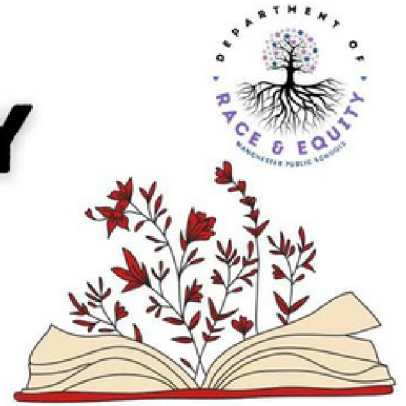




BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY

Contest



HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH(S)!

In partnership with Manchester CT's Department of Leisure, Family, & Recreation, The Department of Race & Equity invites you to submit an individual original poem centering Black Joy! The poem should speak to the beauty and brilliance Black folx originate from and currently consist of!

WINNERS RECEIVE:

- Personalized certificate of recognition,
- Book centering Black Joy
- Gift certificate to a local Black owned business

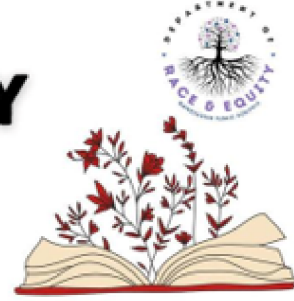


All poetry submissions will be published in Manchester's Neighborhoods and Families Better Manchester Digital Magazine!

Winners will also be invited to share their poems publicly at our Townwide Juneteenth celebration in the spirit of remembering that while we take a closer look in February, Black History Month is EVERY month!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***My History of Joy* by Isaiah S. Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School**

Michael Jordan

Shooting the winning dunk with
His carer on the line

That is his black boy
joy

Simon Biles

Doing a backflip for the first time

That is her black girl
joy

Rosa Parks

standing up for what's right

that is her black girl
joy

Michael Jackson
the king of pop making

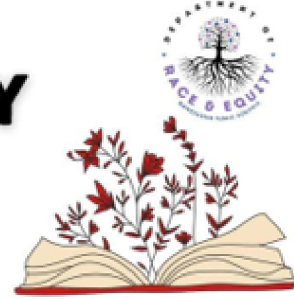
Awesome songs
that is his black boy
joy

Isaiah [S.]

Sharing history so people
Can learn about the past
That is my black boy
joy



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Chocolate Skin* by Chelsea N.** **Grade 2, Buckley Elementary School**

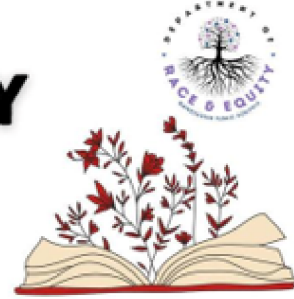
Dark chocolate skin
Is one of a kind
It unlocks secrets to tell your story

Brown skin is beautiful
to see the joy
It contributes

Milk chocolate skin is one of a kind
Caramel brown skin is wonderful and unique
No matter what
you believe you are.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black n' Browntastic!* by Raania J. Grade 2, Buckley Elementary School**

Back n' Brown

BLACK is for blacktastic

BROWN is for browntastic

EVERYONE is broen-ir-black-tastic!

Black n' Brown

Brown n' Black is not bad

Brown n' Black are not good either

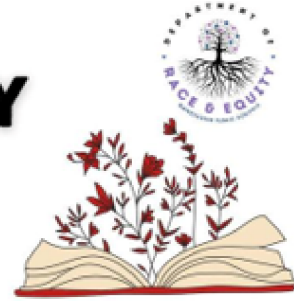
They are FANTASTIC!

When your Black you shine like a diamond!

When your skins brown you are as yummy as chocolate!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

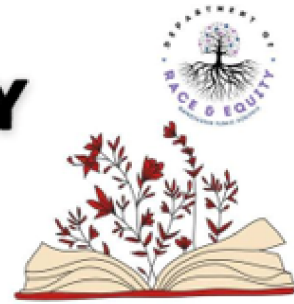


***Black Cool* by Kailey B.** **Grade 2, Buckley Elementary School**

Black, black
Cool in color
Blac is a cool skin color
Bl;ack skin is as cool as
Black cat
Black skin is one of her coolest things
In the world.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

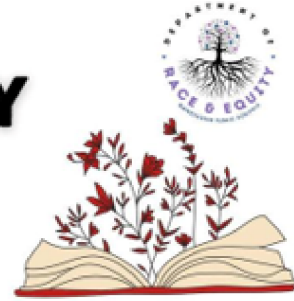


***Black Joy* by Michael S.**
Grade 2, Buckley Elementary School

My skin be beautiful brown skin
Black lives matter
Like Martin Luther King Jr.
And Misty Copeland
Like Madam C.J. Walker and Duke Ellington.
Like Lebron James, Michael Jordan and Chadwick Boseman
All the black bodys are awesome!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



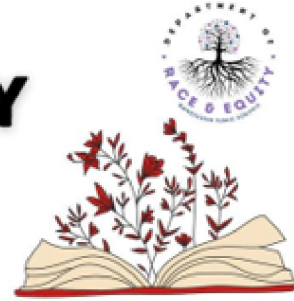
We Love by Sky R.
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

We love our black as
Much as our white if we
Could work together we could
Be a pack forever and be
Our site. Black is nice
White is good like nice
food. Black is good like
food that is cooked.

