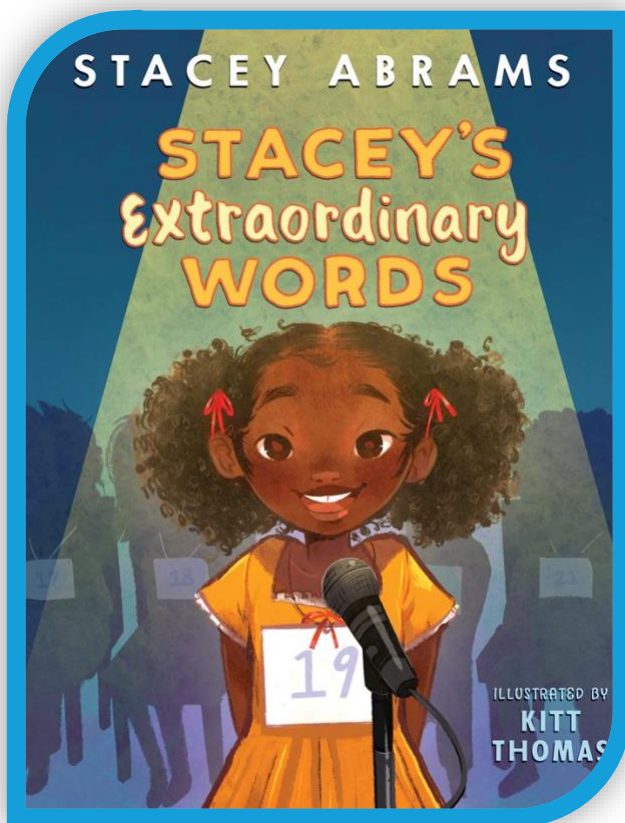




# Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Department

**About the Book of the Month Parent/Family Discussion Guide:** This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A World of Difference® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



## Stacey's Extraordinary Words

Stacey Abrams (Author), Kitt Thomas (Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0063209473

Publisher: Balzer + Bray

Year Published: 2021

Age Range: 4-8

### Book Themes

Women in History and in Contemporary Life, People, Identity and Culture, Bullying, Perseverance

### About the Book

Stacey is a little girl who loves words more than anything. She loves reading them, sounding them out, and finding comfort in them when things are hard. But when her teacher chooses her to compete in the local spelling bee, she isn't as excited as she thought she'd be. What if she messes up? Or worse, if she can't bring herself to speak up, which sometimes happens when she faces bullying at school? Stacey will learn that win or lose, her words are powerful, and sometimes perseverance is the most important word of all.

## Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book along with your child or your child reads it on their own and you discuss it later, use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their responses and to listen thoughtfully and engage in a conversation that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What is the book about?
- As we read the book, what were you thinking and feeling?
- Why does Stacey love words so much? What does she love about words?
- What are some of the new words you learned from the book? How did you learn their meanings?
- How does Stacey feel when her teacher invites her to the spelling bee? How do you know?
- What happens at the spelling bee?
- In the book, how are words used to hurt people? Have you seen words used to hurt people?
- How can words be used to help people or to challenge bias and bullying?
- What is perseverance? How do Stacey and her mom talk about perseverance in the book?
- Why do you think the author decided to write this book?
- What more would you like to learn about Stacey Abrams?

## Talking Points

Below are some important considerations that will make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

### 1. Stacey Abrams and Perseverance

Talk with your child about Stacey Abrams, the author of the book who writes about her experiences as a child. Together, read the author's note in the back of the book (pages 30-31) and the short author bio on the back cover. Share that Stacey Abrams is an author of books including this one, served in the Georgia State House of Representatives for 11 years, ran (and lost) for Governor in 2018. One of Stacey Abrams' most important accomplishments is that she has advocated for voting rights for many years. This means that she works hard to make sure all potential voters are able to vote in elections. Even though people may have the right to vote, they are sometimes unable to vote because of laws that make voting more difficult, especially for certain groups of people. Over the past few years, several states have passed laws that limit certain people's ability to vote or make voting more difficult for certain people. Talk with them about how they would feel if they were unable to vote for something that is important to them. You can also talk about the concept of perseverance, which was discussed in the book. Together, re-read page 27 aloud, where Stacey and her mom talk about perseverance. Ask your child what they think **perseverance** means and explain that it is "the act or power to continue to do something in spite of difficulties or barriers." Talk about how this applies to the book and also share that Stacey Abrams, in her life and career, has shown great perseverance in fighting for people's right to vote.

