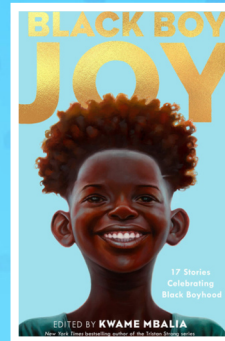
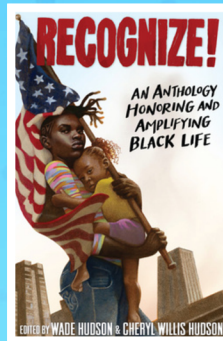




# KWAME MBALIA

Kwame is a husband, father, writer, a New York Times bestselling author, a publisher, and a former pharmaceutical metrologist (in that order). He is the author of the bestselling “Tristan Strong” series, the first of which was awarded a Coretta Scott King Author Honor. Kwame is the co-author of “Last Gate of The Emperor” with Prince Joel Makonnen, from Scholastic Books, and the editor of the #1 New York Times bestselling anthology “Black Boy Joy.” Kwame is also a publisher with his imprint Freedom Fire, a collaboration with Disney Books! His newest middle grade adventure, “Jax Freeman and the Phantom Shriek,” is a Freedom Fire title and was released in October 2024. His newest YA title, “On Again, Awkard Again,” just released in April 2025! A Howard University graduate and a Midwesterner now in North Carolina, he survives on dad jokes and Cheez-Its.



# SCOTT REINTGEN

Scott began his career as an English and Creative Writing teacher in North Carolina. He strongly believes that every student who steps into the classroom deserves to see themselves, vibrant and victorious, and on the page. It's his hope to encourage a future full of diverse writers. You can find him working in coffee shops, speaking in schools around the country, or teaching writing courses online. He currently lives in North Carolina with his wife Katie, and their three wild children. Scott is a New York Times Bestseller and has received many accolades, including: New York Public Library Top 50 Teen Book of the Year, Sakura Medal Winner, two time Red Dirt Book Award Winner, ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers, Blue Spruce Book Award nominee, NC Young Adult Book Award nominee, and Evergreen Teen Book Award finalist. His next book, "The Rise of Neptune," releases October 7, 2025.