Thank you for sunshine thank you
For rain thank you for joy
and thank you for your pain.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



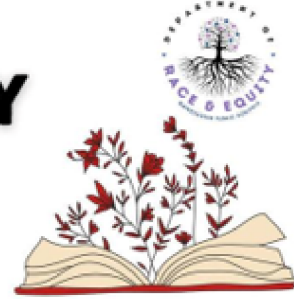
Black Joy Black History by Julia O. Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

Black joy Blaack heroes save the
day have good time think one think
twice black hair black skin you enter
the day coler sky coler black a
great Black toy call it black call
it Joy Black history here we come

Love you
Black
history



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



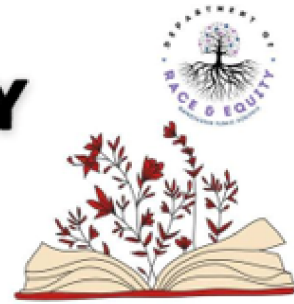
I Love Black History by Sevil K.
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

Black history month is coming up all we could do is joy and that's all! fairness is #1 and that is all! we could do it that's all the fall we all know if you could America could be #1 of the fairness of joy of being black we all love eachother you know that could be the fall! we could keep up the fairness and the joy of the black people being treated like the wite

I love Black history month!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

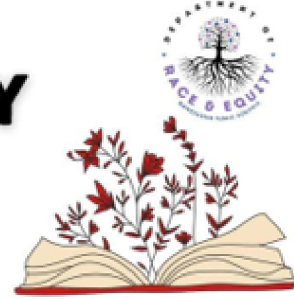


Proud to be You by Anabell
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

black history month is what we
support black or cultured people and
not madder just be proud to
be you.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

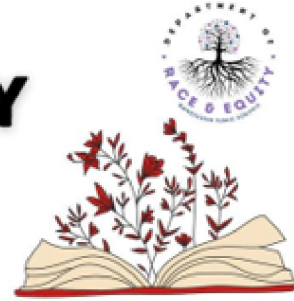


***I Love my Skin* by Mya I.** **Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School**

I love my skin because
the way it glisten
into the sun. My Black
Beautiful skin reminds
Me of my home in
St. Lucia. It's a good place where
they have good food,
music, community. I am
grateful because Black
people couldn't do
what there doing today.
Because people, black
people would be traded
like slaves. But now
we are all equal. I
love my skin!
Be strong, and love
yourself!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

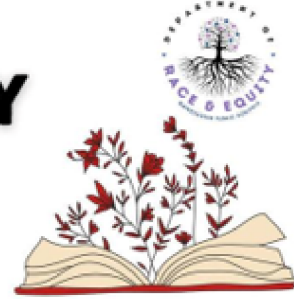


***Beautiful No Matter Your Race* by Mckenzie
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School**

do you love your skin because I love mine
And if you don't I want you to know that your skin
is beautiful no matter what your race. Your beautiful
if you have wavy hair if you have straight hair
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL
NO MATTER YOUR RACE!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

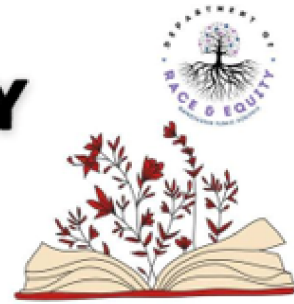


You by Lucas S.
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

Being you is cool, it's true. Just go your far
long lane. Even if it goes zip-zap, you can
still pull through, it's okay. Even if you follow another
far lane, you can still be your own character.
Armstrong, Einstein, anyone you know you can be.
Think about the past. Think about the future.
And the next time you celebrate black history month,
remember, even at times you can't think
about someone to follow, always be You.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

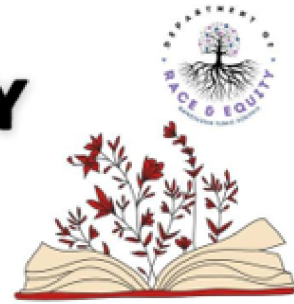


I Love Black Joy by Malayla **Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School**

I love Black Joy
I'm black. Black people are
so sweet like chocolate the
black joy is so good and
brave. I love, *I love* Black month!
And I love being a
Black girl. I love Black joy.
I love me. I love being Black.
I love Black Month! and I
Love me! I love being brave
Black Month is joy and brave!
I love Black joy I love being
a little Black girl!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

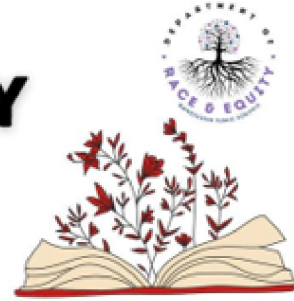


***Black History Means...* by Jeremin Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School**

What black history means? Black history means to be proud of yourself and to be brave and to be kind and be yourself I love black history because the color and how people are brave. I also love it because it's full of joy and community.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



I Love Black History Month by Alivia Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

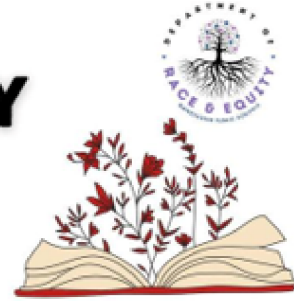
What does Black history month mean to me? Black history month means to be proud of yourself and be brave and to be kind and to be yourself.

