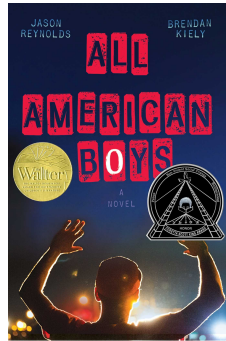




“All American Boys” by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

About *All American Boys*: A bag of chips. That’s all sixteen-year-old Rashad is looking for at the corner bodega. What he finds instead is a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, who mistakes Rashad for a shoplifter, mistakes Rashad’s pleadings that he’s stolen nothing for belligerence, mistakes Rashad’s resistance to leave the bodega as resisting arrest, mistakes Rashad’s every flinch at every punch the cop throws as further resistance and refusal to STAY STILL as ordered. But how can you stay still when someone is pounding your face into the concrete pavement? There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad’s classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad’s best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town. Simmering tensions threaten to explode as Rashad and Quinn are forced to face decisions and consequences they had never considered before.



About The Author: Jason Reynolds is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, a Newbery Award Honoree, a Printz Award Honoree, a two-time National Book Award finalist, a Kirkus Award winner, a two-time Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors. Reynolds is also the 2020–2021 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. His many books include *When I Was the Greatest*, *The Boy in the Black Suit*, *All American Boys* (cowritten with Brendan Kiely), *As Brave as You*, *For Every One*, the *Track* series (*Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny*, and *Lu*), *Look Both Ways*, and *Long Way Down*, which received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. He lives in Washington, DC. You can find his ramblings at JasonWritesBooks.com.

Brendan Kiely is the New York Times bestselling author of *All American Boys* (with Jason Reynolds), *The Last True Love Story*, and *The Gospel of Winter*. His work has been published in ten languages, received a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Award, the Walter Dean Myers Award, the Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award, was twice awarded Best Fiction for Young Adults (2015, 2017) by the American Library Association, and was a Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2014. Originally from the Boston area, he now lives with his wife in New York City. *Tradition* is his fourth novel.

Read Aloud Tips:

- Incorporate this book as a part of a larger unit of civil rights. Ask students if they know how Black Americans are still fighting for equal rights today.
- Take breaks when reading to gauge what students are thinking. Encourage discussion, possibly within small groups.
- Let this book open dialogue about police brutality and racial injustices. Assign a reaction paper for students to touch on these topics and share their reaction to the novel.



From left to right: Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

Additional Resources:

Find more information on other books that can be used in your class library at literacy.roosevelt.edu.

