

The background features a comic book style layout. On the left, there are two panels. The top panel has a blue jagged shape on the left and a white cloud on the right, set against a grey dot pattern. The bottom panel has a yellow background with a red and white dot pattern. On the right side, there is a large red and yellow jagged shape with black dots, resembling a flame or explosion, with a pencil pointing upwards from the top right.

# The Amazingly Awesome Third Grade!

*By Class 3-223  
P.S. 197  
John B. Russwurm*

**The Amazingly Awesome**



**Third  
Grade!**

**By Class 3-223 of P.S. 197 John B. Russwurm**  
**Behind the Book / New York**

We inspire New York City public school students to love reading by bringing accomplished authors, and their books into classrooms and creating rich, innovative literacy programs. Our programs take place in underserved Pre-K - 12 public schools, are part of the class curriculum and meet the Common Core Learning Standards.



## Behind the Book

Visit us at [www.behindthebook.org](http://www.behindthebook.org)

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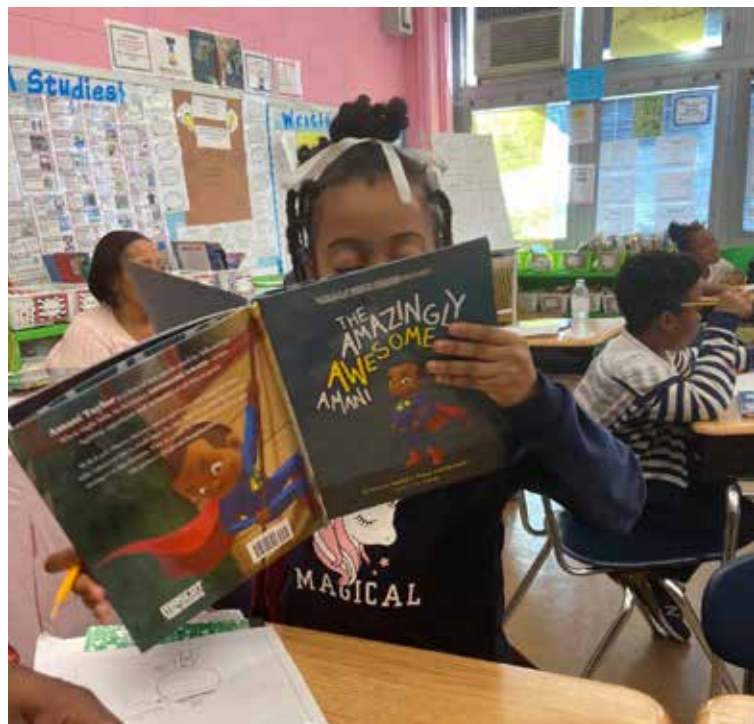
Thank you to everyone at Behind the Book for helping us channel our inner superheroes!

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

This book was made possible by a generous grant from The Korein Foundation.

We would like to dedicate  
this book to our families,  
friends, and school  
administrators.  
Thank you for  
all of your support.

# About the Program



Have you ever met a third-grade superhero? Or a 9-year-old community leader? You can find them and more in Class 3-223. The students used *The Amazingly Awesome Amani* by Jamiyl and Tracy-Ann Samuels to examine the importance of being good citizens in their local communities.

During his first visit, co-author Jamiyl spoke with students about the importance of standing up for themselves, their friends, and others. He encouraged them to consider how they could influence change in their community with their unique perspectives and desire for equality.

Jamiyl returned for a second visit and helped the class design a community superhero together. Students used this model to create individual superhero personas that could help affect change in their communities. Pollution, homelessness, and bullying were just some of the significant issues that they wanted their superheroes to address.

Behind the Book drama consultant Karen Butler then worked with the students

to bring their superheroes to life. Through theater games and exercises, students were able to channel their inner heroes using sound and movement to defeat obstacles.

Students also created superhero emblems and capes with guidance from Behind the Book teaching artist Candice Humphries. Behind the Book writing coaches worked with the students to describe the characteristics of their superheroes and what they hoped these superheroes could accomplish.

