

# PARENT CUE

Be the parent you want to be.

To the caring adults  
The fierce legacy protectors  
The unwavering guides  
The story shapers

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*May we honor you.*

What if . . .

Anne James Wilkinson didn't bring her daughter, Raven, to see the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo perform Coppélia at the age of five, even though Raven wouldn't see anyone on stage who looked like her? What if, four years later, Raven's uncle didn't gift Raven ballet lessons at the all-white Ballet Russe School, even though he saw talent in Raven that, despite a separated world, could not be extinguished?

What if . . .

Blanche Rudolph simply accepted that her prematurely-born daughter, Wilma, would always remain a small, sickly child? What if she didn't sacrifice what little time she had

left after working six days a week to make the slow bus ride from Clarksville, Tennessee, to Nashville to the Black hospital for treatment to help Wilma regain use of her polio-weakened leg?

What if . . .

Alberta King, gentle yet fiercely protective, didn't instill in her son, Martin, Jr., the value of empathizing with those around him, but rather sheltered him from the plight of people who looked like him? What if she didn't tirelessly fight to ensure she raised her kids to have confidence in themselves in an era that condemned them for being Black?

Or if Martin, Sr. simply stayed quiet, not sharing with his son the fallacies of a divided system and the injustices that followed as a result? What if, as he and his oldest son walked side by side down the street, he didn't mutter aloud, "I don't care how long I have to live with this system, I will never accept it"?



## Celebrating the legacies of those before us



*and the hope for  
the future to come.*



The world has revered the name of Raven Wilkinson, the first Black woman to dance for a major classical ballet company.

The world has also heard of Olympic gold medal champion, Wilma Rudolph, known as the fastest woman in the world in the 1960s.

And, of course, the world knows of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his role in the Civil Rights Movement.

But often overlooked are the caring adults in their lives, the fierce legacy protectors whose influence can still be felt in our world today. They couldn't have known it then, but their unwavering guidance and steadfast determination shaped our stories, our history. They are beautiful examples of faith despite the circumstances and hope for a future that only lived in their dreams.

For Black History Month, we honor the caring adults in the lives of history's brave and prolific leaders.

**Want help having family conversations about race? Check out these resources.**



### [4 Tips for Talking to Kids and Teens About Racism and Social Unrest](#)

Parents are grappling with questions from their kids about racism, violence, and injustice. Here are four tips for parents who want to engage the topic of racism with their children in a meaningful way.

### [The Conversation I Wish Every White Parent Had with Their Kids](#)

If you choose not to talk about race with your kids, you're missing out on an opportunity to shape how your kids view differences. It might be an uncomfortable conversation, but it's still a conversation worth having.

### [Raising Kids Who Will Initiate Racial Equality](#)

Though it's essential for children to see people who look like them doing amazing things, it's also essential for children to see people who don't look like them doing those same amazing things.



