



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2024

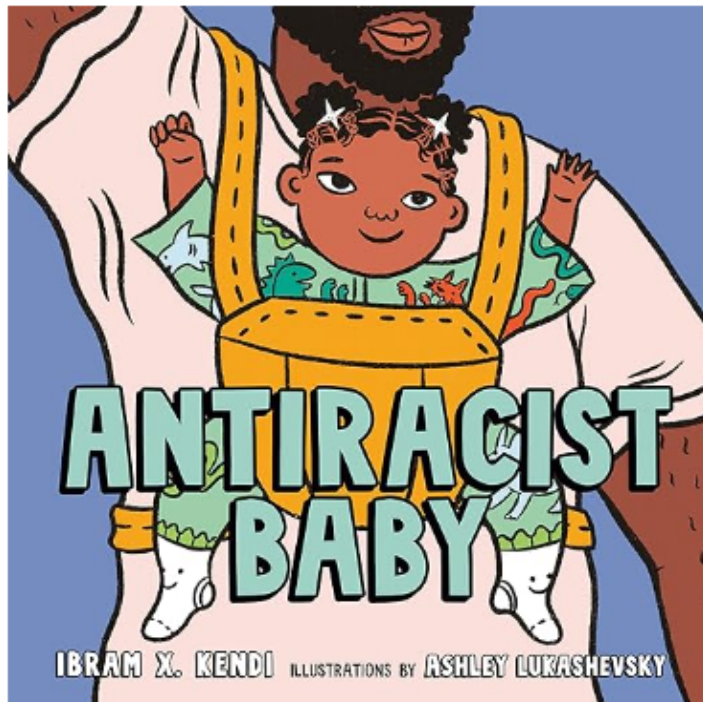
At the AECEO, we explicitly aim to be anti-racist, anti-oppressive and inclusive in every aspect of our work. We believe that the ways in which we engage with people, resources, and education during Black History Month must reflect our ongoing commitment to build a better world.

With that intention, the AECEO marked Black History Month 2024 by sharing **Learning in Community** - a curated list of readings, podcasts, children's books and documentaries that have supported our own learning processes. We also worked on the campaign **Celebrating Black ECE History Makers** aimed to recognize, amplify and honour Black educators, leaders and advocates who have used their skills and talents to promote the inclusion and growth of all children by sharing their stories on our online platforms. We compiled the resources into this document. We invite you to check them out and share them with your community!

AECEO membership supports initiatives like this project.

[Join or renew today!](#)

