

# Penny

and the magic puffballs



written by  
Alonda Williams

illustrated by  
Tyrus Goshay



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## Children's Book Promotes Self Esteem

March 20, 2014 | From Danielle Smith



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(AURN) -- "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" is a 32 page book that tells the whimsical story of Penny, and her adventures with her puffballs. Author Alonda Williams credits her daughter's struggles to the creation of Penny's character. She made up bedtime stories about Penny and her magic puffballs to help her daughter relate to someone that looked like her. "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" has been an [Amazon](#) best seller and has gained close to 6,000 fans via social media since its early December release.



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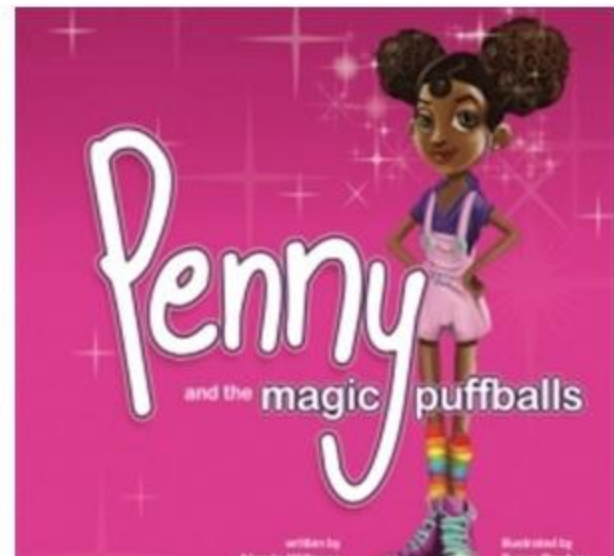
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## New Children's Book Teaches Self Love and Confidence to Girls of Color

Published: 1/21/2014 1:48:09 PM





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 LIVING

## 30 classic books to inspire African-American kids

by Donovan X. Ramsey | March 24, 2014 at 12:13 PM

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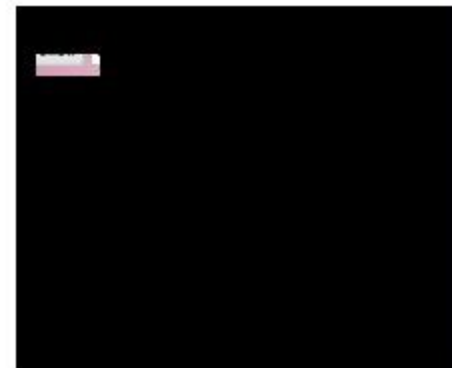
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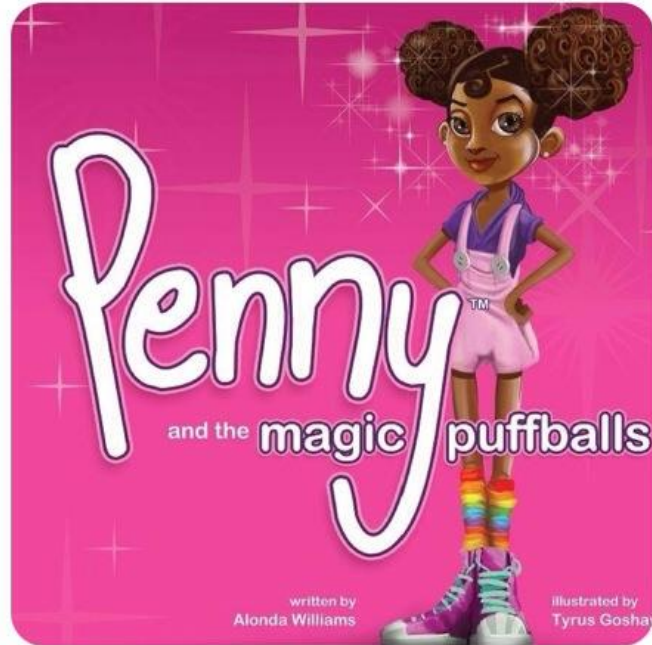
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## Book signing and storytime

Come join the author for a story time and cupcakes  
Microsoft Store Bellevue Square  
Sunday March 9th 2014  
12-2pm

Must have book in advance or preorder from website

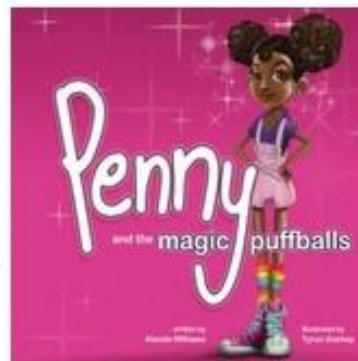
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## "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" Is Igniting a Wave of Puff Pride Among Young Girls of Color