I Love Black
History Month!

I Love Black
History
Month!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

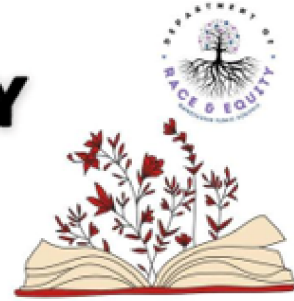


***Joyful Black Boy* by Miles B.**
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

I love being a joyful
Black boy. With creamy skin
Like a dream. And I'm in math class
I dive through multiplying and
dividing. I'm soaring to win. I
love being Me!!!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

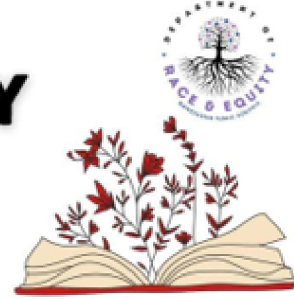


Black History Change-Makers by Samyah F. Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

Ruby Bridges made a change in life
By being the first person to go in a
White school. We celebrate Black
History Month for the people who
made a change in the world.
Black History Month is important to me
Because it celebrates all the
Black people who made
a good change for our people.
We only celebrate Black History Month
on February because Lincoln's
birthday is on February.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

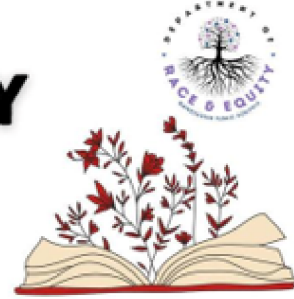


***Black Friends* by Aubrey S.**
Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School

I'm happy when I'm with my BLACK friends.
When I look at their skin,
it looks beautiful, with soft skin and very
beautiful looks! There were lots of black
people that helped us get here today. In the
segregation times we had hero's like
Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., also
in S.E.L. We learn about all the
important people that helped us when we
were too scared too! That's what I think
when I with my black friends. That we
moved from the segregation time to where
we are now, and that now I am white



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



Girls in my land by Avery **Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School**

Hi my name is Avery.

This is a jam about the girls in my land
and the mister who dismissed her.

Just a Fool at the fair, who didn't care,
didn't see her there
didn't see the writer, The Fighter, the firelighter
didn't see the Rage inside her.

When ingested and glided,
he thought the girl small.
Didn't stop to the cop
the meaning of it all.

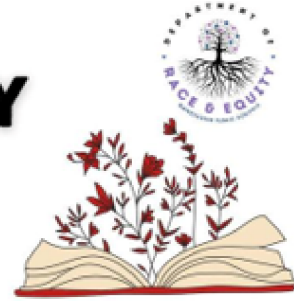
the sting of the killer bees,
the thorns on the trees,
the virus, the disease
they're all so small but nobody sees.
But watch out ya'll they'll bring you to your knees.

Instead, he should have stayed in bed
should have listened to what his mama said.
He wouldn't of, shouldn't of have landed on his head.
His gray matter maybe flatter, but hey it's okay...
he wasn't using it anyway.

So go on be a hater on the underestimator but you
better pray you stay out of her way.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Is* by Jaida W.**
Grade 1, Waddell Elementary School

Black is beautiful.

Black is powerful.

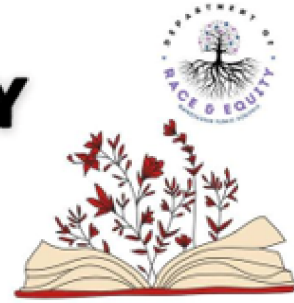
Black is strong.

Black is amazing.

Black is me.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Is* by Isabella L.**
Grade 1, Waddell Elementary School

Black is awesome.

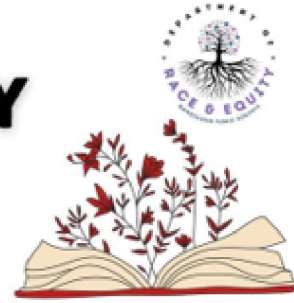
Black is cool.

It doesn't matter what color skin you have.

Just don't judge other people's skin color.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



Untitled Poem

Black people matter.

Black is brighter than the sun.

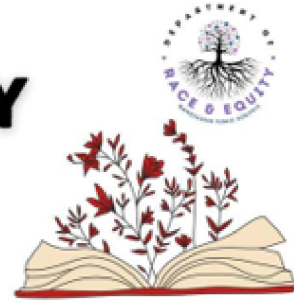
The people who hate are jealous of you.