ANTIRACIST BABY



by Dr Ibram X. Kendi & Ashley Lukashevsky
Recommended for ages 0+

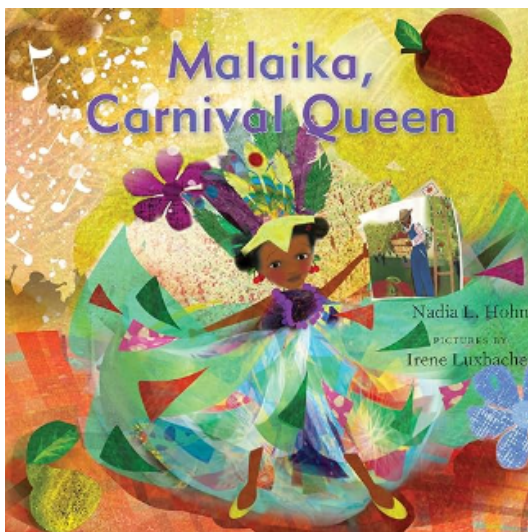
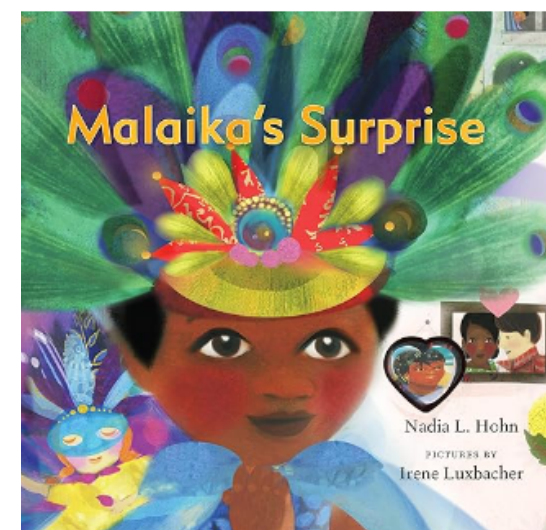
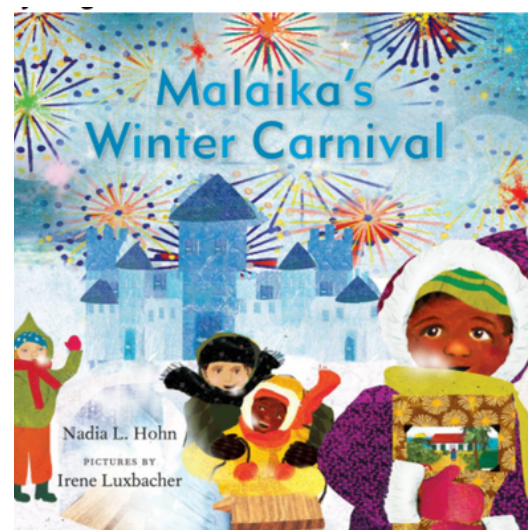
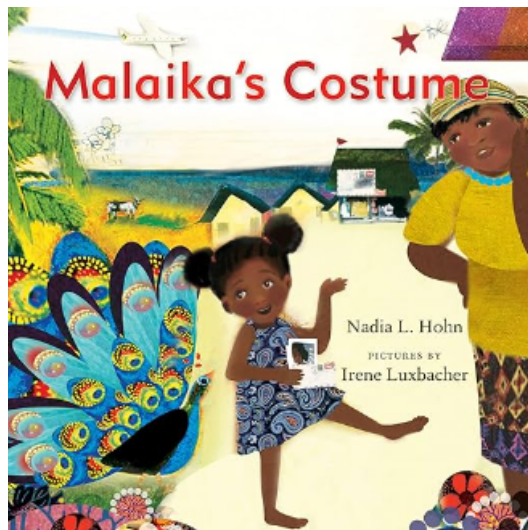
Synopsis: With bold art and thoughtful yet playful text, **Antiracist Baby** introduces the youngest readers and the grown-ups in their lives to the concept and power of antiracism. Providing the language necessary to begin critical conversations at the earliest age, **Antiracist Baby** is the perfect

introduction for readers of all ages who are dedicated to forming a just society and building a more equitable world.

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THE MALAIKA SERIES (Books 1-4)



by Nadia L. Hohn & Irene Luxbacher
Recommended for ages 3-7

Synopsis: This picture book series tells the story of Malaika, a young Caribbean girl who migrates to Canada and who loves Carnival. Four lovely stories about the importance of family, community and staying connected to one's roots.

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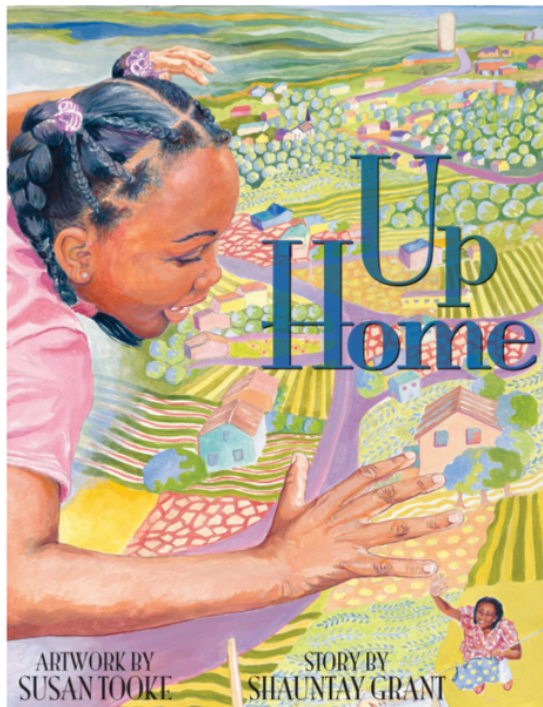
UP HOME

