



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 20, 2018

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Tidewater Reads Contacts

Angie Sumner, (757) 514-7327
Suffolk Public Library
asumner@suffolkva.us

Megan Mulvey, (757) 514-7313
Suffolk Public Library
mmulvey@suffolkva.us

Publicist for Kwame Alexander

Rhalee Hughes Perry
rhalee hughes pr + marketing
212.260.2244
rhughes@rhalee.com

Author Kwame Alexander to Visit Norfolk for Tidewater Reads Event as Part of National Book Tour

(April 20, 2018) “Kwame Alexander took the literary world by surprise with his Newbery award-winning, *The Crossover*, a sports novel written in verse. Seeing this unlikely blend of sports and poetry turning scores of readers into poetry lovers, he prevailed through over 20 rejections by top publishers before scoring his *New York Times* bestselling middle-grade debut,” according to a press release issued by Rhalee Hughes Perry, publicist for Kwame Alexander. “Alexander’s unique style is kinetic and vibrant. In his novels he deploys his evocative vocabulary, and mastery of haiku, rhythm, rhyme, acrostics, malapropism, and blackout poems to channel anger, confusion, and humor of a boy trying to understand his changing world.”

To celebrate the publication of his newest release, *Rebound*, Alexander will be traveling to Norfolk as part of his month-long national tour. His Norfolk stop was organized by sponsors of Tidewater Reads, a literary collaborative made possible by local libraries and organizations whose goal is to build a sense of community through books and the activities

they inspire. Kwame Reads: The Main Event will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Slover Library in Norfolk and is free and open to the public.

The event will kick off at 3:00 p.m. with seating opening 30 minutes prior available on a first come first served basis. Alexander will engage all ages with a talk then be available to sign copies of his book. People can bring their own copies or they can purchase a copy of *Rebound* on site from Prince Books. Winners of the Tidewater Reads 2018 Poetry Contest will also be announced.

About Kwame Alexander

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and the New York Times Bestselling author of 25 books, including *REBOUND*, the follow-up to his Newbery-medal winning middle grade novel *THE CROSSOVER*. Kwame writes for children of all ages. Some of his other works include *The Playbook: 52 Rules to Help You Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game of Life*, and the novels *Solo* and *Booked*. A regular contributor of NPR's Morning Edition, Kwame is the recipient of several awards, including: The Coretta Scott King Author Honor, The Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Prize, and the 2017 Inaugural Pat Conroy Legacy Award. He believes that poetry can change the world, and he uses it to inspire and empower young people around the world through his Writing Workshop. He's led cultural exchange delegations to Brazil, Italy, Singapore, and to Ghana, where he is training teachers and building a library and health clinic as a part of LEAP for Ghana, an International literacy program he co-founded. The 2018 NEA Read Across America Ambassador, Kwame is also the host/producer of "[Bookish](#)" a literary talk show.

About Tidewater Reads

Tidewater Reads is a literary collaborative that began in 2015. Public libraries in Eastern Shore, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk and York County joined with the Muse Writing Center and the Suffolk Art League to sponsor this year's initiative. The organization's goal is more than reading. They want to build a sense of community by encouraging people across the region to read and talk about the same book at the same time and participate in related activities. While the book selected as the focus for April 2018 is Kwame Alexander's book, *Solo*, he has written books for a wide range of ages, from picture books to young adult novels, so the whole family can get involved.

For more details, visit www.TidewaterReads.org. Follow Tidewater Reads on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TidewaterReads and Instagram at www.instagram.com/tidewaterreads.

###