I think the color black is one of the best colors.

Black people are really cool and fun.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



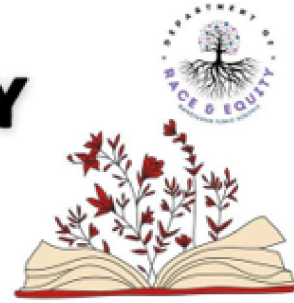
Black Joy Poem by Zakari M.

Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

Black joy is from the 1960s segregation, was the worst thing in 1960. Martin Luther King Jr. believed in peaceful protests. About 1968, he was assassinated by James Earl Rya. He got arrested after he got killed. Black joy is in February because he got assassinated in that month. He is rem today in 2023.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Joy Poem* by Megan F.
Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School**

Braids

Leaders

Activist

Creativity

Kind

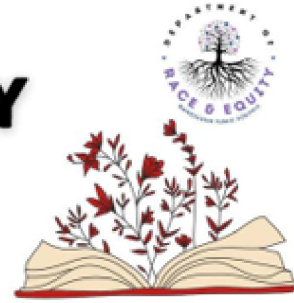
Justice

Optimistic

Youth



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***What Black Excellence Means To Me* by Leah N. Grade 11, Manchester High School**

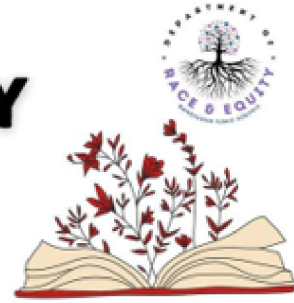
Yes I have good hair, derived straight from my homeland flowing with milk and honey
Keeping the beat on my hips and proclaiming freedom upon my lips
Yes, I am a black girl and yes I am filled with joy because I am a black ebony queen
living on the land which my ancestors fought so hard to be treated equally
And the culture that comes along with the African American dream that I have taken
ahold of

From the negro spirituals in my heart and the freedom in my blood
From the coils in my hair to the way the sun kisses my skin on a hot summer day
From the you got it girl to the always keep fighting even when the fight isn't fair
To the sunday night service and the late nights spent perfecting my curls
From the you'll always be my baby to the not everyone is going to like you
From the I got your back like you got my mine to the I'll always be there when you need
me

From the Joy within my soul to the power I hold upon my lips
From the cocoa butter skin to the summer nights spent surrounded by my family
From the black excellence I see within, To the victory I'm gonna win
From before I let go to Just The Way You Are
From the melody of the beat and the rhythm in my feet, I am true excellence and
excellence is within me
So when asked what it means to be a black girl I say "Love, Freedom, Joy and
Independence because all of these attributes are things I see within me



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



Black Joy Poem by Elisa K.
Grade K, Buckley Elementary School

Beautiful people

Loving families

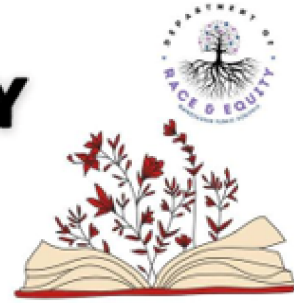
Awesome stories

Clever thinking

Kids like me!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

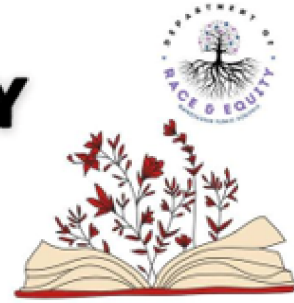


**Joy by Renee R.
Grade 6, Bennet Academy**

Joy. Joy. Joy. Joy is something you experience when something "marvelous" happens or when your "happy" its a feeling of happiness as a brown person we have seen and experienced alot of pain and have learned about it before we learned about "love" it's the "sad" truth as we lived through many stereotypes but 1 thing we have is joy and nobody can take it away as kids play on the playground as the adults chat on the sidewalk cookouts every sunday begging my mom everyday to go to the park playing with my friends having fun on a summer day joy joy joy is something you can't take my joy is mines your joy is yours we all have differences but joy is something we can share joy joy joy



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



Black History Month by Landon A. Grade 4, Waddell Elementary School

Rosa, Martin, Marshall everyone here listen up close because BLACK history month is here!

From Denmark to the Antarctic and the United states to the Philippines we can all celebrate even from right in here♥!

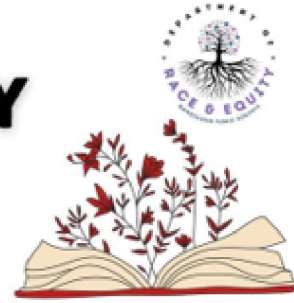
We get inspired by these wonderful and thankful black people because they helped change our lives and rights too! We will appreciate what these people have done from the past and present too. This month and every month these people will be appreciated and will always be wonderful citizens! Let's celebrate these wonderful people for what they have done and much much more! We will always remember these wonderful people and always will! Even if they didn't do a lot they will always be remembered and carried to the next generation!

