

Unspoken

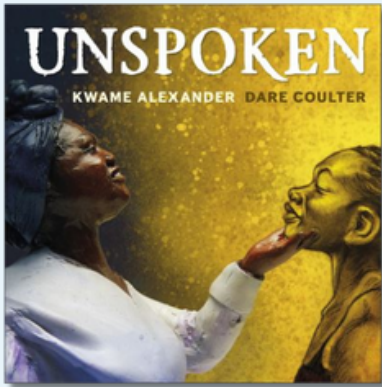
Kwame Alexander

Illustrated by Dare Coulter

BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



YEAR
6

THEMES:

Identity • Race • Equality
History/Future • Sadness

ABOUT THE BOOK

An exploration of the story of slavery: from Africa to tall ships, from back-breaking work in a strange land to resilience and emancipation



OUR THOUGHTS

"A truly powerful and thought-provoking work that will remain with the reader. The stunning illustrations perfectly evoke this compelling message."

TIME TO TALK



- 1 Why do you think the book is called '*Unspoken*'?
- 2 How does the author vary the sentence structure, the images and the use of colour at the start of the book to reflect the content being discussed?
- 3 The two pages of hands are very different. Can you explain why? How can a hand tell a story? Can any other part of your body indicate your story?
- 4 Why would anyone choose to jump '*into the jaws of sharks*'? Can you empathise with this feeling in the circumstance?
- 5 What is the significance of using the homophones 'aloud' and 'allowed'? Why do you think they choose to repeat the phrase 'no reading'?
- 6 Is it ever right to work for free?
- 7 How do you think the slaves managed to keep smiling and refuse to be broken?
- 8 'I shouldn't have read this to you, I'm so sorry, children' – to what extent do you agree /disagree with this statement from the teacher? What happens if we don't discuss things that are painful or difficult?
- 9 "You can't change the past, but you can do better in the future." Are we doing better today on this issue? Is there anything about your own story that you might like to change in the future?
- 10 What injustices are you aware of in your life? How do they affect you? What can you do about them?

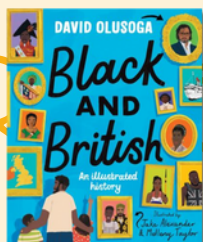
TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:



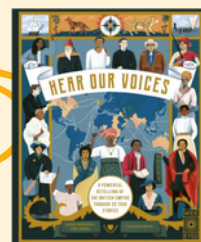
Football's Champions of Change by Damian Johnson, Troy Townsend and Laura Greenan (illustrator)



Growing Up Black in Britain by Stuart Lawrence, Ashley Hickson-Lovence and Simone Douglas (illustrator)



Black and British: An Illustrated History by David Olusoga, Jake Alexander (illustrator) and Melleny Taylor (illustrator)



Hear Our Voices by Radhika Natarajan, Chao Tayiana and Alexander Mostov (illustrator)



Bright Stars of Black British History by J T Williams and Angela Vives (illustrator)