

PRESS RELEASE

Amazing New Children's Book Connects Black Families to the Power of Growing Food

WASHINGTON, DC., November 1, 2020- According to a 2018 study by the Cooperative Children's Book Center of Education (CCBC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, only 10% of books published were authored by African Americans.

David Miller, a social entrepreneur, educator, and social activist, was deeply concerned about the lack of representation in children's literature.

Miller and a host of other writers and illustrators across the country are working to change this inequity. Miller has published several children's books, including *Khalil's Way*, *They Look Like Me* (coloring book for Black families), and *Gabe & His Green Thumb*.

"Black children want and need to see themselves on the pages of books. Children's literature is a great way to instill racial pride and teach children valuable lessons about life," says Miller.

In 2016, Miller originally published *Brooklyn's Finest: The Greene Family Farm*, which featured a family in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn who realizes they live in a food desert. The family steps out on faith and opens up an organic farm in a vacant lot across the street from their apartment building.

Based on the success of *Brooklyn's Finest*, Miller and his illustrator C.J. Love are rereleasing the book with a new cover design, illustrations, and storyline. The story is told from 6-year Akosua's eyes, who helps her parents run the organic farm with her mom, dad, and 11-year-old brother (Booker T. Washington Greene).



On most weekends and after school, Akosua and her family are surrounded by dirt, fertilizer, vegetables, and fruit. The Greene Family Farm grows some of the sweetest watermelons in the country. It often sells fruits and vegetables to farmer's markets in other boroughs of New York City. From strawberries to zucchini, people call this small farm, "Brooklyn's Finest."

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PRAISE FOR BROOKLYN'S FINEST

Brooklyn's Finest: The Greene Family Farm by David Miller is a great read for kids. The author addresses a very serious issue impacting the African-American community—fresh food scarcity. The Greene family, who live in a food desert, address the problem by purchasing a vacant lot. The author takes the reader on a fun and informative journey on how this family collectively worked to transform a lot into a flourishing farm. The illustrator's bold colors and joyful images will spark kids' interests in garden work. For science teachers and parents, this book is a great tool to introduce your students to the problem of food deserts and the simple solutions to the aforementioned. This book is a great addition to any home or school library.

~ Dr. Nosakhare Griffin-EI, Sr- *The Young Dreamer's Book Club*

"Brooklyn Finest is a welcome addition to any family's home library, the illustrations are beautiful and the storyline which comes from the lens of 6-year-old Akosua Greene, gives the book narrative a certain warmth and innocence that makes the storyline endearing. I really enjoyed the practicalness of this book, even giving the reader tips on how to create your own garden with your family."

- ~ Brandon Hay, MES- *Founder of The Black Daddies Club. Toronto, Canada*

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The book is an excellent read for young readers in grades 1st through 4th. The book is rich with superb full-color images and a fantastic storyline for young readers.

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