



Ayo's Adventure Discussion Guide

Co-created by Ain Heath Drew (Author, *Ayo's Adventure*),
and Ebony Daniels (Literacy Director & Advocate)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pre-reading Questions:

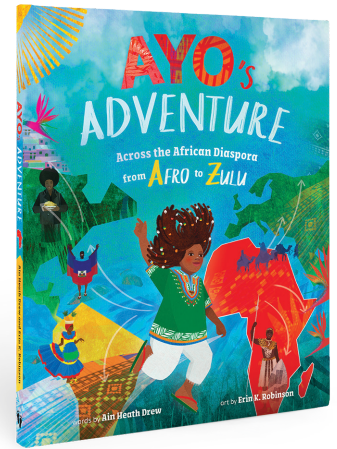
- Have you ever been on an adventure? Where did you go?
- Based on the cover art, what do you think Ayo will experience on his adventure?
- What does the word “diaspora” mean?
- What do you already know about the African diaspora?
- What do you want to know about the African diaspora?

During Reading Questions:

- How does Ayo feel as he travels from place to place? How would you feel in these places?
- What are some different cuisines Ayo tries along his adventure?
- What instrument appears in the story more than once? Why do you think that is?
- What are some things that the people Ayo meets along his journey have in common?
- How would you describe *your* “village”?

After Reading Questions:

- What was your favorite stop on Ayo's journey?
- What connections did Ayo make as he went on his adventure?
- Why is Ayo confused when he sees his mom at the end of the story?
- Why do you think Ayo's dream took him along the African diaspora in alphabetical order?
- Now that you've read *Ayo's Adventure*, what do you know about the African diaspora? Did you learn anything new?



Ayo's Adventure

Written by Ain Heath Drew
Illustrated by Erin K. Robinson



Illustration © Erin K. Robinson
from *Ayo's Adventure*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com



Ayo's Adventure Activity Pack

Co-created by Ain Heath Drew (Author, *Ayo's Adventure*),
and Ebony Daniels (Literacy Director & Advocate)

ELA CONNECTIONS:

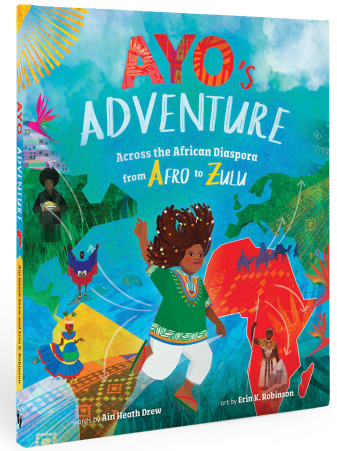
The African diaspora is wide and Ayo could have gone on countless journeys. Write an alternative page for as many letters of the alphabet as you can come up with.

- Letters can also be assigned by educators to create a classroom version of *Ayo's Adventure* where each student designs a letter.

An acrostic poem is a form of written expression in which the first letter of each line spells out a word or message. Can you write an acrostic poem to represent your thoughts, feelings, or reactions to the story? Here is an example:

A boy traveled the diaspora
You wouldn't imagine the stops he made
Oh, how I'd love to take that journey!

Now it's your turn! Choose a word that you'd like to use from the story. Write out the letters of that word as the first letter for each line of your poem. Now complete the lines with your thoughts, feelings, or reactions to *Ayo's Adventure*.



Ayo's Adventure

Written by Ain Heath Drew
Illustrated by Erin K. Robinson



Illustration © Erin K. Robinson
from *Ayo's Adventure*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com



