

Dear Reader,

To dream is an honor. To dream big is a privilege. To silence a dreamer is an injustice.

Nigel and the Moon was inspired by the dreams of the unsung and the unlived. The halted dreams of those we've lost.

Trayvon Martin. Nigel Shelby. Tamir Rice. Gigi Bryant. The many lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High. All dreams. All dreamers. All halted.

But in Nigel's world, a young Black schoolboy discovers his dreams and finds his voice.

Too often we task generations with the age-old question, "What would you like to be when you grow up?" Few will spill their dreams like a running faucet, many will share their dreams at a trickle, others will simply not know, prohibiting flow.

How can they wish to become what they've yet to see is possible?

Like Nigel, my mother was a USPS mail carrier, and my father was a commercial truck driver. As the youngest child of six and the first in my family to graduate from college, not only was becoming an author an undiscovered dream in my youth, but it was my halted dream as an adult. Halted, until I met Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, a young, Black author in 2019. Representation turned my dream into an attainable goal.

My intention for *Nigel and the Moon* is to connect readers with narratives that they may not have seen in their daily lives—in television/film or in books due to literary deprivation. Can a Black boy be Superman? Can a Black boy dance ballet? Can he soar above the clouds? Above the stereotypes? Above the moon? Yes. Yes, to all the above.

Nigel and the Moon is for those that we have lost. What were their dreams and how can we share them?

Thank you for receiving my words.

Onward,

Antwan Eady

