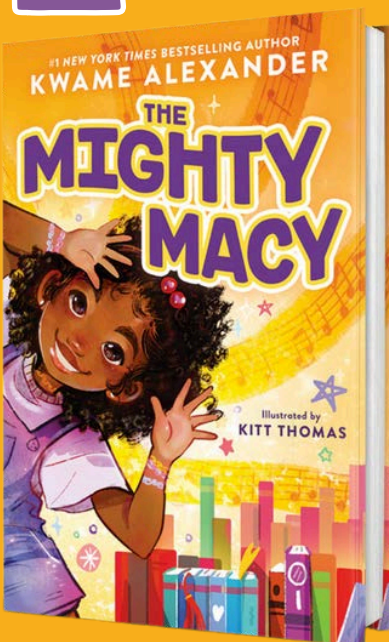


LIBRARIAN PROGRAM TOOLKIT

AGES 6 AND UP



DEAR LIBRARIANS,

You are about to embark on something truly special. This isn't just a program toolkit—it's an invitation to help young readers discover their own mighty voices. *The Mighty Macy* is Kwame Alexander's first chapter book, and it holds a particularly tender place in his creative journey. He wrote this story for his daughter when she was seven years old, inspired by her dedication to the violin and the countless hours she spent practicing, sometimes questioning whether she should continue. At the time, Kwame was traveling frequently for work—much like Macy's father in the story—sharing his poetry with audiences around the world while missing precious moments at home. This book became a love letter to his daughter, a way of saying: your voice matters, your passions matter, and even when I'm not physically present, I see how mighty you are.

That same message resonates throughout every page. Macy's journey from a girl who feels too small to speak up to someone who discovers she can create a "symphony of words" is one that countless children will recognize in themselves. And you, as librarians, are uniquely positioned to guide them through that transformation.

The 20-minute program script included in this toolkit offers suggested excerpts and a tested structure, but we encourage you to trust your own expertise. You know your community best. You understand which themes will resonate most deeply with the children in your library. Perhaps your readers will connect most with Macy's sibling dynamics, or maybe they'll light up at the discussion of comfort foods and family traditions. Some groups might be captivated by the violin storyline, while others will lean into the poetry and metaphor.

This toolkit exists to support you, not constrain you. Use what serves your purpose, adapt what needs adapting, and make this program your own.

Libraries have always been more than buildings filled with books. They are community anchors, safe havens, launching pads for imagination, and training grounds for advocacy. When children see themselves as library advocates—as people whose voices can make a difference—they carry that power into every other area of their lives. They learn that speaking up matters. That their perspectives are valuable. That being "mighty" doesn't require being the loudest person in the room; it requires caring deeply and having the courage to show it.

That's the true gift of *The Mighty Macy*. Not just a delightful story about a girl finding her voice, but a mirror in which young readers can see their own lives and potential reflected back at them...through engaging and fun verse!

We hope this toolkit gives you the tools, confidence, and inspiration to create transformative experiences for the children you serve. Whether you're reading to a group of kindergarteners during story time, hosting a fourth-grade class visit, or running a special literacy event, you have an opportunity to plant seeds of self-advocacy that will grow long after the program ends.

Thank you for being mighty for your libraries, your communities, and the young readers who need you.

Yours in Solidarity,
Ayanna Coleman
Librarian, Literacy Advocate, Publishing Strategist



THE MIGHTY MACY

THE FIRST CHAPTER BOOK BY
#1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR

KWAME ALEXANDER

ILLUSTRATED BY KITT THOMAS

LIBRARIAN PROGRAM TOOLKIT



AUDIENCE	Grades K-4 (Ages 6-10)
TOTAL TIME	20 Minutes
FORMAT	Interactive read-aloud with creative activity
SETTING	Story time, class visits, or literacy events

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1 copy of *The Mighty Macy* by Kwame Alexander
- Index cards or half-sheets of colorful paper (one per child)
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Optional: Star stickers or bookmarks as take-home reminders

PROGRAM GOALS:

- Connect children emotionally to Macy's story about finding courage
- Explore themes of self-expression, bravery, and using your voice
- Inspire children to see themselves as library advocates
- Drive borrowing and circulation of *The Mighty Macy*
- Create community engagement beyond a single event

This Librarian Program Toolkit was created by Ayanna Coleman, Publishing Strategist, Marketing Consultant, and Founder of Quill Shift LLC.

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THE SCRIPT

MINUTES 0–3: OPENING HOOK

Objective: Capture attention and create emotional connection to the library

Librarian says:

"Before we start, I have an important question. Close your eyes for just a second."

