

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Ain't Burned All the Bright

Written by Jason Reynolds / Illustrated by Jason Griffin
384 pages / Grades 5 and up

This book stands alone. It is impossible to not interact with this piece as a reader. It is powerful, haunting, and real. All readers will connect to it on some level and the more times you read it, the more you will feel it. A book that deals with real world topics in a real and honest way, combining words and art in a way no one else has done.

C

Context

Poetry and word choice

Metaphors

Race relations

Covid and quarantine

Effects of the news on the audience.

Analyze each "Breath" of the book, each sentence. Look at the sentence structure and creation.

A

Arts

Multi-media art: looking at texture, form, value and space along with the materials likely used to create the pieces.

Color choices

Analyze the illustrations. They were all created in moleskin notebooks.

Can you see techniques and try to replicate portions?

T

Themes

Family

Isolation

Breathing

Oxygen and what it gives us, where we find it

Moving from anguish to hope

C

Create

Create blackout poetry with students.

Work to create your own "breath" as the story does in relation to world events.

What are the haunting images you will create as you debate word choice?

Record the audio for this book. Listen to the [book trailer](#) for inspiration. This could also be done with their own "breaths" they have written.
**There is also a very powerful audio version of the text, read by the author and an ensemble of young voices.

H

Heart Words

*The dedication:
"For everyone we lost and everything we learned, in the strangest year of our lives - 2020."*

"...I wonder if maybe an oxygen mask is hiding amongst the crumbs of memories caught between the cushions of this couch."

"...why my mother won't change the channel, and why the news won't change the story, and why the story won't change into something other than the every hour re-run about how we won't change the world, or the way we treat the world, or the way we treat each other."

