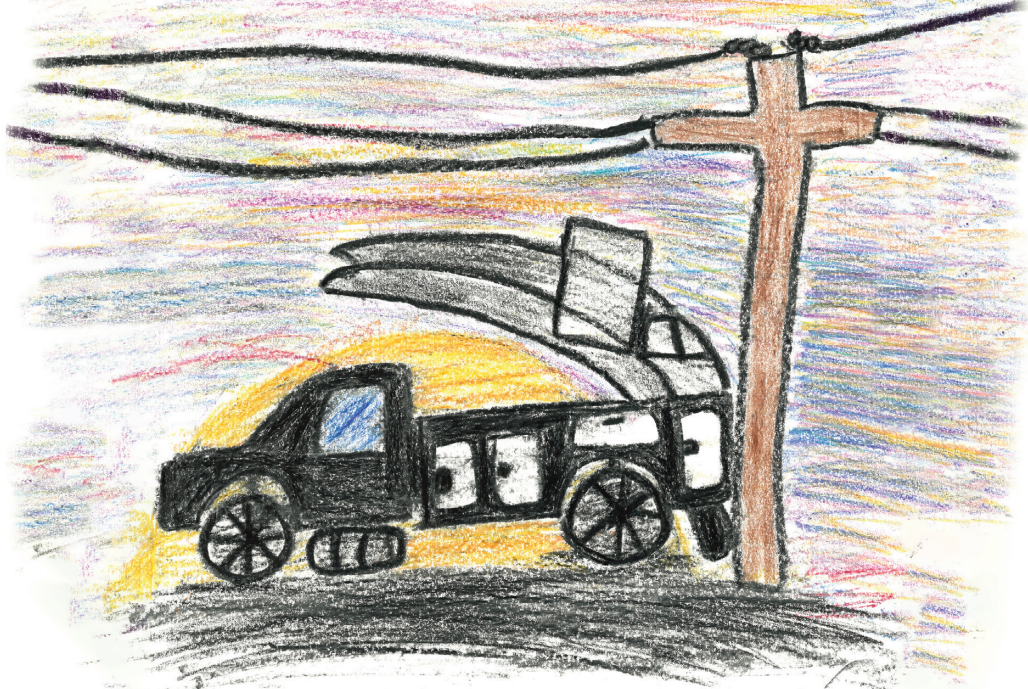


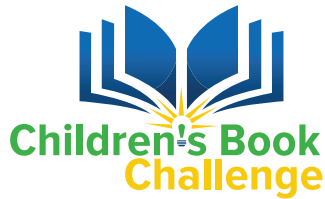
Job Shadowing a Lineman



Written and illustrated by
Lawson Cannon, Knowlton Carter, Wayde Ingram, and Rayvon Kersey

Job Shadowing a Lineman is dedicated to our teacher, Mrs. Lauren Kinlaw, Walker Gamble Elementary School, and Santee Electric Cooperative for their support throughout our adventure of writing this book.

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Job Shadowing a Lineman by Lawson Cannon, Knowlton Carter, Wayde Ingram and Rayvon Kersey was selected as one of two winners of the 2026 Children's Book Challenge—an educational initiative of

The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. The competition challenges fourth- and fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on electricity. This year's theme was "A Day in the Life of a Lineworker."

South Carolina's electric cooperatives have been committed to powering rural communities since 1938. Since their founding, coops across the state have been guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, which includes a commitment to education and concern for their communities.



By inspiring students to learn about the history of electricity in our state, S.C.'s electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's energy leaders.

To learn more about the Children's Book Challenge, visit **scbookchallenge.com**.

ne sunny morning, Jaden woke up and went downstairs to eat breakfast. His mom whipped up eggs, bacon, and grits. Jaden ate all of the food his mom made him. It was the perfect way to start his day.



After he finished his breakfast, Jaden started to climb up the stairs to his room. Jaden saw his dad, Phillip, leaving for work.

Jaden stopped him and said, “Dad, it is job shadow day at my school today. Can I job shadow you? I want to learn more about what a lineman does.”

Jaden’s dad replied, “I would love to teach you all about what I do every day as a lineman!”

Jaden’s mom agreed that job shadowing his dad was a wonderful idea.

Jaden’s dad said, “Get dressed for work, Jaden. Put on something like blue jeans and a t-shirt. You need to wear something cool because we will be working outside in the heat all day.”

