

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### The Magic in Changing Your Stars

Written by Leah Henderson

304 pages / Ages 8-12

A magical, fast-paced time travel novel that takes readers back to 1939 Harlem, celebrating the arts by weaving together magic and historical fiction, recognizing special family relationships and sharing a powerful message about the importance of believing in yourself.

### C

#### Context

##### Black Excellence

Over 40 African American people and places are cited in the novel.

Character names and places are all inspired by prominent figures throughout history, with an index included to cite them all and give very brief background.

Character personalities align with the personalities of the original figure as you read about them in the index.

### A

#### Arts

**Tap dancing** is front and center. Students will inevitably want to give it a try and learn more about it.

The ease and natural rhythm of **rap** music - writing it and performing it.

Character names inspired by prominent African American artists will inspire conversation.

### T

#### Themes

Believing in yourself

Grit

Potential and possibility

Having the power to change your own fate.

### C

#### Create

Write your own rap to inspire and motivate yourself. Use Chapters 23 and 31 as examples.

Interview a special family member about an event in their past they would redo if they had the chance. Write that story.

Research a figure or place highlighted in the novel.

### H

#### Heart Words

pg 42: "Never is a word I should never use...because it limits my possibilities"

pg 46: "Know your history...so you can know yourself"

pg 64-65 "It's grit that keeps you going. It won't let nothin' stop you or stand in your way....Point is, you can't give up when you get knocked down"