### 2. Women's History Month

Talk to your child about how the book was written by Stacey Abrams, an important Black woman in today's society and who will likely be known throughout history. Explain that March is Women's History Month—an annual celebration of the history, achievements, and contributions of women. Ask

your child why they think we have a month dedicated to learning about women throughout history. Elicit/explain that the reason we have Women's History Month to honor and commemorate women is because sometimes when history is discussed and taught, girls and women are left out or only a few women are included. This is due to sexism, bias, and exclusion. The same is true for other themed months like Black History Month, Native American Heritage Month and others. If interested, together engage in some additional reading (see below) or watch programming to learn more about Women's History Month, using [National Geographic Kids](#), [History](#), [Scholastic](#) and [Fact Monster](#).

### 3. Love of Words

In the book, Stacey expresses her love of words. Talk with your child about this theme which is illustrated throughout the book. Remind them in the book where Stacey says, "... words are a gift that shouldn't be used to hurt people." Talk with them about what they think Stacey means by this and whether they have seen situations where words are used to hurt people. You can also explore some of the words in the book that Stacey likes and shares, asking what words are new for them, which words they especially like and why. Together discuss ways that words can be used to help people, challenge bias or bullying, or help to make our community and world fair and equitable. Ask your child if they have used their words in this way or seen others do so. Reflect on and share your own experiences of using your words in this way and encourage your child to do the same.

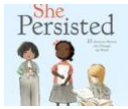
## Other Books You May Like



*Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/each-kindness](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/each-kindness)



*Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/lillians-right-to-vote](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/lillians-right-to-vote)



*She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World* by Chelsea Clinton, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/she-persisted-13-american-women-who-changed-the](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/she-persisted-13-american-women-who-changed-the)



*Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx* by Jonah Winter, [www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/sonia-sotomayor-a-judge-grows-in-the-bronx](http://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/sonia-sotomayor-a-judge-grows-in-the-bronx)

## ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on Women's history, voting rights and bullying prevention.

### Websites

6 Ways to Be an Ally

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/6-ways-to-be-an-ally-en-espanol](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/6-ways-to-be-an-ally-en-espanol)

Some simple things a student can do to be an ally to targets of name-calling and bullying. (Also in Spanish.)

### 12 Picture Books to Read for Women's History Month

[www.adl.org/blog/12-picture-books-to-read-for-womens-history-month](http://www.adl.org/blog/12-picture-books-to-read-for-womens-history-month)

This blog provides a book round up to explore the history, accomplishments and stories of girls and women.

### Teaching about Elections

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/teaching-about-elections](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/teaching-about-elections)

Elections provide great opportunities to teach students about civics, how government works, the electoral process, current events and issues, historical context and campaign politics. This page provides education resources, lesson plans and other election-related pedagogical content to assist you in teaching about elections.

### Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources)

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

### The Question Corner: Early Childhood FAQs

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner)

A collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members interested in promoting respect for diversity among young children.

### Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk)

Provides the tools parents and family members need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Includes discussion guides containing a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources. See also "[What Bullying Is and Is Not.](#)"

### Women's History Month Resources

[www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/womens-history-month-resources](http://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/womens-history-month-resources)

A list of PreK-12 curriculum and other educational resources for classroom and schools to explore women's achievements and struggles throughout history and acknowledge women's contributions to our society. bring Women's History Month to classrooms and schools.

### Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

Bullying Awareness & Prevention, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-2=1&tid\[165\]=165&tid\[166\]=166&tid\[167\]=167&tid\[168\]=168&tid\[169\]=169](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-2=1&tid[165]=165&tid[166]=166&tid[167]=167&tid[168]=168&tid[169]=169)

Gender & Sexism, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-3=1&tid\[171\]=171&tid\[172\]=172&tid\[173\]=173&tid\[174\]=174&tid\[175\]=175](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?childrens-lit-select-all-3=1&tid[171]=171&tid[172]=172&tid[173]=173&tid[174]=174&tid[175]=175)