Through this book you can experience their imagination and passion. These students have many ideas to help cure some major problems. We hope that it inspires you to harness your inner superhero to empower your communities.



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My Super hero name is Zoom, My  
superpowers that I am fast, really fast  
I help anyone out when they're in trouble.  
The emblem on my chest shoots  
out energy for when people are  
hurt, it will heal them. I have  
a red helmet red suit orange  
glove and yellow boots

My super power helps the community  
stay safe. Any time someone is in  
trouble I help them out. The I  
shoot out help people if they are  
hurt

Keeping the environment safe is an  
important superpower. Everyone needs  
a safe place to live. Children need  
a safe place to play. Even animals

need a safe place to live. A safe  
environment is great for everyone.

**ZOOM!**

by  
**Aden**

# SUNLIGHT!

by Aiden

My name is sunlight man. My <sup>Super</sup>power is helping the environment. Every part of my body helps my community. The sunshine emblem on my chest shoots from my ~~underarms~~ underarms.

My Superpower helps my community keep light. I help keep people beable to see when it's too dark. Everytime it's dark i come out an make some light.

Keeping the environment bright is an important Super power. Everyone in my neighborhood needs some place to see an relax.



# THE CLEANER

by Zara

My name is the Cleaner. My super power is cleaning the park. I wear cleaning gloves that help me clean the park. My gloves are black, one glove can suck up trash while the other glove can throw it into the trash. My power helps the community because it helps kids play in a clean place.



# VET GIRL

by Chloe

My name is vet girl. My superpower is helping pets. I can shift shape into any animal. I can change into a fox. If I am a fox, I can sneak into small areas. When I am there, I can get close to small animals who are hurt. I can help them. This power is important because animals will trust me. If they trust me I can help them. I have two side kicks, my dog Lucky and my fox friend. His name is wish.

# KIND GIRL

by  
Yarleni

My superhero name is KIND girl.  
My superhero is KINDNESS. I  
LOOK tall. I have a cape I have  
red polkadots I have a K for  
KIND. My power helps the  
community. I do KIND think like  
PICK UP trash so prob! people  
will get inspired to help people  
so they can be KIND too . . .  
My super hero is important  
because My superpower is kindness  
so probably people will be KIND  
too. people can be KIND to their  
friend and other people too. KINDNESS  
Solves all problems. There are a  
lot of mean and bad people. 50%  
of people are KIND people. KIND  
people help the homeless buy food  
and water for the homeless KIND  
people clean and help the community.  
so that is why kindness is important.





# LITZER RAVEN

by Wynterrayne

Hi i'm Litzer Raven. My Power is to pick up trash. I can close my eyes and imagine trash floating, even from far away! I have big poofy brown hair, blue, orange, and pink clothes, a blue scarf, and gloves. My Power also has the ability to help the environment stay clean. I can float in the air, and lightly take trash from the ground and into the garbage. My superpower is important because I travel around the world picking up dirty things and put them in the trash. My eyes will glow red when someone drops litter and blue when there's a lot. Keeping the environment clean is my job. I like helping "our" environment, but not just ours, the world's! Help the environment with us, and maybe you'll like it! It would be a pleasure for you to help us, and the environment!

# TYPER GIRL

My name is Typergirl. My superhero power is helping kids get smarter and help them learn how to not look at the computer keyboard. My invisible light up keyboard represents me because it helps me to type also it can turn into a flying board. Typing comes from my belt also when I press a pink button. My power is to help others to become smart and intelligent. My super power helps other kids. I help people get smarter easily. Every time when there's trouble I help and make sure there's safe. Also I make sure that everyone is smart. Keeping everyone important way. every student, adult and kids need to be smart.  
ENJOY Your Typing wife

by Terrenique





# JET KID

by Tyler

Sometimes my name is Jet Kid! I have a super power! My super-power is flying an airline jet that dashes faster from one place to another. I look like a professional pilot. My power helps the community by speeding in a jet with people so they don't have to be late for everything. This superpower is important because some transportation is slow and we are going to speed up. How I will do this is to help get people to where they have to be on time.

