



# Lyman Allyn

## Book of the Month

## Celebrating Black Women

The corresponding art project this month is inspired by the illustrator of our children's book of the month pick, artist Dare Coulter. Coulter is an award-winning artist, muralist, and sculptor whose mission is to create work that celebrates and creates positive imagery of black people and their families.

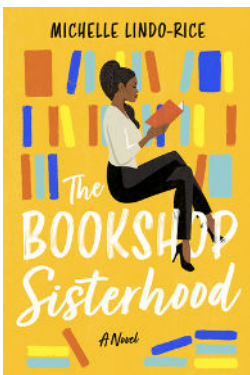
To celebrate Coulter's mission our projects will be to create portraits inspired by either your own family or someone close to you. These portraits aren't meant to be formal but rather capture your subject candidly. To find inspiration you may want to review old photographs to find moments that highlight them living in joy. If you don't have a photograph of your subject, think about the moments you have shared with them. Are there expressions or body language that come to mind that you think would help convey their inner joy and strength?

Once you have your image in mind, begin sketching it out on your paper or canvas. Many of Coulter's paintings use a single color for the background, so you can focus your attention on the figure. When you have your sketch complete, you can then begin bringing them to life with color. If painting isn't our preferred medium, use whichever one you feel the most comfortable creating with.

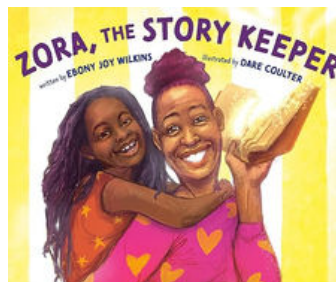
Don't forget to share your work with us using [#LymanAllynAtHome!](#)



## February 2025



Author Michelle Lindo-Rice will bring older readers into the world of four best friends on the verge of opening the bookstore of their dreams. However, before they can open the doors, they must lean on one another to help navigate their own personal struggles and turn their hardships into new beginnings.



Younger readers will dive into the words of Ebony Joy Wilkins and illustrations by Dare Coulter to learn the power of storytelling. Aunt Bea is who Zora wants to grow up to be. Everyday Zora dives into the magical world of their family book, bringing to life the stories of the past. Slowly Zora realizes that Aunt Bea will no longer be able to share these stories, but through their time together, she has been slowly preparing her niece to become the story keeper.