

"If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive."-Audre Lorde

TO  
**BLACK GIRL  
MAGIC  
AND BEYOND:**

DISMANTLING BARRIERS &  
CULTIVATING BRILLIANCE

*Silver Moore*









endangered  
species







“Black girlhood [is] the representations, memories and lived experiences of being and becoming in a body marked as youthful, Black, and female.”

-Ruth Nicole Brown (Black Girlhood Celebration: Toward a Hip-Hop Feminist Pedagogy”

“somebody/ anybody  
sing a black girl's song  
bring her out  
to know herself  
to know you.”

-Ntozake Shange (For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf”



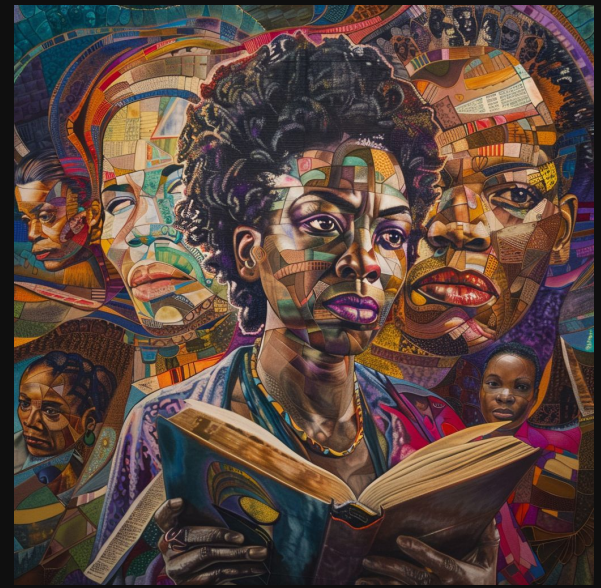


December 22, 1978









1. Who do **you** say you are? Who do **others** say you are?
2. Who are your **foremothers** ? Your **forefathers** ?
3. Who are your **inspirations** ?
4. Who has taught you and continues to **teach you to exist and take up space** ?







**"If Black [girls] are free , it would mean that everyone else would have to be free since [their] freedom would necessitate the destruction of all the systems of oppression."**





How can we foster a learning environment that centers **Black girls** ' ways of being, promotes their wellness, and celebrates their magic?

How can we create space for **Black girls** to freely take up space?

1. What does it mean to **learn** ?
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4. What does it be to be **free** ?
5. What does it mean to take up **space** ?



espn.com

Sha'Carri Richardson earns 100-meter berth, reveals mother died last week - ESPN

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theguardian.com

Jun 20, 2021, 12:

Sha'Carri Richardson's look is over the top – that's why it matters

By Priya Elan | Jul. 22nd, 2021

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nytimes.com

Sha'Carri Richardson, a Track Sensation, Tests Positive for Marijuana (Published 2021)

2021

teenvogue.com

Sha'Carri Richardson Tosses Her Wig Before Winning 100m Race

Jul. 8th, 2023

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Sha'Carri Richardson wins first heat at Olympic trials with a shoe untied

