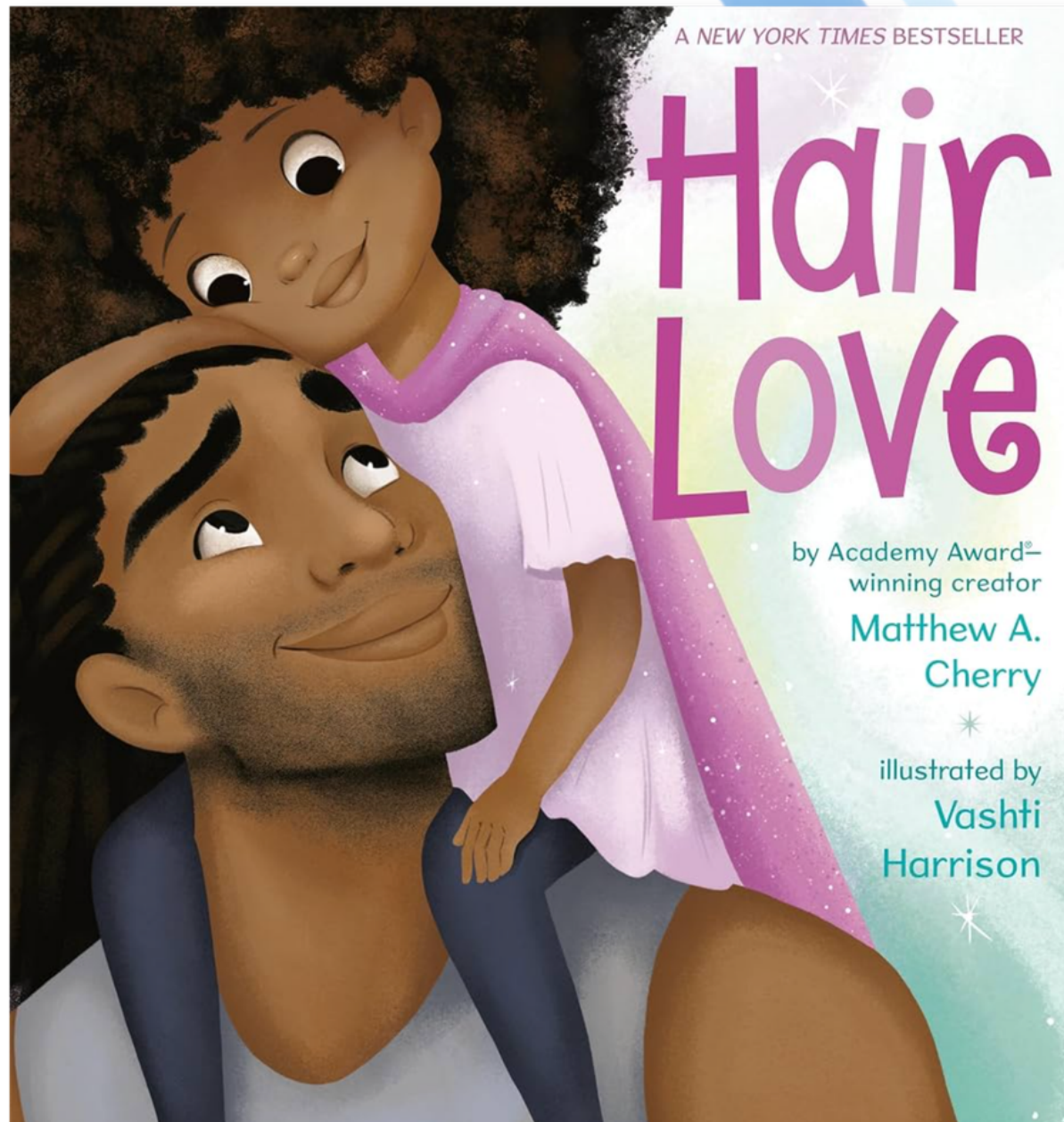


FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

# BOOK BRIDGES



## Hair Love

**Author:** Matthew A. Cherry

**Illustrator:** Vashti Harrison

Activities Created by  
Washburn University Education Major:  
Lanaya Hada

# Summary of Hair Love

Zuri is a young girl that loves her hair. On her special day, with the help of her dad, she works toward feeling confident and happy. Along the way, the story highlights their relationship and the importance of effort in relationships.

## Read Alouds



[English Youtube  
Read-Aloud](#)

# About the Author and Illustrator

Matthew A. Cherry is an author, filmmaker, and former professional football player. After his football career, he pursued media. He created *Hair Love* as a short film, and later as a children's book. His work focuses on confidence, positive life experiences, and family.

Vashti Harrison is an illustrator, author, and filmmaker known for her work celebrating diversity. Harrison's work is inspired by her Caribbean heritage and focuses on representation and empowerment.

## Learn More



[Matthew A. Cherry](#)



[Vashti Harrison](#)

# Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, connect to the characters, and build a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.



## Before Reading

- What are things you love about yourself?
- Who helps you get ready for special days?



## During Reading

- How does Zuri feel while trying different hairstyles?



## After Reading

- Why is it important to keep trying when something is hard?
- When is a time somebody showed you love and patience?
- When is a time you showed love and patience?

# Extending the Book with Additional Reading

For this activity, you will need books that celebrate confidence, identity, and family relationships. Choose from books like *I Love My Hair* by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, *Happy Hair* by Mechal Reece Roe, *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, or *The Family Book* by Todd Parr.