by Shauntay Grant & Susan Tooke

Recommended for ages 4-8

Synopsis: Happy memories sparkle in this journey through poet Shauntay Grant's childhood visits to North Preston, Nova Scotia. Her words bring to life the sights, sounds, rhythms, and people of a joyful place, while Susan Tooke's vibrant illustrations capture the warmth of one of Canada's most important Black communities.

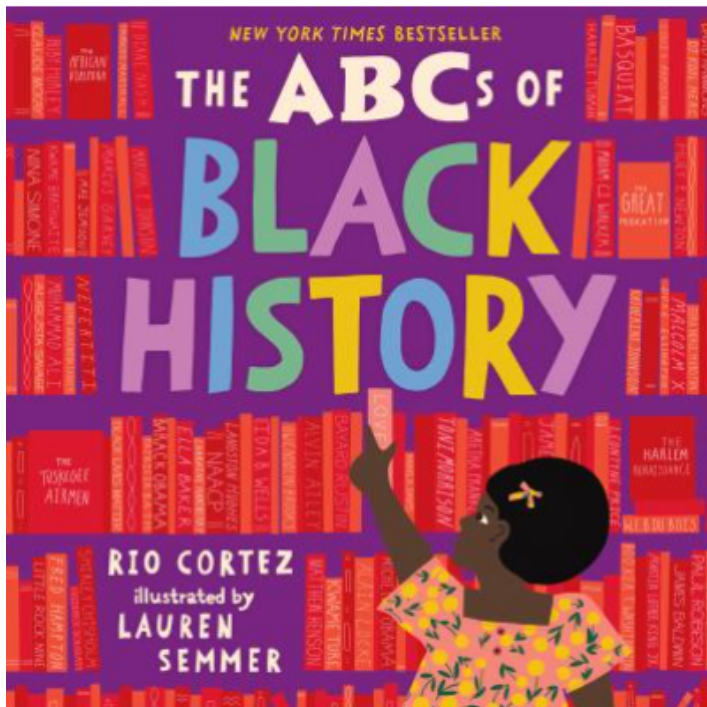
Up Home celebrates the magic of growing up, and the power in remembering our roots.



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THE ABCs OF BLACK HISTORY



by Rio Cortez & Lauren Semmer
Recommended for ages 5+

Synopsis: Letter by letter, **The ABCs of Black History** celebrates a story that spans continents and centuries, triumph and heartbreak, creativity and joy. It's a story of big ideas--P is for Power, S is for Science and Soul. Of significant moments--G is for Great Migration. Of iconic figures--H is for Zora Neale

Hurston, X is for Malcom X. It's an ABC book like no other, and a story of hope and love. In addition to rhyming text, the book includes back matter with information on the events, places, and people mentioned in the poem

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OSCAR LIVES NEXT DOOR: A STORY INSPIRED BY OSCAR PETERSON'S CHILDHOOD



