

Diverse Graphic Novel Series INSPIRES KIDS TO BEAT THE ODDS

“Engaging and inspirational tales for students coping with common problems.” — Kirkus Review

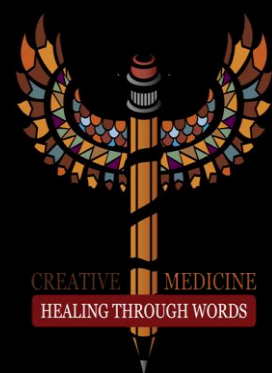
“What wonderful surprises all these books bring.” — Nikki Giovanni

These are just the books to put into the hands of a struggling child.
Our books help young people...

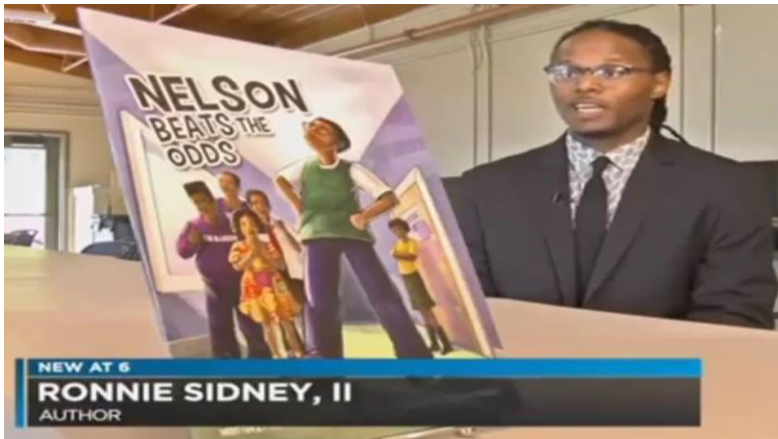
- Improve cultural awareness and literacy skills.
- Connect to personal experiences that shape resilience and grit.
- Improve self-esteem by providing empowering images of underrepresented groups.



RONNIE SIDNEY, II, LCSW, a Virginia native, is an award-winning author, professional speaker, consultant, and licensed therapist. In third grade, the author-therapist was diagnosed with a learning disability (dysgraphia and ADHD) and spent seven years in special education. Sidney's early academic challenges ignited a passion within him to pursue social justice and to work with the youth. After graduating Virginia Commonwealth University in 2014, Sidney went on to self-publish *Nelson Beats the Odds*, *Tameka's New Dress*, *Rest in Peace RaShawn Reloaded*, *Educators Guide to the Nelson Beats the Odds Series* and *Nelson Beats the Odds Activity Guide*. In 2015, Sidney helped develop the Nelson Beats the Odds Comic Creator self-esteem app. For more information visit www.creative-medicine.com or email the author at ronnie@creative-medicine.com.



Media Appearances



Richmond Times-Dispatch



Kelsey Wroten for NPR



Ronnie Sidney, II, LCSW has over a decade of experience speaking at schools, colleges, churches, and conferences. His presentations focus on resilience, disabilities, trauma, cultural responsiveness, resilience, and more. For more information, email inquiries to ronnie@creative-medicine.com.

<u>Professional Speaker Services</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>	<u>Time Allotted</u>
School Visits, Book Talks and Book Readings	\$750 - \$2,000	4 hours
Professional Development Workshops	\$1,500 - \$4,000	4 hours
Keynote and Conference Presentations	\$1,500 - \$5,000	4 hours

Travel and lodging fees apply for events 90 miles or more outside of Tappahannock, Virginia. Each additional hour beyond the allotted time will require an additional \$300 per hour fee. Video conferencing services are available for a discounted rate.

