

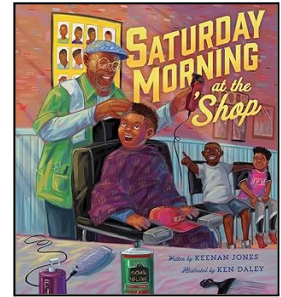
Discussion and Activity Guide

Book Title: *Saturday Morning at the 'Shop*

Written by: Keenan Jones

Illustrated by: Ken Daley

Recommended Ages: 4 – 8 years



Book Summary to Share With Children

It's Saturday morning, and the narrator of this story is geeked to go spend the day at the 'shop. Listen to learn more about how the barbershop is a sound booth, an art gallery, a playground, a classroom, and most importantly, a place for community.

Reader's Note

For many Black Americans, the barber shop is more than a place to get a haircut. It's a special place of affirmation, inspiration, and community. This book captures the many roles a barber shop plays, especially for young boys. Read the **Author's Note** and **Illustrator's Note** at the back of the book to learn more about their experiences and connections to the story.

Discussion Questions

1. Look closely at the pictures. What do you notice about the barbershop?
2. How do you think the boy feels being in the barbershop? How can you tell? Have you ever been in a place where you felt like you belonged? What was that like?
3. What does the barbershop mean to the people who go there? What makes it more than just a place for haircuts?
4. What are some things the boy learns just by going to the 'Shop? Have you ever learned something just by listening or being around others?
5. How is the barbershop a place with history, heroes, and hope? Why are all these things important for everyone?
6. Who in your life helps you feel proud of who you are? How do they show that?
7. How is the 'Shop the same or different from places in your community where people gather?

Discussion and Activity Guide

Activity: My Community Spot

1. **Think about a special place** in your life—a place where you feel safe, happy, or proud. It could be somewhere you go with your family or friends, or any place that feels like a home for you.
2. **Draw a picture** of that special place. Include the people, colors, and details that help show what makes it feel good to be there.
3. **Write or talk about it.** Tell about all the roles this place plays in your life, just like in the book (“The ‘Shop is our classroom...The ‘hop is our gallery.”)
 - Who do you see or talk to there?
 - How does it make you feel?

(Optional): Share your drawing with your family or a friend, and ask them about their community spot. Listen and notice what makes everyone’s community special. What is similar or different?



Find **Keenan Jones’s Alphabet Forest Activity** here:
<https://tinyurl.com/2he3abpk>

About AmazeWorks

The mission of [AmazeWorks](https://amazeworks.org) is to champion equity and belonging for all. We believe that every child should see their families, identities, and lived experiences reflected in positive mirrors. They should also have windows into the lives of others who are different from them. AmazeWorks is happy to sponsor Alphabet Forest at the Minnesota State Fair and offers this discussion and activity guide because we all believe in the power of stories to inspire, educate, and connect us all.

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