Martin, Mahamad everyone here remember that black history month will always be here!!! From January to December we will always remember these people! Now don't forget that BLACK history month will always be here!

Rosa, Martin, Thurgood are you still here? Mahamad, Jackie, Katherine and Jesse owens can you guess that..BLACK history month is here ya! Wilma, Nelson, Claudette and Barack Obama, Maya and Ruby Bridges get up on your feet because BLACK history month is here! And will always be here!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black is Joy* by Daniel M.**
Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

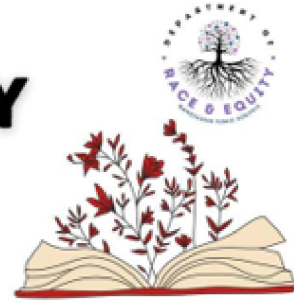
Black is joy. Black is the world every day and Black people have rights every day and every night.

"I have a dream" that everybody sees. They can finally vote and back in the day it was no joke!

Black is joy, Black is a color and Black people is really funner!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



Black Joy Poem by Aqeil H.

Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

Black joy is the name of peace.

Black joy is the music in radios.

Black joy is a thing that can change the world.

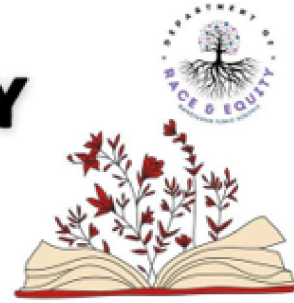
Black joy is the race color that means happiness.

Black joy is like a bunch of flowers in a field.

Black joy is the sweet berries in trees.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



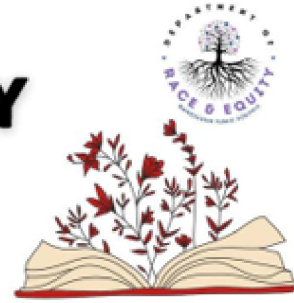
***Black Joy* by Niyah W. Grade 4, Waddell Elementary School**

I open my eyes to see a plane
not too far not too far away
florida i seek family awaits cant wait cant wait cant wait
the planes up high my guts down
low i can't wait to go far away from the snow.

i read my poem to my to my family claps i hear and voices cheer
i've been called names for a little while was it finally done it's been a
while i get my hugs and sit down this is the place i feel loved this is
the place i belong... Im at my dinner table and im eating fried chicken
and some mashed potatoes i feel loved and blessed this is the place
i belong my mama walks in and kisses me goodnight "love yourself
the way you are" i look at my palms and look at my hair i know im
different everywhere but different is good and i feel proud to show
the world what i'm all about my hair as puffy as a cloud and my
beautiful caramel skin is showing but know one said a word an how's
it going i feel proud to this that different is not bad and no one get
mad just for you being you and that's a fact



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

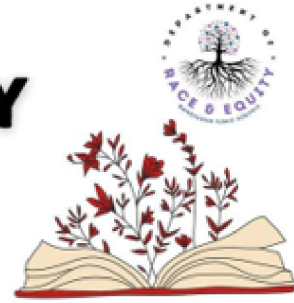


***The Black Joy of Misty Copeland* by Peyton W. Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School**

Misty Copeland leaps through the air and across the stage up into the sky.
Misty is having so much fun.
Big smile on her face.
Hair doesn't move.
Toes are on point.
The smile on her face gives me a smile on my face just watching the beauty of
her dancing.
Swaying through the air.
A beautiful bow to the audience.
The crowd goes wild and the curtains drop down.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

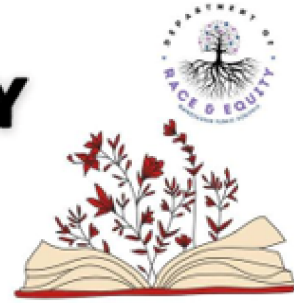


***Reggie Miller - From the NBA to Mountain Biking Joy by Trevor P.
Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School***

NBA to mountain biker.
Slam dunk to riding around the world.
Won a championship to cross the finish line.
A 3 point shot swoosh. Riding on a trail.
Won a game. Cross the line!



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Lebron James and HIS black Joy* by Joe L. Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School**

Slam dunk!!!

Lerbron james dunks a ball

Is a famous basketball player

He is strong

He is athletic

He is a father and a leader

He has a loved family / he has good friends

He loves to be in movies like space jam

He likes to smile

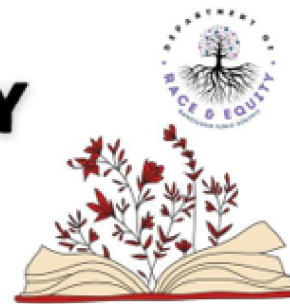
He likes to laugh

He loves his kids

He loves basketball



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



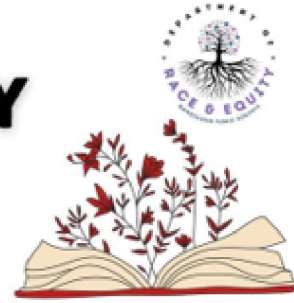
***Black Joy* by Penelope M.**

Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

Black joy is something I call black happiness black people have come so far from being slaves to living a normal life. Some are now celebrities. One of my inspirations is Ruby Bridges. She was one of the first African Americans to go to school. Because of her, black boys and girls now get to go to school without getting made fun of or looked at weirdly because of their race. things could be better .



