

Master Brown

Catalyst Creators: Scholarship

If awarded this scholarship, the funding will directly support the illustration and publication of my children's ABC book. The funds will allow me to work with an illustrator to create vibrant, culturally affirming images that feature Black and Brown children across each page of the alphabet. Each letter will highlight children with different skin tones, hairstyles, and cultural expressions, as well as different abilities and ways of experiencing the world. Some characters will be neurotypical, while others will be neurodivergent, blind, Deaf, or wheelchair users. My goal is for every child who opens the book to see themselves reflected in at least one of the characters. Representation matters deeply in early childhood literature, and these illustrations will help ensure that children who are often underrepresented in books feel seen, valued, and celebrated.

My Brilliant Brain: An ABC Book of Being Me

A

A is for Affirmed.

I am loved as I am, I don't have to pretend.

B

B is for Brilliant and Bright.

My mind shines strong with its own special light.

C

C is for Confidence.

I believe in myself, even when things feel tense.

D

D is for Different.

Different is not wrong, it's where I belong.

E

E is for Emotions, big waves in my sea.

They rise and they fall, and they're all part of me.

F

F is for Feelings.

They can feel big and loud inside of me.

I name them, I feel them, then let them be free.

G

G is for Growing, each day I learn more.

I open new paths and I walk through new doors.

H

H is for Help.

I can ask when I need it, I don't have to yelp.

I

I is for Imagination, my thoughts take flight.

I dream up new worlds from morning to night.

J

J is for Joy, in my laugh and my sound.

In dancing, in drawing, in spinning around.

K

K is for Kindness, I give it to me.

I speak to myself like I would to a friend I see.

L

L is for Learning, my own special way.

My brain finds new paths every single day.

M

M is for Mind.

My mind is unique and wonderfully free.

N

N is for Needs, I have some, that's true.

When people support me, there's nothing I can't do.

O

O is for Opinions, I'm allowed to share.

My thoughts and my feelings deserve loving care.

P

P is for Proud, I stand tall in my skin.
There's nothing about me I need to dim.

Q

Q is for Questions, I ask what I need.
My voice is important, my thoughts will lead.

R

R is for Respect.
I give it to others and expect it too.
My thoughts, my body, and feelings matter, that's true.

S

S is for Strengths, I have many to show.
In art, in ideas, in the ways that I grow.

T

T is for Try, I keep going strong.
Even when things feel hard or take long.

U

U is for Unique, there's no one like me.
That's my superpower for the world to see.

V

V is for Voice, I deserve to be heard.
My thoughts and my feelings matter in every word.

W

W is for Worth, I've had it since birth.
No one can measure or lower my worth.

X

X is for eXpress, in art, words, or play.
I show who I am in my own special way.

Y

Y is for You.
You belong here just as you are.

Z

Z is for Zest, a joy deep inside.
I live, I learn, I shine with pride.

Remember

You are brilliant.
You are capable.
And the world is better because you are in it.