January 21, 2014 - "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" is empowering young girls of color to feel great about themselves, starting with their hair. The new book is about a young girl, Penny, who faces identity issues with her natural hair and often feels sad because her hair isn't straight like others. When her mom gives her big puffballs, the adventurous magic begins. "There are so many Penny's in the world, including my daughter," says author Alonda Williams. "I created Penny to empower my daughter to embrace her differences and love herself, just as she is." Parents and children across the nation have welcomed this book; and supporters are steadily joining in on the effort to increase the self-esteem of young girls of color. "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" has been an Amazon best seller and has gained close to 6,000 fans via social media since its early December release. "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" is currently available on Amazon and in a few local bookstores and hair salons. More information is available at [www.pennyandthemagicpuffballs.com](http://www.pennyandthemagicpuffballs.com).



# Savannah Herald

*Publishing Positive News For and About Savannah's African American Community for 68 Years*

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Monday, February  
03, 2014

## NEWS VIA EMAIL



News via Email

## NEWS



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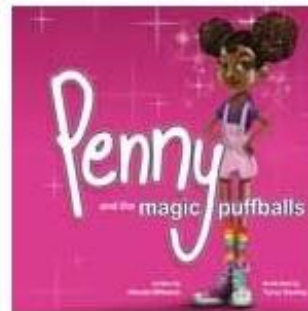
## PHOTO GALLERY

- **Week of Sept. 11, 2013 Photos**
- **Woodville-Tompkins Hall of Fame 2013**

## A Newly Released Children's Book Is Stirring Up Puffs Around The Nation

• *Wednesday, January 22, 2014*  
"Penny and the Magic Puffballs" Is Igniting a Wave of Puff Pride Among Young Girls of Color

SEATTLE, WA - "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" is empowering young girls of color to feel great about themselves, starting with their hair. The new book is about a young girl, Penny, who faces identity issues with her natural hair and often feels sad because her hair isn't straight like others. When her mom gives her big puffballs, the adventurous magic begins. "There are so many Penny's in the world, including my daughter," says author Alonda Williams. "I created Penny to empower my daughter to embrace her differences and love herself, just as she is." Parents and children across the nation have welcomed this book; and supporters are steadily joining in on the effort to increase the self-esteem of young girls of color. "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" has been an Amazon best seller and has gained close to 6,000 fans via social media since its early December release. "Penny and the Magic Puffballs" is currently available on Amazon and in a few, local bookstores and hair salons. More information is available at [www.pennyandthemagicpuffballs.com](http://www.pennyandthemagicpuffballs.com).



## Weekly Highlights

### Front Page

- The Evangelical Minister's Union to Sponsor Rosa Parks Freedom Worship & Breakfast
- Savannah Native Runs For SCCPSS School Board President
- Registration now open for Youth Conversation with Ambassador Andrew Young
- Savannah State University to host Nikki Giovanni

### Community

- Remembrance ...Lest We Forget
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Makes Community Donations
- The Love Walk 2014 Planned

### Social

- AKA Sorority, Inc. Gamma Sigma Omega Chapter, "Pink Goes Red" in recognition of National Wear Red Day

### Entertainment

- SBNA Annual Scholarship Gala Planned Feb. 8th

### Education

- Savannah State to Observe National Freedom Day
- SBNA Scholarships



NEWS

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How Should Beyonce Style Blue Ivy's Hair?

## New Book Encourages Young Black Girls To Love Their Natural Hair

By [Tenoija Carter](#) on April 28, 2014



61



21



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New children's book *Penny and the Magical Puffballs*—a story about a young girl who wears magical puff during a series of adventures—balls was born from a mother's love and desire for her daughter to feel as perfect as she felt she was. When Alonda Williams' daughter Paris began to question her hair, wanting to wear it down and wondering why her hair was not long and straight like her friends.



Home > Adopting > Articles > Hail the Hair! Children's Books that Celebrate Mane

## AP Hail the Hair! Children's Books that Celebrate Mane



By: Rachel Carlinghouse  
Mar 13, 2014 07:50 AM



Hair is important in many cultures. Hair can tell a story, follow a trend, make a political statement, symbolize history, even be used as a religious sacrifice. Hair is an interesting societal phenomenon.