Jun. 22nd, 2024

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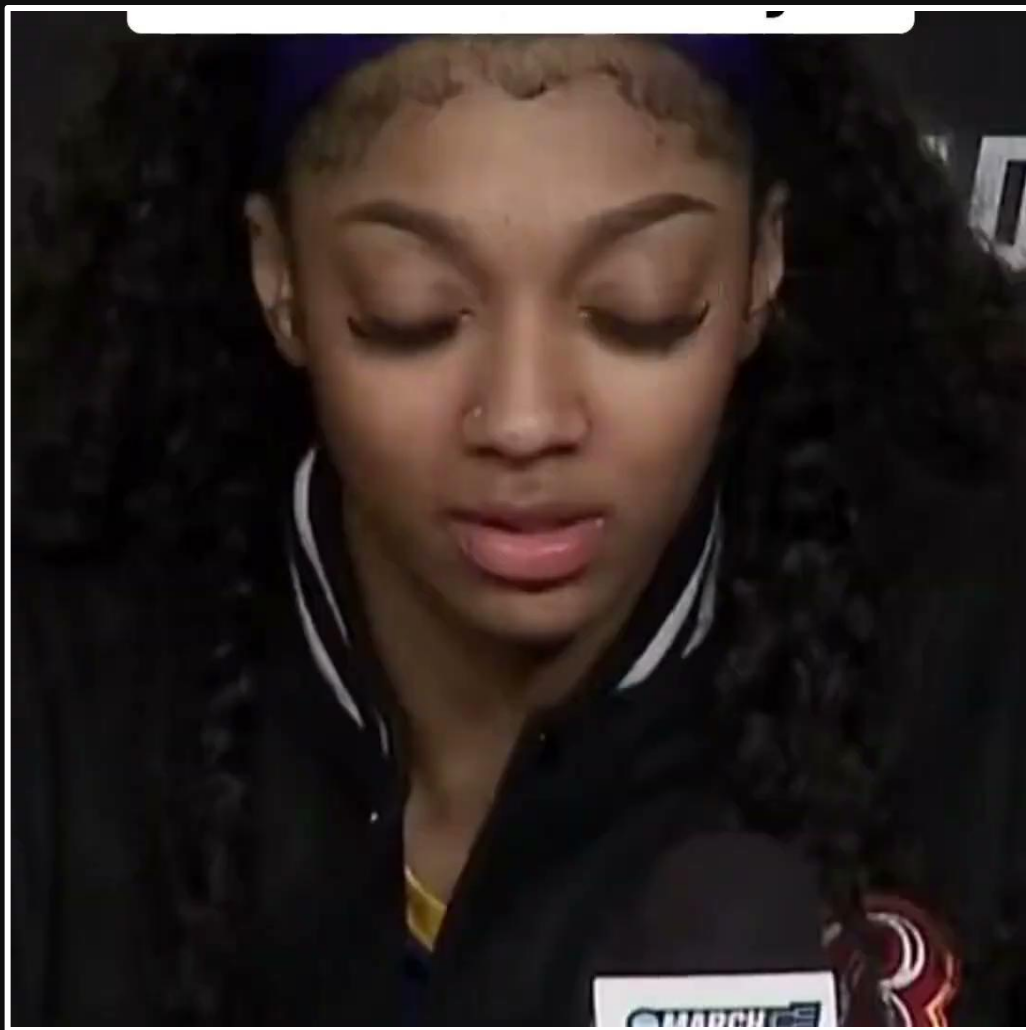




“”

**I don't take  
disrespect lightly.**

ANGEL REESE  
after LSU's win over Iowa

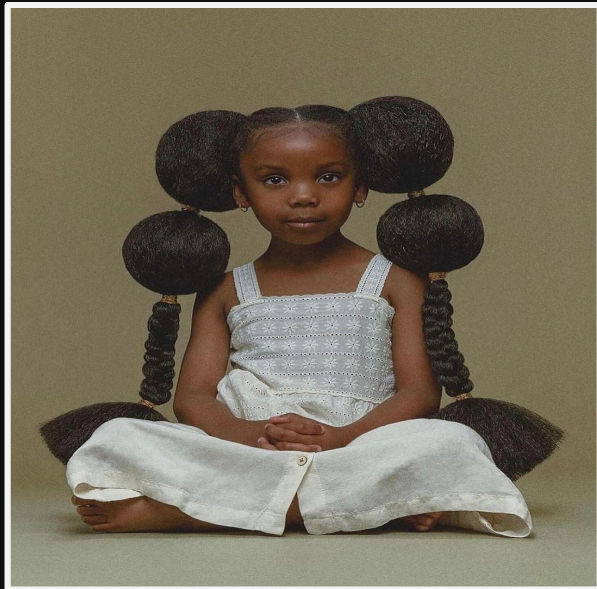
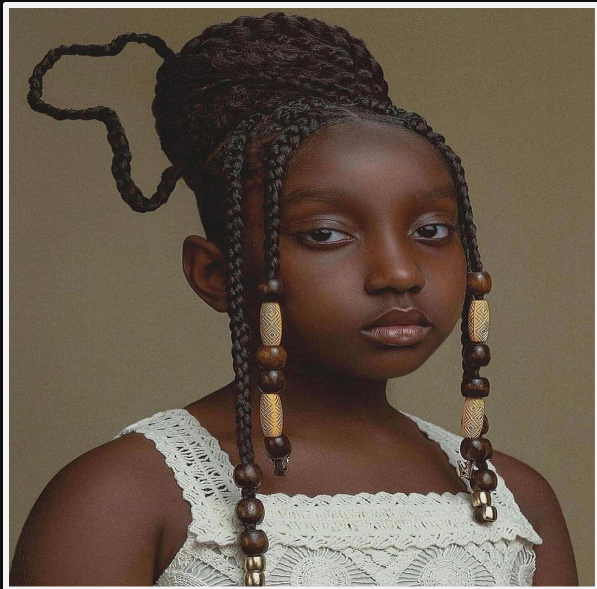