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



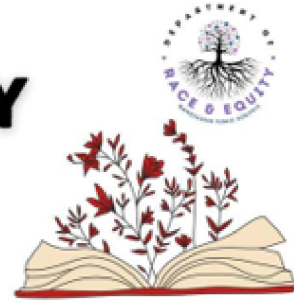
***Black Joy* by Ella S.**

Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

I was at the park it was 1964, I thought to myself. About how far I came from marching with Martin Luther King Jr. to playing at the park which use to be white only now for every one. I remember all the jail cells being filled but now they're empty. But the thing I remember most was the disrespect I got for the color of my skin. But now I am treated the best. All thanks to the march I walked. The days we got sprayed with water, getting pushed into jail cells, were all worth it because now I can play in parks I never could before, I can go to school with white kids, I can eat at restaurants I've never been to, and now I can feel proud when I look into a mirror because of what I did.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

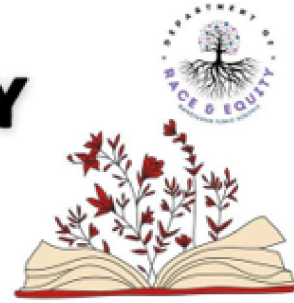


***What I Am* by Annalise G. Grade 5, Bennet Academy**

What I am is my identity my feelings
they are apart of me they help me
see they help me grow they help me know
what to know my future flys high like
a bird in the in the big blue sky my
poetry it's apart of me it helps. what I
should see is what I should belive thats
not true the truth should fly in you like
the birds in that big blue sky



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



Don't Be Ashamed by Eve S.

Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

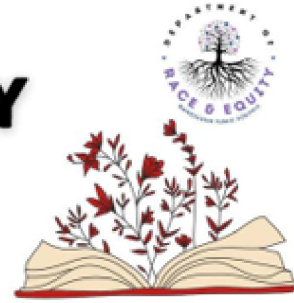
Don't be ashamed of your hair because no matter what you say
you are still beautiful.

Don't be sad, just joyful.

If something says something mean about your hair just say I like the
way I am.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***What Black Is* by Leandra J.B.**
Grade 4, Waddell Elementary School

Black is Beauty

Black is Joy

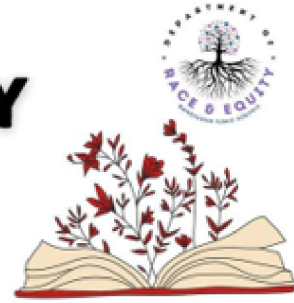
Black is Empowered.

Black is awesome!

And there is nothing nobody can change about that.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Joy* by Jordan T.** **Grade 11, Manchester High School**

I remember the smell of blue magic- yeah that grease
And being between my grandmother's legs where she would occasionally reach
Down and say "Brush". So I'd reach down into the hair box beside me and grab
her the brush.

I'd brush past the hairclips and hair ties and hair combs
I'd dig through the box while my hands guide me home
to the brush.

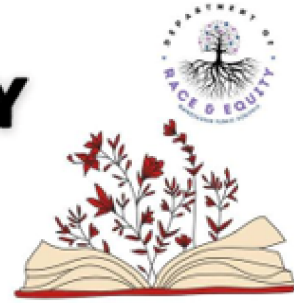
When she was finally done I'd rush to take a look
And see my braids, which were shiny and swinging.
The beads that knocked together- occasionally singing

She sits me down and puts on my scarf
The one I would borrow.
For the big family cookout
Would be tomorrow.

Later... it begins to fade, my guard.
I love the way the music at cookouts thumps so hard.
I feel it in my chest
On the imaginary dance floor doing my best-- To keep up
Winning or losing, no need to be coy
Surrounded by my people, is my black joy.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Soil Dark* by Kadyja D. Grade 11, Manchester High School**

Soil Dark

My skin

Ebony

Like the rich soil beneath our feet

The soil that gives nutrients to the world around it
Fostering the growth of cocoa trees and mango saplings
Its sacrifice ignored as people step on it disregarding its simple beauty
A beauty that transcends the ground at our feet
That can be found in/on my skin

Ebony

And dark like the soil.

