



Introduce your audience to funk music and artists like Rick James. Kids can freestyle dance, or invite an instructor to teach dance moves from the '80s.

Invite an "expert" to teach your audience how to double-dutch, or host a double-dutch contest or marathon.

Host a cooking club celebrating the food from *Young Cormrows*, or invite a master soul food chef to give a cooking demo (and tasting!).

Partner with your local hair salon to co-host an event. Children can hear a reading of *Young Cormrows Callin Out the Moon* and get their hair done and nails polished.

April is National Poetry Month: Host an open mic poetry night, invite spoken word artists to perform, ask a class to share their Poems to Celebrate (see activity inside), or organize a poetry reading based on your audience's favorite poems.

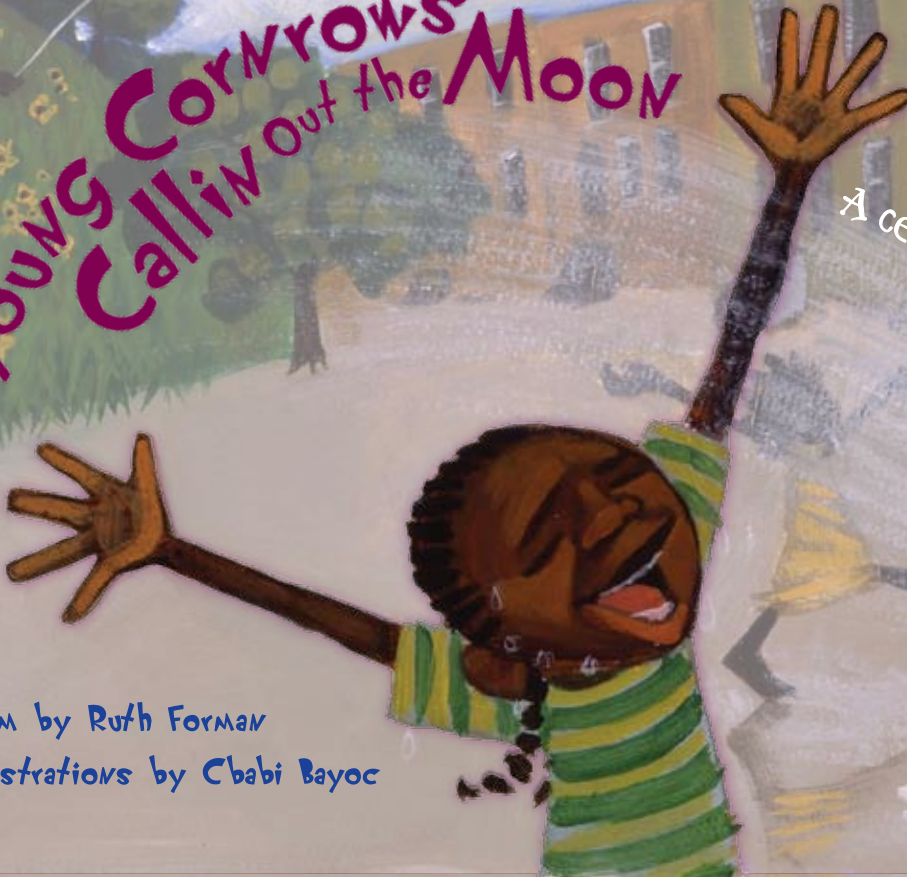
Ideas for Bookstore and Library Events



Young Cormrows Callin Out the Moon

A celebration of summertime in the city

Poem by Ruth Forman
Illustrations by Cbabi Bayoc



We got black magic n brownstone steps

when the sun go down

ACTIVITY: POEMS TO CELEBRATE

For this activity students will write their own poem emulating the structure of *Young Cornrows Callin Out the Moon*.

- Discuss the opening stanza "we don't have..." How would they complete this phrase?
- Examine the second stanza, beginning with "we got..." How would they complete this phrase? Encourage students to use details from their own family, culture, and neighborhood.
- Follow the poem's structure with students using their own specifics. When they're finished, students will have a poem celebrating their own lives and communities.
- Publish the poems by hanging them on the wall or putting them together into a class anthology or a shared poetry binder.
- Ask students to individually create artwork, a poster, mini-book, or collage based on their poems; or collectively create a mural based on their poems' shared themes.
- Hold a "Celebration Day." Display the artwork and have a poetry reading where students can share their poems. Discuss the many cultures, neighborhoods, and communities present in the poems. You can also ask students to bring foods, games, etc. from their cultures and communities.



CLASSROOM AND BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the title mean?
2. What is "magic" to the narrator?
3. What is the narrator proud of? How do you know?
4. Does this poem remind you of any food, games, or places in your neighborhood? Which ones?
5. What things does this poem celebrate? Would you expect to see these things celebrated? Why or why not?
6. What do you think should be celebrated in your neighborhood? Why?

Ruth Forman is a prize-winning poet, author, and friend of words. She likes to think magic dwells in the pen, if only we let it out. She still loves to sit on brownstone steps and her favorite time is summer dusk, right after dinner, when the air is still warm and indigo gently kisses us into the night. She lives in Los Angeles.



Chabi Bayoc is a fine artist and illustrator whose work reflects his love of music and family. His paintings can be found in galleries and homes around the world, on album covers, in music videos, and on the pages of magazines and newspapers. He lives in St. Louis with his wife and children.