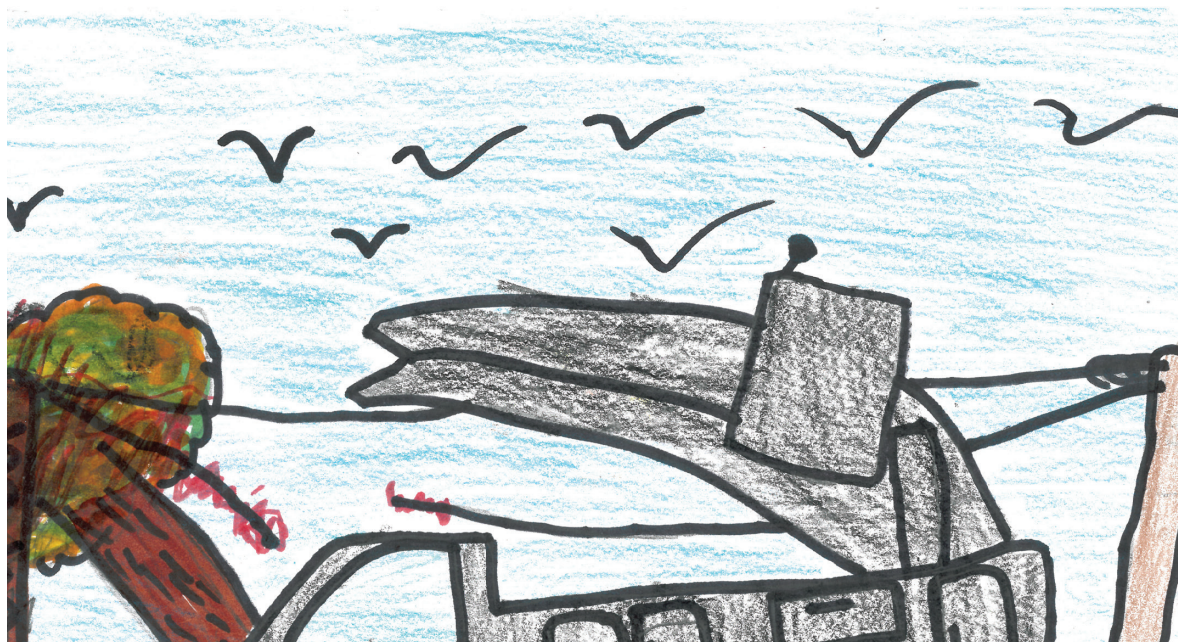
After Jaden got dressed, his dad said, “Hurry up, Jaden, and come downstairs.”

So Jaden ran downstairs and put on his boots and got in the truck.



Once they climbed in the truck, they were on the way to the Santee Electric Cooperative's main substation. They were driving down the road when they saw a tree fall on a power line. The power line snapped. Phillip called Santee Electric's outage number to report what they saw.

"Dad, I know you keep the power on in our house, but can you tell me more about your job before we arrive?" asked Jaden.



“Linemen have to be extremely cautious to prevent getting hurt,” said Phillip. “We have to wear fire resistant clothing and steel toe boots. We also need helmets and personal protective equipment. We often call it PPE for short.”

Jaden wondered why his dad needs to wear all of this special gear.

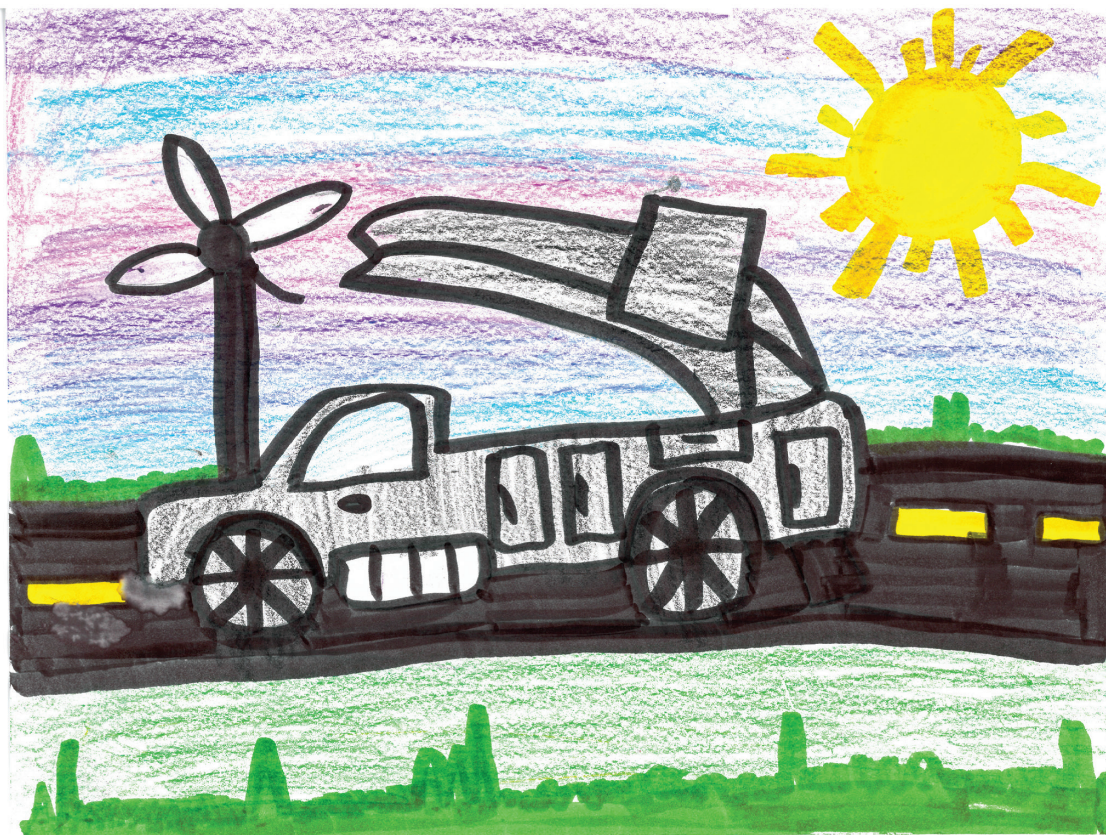
“Why do you need all of this?” asked Jaden. “Why can’t you wear regular clothes?”

