

NIKKI GRIMES
LONGER BIO 2023 (for research purposes)

Nikki Grimes does not consider herself a bona fide storyteller, but, as she told an audience at the Library of Congress, she is happy to own the title, Poet. Born and raised in New York City, Nikki began composing verse at the age of six and has been writing ever since that time.

A bestselling author and a prolific artist, Nikki has written many award-winning books for children and young adults including the Coretta Scott King Award winner *Bronx Masquerade*; the Coretta Scott King Author Honor books *Jazmin's Notebook*, *Talkin' About Bessie*, *Dark Sons*, *The Road to Paris*, and *Words with Wings*; Horn Book Fanfare for *Talkin' About Bessie*; ALA Notable books *What is Goodbye?* and *Words with Wings*; the popular Dyamonde Daniel chapter book series, and numerous picture books and novels including The New York Times bestseller *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope* and, most recently, *Garvey's Choice*, *One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance*, and *A Walk in the Woods*.

In addition to her work for children, Ms. Grimes has written articles for such magazines as *Essence*, *Today's Christian Woman*, *Book Links*, and *Image*, *Journal of Arts & Religion*.

An accomplished and widely anthologized poet of both children's and adult verse, Grimes has conducted poetry readings and lectures at international schools in Russia, China, Sweden and Tanzania, while short-term mission projects have taken her to such trouble spots as Haiti.

During the 1970s, Nikki coproduced and hosted *The Kid's Show* on WBAI FM in New York. Later, during a six-year stint in Sweden, she hosted their radio program for immigrants, *Grunslöst*, and another for Swedish Educational Radio.

In 2005, Ms. Grimes was awarded the Golden Dolphin Award by the Southern California Children's Book Association, recognizing her body of work.

Nikki has been honored with the NCTE Award for Poetry and the 2016 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award from Kent State University. In 2017, she was presented with the Children's Literature Legacy Award for her "substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children." In 2020, Nikki was chosen to receive The ALAN Award for outstanding contributions to the field of adolescent literature. In 2021, she was pleased to be presented with the 2022 Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award.