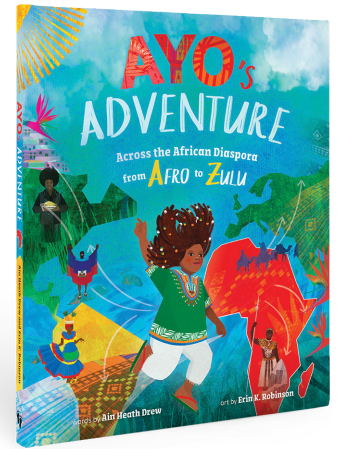
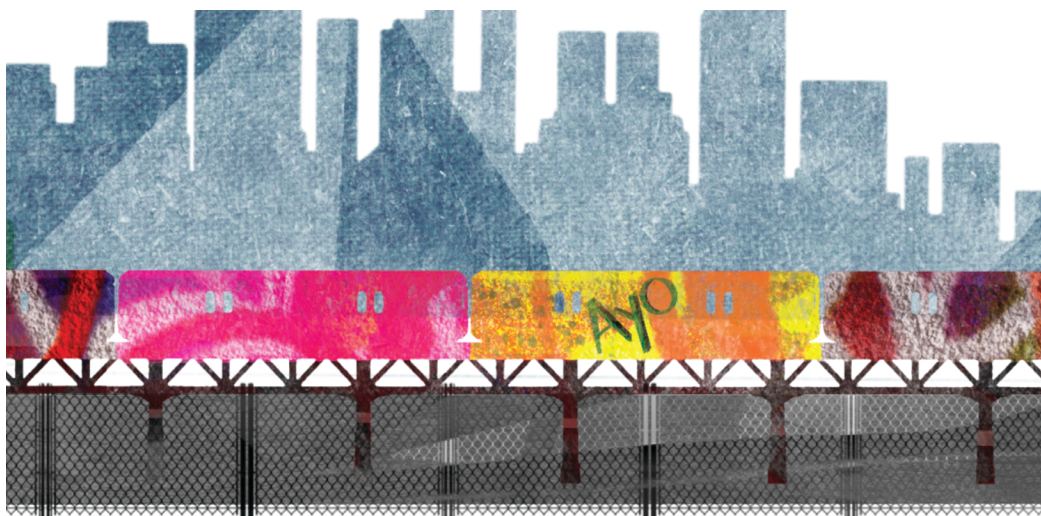
ART CONNECTIONS:

The costumes worn during the Junkanoo Festival are over-the-top and decorated with tinsel, feathers, beads, glitter, and paint. Research what these elaborate costumes look like. Then, design your own Junkanoo costume.

- You may want to use cardstock paper or cardboard so you can have a sturdy base on which you can glue your materials.
- You can also create a digital representation of your costume.
- If you have the materials, you can even create one wearable component of your Junkanoo costume. The mask, for example!

One of the elements of hip-hop is street art, also called graffiti. Graffiti artists often create a “tag” that identifies themselves as the artist. Create your own tag! You can use your name, or nickname, or create a completely new name for yourself as a graffiti artist. You can play with the style and create several different tags and choose your favorite. The goal is to make it fun and unique!

- Pinterest is a great place to look up examples of graffiti tags



Ayo's Adventure

Written by Aislinn Heath Drew

Illustrated by Erin K. Robinson



Illustration © Erin K. Robinson
from *Ayo's Adventure*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com



STEM CONNECTIONS:

Black Wall Street was a hub for Black businesses that once thrived independently. By 1921, a dollar spent in Greenwood would circulate as many as 100 times before it was spent outside of the community. Have students brainstorm what businesses would be needed to create a self-sustaining community.

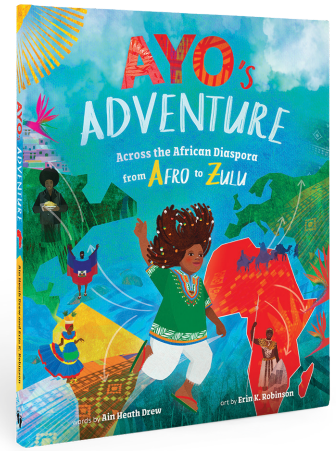
- Using technology, students can create marketing materials for the businesses they've named – commercials, ads, and other social media posts

Ayo took quite a journey across continents! I'm sure he had a few problems to solve along the way. Check out the samples of thematic word problems below and adjust based on your grade level:

- 1) Ayo wondered how many braids he explored on his journey. First, he weaved through 16 braids. Then he slid down 14 more. How many braids did he explore altogether?
- 2) Ayo has 8 cocadas. Five of his friends came to try this tasty treat. After they eat, how many cocadas will Ayo have left?
- 3) Ayo bought a few items on Black Wall Street. He paid for his keepsakes with 2 quarters, 1 dime, and 7 pennies. How much money did Ayo spend?
- 4) Mansa Musa had 18 gold coins in Ayo's dream. He gifted those coins evenly to Ayo and his five friends. How many coins did each person get?
- 5) Ayo decided to take a stroll along the Nile River. He started at 7:00 a.m. and walked for 2 hours. What time did he finish his stroll?

SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTION:

Did you have a favorite destination along Ayo's journey? Choose a destination to learn more about. Gather books and internet resources to conduct your research. Learn about their traditions, culture, food, people, language, currency, etc. Prepare to present your chosen destination with a poster, book report, slideshow, or another creative way to demonstrate all that you've learned.



Ayo's Adventure

Written by Ain Heath Drew

Illustrated by Erin K. Robinson



Illustration © Erin K. Robinson
from *Ayo's Adventure*



Barefoot Books
step inside a story

www.barefootbooks.com