Speaker Topics:

- The Journey from a Child with Learning and Attention Issues to a Best-Selling Author
- A Story of Resilience: How I Beat the Odds
- Helping our most Vulnerable Children Beat the Odds
- The Power of Connecting with One Caring Adult
- Is your Organization Trauma-Informed and Culturally Responsive?
- Perceptions of the Black Father
- Passing the Baton: Leadership in Motion



Ronnie Sidney, II, LCSW’s trinity of quality, young adult literature, includes *Nelson Beats the Odds*, *Tameka’s New Dress*, and *Rest in Peace RaShawn Reloaded*. All three graphic novels inspire confidence in children, especially children of color, and encourage a fondness for reading and a heightened level of social awareness. Sidney’s stories present learning disabilities, trauma, and bullying in a sensitive, easy-to-understand and age-appropriate format for kids. *Untold Narratives: African Americans Who Received Special Education Services and Succeeded Beyond Expectations* documents Sidney’s childhood experience in one of its chapters.

<u>Books</u>	<u>Retail Rate</u>	<u>Bulk Discount Rate</u>
Nelson Beats the Odds	\$10	\$8
Rest in Peace RaShawn Reloaded	\$10	\$8
Tameka’s New Dress	\$10	\$8
Nelson Beats the Odds: Compendium One	\$20	\$10
Untold Narratives: African Americans Who Received Special Education Services and Succeeded Beyond Expectations	\$45	\$40
Nelson Beats the Odds Activity Guide	\$20	\$10
Educator’s Guide to the Nelson Beats the Odds Series	\$35	\$20

The Bulk Discount Rate is available for orders of 15 or more books

Nelson Beats the Odds

F&P Text Level Gradient: T

Grade Level Equivalent: 5

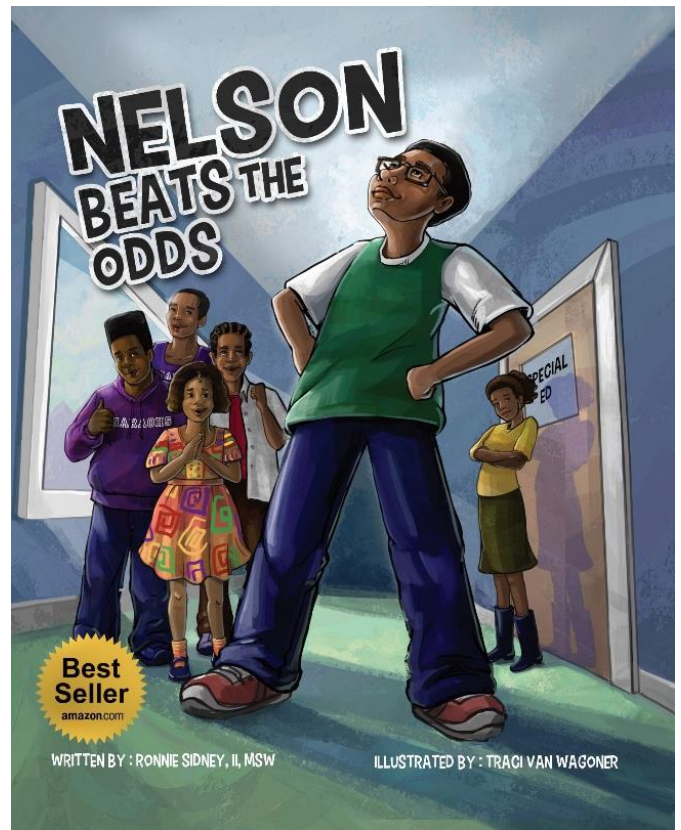
Interest Level by Grade: 4 and up

Educational Description: Book 1: Nelson Beats the Odds series, Realistic fiction, graphic/comic format, informational side text; quotes, facts.

Story elements: Setting, plot and character development, problem and solution, cause and effect relationships, figurative language; simile, illustrations enhance meaning and tone.

Theme and ideas: Learning disabilities, ADHD, school, friendship, resilience, setting goals.

Book Summary: Nelson used to think school was all about playing around and talking with his friends. When Nelson learns that he's been placed in special education, he fears being teased so he keeps his learning disability and ADHD diagnosis a secret. With the encouragement of his parents and assistance from Mrs. T., his special education teacher, Nelson pushes the boundaries and discovers his potential. *Nelson Beats the Odds* is an Amazon Best-Selling graphic novel.



