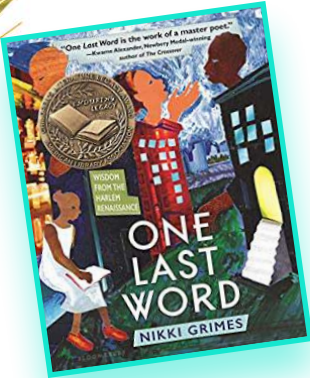


# CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



## One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance

by Nikki Grimes

126 pages / Grades 5-8

A very special collection of poetry inspired from the Harlem Renaissance which showcase a unique method of writing poetry, "The Golden Shovel". Included with each new original poem is the poem which was the inspiration, from the world's master poets. With each poem is exceptional art from today's African American illustrators.

### C Context

The **Harlem Renaissance** in the early 20th century was considered to be a golden age of African American culture fostering masterful pieces of literature, music, performing arts and visual art.

**Golden Shovel Poetry** asks writers to take a line from another poem to create a new poem, using the words from the original as the last word of each line in the new poem. A challenge which fosters critical thinking and creativity! Directions are given on pg 6-7.

### A Arts

**Methods of illustration.** The illustrations throughout the book have a variety of styles, from media to pencil to collage and more. The 15 illustrators are all today's rising artists. Included in the book are artist biographies and a glimpse into their process.

A strong mentor text for discussing aligning illustration with text. Analyzing intent and the perspective of an audience/reader.

### T Themes

Defining ourselves. Grimes' original poems foster reflection, connection and conversation into important topics.

Setting a path in life

Survival

Positivity

Hope

Inspiration

Finding reasons to hope and dig deeply for strength inside ourselves

### C Create

Immerse students in poetry from the masters to upcoming poets of today. Ask students to collect their favorite lines. Challenge them to try the Golden Shovel method to create their own original piece.

After writing a poem, collaborate with a peer who will develop the art to go with it. Discuss the author's choices as well as the intended style of the artist. Foster collaborative conversations with students and showcase their final pairings in a gallery style show.

### H Heart Words

*"Life's stairway got dips, spirals."*

*"I'll just show you my heart."*

*"The past is a ladder that can help you keep climbing."*

*"No matter what, don't let a few mean people shake you till your young dreams lose their feathers and fall."*