# Black girls face higher risk of suspension and expulsion for subjective behavior infractions.

the increased risk of Black girls being disciplined for subjective infractions (Disrespect, non-compliance, Inappropriate Cell Phone Use, Loitering)



MAGIC







# MAGIC





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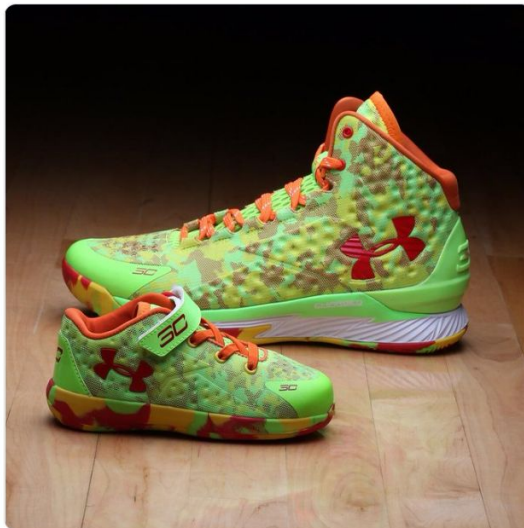
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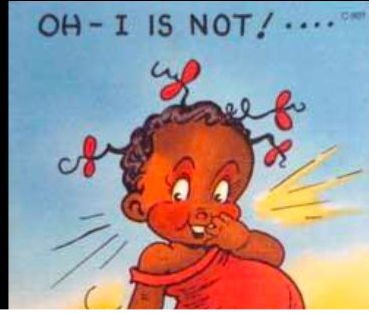