# DANCER WOMAN

Hi!! I'm... Dancer woman! My Super power is cheering people up with my dancing. I have hypnotizing eyes that hold people in place. I have a cape so people pay attention to me. My hip hop dancing makes people up bet, my boalet dancing makes people clam, relax, and my Jazz dancing makes people exited to clean. My super power helps people become excited about cleaning. When I see people throwing trash I hypnotize them and then they clean up. Sad people that are crying I cheer them up with my dancing. Making people clean up helps the environments plants, animals and humans. Kids need to have a clean place to breath, play, sleep, and eat. Every neighborhood has to be clean. humans, plants and animals are alive so we have to keep it clean save the world!!!

by Paloma





# THE HELPER

by  
**Rabiya**

My name is The Helper. I help the homeless. My super power is helping the homeless. On my shirt I have a H for helping. I have a red cape, a pink mask, and black gloves. My superpower help the community by giving poor people a special package with food, water, books, clothes, blanket, tents, emergency phone, medicine, and a flash light. Every time I see a homeless person I will give them this special package. I will always make sure that a homeless person has the necessary resources.

Keeping the homeless alive is a important, super power. Everyone in my neighborhood needs to have the necessary resources for survival. Helping the people in my environment helps everyone.

# ART WOMAN

by Neffitauri

Hi! my name is Art woman. I help the homeless by designing a shelter for them. The shelter looks look Hollywood. It a movie prime and a red carpet and a check with a \$1000,000,000 dollars. They have a disoball. I have a blue eyes and I have a black and little fishes on my suit







# SONIC

by Oscar

MY superhero's name is SONIC.  
MY super power is fast speed.  
I took like speed & fast man.

I can help the community  
by putting the trash in the  
garbage truck. My goal.

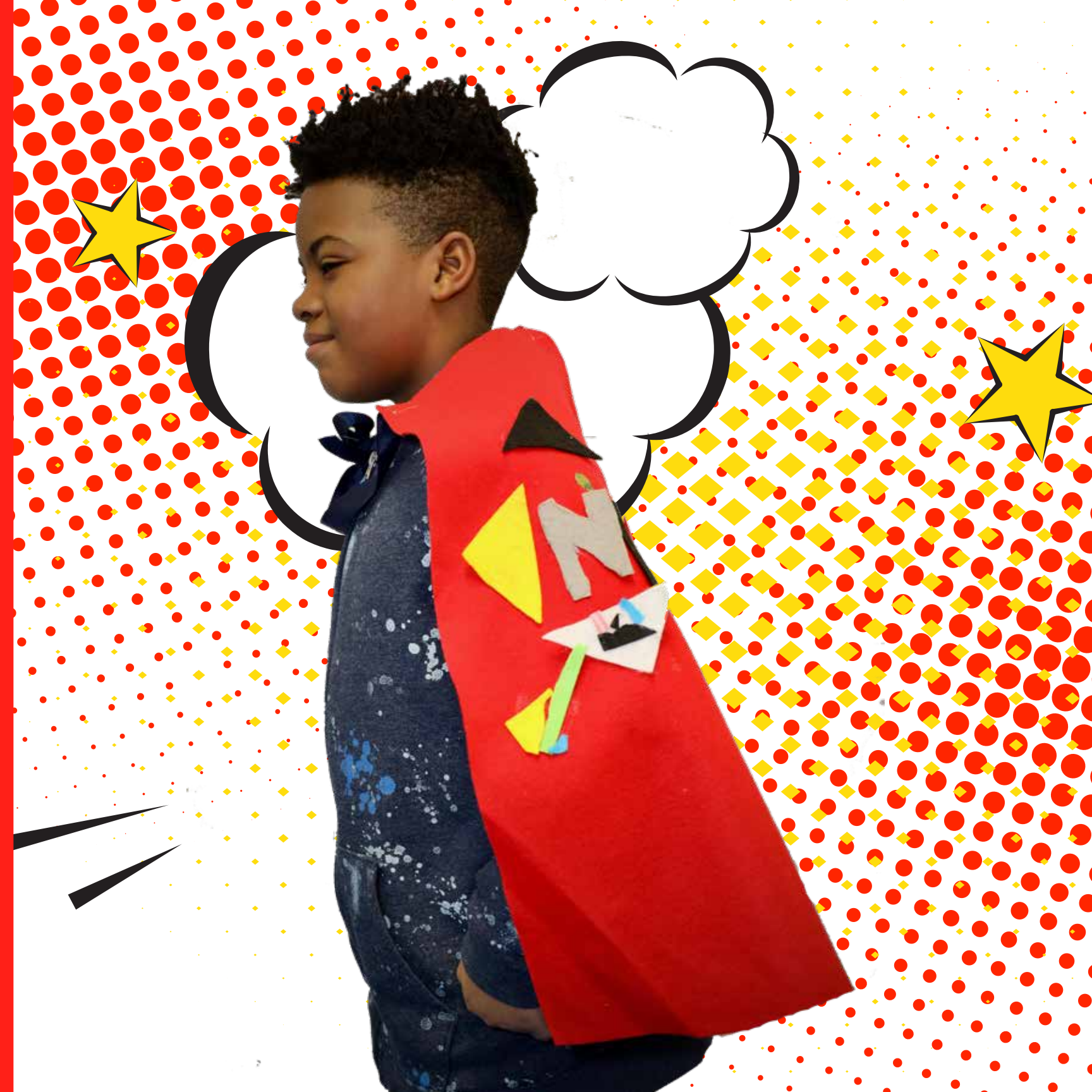
MY super power is  
important because I save  
people and help the plants  
by taking away garbage fast.