Parents can utilize hair-themed picture books to affirm, encourage, and celebrate with their children. Here are some fabulous titles:

**Ellie's Bad Hair Day:** Ellie is a little girl with a big issue: her hair. It's rainbow-colored and wild, and in Ellie's words, her hair is "different." One day Ellie and her pet rabbit Oscar go on a hunt to find someone with hair like hers, but instead of finding belonging, Ellie learns an important lesson: that being an original and loving herself is most important.

**Penny and the Magic Puffballs:** Penny is an African-American girl who wants to have straight hair she can wear down like some of the girls in her class. Penny's mother lets Penny in on a secret: a puffball hair style is magical. Readers follow Penny throughout her day, watching her experience as a result of her magical hair.

**Bippity Bop Barber Shop:** Miles is an African-American boy who anticipates his first trip to the barbershop will be intimidating. However, Miles' experience turns out to be exciting and uplifting.

**Princess Truly and the Hungry Bunny Problem:** Truly is an African-American princess who is kind and beautiful. When her friend Lola is unable to grow a garden of carrots to feed the land's hungry bunnies, Princess Truly is able to use her magical afro to



KELLY'S POSTS & POETRY

## 6 Children's Books for our Daughter's Hair

by [brassybrown](#) • February 21, 2014 • [0 Comments](#)

By Kelly Harris

Often I am asked if I am going to make my daughter "go natural" because my hair is lood. I'm often taken aback when people—perfect strangers; inquire about what will become of her hair or how long it takes style. My daughter is 17-months-old. Her hair is growing and its texture is thick—just like mine when I was a girl.

Sometimes her hair is in bows, headbands, barrettes or picked into a fro. I believe the earlier a black girl is comfortable with her complexion and hair, the more comfortable she'll feel about her blackness as she grows into womanhood. I don't have proof, but I think it's a good bet.

It's my job as her mother to not only nurture her self-esteem, but to reflect positive and healthy behavior and use positive language about black bodies and hair. Honestly, I fall short sometimes. Self-acceptance is always a work in progress.

When my daughter reaches a certain age, she can choose to have her hair natural, straight or whatever. But for now, it's my task to cultivate her inner voice that tells her



Natural Naomi

6 Books to Read with your Special Brown Girl:

[Big Hair, Don't Care](#) by Crystal Swain-Bates and Megan Bair

Gotta love the title of this book. The illustrations are beautiful and the character is bold and confident.

[I Love My Hair!](#) by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley and E. B. Lewis

The author's note is inspiring. The story encourages young girls to embrace their hair as a rich legacy.

[Happy to Be Nappy \(Jump at the Sun\)](#) by bell

hooks

Reason #1) It's written by bell hooks. Reason #2) The language is carefully crafted in such a way that I think it makes hair seem magical.

[Bintou's Braids](#) by Sylvianne Diouf and Shane Evans

This book is rooted in the African tradition hairstyle of bantu knots. The story and illustrations are great.

[I'm a Pretty Little Black Girl!](#) (I'm a Girl! Collection) by Betty Bynum

This book has a more cartoon feel, but its message of self-acceptance doesn't disappoint.

[Penny and the Magic Puffballs](#)

When a girl's hair won't style like others, hair puffs became a solution and a lesson.

HOME > CURLREADING > KIDS > 5 STORY BOOKS FOR LITTLE BROWN GIRLS WITH NATURAL HAIR

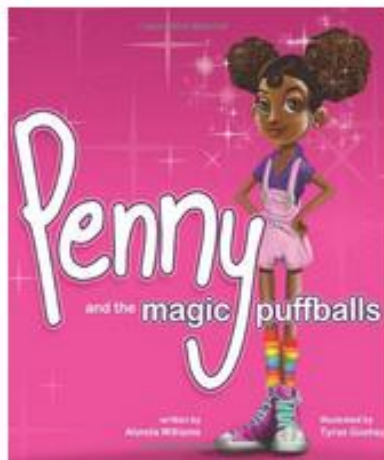
## 5 STORY BOOKS FOR LITTLE BROWN GIRLS WITH NATURAL HAIR



BY: CURLYNIKKI | 5.23.14



NEXT ARTICLE: [The Benefits & Misconceptions of Hair Vitamins](#)



I'm inspired to share these books after a recent encounter with a mom; she told me her four-year-old little girl, who has gorgeous, kinky-curly golden coils, was starting to notice and questioning the difference between her hair and other little girls. It was at that moment I remembered all of my insecurities while growing up in a Hispanic neighborhood, where best friend had silky, bone-straight hair which easily grazed her tailbone. The difference for little girls now is the plethora of positive reinforcers to encourage them to be just who they are — beautifully kinky-curly.