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ANNOUNCING THE BROWN BOOKSHELF PRESENTS: AMPLIFY BLACK STORIES

Honesdale, PA - The Highlights Foundation, in partnership with The Brown Bookshelf, has announced Amplify Black Stories, a year-long program with a focus on supporting Black storytellers while confronting industry challenges and fostering change in children's book publishing.

Amplify Black Stories is a living commitment to the [Brown Bookshelf's 2020 kidlit industry Call to Action](#), with recognition of how influential children's literature can be for social change. It will feature a series of online sessions to offer community and mentorship for Black storytellers; foster educator and bookseller connections and influencer networking to bring Black stories to growing audiences; promote publisher collaborations to craft detailed, change-making, actionable programs of commitment and support for their Black authors, illustrators, and colleagues.

There will be two cohorts/tracks in the program: one for Black storytellers and one for publishing teams. The Black Storyteller cohort will include debut, midlist, and vanguard Black authors and illustrators across all children's literature genres and formats. The Publishing Teams cohort will include a diverse and inclusive gathering of executives, editors, marketing, and design staff from publishing houses.

"The push for equity and inclusion in the children's book publishing industry is not new," said Kelly Starling Lyons, a founding member of The Brown Bookshelf. "We stand on the shoulders of literary warriors like Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson who helped create our Call to Action. We're thrilled to collaborate with Highlights and continue the work that has been going on for generations. We hope this program inspires and empowers Black creators and helps publishers create meaningful change."

For a full description of the program, please visit <https://www.highlightsfoundation.org/programs/2591/the-brown-bookshelf-presents-amplify-black-stories-2021>

The Highlights Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that positively impacts children by amplifying the voices of storytellers who inform, educate, and inspire children to become their best selves.