# CAPTAIN SLEEPY

by  
Niam

My name is captain sleepy. My superpower is helping the environment to sleep more. My superpower I can sing a lullaby out loud and I can fly. I like to fly at night so no one can see me. If I see a bad guy I will beat them up. and if its sunshine I go to my bed.

How my powers to help the communitys. by using my super power to making everybody sleep. In peace I got make everthing sleepy. And everthing will be find in the city. and if I hear a scream. I will chase a bad guy. why my super power is important because I can help the community sleep peacefully in the city. or if I don't sing a lullaby out loud nobody will go to sleep. They will not go to sleep and their eyes are going to be red. Or they will go some where early and you will have a beard.



# SPIDER BOY

by Nathaniel

Hi I am Spider boy My  
Super Power is shooting webs and  
climbing walls, I look like I have  
a spider on my chest. I have a  
mask my super power help by  
stopping the bad guy I a bad  
guy robs the bank I can web  
them and they will be stuck to  
the wall and if a man is  
making a mess I will clean it  
up.

# POLICE GIRL by Mariam

Hi I'm Police Girl my powers are  
take the bully after jail for  
200 days. During this  
time they will learn  
how to be people.  
I will help my community  
to take the bad guys  
away from my community.  
Everytime I see someone  
being bullied I will send the  
police to throw them in jail. This  
will keep my community  
safe and peaceful and the  
environment safe is my  
super power. Taking  
bullies away to jail  
will help everyone being  
kind and nice to each other.



# BEAUTIFUL GIRL

by  
Lamyla

My superhero name is beautiful girl my superpower is helping people feel beautiful. I have brown hair, a pink shirt, and a black skirt. I like to build up everyone's self-esteem. My superpower helps the community by making everyone feel good. Everyone will be beautiful and will want their community to be beautiful too. I will make sure that the community is clean and not polluted. My superpower is important because I will keep the environment clean and not dirty. Everyone and everything will live long because the Earth is clean. Let's keep the earth beautiful.





