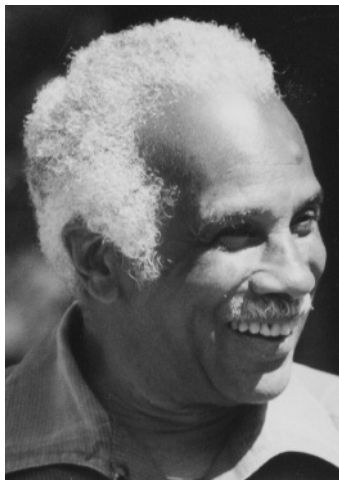


Projects and Activities

1. “Come, let us sing the Spirituals!” says Ashley Bryan in *Let it Shine*. Divide your class into three groups, and have each group perform one of the spirituals in the book. Encourage the use of hand movements, dance, and even simple props or instruments as they perform each song.
2. Many famous singers have recorded spirituals throughout the years, with different artists providing unique interpretations of each song. Find several recordings of “This Little Light of Mine,” “Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In,” and “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” and play them for your students. How does each version of the songs differ? How are they similar?
3. Initiate an Ashley Bryan author study. Ask your students to find out the following information: What is Ashley Bryan’s background? Where does he live? How did he get interested in illustrating and writing children’s books? While doing research, what else do your students discover about Ashley Bryan?
4. Compare and contrast Ashley Bryan’s illustrations in each of his books for children. Check out several of his books from your school or public library and study the illustrations in each. How does Bryan create his illustrations? What mediums (i.e. paint, paper, etc.) does he use? While the pictures may differ book to book, what qualities do all of Bryan’s books share?
5. Using *Let it Shine* as inspiration, have your students create their own construction-paper collage based on a song, whether it is a spiritual or another well-known song. Play the song in your classroom as they work and create a colorful bulletin board to showcase their efforts!
6. While African-Americans claim spirituals as their folk songs, other nationalities and cultures have their own well-known folk songs as well. Ask your students to find out from their family members which folk songs reflect their backgrounds and heritages. Then, designate a day to sing and celebrate the different folk songs that represent the varied nationalities of your class.

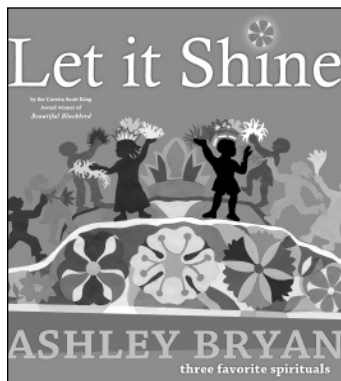
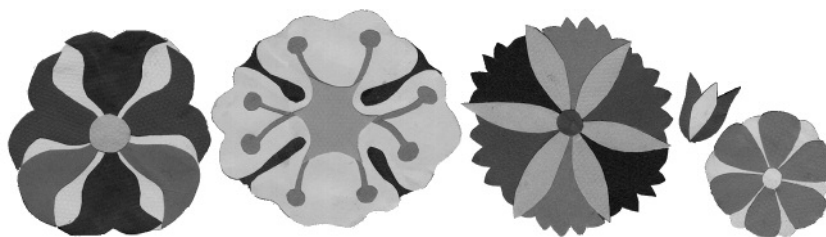


Let it Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals by Ashley Bryan



About the Author

ASHLEY BRYAN grew up to the sound of his mother singing from morning until night, and he has shared the joy of song with children ever since. One of our most beloved illustrators, he has been a May Hill Arbuthnot lecturer, a Coretta Scott King Award winner twice (most recently for *Beautiful Blackbird*), and the recipient of countless other awards and recognitions. He lives in Isleford, one of the Cranberry Isles off the coast of Maine, where he can often be found with a cluster of children, all singing.

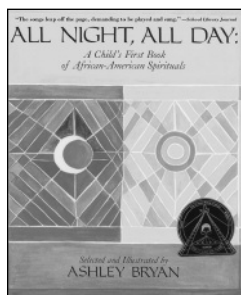


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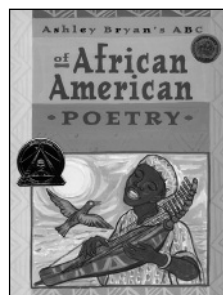
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Further Resources

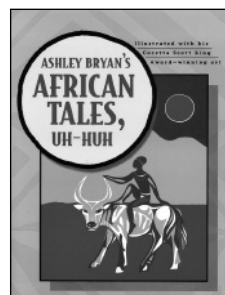
www.negrospirituals.com
www.cbcbooks.org
www.rif.org



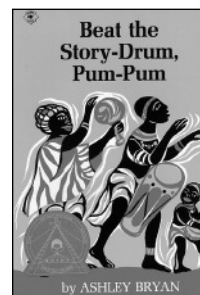
All Night, All Day: A Child's First Book of African-American Spirituals



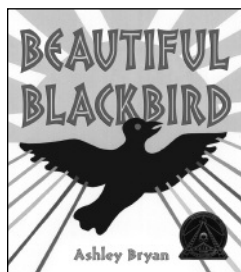
Ashley Bryan's ABC of African-American Poetry



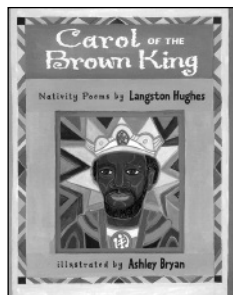
Ashley Bryan's African Tales, UH-HUH



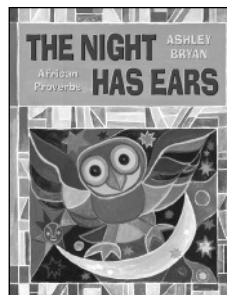
Beat the Story Drum, Pum-Pum



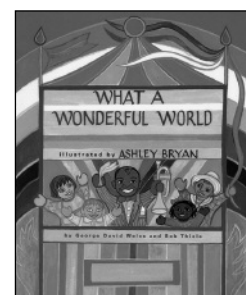
Beautiful Blackbird



Carol of the Brown King



The Night Has Ears: African Proverbs



What a Wonderful World

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