by Bonnie Farmer & Marie Lafrance
Recommended for ages 5-9

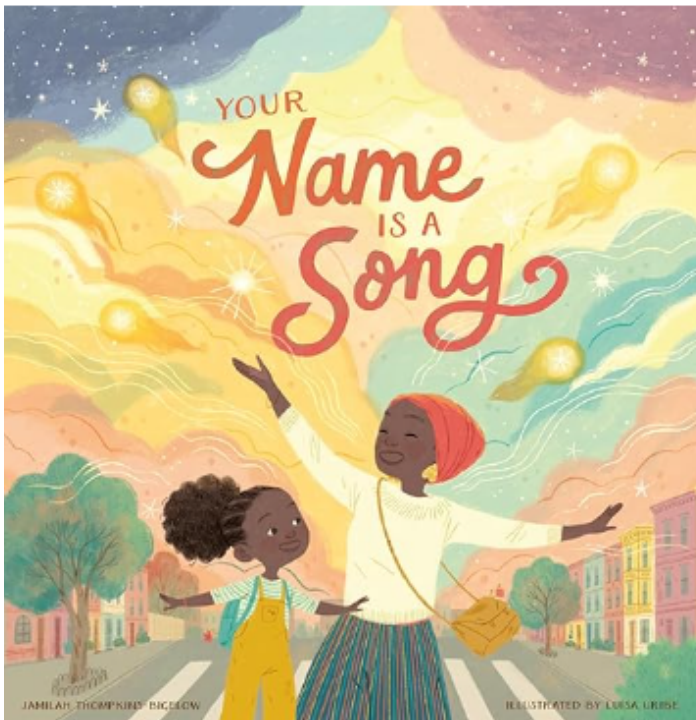
Synopsis: Long before Oscar Peterson became a virtuoso jazz pianist, he was a boy who loved to play the trumpet. When tuberculosis weakened his lungs, Oscar could no longer play his beloved instrument. Set in the Montreal neighbourhood of St Henri - where most of the city's Black working class population lived in the 1930's - the book

imagines a next-door neighbour for Oscar named Millie, who writes to him during his long stay in the hospital and encourages his earliest notes on the piano. The book concludes with a page of informational text about the author's own connection to the neighbourhood and a short biography of Oscar Peterson.

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YOUR NAME IS A SONG



by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
& Luisa Uribe

Recommended for ages 5-10

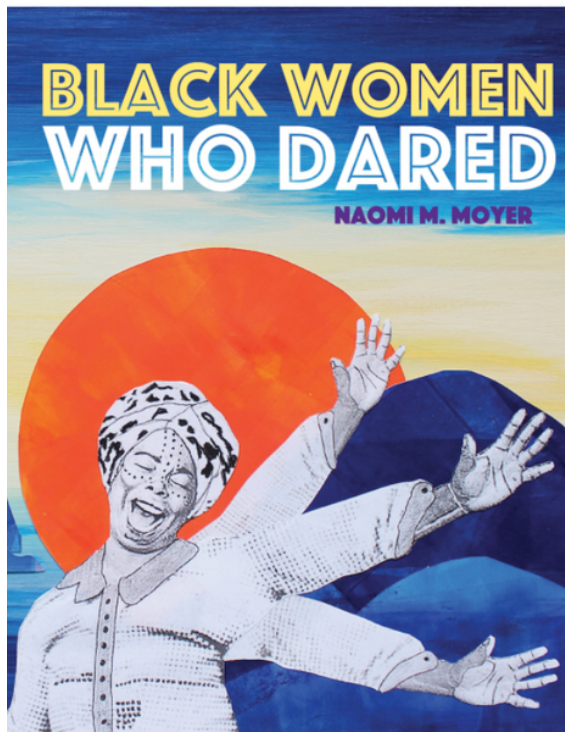
Synopsis: After having her beautiful name continuously mispronounced by teachers and classmates, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle

Eastern names on their walk home. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class.

