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Kwame Alexander Dedicates ‘The Crossover’–Themed Little Free Library in Hometown of Chesapeake, VA

First of 10 libraries to celebrate 10th anniversary of Newbery Award–winning book



Chesapeake, VA (April 17, 2025) – New York Times bestselling author Kwame Alexander returned to his hometown of Chesapeake, Virginia, to unveil a Little Free Library® book-sharing box in celebration of the tenth anniversary of his groundbreaking novel, *The Crossover*. Created in partnership with the Little Free Library (LFL) nonprofit organization, the library dedication ceremony took place on April 10, launching a series of events honoring *The Crossover*, community, and the transformative power of literacy.

“In the *Crossover* book, I never mentioned where it was set. I never said the city. But in my mind, *The Crossover* was always set in Chesapeake where I grew up,” Alexander said. “I’m excited to unveil and dedicate this *Crossover*–themed Little Free Library in the spirit of community. I’m celebrating the students, the librarians, and my family.”

The Little Free Library features original artwork by Dawud Anyabwile, illustrator of *The Crossover*. It is the first of ten *Crossover*–themed Little Free Libraries Alexander is sponsoring across the country. The libraries all will include custom artwork by Anyabwile and graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang.

Each library will be installed in a location significant to Alexander’s personal and literary journey. This first installation stands on land purchased and farmed by Alexander’s great-great-grandfather in the aftermath of the Civil War—an especially meaningful site to begin the initiative.

“We are incredibly grateful to Kwame Alexander for using the power of story to inspire a new generation of readers,” said Greig Metzger, executive director of LFL. “This *Crossover*–themed Little Free Library not only celebrates a decade of literary excellence, but also plants the seeds of literacy and community connection in a place deeply rooted in Kwame’s personal history. We’re honored to partner with him on this meaningful celebration of books, legacy, and belonging.”

The unveiling was attended by Chesapeake students and educators, along with community leaders and distinguished guests, including Sheriff Dave Rosado, Dr. E. Curtis Alexander, and Dr. Wanda Barnard-Bailey.

The dedication also marked the official start of the Inaugural Kwame Alexander Youth Games, a multi-day event blending reading and sports, hosted in collaboration with the City of Chesapeake.

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About Kwame Alexander: Kwame Alexander is an Emmy® Award-winning producer, and #1 New York Times bestselling author of 44 books, including *Why Fathers Cry at Night*, *How Sweet The Sound*, *The Door of No Return* (2025 Audie Award Winner), *The Undeclared*, the National Book Award nominee, Newbery Honor, and Caldecott Medal-winning picture book illustrated by Kadir Nelson, and *The Crossover*, his Newbery Medal-winning novel turned Disney+ TV series. His forthcoming books include *J vs. K*, an illustrated novel he penned with Jerry Craft, and the motivational primer for graduates, creatives and professionals entitled *Say Yes*. He is also the executive producer *Acoustic Rooster* and *His Barnyard Band* and *Acoustic Rooster: Jazzy Jams*, a PBS KIDS special and series of shorts produced by GBH Kids based on his beloved children's book of the same name. A recipient of the 2025 NAACP Image Award, Kwame is also founder of *AuthorStudy.com* and is the Michael I. Rudell Artistic Director of Literary Arts for Chautauqua Literary Arts. He regularly shares his passion for literacy, books and the craft of writing around the world, including Ghana, West Africa, where he opened the Barbara E. Alexander Memorial Library and Health Clinic. His mission is to change the world - one word at a time.

About Little Free Library: Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-sharing boxes. There are more than 200,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide in all 50 states, in 128 countries and on all 7 continents. Through them, over 400 million books have been shared since 2009. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award as well as honors from the Library of Congress, National Book Foundation and others. The organization grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved areas through its Impact Library and Indigenous Library Programs and champions diverse books through its Read in Color initiative. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://www.LittleFreeLibrary.org).