Tameka's New Dress

F&P Text Level Gradient: W

Grade Level Equivalent: 6

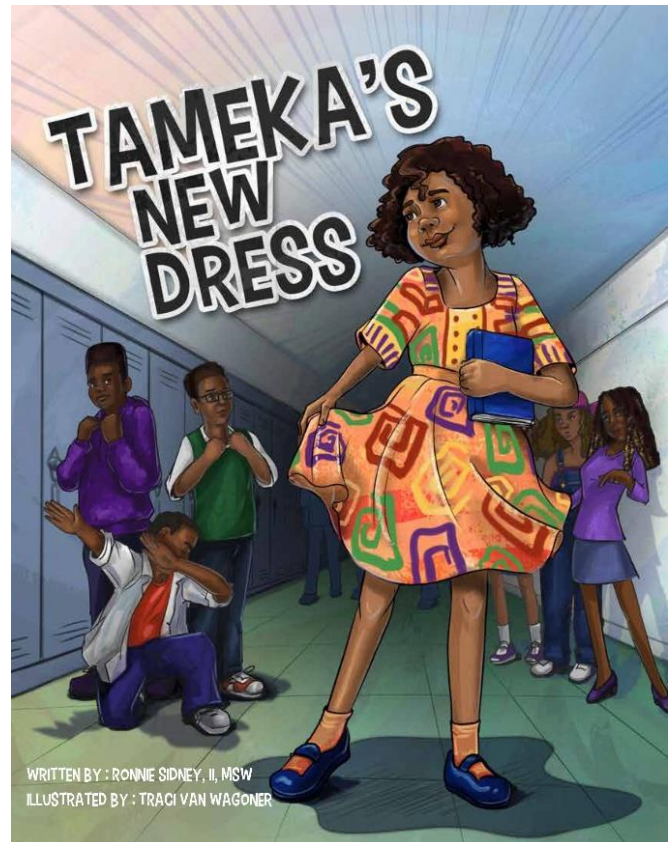
Interest Level by Grade: 4 and up

Educational Description: Book 2: Nelson Beats the Odds Series, Realistic fiction, graphic/comic format, poetry: point of view; main character, Tameka, informational side text; quotes, facts.

Story elements: Setting, plot and character development, author's purpose, problem and solution, cause and effect relationships, changes from beginning to end of the story, illustrations enhance meaning and tone.

Theme and ideas: Social issues- racial diversity/inequality, abuse, bullying, family, friendship, conflict resolution.

Book Summary: When you're the new girl in school it can be a little scary. It's even tougher when your parents aren't there to help. Some of the kids might be friendly but what about that mean girl who's always picking on you? The author brings up the subjects of childhood trauma, parental substance abuse, kinship care and bullying with a gentle touch suitable for even the youngest children. *Tameka's New Dress* shines a light on these tough things and lays them out on the table to talk about. He also presents us with a strong girl in Tameka, who not only finds adults who can and do support her, but also finds a way to confront her bullies without becoming a bully herself. Real tips for real life situations are presented here – just what real little children need - a great addition to the library shelves.