**MAGIC**

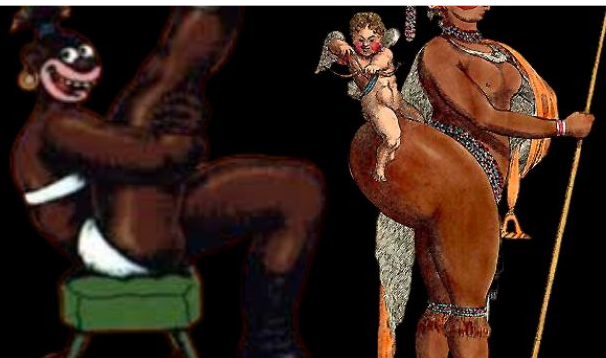


**How might school policies impact the policing and autonomy of Black girls' bodies?**





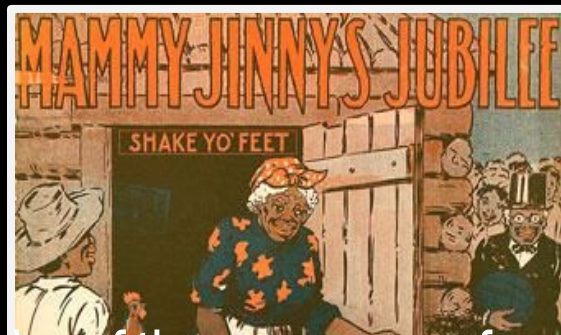
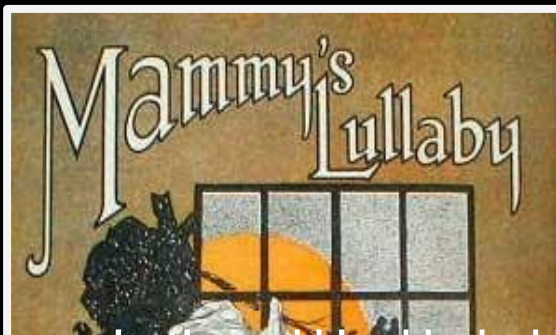
**Black girls are more likely to be penalized for wearing the same things as other girls**





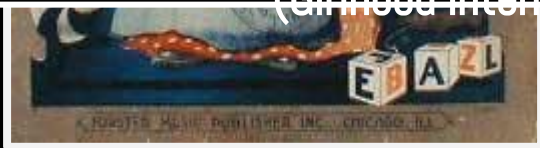
How might ideas of politics of respectability play out in





**Adultification** is a form of dehumanization, robbing black children of the very essence of what makes childhood distinct from all other developmental periods: innocence. Adultification contributes to a false narrative that black youths' transgressions are intentional and malicious, instead of the result of immature decision making — a key characteristic of childhood."

(Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood)



How might schools reaffirm Black girls innocence and protect their childhood?



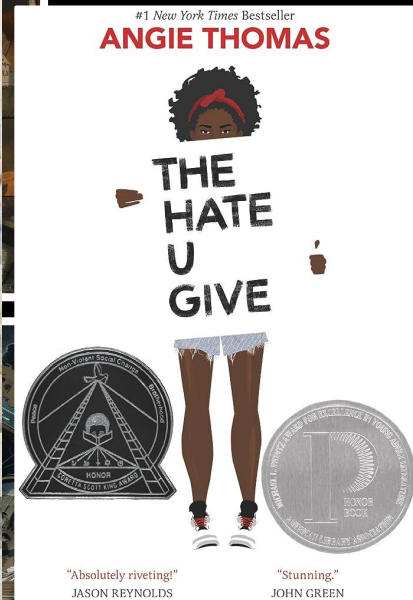
Black girls  
need...



- less nurturing
- less protection
- to be supported less
- to be comforted less



How might  
educators  
help Black  
girls  
navigate  
societal  
stereotypes  
and  
maintain  
their  
authentic







# Grit

*Respectability Politics will not save us. It's not our North Star.*



**We have a strong selfie game.**

**We are self-reflective. We look at our practice and evaluate how we can improve. We are #yesfilter, pulling from different places, people, and experiences that can add to us being the selfie we hope for. We are also #nofilter. We real and raw. We deal with the stuff that's not pretty.**

**Agree**

**Strongly  
Agree**

**Disagree**

**Strongly  
Disagree**





03:00

1. What are you **thinking** ?
2. Where are you being **challenged** ?
3. Where do you feel **seen** ?
4. What isn't being **said** that needs to be?
5. What is **circling** in your head?





Dismantling Barriers

*Cultivating Brilliance*



# *Barrier*

## Perfectionism/One Right Way/Paternalism/Objectivity

"The belief there is one right way to do things. Connected to the belief in an objective "perfect" that is both attainable and desirable for everyone. Connected to the belief that I am qualified to know what the perfect right way is for myself and others."



# *Brilliance*

- Combat adultification by fostering safe spaces for Black girls to make mistakes.
- Offer multiple ways for students to engage in demonstrating learning



# Barrier

## Sense of Urgency

"Applying the urgency of racial and social justice to our everyday lives in ways that perpetuate power imbalance and disregard for our need to breathe and pause and reflect."

# Brilliance

- Prioritize reflection and metacognition
- Promote rest and wellness and create the conditions to ensure it's practice
- Wellness and mindfulness education

# Barrier

## Denial & Defensiveness

"The habit of denying and defending against the ways in which white supremacy and racism are produced and our individual or collective participation in that production."