Much like the people in

Our towns

Cities

And media

Dark shades of skin are overlooked
disregarded

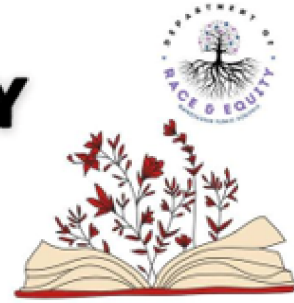
Much like the soil beneath our feet

The soil that grounds us

And trees



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



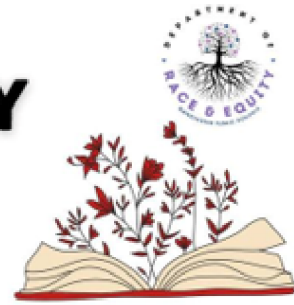
***Soil Dark* by Kadyja D.**
Grade 11, Manchester High School

Mango Sweet

Mangos pure and sweet
The juices glisten on my skin as I take a bite
The sweet sweet smells fill the air
Koyals surround me the royals of all birds
Dark and beautiful
Dark and present
Dark
And
Sweet
all grounded by the soil beneath our feet
I am Soil Dark and Mango Sweet



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



**Black + Joy = Strongness by Alyssa S.
Grade 5, Bennet Academy**

Black + Joy = Strongness

I am BLACK and I am Proud. Bright like a night light and a shining shimmering ^{Just} star. When ~~I am~~ ^{Nobody} is watching I am trying to be the best person I can be with i s me. So then when I am happy and shining with JOY They want to stop me and steal it like that in a spot and bring me down. But what I say to myself is JESUS LOVES ME FOR ME. I am strong BLACK and PROUD. So nobody and when I say nobody can stop me in my tracks. So what I say again is I am BLACK and I AM PROUD!



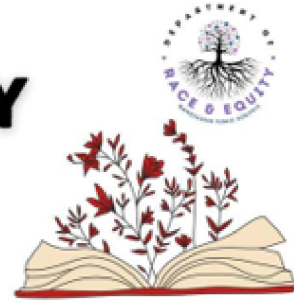
Be yourself Love yourself
for you.

I  Myself
XOXO - Alyssa Saunders
Self love matters

Put your self first and
then others love yourself
No Matter what again
XOXO - Alyssa Saunders
ave. love



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***What I Would Do* by Avani H.**

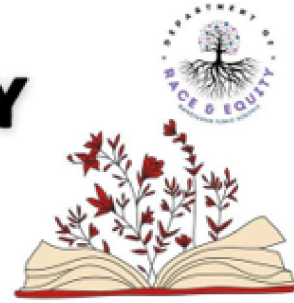
Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School

1963 children marching I would march too
I would march with them so they will be free
and we would burst out in glee.

I would march with them and when I get arrested
I will wait and go back to the children that protested.
Even though I am white I will help them with the peaceful fight



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



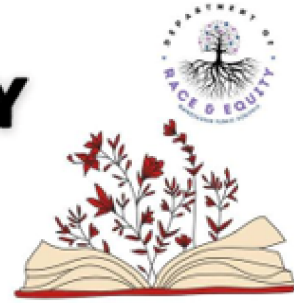
***Black History Means...* by Jeremin Grade 3, Waddell Elementary School**

What black history means

Black history means to be proud of yourself and to be brave and be kind and be yourself. I love black history because of the color and how people are brave. I also love it because it's full of joy and community.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Girl and Black Boy Joy* by D'Andre G. & Jyssette R. Grade 4, Highland Park Elementary School**

Black girl black girl I am a black girl.

Black boy black boy I am a black boy.

Black girl black girl what do you see? I see a black leader looking at me.

Black boy black boy what do you see? I see a funny, athletic boy looking at me.

Black girl black girl, what do you see? I see my curly black hair waving in front of me.

Black boy black boy what do you see? I see my mixed skin glowing back at me.

Black girl black girl what do you hear? I hear friends and family laughing around me.

Black boy black boy what do you hear? I hear families playing soccer around me.

Black girl black girl what do you feel? I feel happy when being by my dogs

Black boy black boy what do you feel? I feel the love of my family surrounding me.

Black girl black girl what do you know? I know how loved I am.

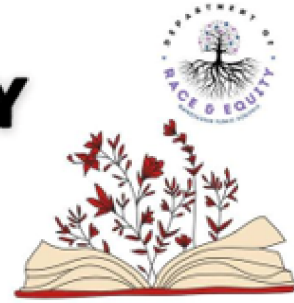
Black boy black boy what do you know? I know I have people who are watching over me.

Black girl black boy what do you see?

I see us.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Joy* by Emmanuella G.** **Grade 10, Manchester High School**

Black joy,
Black joy.
What is black joy?
Is it the joy that overcomes the boundaries of joy?
That joy that makes you forget all the pain?
The joy that fills all holes?
What is black joy?
It is a joy, I have never known.

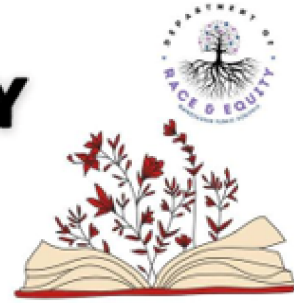
To me black joy is as
Nonexistent
As the american dream

Black joy only exists to people in the afterlife.
In a the place, were they are truly free;
To be black.
To enjoy the life of a black person,
To not be stereotyped,
And to be accepted as equals.

