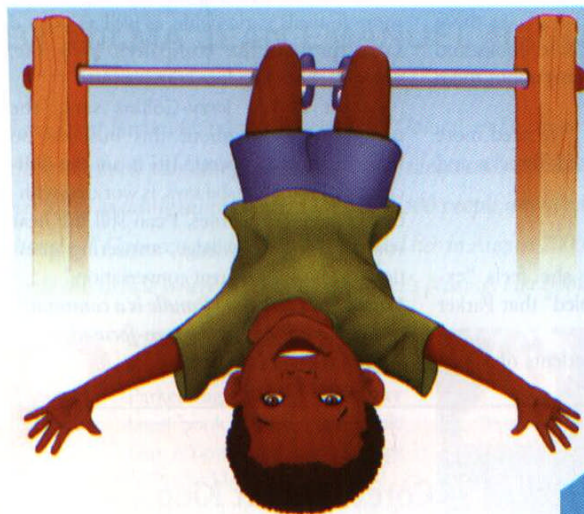


children's bookshelf

The Curly and the Nappy

Recent titles for children help them to appreciate the beauty of their young locks.



Jordan's Hair

by Ed and Sonya Spruill

Illustrated by Stephen Mercer Peringer

Judson Press, November 2005, \$8, ISBN 0-817-01484-5

Jordan thinks he is bad because of his coarse hair and black skin. He feels betrayed by God because he does not resemble any of his classmates. With the support of his parents, grandfather and teacher, he learns there is nothing wrong with being different. The impressive illustrations on every page—big, bold and bright—make this an ideal book for readers ages four to eight. Parents can appreciate this easy-to-read book, which has rhyming sentences. The authors' message will help to instill an important sense of self-love and self-esteem in children regardless of ethnicity.

Nappy

by Charisse Carney-Nunes

Illustrated by Ann Marie Williams

Brand Nu Words, January 2006

\$14, ISBN 0-974-81421-0

Nappy is not only a children's hair story, it is a book that tells of the distinct connections between black, female pioneers before, during and after slavery, and that they all had one thing in common besides their fearless attitudes and black skin—they all had "super-nappaturally hair texture." Parents and readers will benefit from *Nappy* because it teaches young girls about "hair, history and heritage," which is nutrition for the soul in this age in which women and girls weave, perm and process their hair and seemingly disconnect themselves from their roots.

As if the story line were not enough, the author has included mini-biographies on black female pioneers at the back of the book. Without a doubt, the illustrations are appropriate to the story line. In fact, some are so vivid they bring back memories of childhood—hair being pulled and



comb teeth breaking—all for the price of ponytails or cornrows. A matte finish, however, makes the illustrations appear simple. The book is ideal for a birthday or holiday gift or perhaps a treat for any young girl questioning her "nappy" hair.

Wavy, Curly, Kinky: The African American Child's Hair Care Guide

by Deborah R. Lilly

Wiley, November 2005

\$14.95, ISBN 0-471-69534-3

The author offers suggestions about relaxing, pressing or texturing your daughter's or stepdaughter's hair, addressing all hair types.

(One chapter is dedicated to little boys.)

This book answers questions that would normally have to be answered by a professional hairstylist. The cutest things about this book are the comments at the beginning of each chapter where children of various ages express their feelings, memories or ideas regarding hair care. The author provides solid information about basic hair care, but after the fourth chapter, the information becomes redundant; and unfortunately, the black-and-white photos are not enough to keep the reader's attention. For certain, this is not a book that can be read from beginning to end. It's a good thing there are chapter titles and an index to help the readers find information quickly. Regrettably, only one chapter is devoted to the nutrition necessary to produce healthy hair.

—Reviewed by Jacqueline Leslie
Jacqueline Leslie, an intern at BIBR, lives in Brooklyn and is a graduating senior at Medgar Evers College, pursuing a B.A. in English. She will attend graduate school in the fall.