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BLACK WOMEN WHO DARED



by Naomi M. Moyer

Recommended for ages 9-12

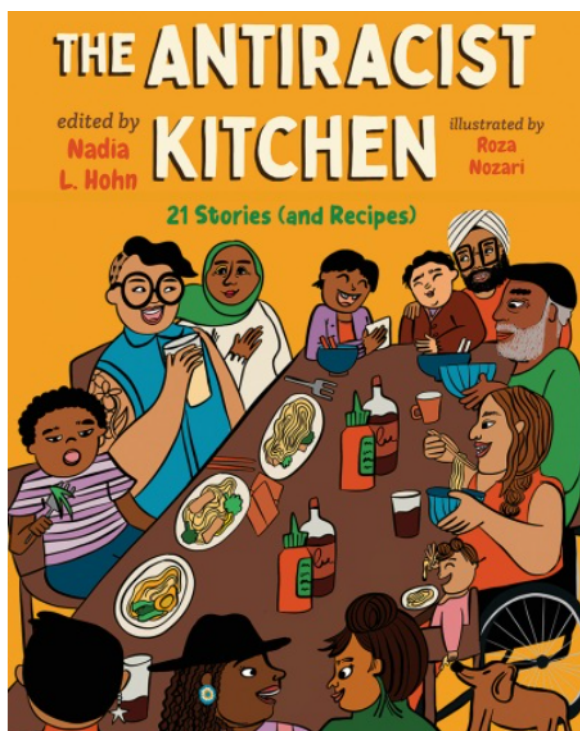
Synopsis: Artist Naomi Moyer presents powerful biographical portraits of ten Black women and women's collectives from Canadian and American history, ranging from 1793 to the present. Included are leaders and ground-breakers who were anti-slavery activists, business women, healthcare activists,

civic organizers and educators who taught literacy and scholarship in Black neighbourhoods.

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THE ANTIRACIST KITCHEN: 21 STORIES (AND RECIPES)



by Roza Nozari, Ainara Alleyne &
Nadia L. Hohn

Recommended for ages 9-12

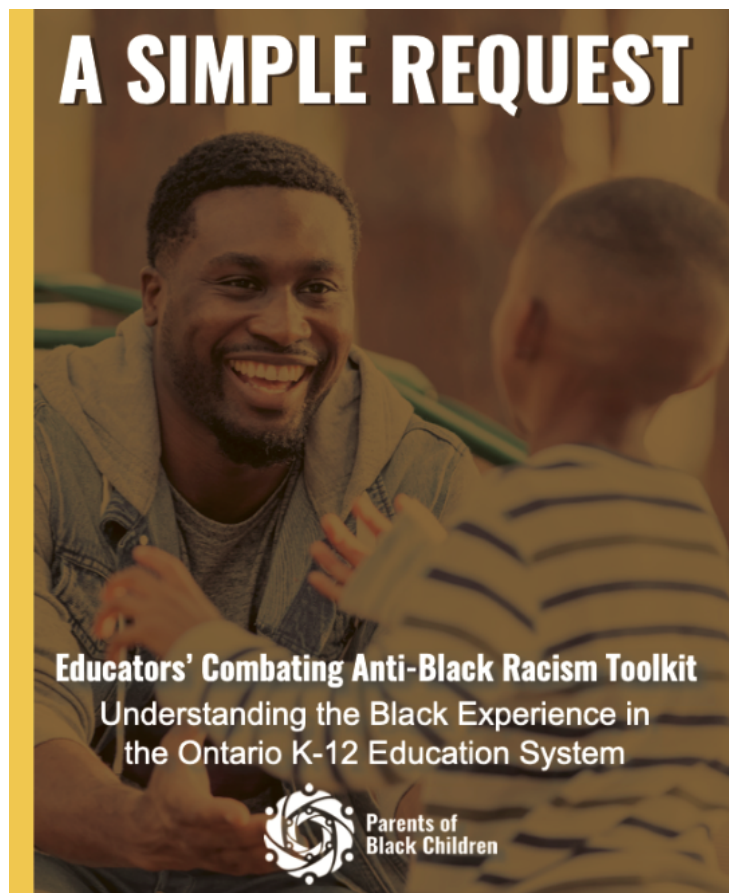
Synopsis: This anthology of stories and recipes from 21 award-winning children's authors is a celebration of food, family, activism and resistance in the face of racism. They bring personal and sometimes difficult experiences growing up as racialized people and share the role

food in their lives and how it has helped fight discrimination, reclaim culture and celebrate people with different backgrounds.

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A Simple Request - Educators' Combating Anti-Black Racism Toolkit



[Toolkit by Parents of Black Children]

The purpose of this toolkit is to address the systemic barriers that impact the experience of Black students and their families within the Canadian education system. This resource was developed to help educators understand how Black students experience the system and provides a framework that educators throughout the country can use to adopt inclusive anti-Black racist teaching practices in their classrooms.