(Wait for kids to close their eyes.)

"Now picture your favorite spot in the library. Maybe it's the cozy reading corner. Maybe it's the shelf where you found your favorite book. Maybe it's right here where we gather for stories."

(Pause.)

"Okay, open your eyes. Raise your hand if you'd be sad if you couldn't come to the library anymore."

(Wait and acknowledge all hands.)

"Today we're going to meet a girl named Macy who loves her library just like you do. But then something happens—something that makes her worry the library might close. And she has to decide: Is she brave enough to speak up?"

Hold up *The Mighty Macy* so everyone can see the cover.

*"This book is called *The Mighty Macy*, and it's written by Kwame Alexander—the same author who wrote *The Crossover* and *The Door of No Return*. It's all about finding your voice even when it feels hard and you're scared to speak up."*

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THE SCRIPT

MINUTES 3–8: INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

- "What's YOUR favorite thing about the library?" (Let 2-3 kids share briefly)
- "Has anyone here ever felt nervous about speaking up? Maybe in class, or with friends, or at home?" (Validate responses)
- "In the book, Macy loves to read poetry and listen to music. She uses words like instruments in a symphony. What are some ways YOU use words to show how you feel?" (Examples: writing, singing, talking to friends)
- "Why do you think libraries matter? What would be different if we didn't have them? (Encourage thoughtful answers)
- "Macy sometimes feels like her voice is too small even when she has big ideas. Have you ever felt that way?"

Tip: Keep this conversational, not like a quiz. Affirm all answers. If kids are shy, you can share your own example first.

"Macy is a lot like all of us. She loves books, she has big feelings, and she's not always sure she's brave enough to let them out. Let's see what happens when she finds out her school library might close."

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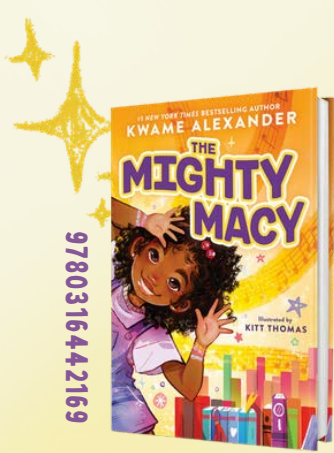
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THE SCRIPT

MINUTES 8–13: READ-ALoud CLIFFHANGER

Objective: Hook kids into the story and leave them wanting more

Reading Instructions:

- Use expression and rhythm—Kwame Alexander's writing is lyrical
- Pause at line breaks to let the poetry breathe
- Show the illustrations as you read
- Read slowly enough for kids to absorb the emotions
- STOP at the cliffhanger moment (marked in suggested excerpt below)

Suggested Excerpt to Read Aloud:

- Macy's love of reading *The Mighty Zora*
- The moment she learns the Library might close
- Macy's internal conflict about speaking up
- Her idea for a "symphony of words"

Recommended stopping point: Just before Macy decides what action to take. You might read up to where she says, "What if I did a symphony of WORDS?" and then close the book.

After reading, say:

"And that's where we're going to stop."

(Pause. Let the suspense build. Kids may protest!)

"I know, I know! You want to know what happens next. Does Macy find the courage to speak up? Does she share her symphony of words? Will the library stay open?"

(Pause again.)

"If you want to find out, you'll have to check out the book and keep reading!"

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THE SCRIPT

MINUTES 13–17: MIGHTY ACTION ACTIVITY

Objective: Make it personal and actionable

Librarian says:

"Macy realizes that being mighty doesn't mean being loud or perfect. It means using your voice—even when it feels scary. And guess what? YOU can be mighty for YOUR library, too."

Hand out index cards or paper.

*"On your card, finish this sentence—you can write it or draw it:
I can be mighty for my library by..."*

Give kids 3-4 minutes to create. Circulate and encourage them.

If kids need help, offer gentle prompts like:

- "You could help a younger kid find a book."
- "You could tell your friends why you love the library."
- "You could come to programs like this one."
- "You could take good care of the books you borrow."
- "You could write a thank-you note to a librarian."
- "You could read to someone in your family."

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THE SCRIPT

MINUTES 17–19: SHARE & DISPLAY

Objective: Celebrate kids' ideas and build community

Librarian says:

"Who wants to share their idea with the group?"

(Invite 3-5 volunteers. Applaud each one.)

"These ideas are amazing! Just like Macy, you're using your voice to make a difference. And we're going to put these on our Library Helper Wall so everyone can see how mighty YOU are."

Collect cards and display them on your designated wall or board.

Consider taking a group photo, if appropriate.

