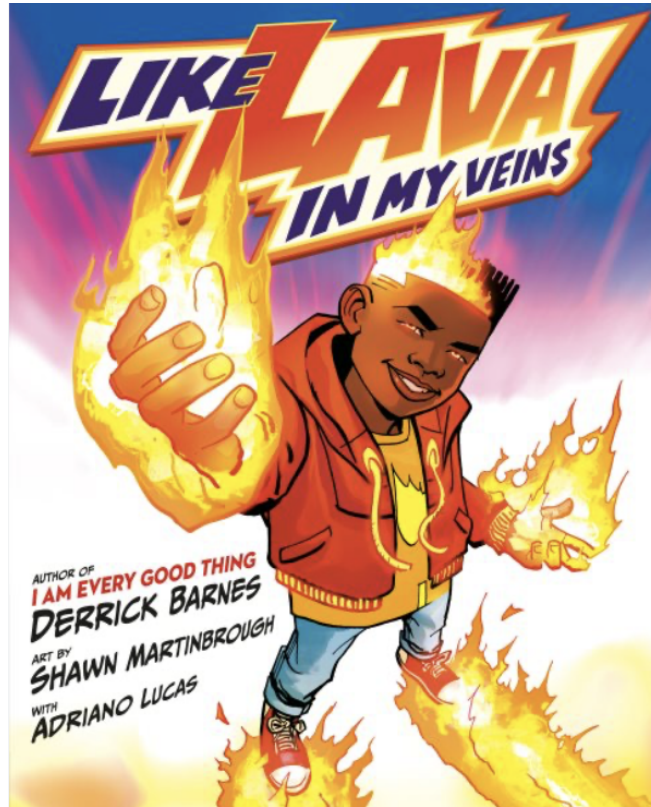


Discussion Guide developed by [ Maddie Butler and Eden Hutto ] for CU Boulder's Children's Book Festival 2023, Open Education Resource, Creative Commons. Available at [colorado.edu/event/bookfest](https://colorado.edu/event/bookfest)



## Summary:

You know that kid, that is just so full of life, and sometimes has a hard time controlling himself... Well, that's Bobby Beacon. Bobby decides to attend a new school that is going to help him control his powers, but ultimately he realizes that his actions lead him to the principal's office with a teacher who does not like him. Eventually he switches to a new class with an amazing teacher and is put with four other students to complete a project in a school competition. Will Bobby be able to control himself in front of his new friends and teacher? Will he maybe even be able to win the competition? Find out in the book, *Like Lava in My Veins*, by Derrick Barnes.

## Discussion questions:

1. Have you ever felt defeated or like you wanted to give up? If so, what made you keep going?
2. How did you feel when Bobby won the competition?

3. When Bobby got ahold of himself and his sizzling super power, how did that make you feel?
4. When Bobby's new teacher told him she wanted him to win, and she believed in him, how did this make you feel?
5. In the end, when Bobby started to make real connections with friends, it made him happy. Have you ever had an experience like Bobby?
6. Why is showing emotions and having kindness important for kids?
7. How does this book show that education and understanding are important for helping kids like Bobby?
8. What can kids learn from Bobby's experiences to handle their own feelings better?
9. How can reading this book help young readers understand and care about others?

### **Extension Activity:**

- In-class activity: Ask the students who their favorite superhero is and why, and have students share with the class. Then give students a piece of paper and have them draw their favorite superhero and share it with the class. Then hang them on the walls of the classroom!
- At-home activity: Have students at home write a letter to their future selves. In the letter, have them say an achievement, how they are feeling today, and what are some goals they have for the future. Have them put it in a safe place and open it at the end of the year.