Rest in Peace RaShawn Reloaded

F&P Text Level Gradient: Z+

Interest Level By Grade: 8 and up

Grade Level Equivalent: High School-Adult

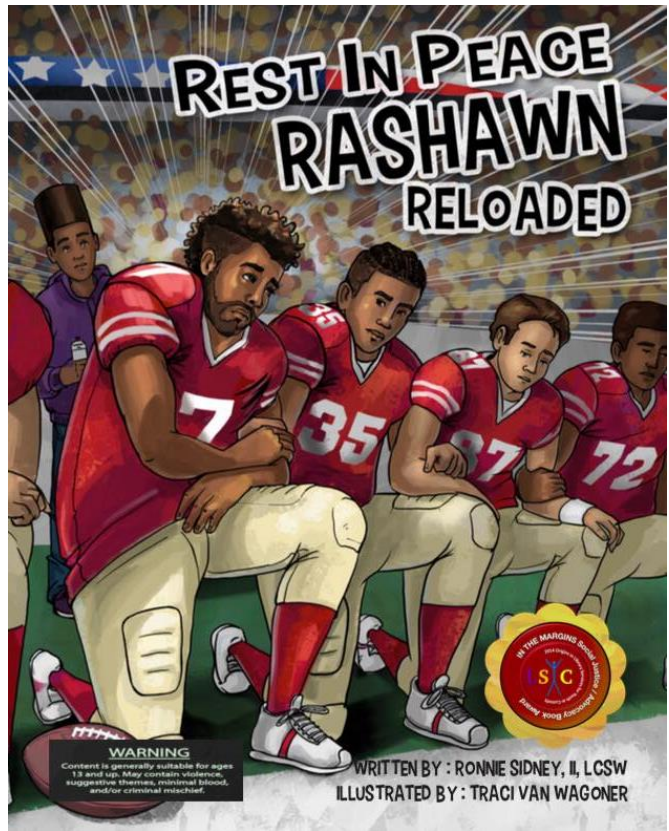
Educational Description: Book 3: Nelson Beats the Odds series, Realistic fiction; graphic/comic format, Questions and answers based on real interviews.

Story elements: Setting, plot and character development, problem and solution, cause and effect relationships, Illustrations enhance meaning and tone: dark.

Themes and ideas: Social issues; racial diversity/ inequality, street violence; gangs, police involved shootings, loss, community.

Book Summary: *Rest in Peace RaShawn Reloaded* is more than the story of an accidental shooting. It's the vivid story of a young man's life snuffed out too soon by police bullets – a narrative that, sadly, has become all too familiar in America.

The author, Ronnie Sidney, II, LCSW captures the emotional upheaval suffered by families and communities nationwide following the sudden, violent demise of black men. He presents the violence and suffering in a sensitive, easy-to-understand and age-appropriate format for kids. This book is a good way to broach the painful but necessary conversations families across the nation are having with their children, and provides thoughtful discussion points on how to heal the legacy of distrust between African- American communities and the police who are supposed to protect them. *Rest in Peace ReShawn Reloaded* was selected for the Recommended Book List for the 2018 In the Margins Book Award. A committee of librarians who work with marginalized youth decided Ronnie's book was an outstanding fit to recommend to other groups who work with marginalized youth. *Rest in Peace ReShawn Reloaded* was also a honorable mention award winner for the 2018 Young Adult Virginia Authors (YAVA) award.





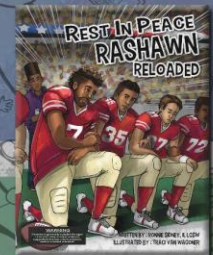
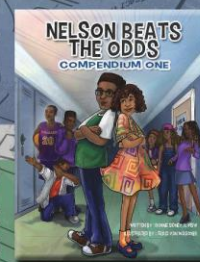
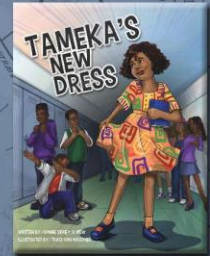
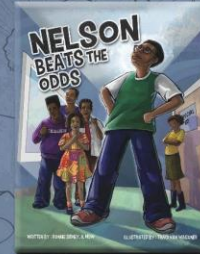
THE NELSON BEATS THE ODDS ACTIVITY GUIDE GIVES YOUTH A COLORFUL WAY TO EXPRESS THEIR CREATIVITY. IT INCLUDES EASY AND ENGAGING ACTIVITIES TO HELP STUDENTS IMPROVE LITERACY AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS. STUDENTS BUILD CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS BY COMPLETING PUZZLES, QUIZZES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GRAPHIC NOVEL. YOUTH CAN ADD THEIR OWN PERSONAL TOUCH TO ILLUSTRATIONS FROM *REST IN PEACE RASHAWN*, *NELSON BEATS THE ODDS*, AND *TAMEKA'S NEW DRESS*. *REST IN PEACE RASHAWN* COMPLETES A SERIES OF QUALITY YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE BY RONNIE SIDNEY, II, LCSW AND TRACI VAN WAGONER.