Jaden learned from his dad that he could be electrocuted if he didn’t wear the special clothes or something could fall on him. Jaden quickly figured out that his dad is brave to have such a dangerous job.



“Jaden, look out of the window in that field,” said Phillip.
“That is Santee Electric’s community solar farm. It collects energy from the sun to help us keep the power on.”

Jaden looked at the sun shining on the solar panels and he thought that was really neat.



When they got to the station he saw Bob, John, and George putting on their work suits. They have to wear fire resistant clothes, insulated gloves, a hard hat, steel toe boots, and safety goggles. Their gear weighs about 50 pounds. Jaden could not believe that his dad was able to wear gear that is so heavy. His dad must be stronger than Jaden actually thought.



Jaden listened to the other linemen talk about what they would be doing at work that day. Jaden learned that he would be watching them install and repair the power lines that bring electricity to houses and businesses.



Jaden watched Bob take the crane and his dad take the bucket truck with all of the supplies to the location. The first thing they did when they arrived was turn off the power. Jaden learned that this was called de-energizing and it is extremely important to make sure they won't get electrocuted.

Next, Bob used the crane to lift the broken pole. They dug a hole next to where the old pole was. After this, they got the new pole and the drill. Then they put the crossarms, brackets, insulators, and ground wires on the new pole. Jaden and the other linemen put the new pole into the ground. They use the bucket truck to secure the lines and make sure everything is attached right.

Finally, they turn the power back on and make sure everything is working correctly.



Jaden's dad looked at him and said, "That's it for today! Did you have a good time Jaden?"

Jaden smiled at his dad and said, "YES! I had the best day ever! I learned so much about what you do at work. I definitely want to be a lineman one day just like you!"

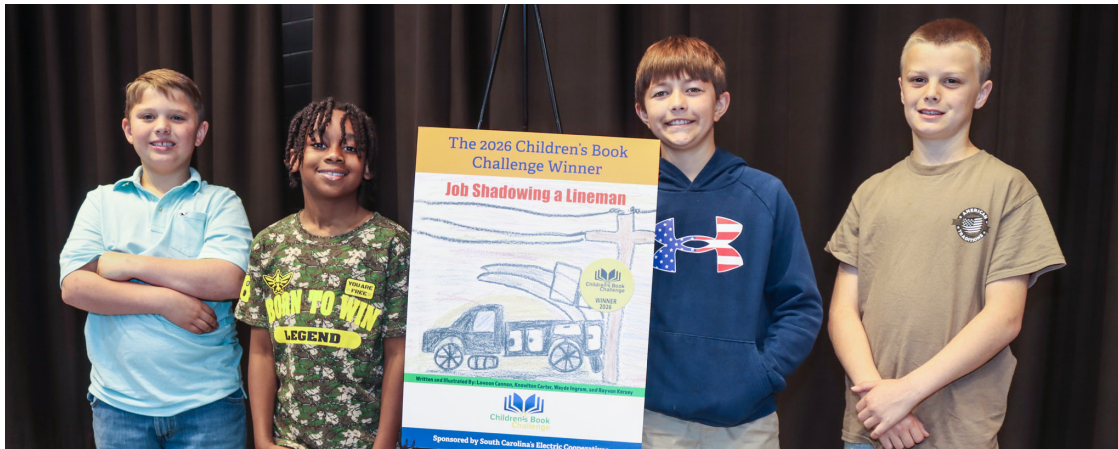




ABOUT THE AUTHORS

This book was written and illustrated by Lawson Cannon, Knowlton Carter, Wayde Ingram, and Rayvon Kersey.

They are 4th graders at Walker Gamble Elementary School in Turbeville, S.C. They participated in this contest through the support of Santee Electric Cooperative. They enjoyed researching about South Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, Santee Electric Cooperative, and all about what linemen do every day.



From left: Lawson Cannon, Rayvon Kersey, Knowlton Carter and Wayde Ingram



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