



**DISCOVER**

**Evansville Vanderburgh  
Public Library**

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## AWARD WINNING AUTHOR, PRODUCER KWAME ALEXANDER IS NEXT EVPL 'SPEAK' AUTHOR

*Evansville, Indiana* – Kwame Alexander, Emmy® Award-winning producer of “The Crossover” and #1 “New York Times” bestselling author of 44 books, will be the next speaker in Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library’s 2025 SPEAK series.

[Alexander’s free presentation](#) will be held Thursday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Victory Theatre in downtown Evansville.

Kwame Alexander’s Newbery Medal-winning novel “The Crossover” has been turned into a popular Disney+ TV series, and he’s also the creator of the new animated PBS special “Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Band.” Some of his bestselling books include “Why Fathers Cry at Night,” “How Sweet The Sound,” “J vs. K,” an illustrated novel he penned with Jerry Craft, and the just released motivational primer for graduates, creatives and professionals entitled “Say Yes.” He has also been a regular contributor to NPR’s “Morning Edition”.

“Kwame Alexander’s works are known for emphasizing the importance of community and for tackling complex themes through engaging poetry and prose,” said Erika Qualls Barnett, Director of Programming and Outreach, EVPL. “In particular, his middle grade and young adult novels feature relatable characters navigating the tough realities of school and home life. He has a gift for connecting to his audience and writing novels that are fun, inviting, and that reflect real life for children, tweens, teens, and adults.”

EVPL will be showcasing original poetry by students in grades K-12 in a special Poetry Slam Dunk display at Alexander’s event. Submissions are due by June 1 and can be brought to any EVPL location or submitted online. Details are available at [evpl.org/poetryslamdunk](http://evpl.org/poetryslamdunk).

Sponsored by the [EVPL Foundation](#), SPEAK events are free and open to all. Additional information about this SPEAK event, including Alexander’s biography, interviews, and related programs and book discussions, is available at [evpl.org/speak2025](http://evpl.org/speak2025).

SPEAK: An Explorative Lecture Series, an evolution of One Book, One Community, is a lecture and discussion series that brings authors and thought leaders to Evansville. Angela Jackson-Brown will complete the 2025 SPEAK series on June 21; earlier speakers this year included Timothy Egan and Ralph Shayne. Through SPEAK, ‘EVPL hopes to further our vision of communities united through shared exploration and understanding by supporting and encouraging conversation.’

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