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THE SCRIPT

MINUTES 19–20: CLOSING & NEXT STEPS

Objective: Drive borrowing and extend impact beyond the event

Librarian says:

*"If you want to find out what Macy does with her symphony of words—and whether she saves the library—you can check out *The Mighty Macy* today at the front desk."*

(Hold up the book one more time.)

"If all our copies are already checked out, I can help you place a hold right now so you're first in line when one comes back."

For school librarians:

"I'll also be lending this to [Teacher Name]'s class so you can finish reading it together. You can also ask your family to check it out at the public library or pick up a copy at your favorite bookstore."

"Remember: Being mighty doesn't mean you have to be big or loud. It means you care about something, and you're brave enough to show it. Thank you for being mighty for your library today."

Optional: Hand out star stickers or bookmarks as kids leave.

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EXTENSION IDEAS

FOR LONGER PROGRAMS (30-45 MINUTES):

- **Symphony of Words Poetry Slam:** After kids write their cards, invite them to perform their ideas as mini-poems or chants
- **Create a Class/Group Book:** Compile all the "I can be mighty" cards into a binder that stays in the library
- **Draw Your Library Superhero:** Have kids draw themselves as library superheroes with special powers
- **Music Connection:** Play instrumental music and have kids write or draw what the music makes them think about libraries
- **Comfort Food Sharing:** Discuss the comfort foods in the book (French fries, apple bread, pancakes) and have kids share their own
- **Family Nickname Game:** Explore Macy's nickname "Sunshine" and invite kids to share family nicknames or create library nicknames

FOR FOLLOW-UP EVENTS:

- **Library Advocacy Month:** Display kids' cards year-round and add new ones from each program
- **Author Study:** Explore more Kwame Alexander books and his lyrical writing style
- **Poetry Workshop:** Use Macy's "symphony of words" as inspiration for writing workshop
- **Community Service Project:** Partner with kids to create library bookmarks or posters for local businesses
- **Music Integration:** Create your own "Mighty [Your Library Name]" playlist inspired by the book's music theme
- **Family History Quilts:** Connect to the quilt theme and have kids create paper quilts showing their family stories

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MESSAGE TO FAMILIES

Share this verbally or in a follow-up email/handout

Dear Families,

Today your child participated in a special program featuring *The Mighty Macy* by Kwame Alexander. This beautiful chapter book is about a young girl who discovers the power of her own voice when something she loves—her school library—is threatened with closure. We read part of the story together, discussed what makes libraries important, and created "mighty action cards" where kids shared how they can support their library community.

Here's how you can extend the experience at home:

- **Check out the book:** Visit our library together to borrow *The Mighty Macy*, or pick up a copy at your local independent bookstore if you'd like to own it
- **Talk about advocacy:** Ask your child what makes them feel mighty and what they care enough about to speak up for
- **Explore poetry together:** Kwame Alexander writes in a lyrical, accessible style that's perfect for reading aloud as a family
- **Visit the library regularly:** Make library visits part of your routine—kids who see libraries as community spaces are more likely to become lifelong readers
- **Share your voice:** If you value your library, let your local librarians, school administrators, and elected officials know

Libraries thrive when communities support them. Thank you for being part of ours!

With gratitude,
[Your Name], Librarian

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THE MIGHTY MACY

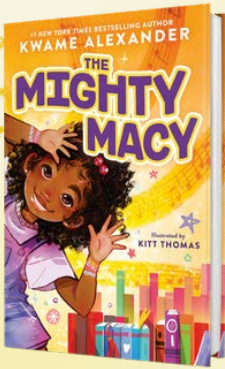
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TIPS FOR SUCCESS

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

- Read the entire book so you know the story arc and can answer questions
- Mark your stopping point with a sticky note so you don't accidentally finish
- Choose the excerpt that resonates most with YOU—your enthusiasm will be infectious
- Prepare your display wall or have a dedicated space ready for cards
- Have multiple copies of the book on hand if possible—this WILL drive holds
- Consider reserving copies for classroom lending sets

DURING THE PROGRAM

- Read with energy but not too fast—let the poetry breathe
- Make eye contact and watch for engagement cues
- Validate all contributions—there are no wrong answers
- If kids are restless, add movement (stand up, sit down when you hear rhyming words)
- Take photos of the cards/display for social media (with permission)

AFTER THE PROGRAM

- Send the family message within 24 hours while excitement is fresh
- Display kids' cards prominently where families will see them
- Track circulation of *The Mighty Macy* to measure program impact
- Share photos and quotes on social media with #TheMightyMacy
- Consider scheduling a follow-up event if engagement is high

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