# THE BUILDER

by Jeremiah

my superhero name is The Builder. my superpower is building things in ten seconds. I wear a hard builder hat I wear a builders vest, and builder pants. my hat helps in case I fall it protects my head. my vest makes my arm move fast and my pants makes my legs move fast. my power helps the community by giving homeless people a home. I can make trash cans for people to put their trash in them. my super power is important it helps homeless people have a home for them to stay in and so people dont litter and the community stays clean.

# SUNBEAM

by Charles

My name is Sun beam man. My superpower is helping the environment. Every part of my body helps my community. The sun shine emblem on my chest shoots out sun rays for plants. Soil come from my muscles and flower seeds shoot from my underarm. My super power helps my community stay clean. I help keep parks in my community clean. Everytime I see trash on the ground, I pick it up with my mind and sop it into the trash can. I also make sure that plants are always watered. Keeping the environment clean is an important super power. Every one in my neighborhood need some place clean to live. Children need clean places to play. Even animals need a clean environment. Helping the environment helps everyone.



Christopher M

Christopher C



Christopher  
Class



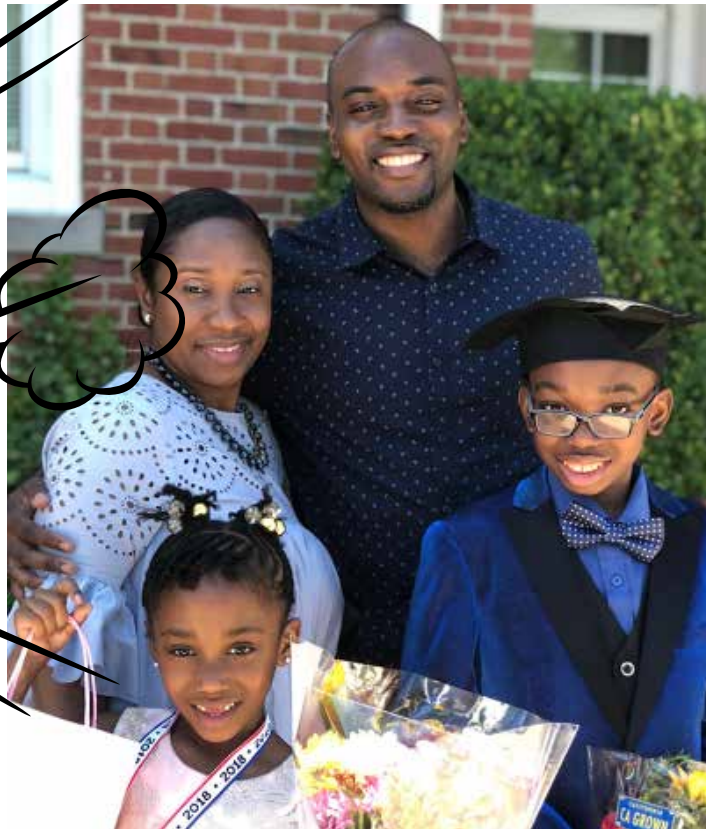
# TELEPORTIST

by Michael

Hi! I'm Teleportist.  
My super power is to teleport  
so I can teleport from point A to  
point B in 1 second. So if I need to  
some where quick I can teleport  
over there so I can help the community.  
I will teleport to save a baby from  
falling or to save people from bad  
situations. Also I will save people  
from getting hit by a car and stop  
people with disabilities. I can also  
create tools just by using  
my mind so I can help with the  
buildings I can build anything with  
my mind so in case I have to  
build a spaceship I can use my  
mind to help the people I can  
use my mind to build a guard  
to guard the citizens.



## About the Visiting Author



Jamiyl Samuels has been creatively writing for over 25 years. Whether it is screenwriting or making numerous contributions to entertainment magazines, blogs and websites as a freelance writer, creating poetry or song lyrics, he continues to do what he loves while striving to make an impact with his work.

