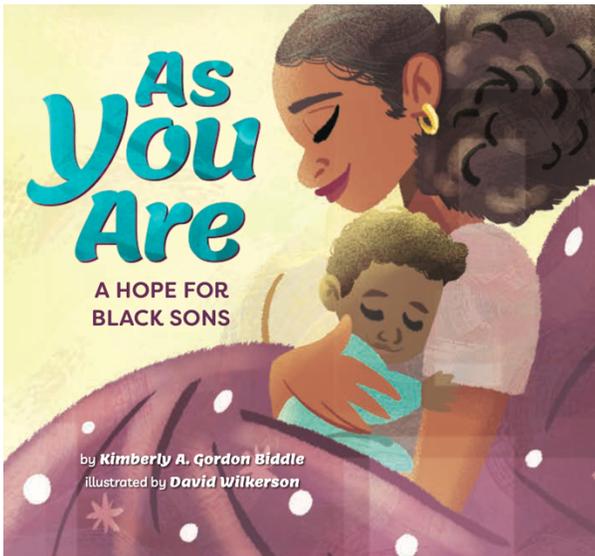


As You Are

A Hope for Black Sons

Readers Theater

by **Marcie Colleen**



Read aloud *As You Are: A Hope for Black Sons* by Kimberly A. Gordon Biddle, illustrated by David Wilkerson.

Then, hand out a set of photocopied scripts to ten children. The remaining children will be the audience.

For the first run-through, children will simply read their role aloud.

Once all readers are comfortable with their parts, a second reading can include props and costumes, if desired.

This script was created by Marcie Colleen, a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and a MA in Educational Theater from NYU.

Marcie can often be found writing books of her own at her home in San Diego, California. Visit her at www.thisismarciecolleen.com.

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Mother 1: I loved you
Mother 2: and named you
Mother 1 and 2: before I knew you.
Mother 3: I loved you
Father 1: and sang to you,
Mother 3 and Father 1: as soon as I met you.
Father 2: I loved you
Father 3: when you toddled and ran and grew.
Fathers 2 and 3: My love will follow you forever.
All: Forever.
Fathers 2 and 3: Forever.
All Fathers: I'll love you and protect you always,
All: my child.
All Fathers: my child.
Mother 3: but what can I say of the world?
All Mothers: the world?
All: the world?
Father 4: Will the world
cradle you
when you fall,
support you when
you struggle,
and protect you
when you need?
Mother 4: Will the world keep its smile
and say you're worthy,
as a boy, as a teen, as a man?

Mother 5: Will the world greet you kindly
morning and night,
as you let go of my hand?

Father 5: I don't know what the world will do,
All: my child

Father 5: but maybe
people will see your heart and soul as I do.

All Mothers: Yes, maybe.

All Fathers: Yes, maybe.

All: Maybe,

Mother 4 and 5: people will love and protect you
Father 4 and 5: as I do.

Mother 1: I can't control what the world will do
All: my child

Mother 2: so remember these words I say to you.

Father 1: Know you are good and worthy.

Father 2: Trust you have skills and are capable.

Mother 3: Think of the melodies I sang to you.

Mother 4: Feel the wind that carried you.

All: Remember

All Mothers: Remember

All Fathers: Remember

Mother 5 and Father 1: the ocean waves we've viewed.

Father 3: There are those who will
honor and value you.

Father 2: There are those who will share your journey.

Father 4: There are those who will follow after you,

Father 5: and there are those who will encourage you to shine.

All Mothers: shine

All Fathers: shine.

All Mothers: Ask for respect

All: and give it.

All Fathers: Ask for friendship

All: and show it.

All Mothers: Ask for love

All: and share it.

Mother 1: Persist.

Father 1: Keep going.

Mother 2 and Father 2: Be strong.

Mother 3: And please know . . .

All: know

Father 3: . . . my smile will not fade

Mother 4: and I'll carry you when you need.

Father 4: My welcome will not disappear,

Mother 5: no matter how many times you knock.

Father 5: I know your heart and soul,
your compassion
and worth.

All: Your worth.

Mother 1: Greet the world

All: as you are,

All Mothers: with your warmth,
depth, and
limitless hope.

All Fathers: limitless hope.

All: Hope. Hope.

Mother 1 and Father 1: Limitless hope.

The End