## Right to Comfort & Fear of Conflict

"The internalization that I or we have a right to comfort, which means we cannot tolerate conflict, particularly open conflict."

# Brilliance

- Dr. Chris Edmin, Co-generative Dialogues

# Barrier

## Right to Comfort & Fear of Conflict

"The internalization that I or we have a right to comfort, which means we cannot tolerate conflict, particularly open conflict."





# *Barrier*

## Either/Or Thinking

“Reduces the complexity of life and the nuance of our relationships with each other and all living things into either/or, yes or no, right or wrong in ways that reinforce urgency, one right way perfectionist thinking, and abuse of power.”

# *Brilliance*

- Abolish Zero Tolerance Policies

## *Barrier*

# Progress is Bigger & Quantity Over Quality

"The assumption that the goal is always more and bigger with an emphasis on what we can "objectively" measure as more valuable than the quality of our relationships to all living beings."

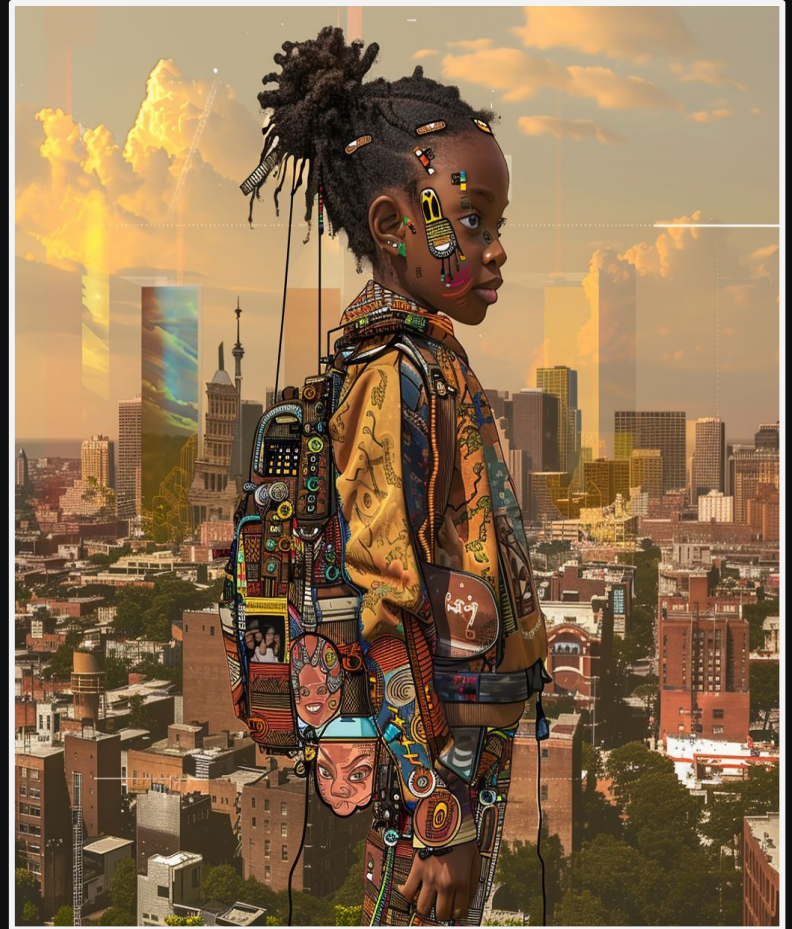
## *Brilliance*

- Socio-Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Instruction
- Consider the data you track to access success

# Barrier

## Worship of the Written Word

"Honoring only what is written and even then only what is written to a narrow standard, even when what is written is full of misinformation and lies. An erasure of the wide range of ways we communicate with each other and all living things."





# Barrier

## Individualism & Power Holding

"Our cultural story that we make it on our own, without help, while pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps, is a toxic denial of our essential interdependence and the reality that we are all in this, literally, together."

'Little, if any, value around sharing power. Power seen as limited, only so much to go around.'



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*Dear Black  
Girl*