Black joy does not exist to the people who are killed on the streets.
Nor does it exist to the kids who are living in poverty.
The kids who have to become the parent of their sibling(s).
To the kids who miss out on just being kids,
Due to the fact they were born into this life.
A life where black joy is unaccepted.
A life where it is a crime to be black.
Where it is a crime to experience black joy;
Without being wrongfully accused of something they didn't do,
Without because treated differently,
Without being told "You're just going to end up in jail".



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Black Joy* by Emmanuella G.** **Grade 10, Manchester High School**

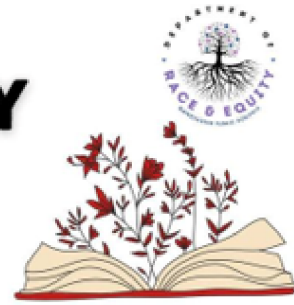
How can there be black joy,
When you wake up never knowing if today's is your last day,
Because you were at the wrong place at the wrong time?
How can you experience black joy when constantly being pulled over by the
police,
Simply because of the color of your skin?
Being afraid of the same people,
Who pledges and sworn to protect you?
Prompts you to pulling out your phone

Is it black joy when your screaming "i cant breath"
Is it black joy when education for kids in the "hood"
Is nonexistent or deemed unnecessary
Because they will just
And i quote "end up in jail"
Is it black joy when you have to learn the hood life
before you learn about yourself
What is black joy?

To me black joys is as
Nonexistent
As the American dream.



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

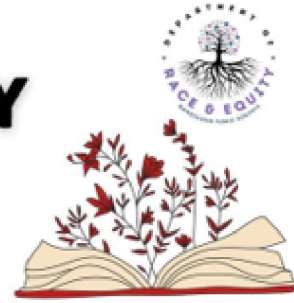


Chalis's Poem for Black Joy by Chaise R. and Charlize C. **Grade 4, Waddell Elementary School**

Roses are red, violets are blue. We all love flowers and you too. Roses are red,
violets are blue black history is amazing and so are you. Roses are red violets are blue
i'm a great person and so are you we love black history and you should too we love you
and you love us and black history love us all too black history is our life our home and
our beauty and lets keep it that way because that is our world. Black history black history
this is our family you and me create black history. We love black history, we love you, we
all love black history and I do too. This rap is for black history for me and for you . Black
history black history this is our story black history this is our company black history
black history is this what you wanna do? Black history black history let's vote too black
history is this our story too! Comeon Comeon y'all this is our two plus two and we all
seem to love you!!!!!!!!!!!! Black history lets go black hist["]ory yeah yeah this is what we
want to do black history... black history this is us this is our story black history black
history this is our laboratory!! Black history black history is this our story black history
black history is it our unique Community story We had black schools we had white
schools separate but equal but it wasn't really equal Me and our community equal if it's
not equal what are we going to do we didn't have schools that were equal together we
don't need supplications segregation is bad segregation is illegal Black in the days
segregation because apart we need to be together instead of being stuck apart and



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest

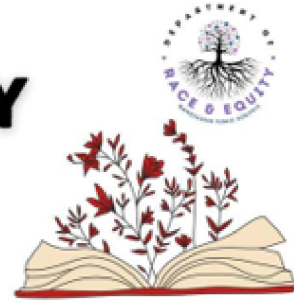


Chalis's Poem for Black Joy by Chaise R. and Charlize C. **Grade 4, Waddell Elementary School**

first took apart guess what's going to happen to all of us. Martin Luther King is a real king
so he is our King he saves us he helps us he praises he helped us enjoy our life he let us
do marches to save us and prove segregation wrong and he made it right to make it
right and he didn't fight physically but he did it fairly. Black Joy black Joy black Joy is all
we need is Black Joy Black black black black black joy black joy is history our community and
our life black joy black history's community This is our power the best form of all is Black
History yeah yeah Black history is the best yeah yeah Black history are your new black
history our Beauty Black history black history black history black history you know us We
know you accessories are drawing black history is our hero black history is us Black
history is everybody Even if you're what it doesn't mean anything tous cuz you're part of
our black history our joy our community our black history Community story Black history
is all black history is all we need this is our story So we're going to get it right and we're
going to get it tight We are going to hit it We going to pull it tight you going to stay all
night we going to pull an all nighter to To make it right to change the segregation to
change the law to make all the things To make this just right to make it right so we're
going to do it right and make it tight where going to make it right make it right do I know
we're going to make it go do it right and we do not buy whatever however will never run
back to speak together and that law changed because my throat thinking So we're not



BLACK JOY YOUTH POETRY Contest



***Chalis's Poem for Black Joy* by Chaise R. and Charlize C. Grade 4, Waddell Elementary School**

giving up because this law is` correct wait and now let's make it back because it is
correct Now let's make a bed if lecture is correct we look back Joy Ahoy Ahoy We love
our black joy please shake it like a pom pom Okay now let's get along long yeah like I
said let's get along Shake it shake it yeah shake it like a pom pom To the point where it
go gone gone