Beloved author Sharon Draper featured guest at Library’s African American Read-In

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CINCINNATI — Established in 1990, the National African American Read-In is the nation’s first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. This initiative has reached more than six million participants around the world. Hamilton county residents can be a part of the celebration this year thanks to the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

The second annual African American Read-In will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Downtown Main Library. During this celebration of African American literature, the public is invited to explore the Library’s collection of books created by African American authors and illustrators, enjoy a full day of public readings and performances, and get creative with hands-on activities. All ages are welcome. No registration is required.

Featured guests are best-selling author Sharon Draper, award-winning illustrator R. Gregory Christie, and a host of local authors.

“The African American Read-In is an important event as it promotes literature written by Black authors and can represent the diversity within the community,” said Sierra McKenzie, Library Service Floater and member of the African American Read-In planning team. “It’s imperative that Black children grow up being exposed to mirrors within their own community so that they know what’s possible and that their lives have meaning. But, it’s also critical that all children be exposed to these authors, so they gain an understanding and have empathy for marginalized communities.”

Free parking will be available for attendees at the ABM Lot at 910 Walnut Street, on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 513-369-6900 or visit cinlib.org/ReadIn. For a list of other Black History Month events, go to Cinlib.org/BlackHistory.

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About the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is one of the oldest, largest, and busiest libraries in the United States. We serve a population of more than 800,000 people with a collection of more than nine million items. Our mission is to connect people with the world of ideas and information. To learn more, visit CincinnatiLibrary.org or call 513-369-6900.