THE NELSON BEATS THE ODDS SERIES INSPIRES CONFIDENCE IN CHILDREN AND ENCOURAGE A FONDNESS FOR READING AND A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF SOCIAL AWARENESS.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN AWESOME DIGITAL EXPERIENCE, DOWNLOAD OUR FREE "NELSON BEATS THE ODDS COMIC CREATOR" APP FOR YOUR IOS DEVICE (IPHONE, IPAD, IPOD). OUR APP GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE THEMSELVES IN OUR BOOKS AND READ THEM FREE OF CHARGE. PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.NELSONBEATSTHEODDS.COM](http://www.nelsonbeatstheodds.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NELSON BEATS THE ODDS ACTIVITY GUIDE

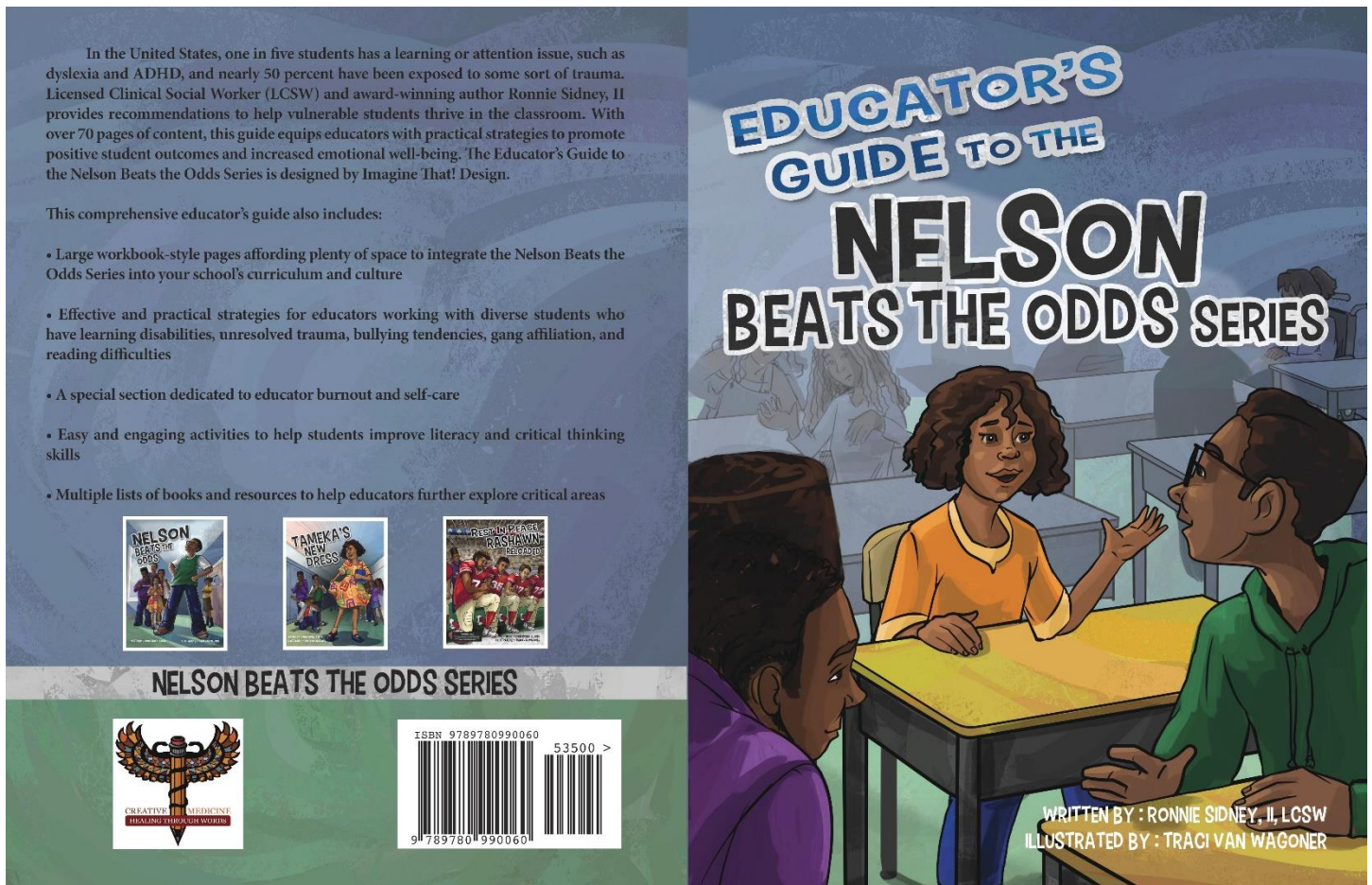
INCLUDES WORK FROM



WRITTEN BY:
RONNIE SIDNEY, II, LCSW
ILLUSTRATED BY:
TRACI VAN WAGONER



Book Summary: The *Nelson Beats the Odds Activity Guide* gives youth a colorful way to express their creativity. It includes easy and engaging activities to help students improve literacy and critical thinking skills. Students build critical thinking skills by completing puzzles, quizzes and discussion questions about the graphic novel. Youth can add their own personal touch to illustrations from *Rest in Peace RaShawn*, *Nelson Beats the Odds*, and *Tameka's New Dress*. *Rest in Peace RaShawn* completes a series of quality young adult literature by Ronnie Sidney, II, LCSW and Traci Van Wagoner. The *Nelson Beats the Odds Series* inspires confidence in children and encourage a fondness for reading and a heightened level of social awareness. If you're looking for an awesome digital experience, download our free "Nelson Beats The Odds Comic Creator" app for your iOS device (iPhone, iPad, iPod). Our app gives young people an opportunity to place themselves in our books and read them free of charge. Please visit <http://www.nelsonbeatstheodds.com> for more information.