**I Love My Hair**

Natasha  
Anastasia  
Tarpley



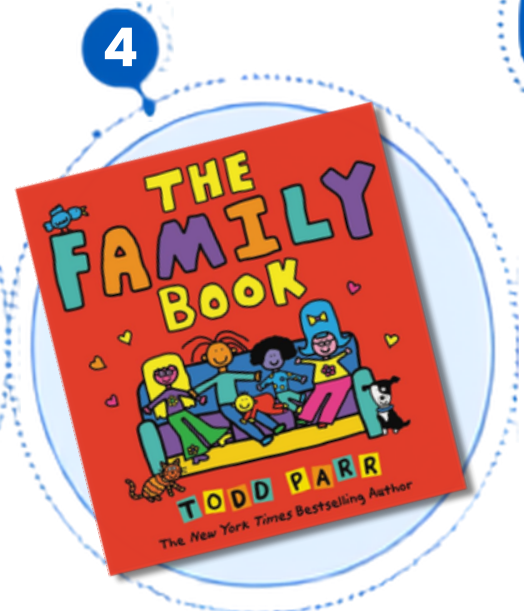
**Happy Hair**

Mechal Renee  
Roe



**The Day You Begin**

Jacqueline  
Woodson



**The Family Book**

Todd  
Parr



## Talk Together



How do the characters in these books show confidence in who they are?



How do family members support each other in each story?



What lessons about identity, love, and effort can we learn from these books?



## Extending the Book with Writing

For this activity, you will need writing/coloring materials and paper. Have your reader write about a 'special day' in their life. Encourage them to use steps (first, next, then, last) and include who helped them. They can also write about their feelings during these steps. Younger readers can do this using pictures and labels, while older readers can write a short story.

1

**First**

 Who helped me?

.....

 How did I feel?

.....

 What happened?

.....

2

**Next**

 Who helped me?

.....

 How did I feel?

.....

 What happened?

.....

3

**Then**

 Who helped me?

.....

 How did I feel?

.....

 What happened?

.....

4

**Last**

 Who helped me?

.....

 How did I feel?

.....

 What happened?

.....



## Extending the Book with Math

For this activity you will need a pencil and paper, and a clock. With your reader, create a schedule of Zuri's day. List activities like brushing hair, getting dressed, and more. Have your reader estimate how long each step would take. Then, add the total time to compare which activities take more time compared to others.

*Sample Schedule of Zuri's Day*

| Activity                                                                                                      | Estimated Time | Total Time So Far  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|  1. Wake up & stretch      | 10 min         | 10 min             |
|  2. Brush hair             | 20 min         | 30 min             |
|  3. Get dressed           | 15 min         | 45 min             |
|  4. Eat breakfast        | 15 min         | 1 hr               |
|  5. Pack bag & get ready | 15 min         | 1 hr 15 min        |
| <b>Total Time</b>                                                                                             | <b>75 min</b>  | <b>1 hr 15 min</b> |



### Compare and Connect

Help your reader make a connection to Zuri by creating a schedule of the reader's day. Compare and contrast the two schedules. Ask these questions:

- How is Zuri's schedule different than yours?
- How is Zuri's schedule the same as yours?
- What is one way you would like your schedule to be different than it is now?



## Extending the Book with Science

For this activity you will need a comb/brush and personal hair products. With your reader, talk about hair as a part of our body. Discuss how it grows and why it needs care. Explore how different hair types may need different types of care. Readers can observe their own hair and talk about the texture, thickness, and how we take care of our hair.



1

### Notice your hair.

Look at your hair in the mirror or feel it with your fingers. What do you notice about how it looks and feels?



2

### Talk about texture and thickness.

Is your hair curly, wavy, coily, or straight? Is it thick, medium, or fine? How would you describe it?



3

### Discuss how hair grows and why it needs care.

Hair grows from follicles on our scalp. It needs care to stay healthy, strong, and comfortable.



4

### Explore tools or products used for care.

Look at the combs, brushes, shampoos, conditioners, and other products you use. What are they used for?



5

### Share how your family cares for hair.

What are some routines or traditions your family uses to care for hair? What makes them special?



### Think Together

1. How is your hair unique?

2. Why do different hair types need different kinds of care?



# Extending the Book with Social Studies

For this activity, you will need a pencil, paper, and crayons or markers. Talk with your reader about different roles in the community, such as hairdressers, nurses, teachers, and barbers. Emphasize how each person helps others in important ways. Connect this to the book by discussing Zuri's dad taking on the role of helping with her hair, similar to a hairdresser. Younger readers can draw to describe community roles, while older readers can write about them.

## Hairdresser



helps people look and  
feel their best.

## Nurse



helps people  
stay healthy.

## Teacher



helps people learn  
and grow.

## Barber



helps people care for  
their hair.



## Connect to Hair Love

How do the people in our community help others every day?  
In *Hair Love*, how does Zuri's dad help her? What does that  
show about caring for others?

## Draw or Write About It!



Younger Readers:  
Draw a person who  
helps others in your  
community.



Older Readers:  
Write about a community  
helper and how they help  
others.



# Extending the Book with Art

For this activity, you will need paper and pencil, colored pencils, crayons, or markers. Ask your reader to create a self-portrait styled with their favorite hairstyle. Encourage them to use details that make them unique. Then connect this with the science activity and write a caption about how they take care of their hair or what makes their hair unique.

1



## Draw yourself.

Start with your face and shoulders.

2



## Add your favorite hairstyle.

Make it big, curly, braided, twisted, or any style you love!

3



## Add details that make you unique.

Include accessories, clothes, and things you love.

4



## Write a caption.

Tell how you take care of your hair or what makes your hair unique.





LITERACY  
BRIDGES