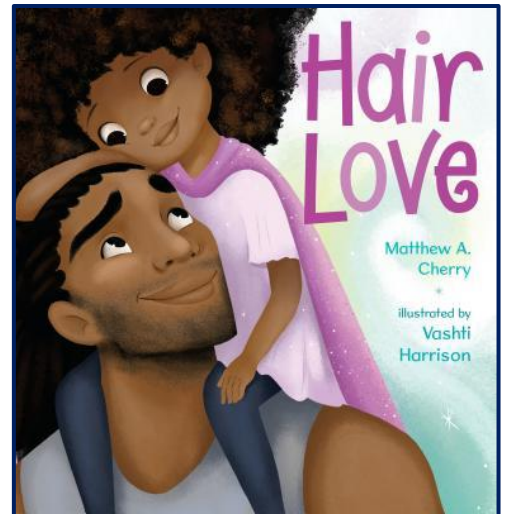


## Hair Love

Written by: Matthew A. Cherry

illustrated by: Vashti Harrison

Cherry, M. A. (2019). *Hair love* (V. Harrison, Illus.). Kokila.



**"I love that my hair  
lets me be me!"**

~Zuri

*Hair Love* is a joyful celebration of Black identity, family, and the beauty of natural hair. The story follows Zuri, a young Black girl, and her dad as they work together to create the perfect hairstyle for a special day.

As a bi-racial child who never appreciated their hair, I love how this book affirms Black children's identities and challenges the under-representation of Black families in children's books. The story also offers a powerful message about gender roles: Zuri's dad lovingly learns to care for her hair, showing that nurturing, tenderness, and competence in caregiving are not limited by gender.

### Guiding Questions

- What do you think this story will be about?
- Zuri's hair is an important part of who she is. What is something interesting or important about you?
- How would the story change if Zuri had your hair?
- Zuri's daddy does so much to take care of her. Who is someone who takes care of you? What do they do that makes you feel loved?
- What do you use on your hair? Do you think it would work for Zuri's hair?
- What do you think about Zuri's dad doing her hair?
- Does anyone help you with your hair?
- Why is Zuri's hair such a big part of the story?
- Spending time on her hair is one way Zuri's family shows their love for her. What are some ways your family shows love?
- What are some ways you show who you are through your hair, clothing, or style?
- What did you enjoy most about the story?

### Themes to Explore

- Racial Identity
- Representation & Visibility
- Identity Expression
- Gender Stereotypes



"Hair Love" is now Academy Award winning animated short film. Scan the QR code to view.