Book Summary: In the United States, one in five students has a learning or attention issue, such as dyslexia and ADHD, and nearly 50 percent have been exposed to some sort of trauma. Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and award-winning author Ronnie Sidney, II provides recommendations to help vulnerable students thrive in the classroom. With over 70 pages of content, this guide equips educators with practical strategies to promote positive student outcomes and increased emotional well-being. The Educator's Guide to the Nelson Beats the Odds Series is designed by Imagine That! Design.

This comprehensive educator's guide also includes:

- Large workbook-style pages affording plenty of space to integrate the Nelson Beats the Odds Series into your school's curriculum and culture
- Effective and practical strategies for educators working with diverse students who have learning disabilities, unresolved trauma, bullying tendencies, gang affiliation, and reading difficulties
- A special section dedicated to educator burnout and self-care
- Easy and engaging activities to help students improve literacy and critical thinking skills

Nelson Beats the Odds Comic Creator App



Nelson Beats The Odds Comic Creator is a simple way to inspire the world with creative photos. Users can snap a photo with their iOS device (iPod, iPad or iPhone) or choose a photo from their photo library. The self-esteem app includes one more big surprise, free access to Nelson Beats the Odds and Tameka's New Dress eBooks.

What Does the Nelson Beats the Odds App do?

Photo editing

Improve photos with creative tools to change brightness, contrast and saturation.

Photo cropping

Crop the face out of your favorite photo and place it on the body of your favorite Nelson Beats The Odds character. Choose from 8 fun photo frames.

Stickers

Choose from an assortment of exciting character stickers, hairstyles, mustaches, clothing, glasses, sports, text art and emoji's.

Comic strip

Add up to five photos and choose from our great selection of frames.

Photo Filters

Apply one of our 14 spectacular photo filters - with more on the way.