



# Ashley Aya Ferguson

Writer, Author, Speaker

*Some work asks questions; some work answers them.*

*I live to tell true stories of people discovering, returning to and reimagining joy in children's literature, poetry and essay.*

*In much of my creative non-fiction writing, I walk readers through how experiences are connected so that we can arrive together at the same destination but with different views. I do this by inviting you to live inside of a feeling with me. I describe how what I see becomes different when it is impacted by what I know, the data that I have, who I am in that moment and what I carry. This creates a window that can't be ignored.*

*Because as a Black writer, I have an obligation to continue to explain myself creatively in an attempt to solve the problem of always being misunderstood.*

*I often feel compelled to not only reflect the times through my lens, but to reflect the images that we don't often see: those not always steeped in pain but thriving in hope. Words have the power to create the very roads we walk on, so I pray my work can cast the vision of what we can become.*

## Education

### Ohio University

Bachelor of Science in Journalism

## Conferences

- 2021 Hurston Wright Writer's Weekend
- 2020 Writer's Digest Picture Book Workshop
- 2019 Well-Read Black Girl Literary Festival
- 2019 Kweli Children's Literature Conference
- 2018 Kweli Children's Literature Conference

## Published Works

- Girl, You Are Magic! (2018)
- Boy, You Are Brilliant (2019)

## Board Service

- Women Writing for a Change
- Ohio University Alumni Association
- Delta Gateway Foundation

## Speaking Experience

### Rockdale Elementary – Read Across America 2021

- Served as featured author. Read books and met with students for Q&A.

### Cincinnati Public Library 2019, 2020, 2021

- Participated in Journey of a Book virtual session
- Participated as an author for African-American Read-In

### Fairfield City Schools (Fairfield for Change) 2021

- Served as featured author for three schools. Read books and met with students for Q&A.

### Girls With Pearls Speaker 2018

- Visited Parker Woods and Rhys E. Price to meet with Girls with Pearls groups

### Delta Sigma Theta Teen Summit 2018

- Spoke to teens about entrepreneurship and what it takes to self-publish a book

### Berwick Elementary School 2018

- Served as featured author for the entire school. Read books and met with students for Q&A. Led a poetry workshop.

