



## A STATUE OF YOU

### CROWN: ODE TO THE FRESH CUT

By Derrick Barnes, Illustrated by Gordon C. James, and published by Agate Publishing

#### THE FESTIVAL

Welcome to the Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival! Where is the festival happening? Right here in your space! What do you need? Only your body and a love of stories! Like the books we are celebrating in the festival, our bodies can tell stories. The movement of our faces, arms, hips, legs and feet help us say something about ourselves or tell a story like **Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut**. In theater and dance, actors and dancers practice using their bodies to tell tales with different emotions, moods, and energies. Let's practice telling stories with our bodies!

#### THE BOOK

In **Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut**, the people walk into the barbershop like "a lump of clay." That phrase means that the barber is like an artist who will transform everyone's hair or "clay" into a beautiful sculpture or statue. The book inspires us to start each day as a lump of clay and work and work until we become a work of art, something everyone can admire!

#### THE MOVEMENT ACTIVITY

Look for the read aloud of **Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut** on BeautifulBlackbird.com. Listen for all the words that say that you are a work of art. The words and phrases we heard were *royalty, confidence, smash the exam, catch your shine, swagger, so fine, boss, majestic, crisp, gold medal you, magnificent, flawless, and hello world*. With those words in your mind, it is time to tell a story with your body!

1. Stand with your feet parallel to each other, head tall and hands hanging at your sides. This is your neutral, your lump of clay.

2. Pick a word or phrase from **Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut** that describes how you might feel after getting your fresh cut.
3. Once you have your word/phrase say it out loud. Whisper it. Shout it! How does it make you feel? What parts of your body feel the most alive when you say it? Your head? Your shoulders? Your feet?
4. On the count of three, create a frozen statue or sculpture of how that word/phrase inspired by how that word/phrase makes you feel. It can be realistic or abstract. Whatever feels right to you. Ready? 1 – 2 – 3!
5. Try it again, creating a different frozen statue using the same word/phrase. Ready? 1 – 2 – 3! Try it one more time. Ready? 1 – 2 – 3!
6. Which one did you like best? Go back to it and make it stronger – pay attention to all the details of how your body is frozen, from your toes to your hips to your fingers to your eyes. Every part of your body should be feeling and showing it.
7. Repeat with as many words as you like. If you want, get someone to take a picture so you can see it yourself. If you are doing this with a sibling or friend try to copy each other's frozen statues. How does it feel to take on someone else's sculpture?
8. When you are done playing, take a minute to reflect on the activity. How did it feel to show those words through your body? Which word/phrase felt the most like you? Why? How did it help you understand the story in a different way?

**Share your Experience!** If your family, guardian, or teacher agrees and if you can protect your privacy, share your best statue with a photo or video online with the hashtag #BeautifulBlackbirdCrown.

Thank you to Sarah Coleman at Portland Ovations for creating this activity as part of Portland Ovations' support of the Beautiful Blackbird Children's Book Festival!