



“You can’t run away from who you are, but what you can do is run toward who you want to be.”

— Jason Reynolds, *Ghost*

Reynolds knows that it just takes the right book to discover reading as a portal to a world of adventure. That’s why he uses his real-life experiences to connect with his readers and creates characters that people can relate to.

Jason uses poetry and prose to capture the teen experience—from the joys of youth and friendship to other issues they may face every day: divorce, loss, poverty, injustice, or even just finding a place in the world. He’s inspired a new generation of readers and even created a few unlikely poetry fans.

His work includes *Miles Morales: Spider Man*, *When I Was the Greatest*, *Boy in the Black Suit*, *All American Boys*, *As Brave as You*, and the Track series just to name a few. For some readers, reading Reynolds’ books may be the first time they’ve seen their stories told.

Reynolds is a superstar in the world of children’s literature. He’s been a Newbery Award Honoree, a Printz Award Honoree, National Book Award Honoree, a Kirkus Award winner, a two-time Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors.

We are thrilled to welcome Jason to the *Dr. Audrey Lavin Speaking of Books* lineup on February 24 at 6:30 pm.

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About Speaking of Books

The *Dr. Audrey Lavin Speaking of Books* author series brings acclaimed writers to Stark County who inspire lively— and challenging— community conversations.

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