

## June Suggested Reading List

### *You Can't Bully Me Anymore*

By The Reverend Brent La Prince Edwards

### *Mommy, Are You Ok?*

By The Reverend Tashara S. Void

### *Kiki Finds Her Voice: Be True to You and Embrace Your God-Given Gifts*

By Grammy-winning Gospel Artist Kierra Sheard-Kelly

### *In Celebration of National Children's Day*

The second Sunday in June rewinds time for a moment to celebrate National Children's Day. This day honors the children in our lives by slowing down our fast-paced lives, turning off the tech, and refocusing on the important things. Taking one day may not be enough, but using it as an opportunity to redirect our family life is an important way to stay connected with our children.



The Reverend Brent La Prince Edwards, senior pastor of Waters AME Church in Baltimore, MD. He is no stranger to bullying. Growing up in Charleston, S.C., says Edwards, he attended school on “the rough side of town.” When he was 9, a gang of kids dragged him down two flights of stairs by his feet. “That had a long-lasting impression on me,” he recalls.

So perhaps it's not surprising that the child who was bullied would become a man dedicated to preventing such abuse. The book tackles bullying among elementary-age children. Written in rhyming verse, the book follows four characters who are bullied. “The goal is to reach everyone,” Edwards explains.

Nationwide, between a quarter and a third of U.S. students have been bullied at school, according to the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#), and most bullying happens in middle school. Edwards' book aims to head off the problem by targeting a younger audience, using simple illustrations by the author and appropriate language to address the topic of bullying while building healthy self-esteem.

**“The resources out there are for middle school and high school, but there is not enough written for elementary school children,” Edwards maintains. Another thing that sets his book apart is the fact that it addresses both the children being bullied and those doing the bullying. “There are many books on bullying, but very few say anything to the offender,” he points out. “This book is written to the bullied and to the offender who, themselves, also have some kind of hurt in their lives that they pass on to others.”**

**"Reverend Edwards has a true heart for children, both those being bullied and those doing the bullying. Thanks for shedding a bold light into the darkness."**

**You Can't Bully Me Anymore, is a powerful, encouraging book to educate and empower elementary school-aged children concerning the unprecedented growing epidemic of bullying in America and the world.**

**Children sometimes have a difficult time articulating trauma. This book is a discussion starter to help children get the help they need who may be victims of bullying or offenders themselves. The story is centered around four characters who represent various forms of bullying. When a child reads about these experiences, it will help them tell their own stories to get the help they need.**

**Written in simple poetic form with cartoon illustrations, it's a great resource to build healthy self-esteem, provide next-step actions should bullying occur, and can be used as a tool for bullying prevention.**

**Shane Cassida,  
Executive Director, Student Support Services,  
Asheville City Schools School Board**

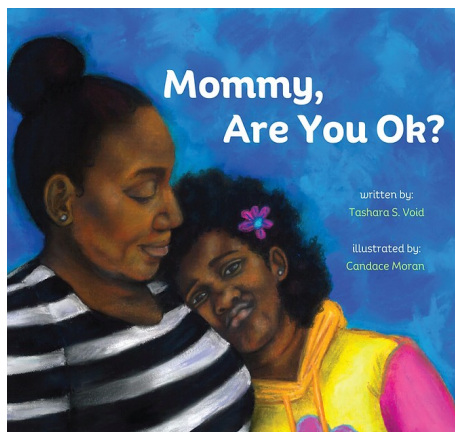


The Reverend Tashara S. Void is a graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) with a dual Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Christian Education (MACE)..

As a preacher, teacher, author, mental health advocate, and organizational consultant, she has dedicated her life to the holistic well-being of others, weaving spirituality, health, and compassion into a cohesive tapestry of transformative support.

She currently serves as the Pastor of Campbell's Chapel AME Church, Virginia Beach, VA.

Her greatest joy is her daughter Olivia Imani.



Follow the heartwarming journey of Mommy, who sometimes feels like there's a storm inside and around her and wants to talk with her daughter about it. Through beautifully illustrated pages, the reader will discover Mommy's Journey, as she tries to explain her feelings to Munchkin.

Emotionally Nurturing: "Mommy, Are You Ok?" provides a safe space for both you and your child to explore feelings of sadness and depression together.

It shows that it's okay to talk about emotions and seek help when needed. Spark Conversations: The book's engaging narrative will encourage meaningful conversations between you and your child, fostering empathy, understanding, and compassion.

Vibrant Illustrations: The colorful and captivating illustrations will capture your child's imagination, making the reading experience enjoyable and memorable.

?? Gentle Guidance: Written by a mental health expert, this book offers gentle guidance to address complex emotions in an age-appropriate, simplified manner.



Kierra Sheard-Kelly is a singer, songwriter, actress, and activist from Detroit, Michigan, who looks to express herself and inspire others in everything she does. Part of the next generation of the legendary gospel group the Clark Sisters, Kierra began her solo career in 2004. She's created her own clothing line entitled Eleven60, has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and sciences, and works with organizations dedicated to youth and female empowerment. Kierra is also the author of two books for teens, *Big, Bold, and Beautiful* and *The Vibes You Feel*, as well as the picture book

### ***Kiki Finds Her Voice.***



When the school talent show creates an issue between her and her friends, little Kiki learns what it means to follow your heart and be a leader. Based on a true story from the life of Grammy-nominated singer and actress Kierra Sheard-Kelly, this inspiring picture book helps kids discover how to best use their God-given gifts and what it means to be true to yourself even when it's not the popular thing to do.

The school talent show is a big deal, and Kiki is thrilled when the popular girls ask her to perform with them. But when the song her new friends choose turns out to be one

Kiki's parents don't want her singing, she must decide if it's more important to be popular and please her friends or speak up and do what she knows is right for her.

***Kiki Finds Her Voice* helps children ages 4-8:**

- Learn how to stand up to peer pressure
- Embrace their differences and love what makes them unique
- Better understand how their faith plays a part in their everyday lives

***Kiki Finds Her Voice* by Grammy-nominee Kierra Sheard-Kelly is an inspiring tale for kids to stand up for their beliefs with self-confidence. Ignite the power of God-given gifts and leadership. Ideal for ages 4-8. Picture Book.**