Available at parentsofblackchildren.org

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So You Want to Talk About Race

[2018 book by Ijeoma Oluo]



This book is about race in the contemporary United States* and about how racism infects every aspect of North American life. Using accessible, easy to understand language, author Ijeoma Oluo explains concepts such as cultural appropriation and affirmative action, and answers questions about systemic racism in America, while providing readers with advice for having honest conversations about race and racism.

*The content of this book is applicable to contemporary Canada as well as the US

Also available in audiobook format

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The Skin we're in

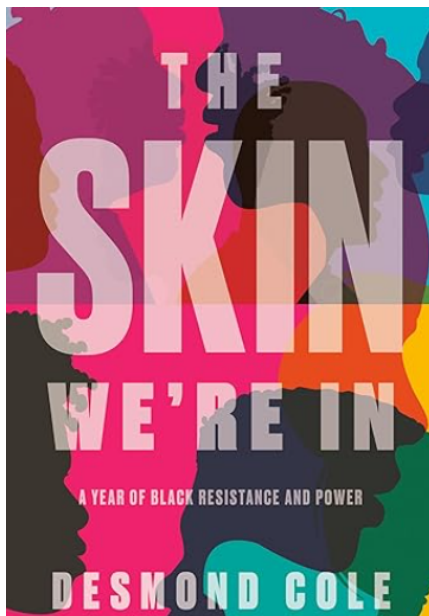
[2017 Documentary, directed by Charles Officer]

Available on CBC Gem

This documentary follows journalist and activist Desmond Cole as he does research for his book of the same name. The film explores what it means to be Black in the 21st century and the impact of systemic racism in Canadian society.



The Skin we're in: A Year of Black Resistance and Power



[2020 Book by Desmond Cole]

Also available in audiobook format

In the format of month-to-month chronicles, Desmond Cole writes about the struggle against racism in Canada and his own experiences as an anti-racist activist during the year 2017. An eye-opening read for many Canadians who overlook Canada's racist, settler-colonial past, and believe Canada is "not as bad" as the U.S.

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I Am Black History - Our Stories, Our Voices

[Podcast by In The Black Canada, hosted by Donna Paris]



Podcast host Donna Paris is a multi-generational Black Canadian on a journey to uncover the untold stories of Black Canadians. On her website, she shares “For each story of racism and disconnection, there are as many stories of perseverance and triumph”. Listen to these incredible stories and learn about history in the making as Donna interviews Black Canadian writers, researchers, activists, artists, athletes (the list goes on) from communities across the country. Guests share stories from their lives and from their ancestors, while also chatting about big picture topics like belonging, culture, community and more.

Available at intheblackcanada.ca & podcast platforms

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BLK: An Origin Story

[2022 Documentary series, by Sudz Sutherland & Jennifer Holness]



From the fierce Jamaican maroons that helped to build Halifax, Nova Scotia...to the free Blacks from California who settled British Columbia, **BLK: An Origin Story** shares a rich and powerful untold history for a new generation. This four-part documentary series looks beyond the Underground Railroad to explore the untold stories of Black Canadians from the 1600s to the present, illustrating the invaluable contribution Black Canadians have made and continue to make to this country.

Available on Global TV

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Black Life: Untold Stories

[2023 documentary series]



Synopsis: This eight-part documentary series reframes the rich and complex histories of Black experiences in Canada, spanning more than 400 years with an eye towards contemporary issues, music, policing, Black liberation, immigration, culture, and sports.

Available on CBC Gem

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Strong and Free

[2021 Podcast by Historica Canada]



Synopsis: This six-part podcast traces stories from the earliest Black settlers to recently arrived Canadians.

Episode topics include the Haitian Diaspora in Quebec, the West Indian Domestic Scheme, the history of enslavement in Canada, and deep dives into the stories of Black Canadian historical figures, such as abolitionist Mary Ann Shadd, and ice hockey player Herb Carnegie.

Available at historicacanada.ca, YouTube & podcast platforms

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