Tracy-Ann Samuels serves as an Ambassador for Autism Speaks and spearheaded the idea to turn "The Amazingly Awesome Amani" into a series of children's books. She aims to spread awareness about Autism through literature and community outreach via in-school readings, panel discussions, and speaking to patrons at festivals and book fairs.

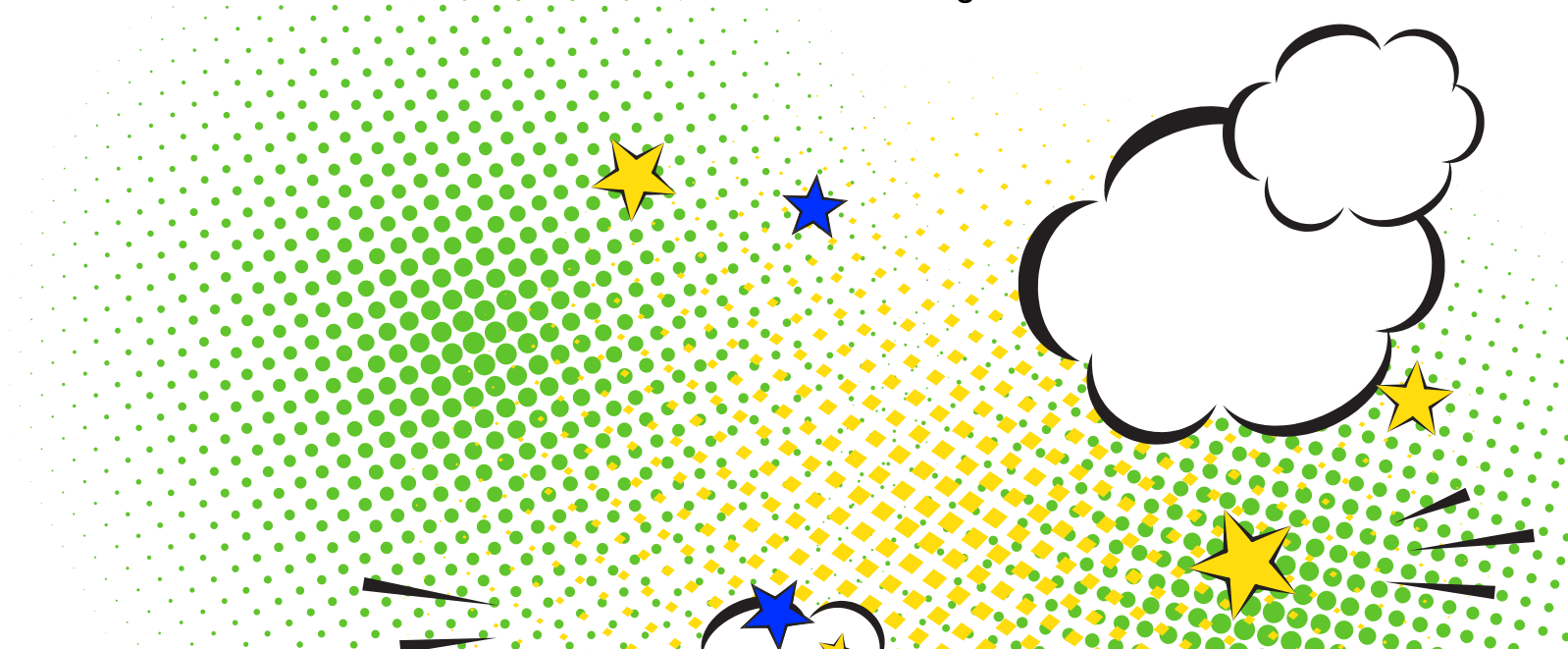
They are founders of W.R.E.a.C Havoc Enterprises, a company that fosters growth, creativity and education through informed written content, film, and recorded music. They are currently working on expanding the children's book series and growing their small business online. They reside in New York with their two children.

## About the Student Authors

Class 3-223 is a class of 23 intelligent, creative, and talented third graders. We are great readers and writers. We will never give up! We always try our best to be the best students!

## About Behind the Book

Behind the Book creates intensive learning and empowering experiences for New York City public school students. Working with classes from Pre-K through the 12th grade, Behind the Book brings authors and their books into individual classrooms to build literacy skills and create a community of lifelong readers and writers. Each of a series of workshops is designed to bring books to life to inspire and engage the students. Behind the Book programs are part of the class curriculum and meet the Common Core Learning Standards.



# Common Core Learning Standards Addressed

## CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

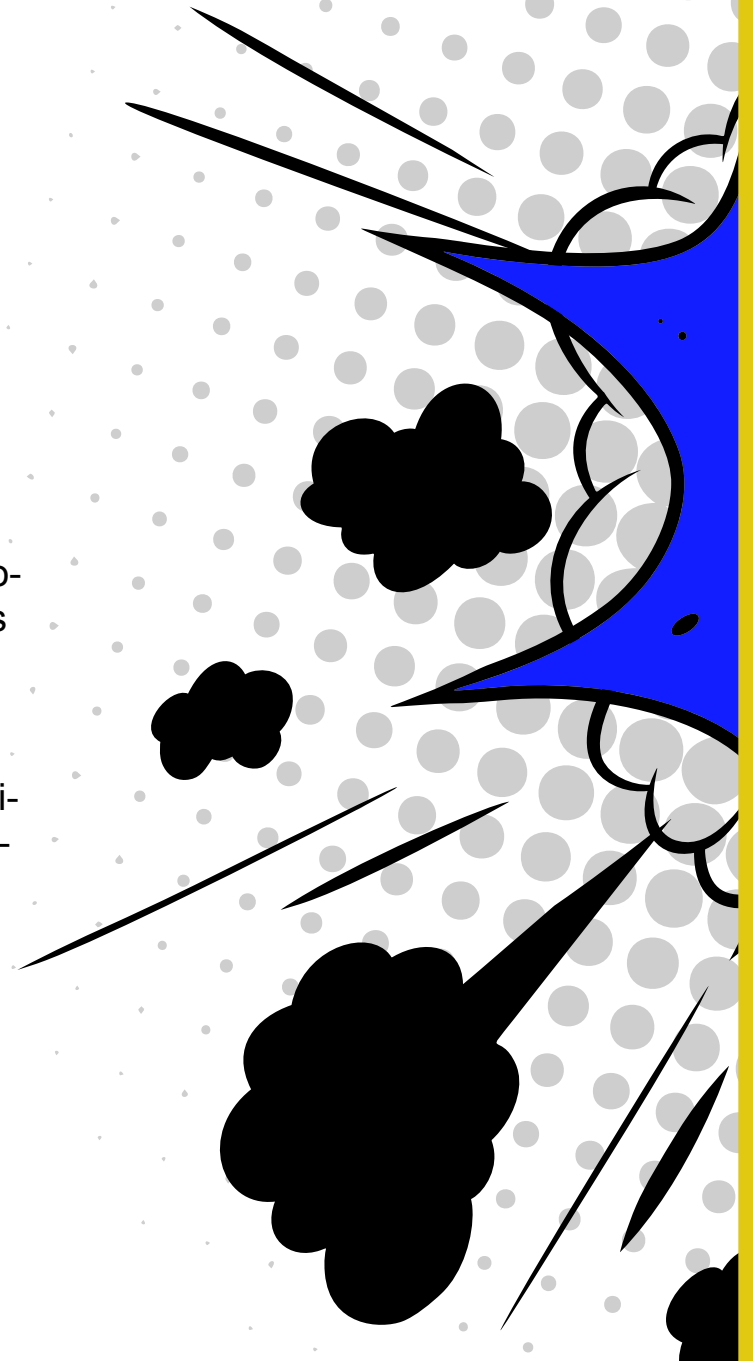
Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

## CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events

## CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.





## Behind the Book

We bring authors and illustrators into the classroom to make reading and writing an awesome experience!

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