

Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form

Anthology of Poems for Black History Month



Naomi Campbell - Molly Gabell

Naomi Campbell a world star super model.
That has inspired so many young girls coloured or not.
Meaning the doubt and disbelief of self confidence to rot.

Beginning her career at the age of 15
Soon became a bigger scene
Being the first black supermodel in the fashion industry
Ment she soon made world history

Seen on the covers of Vogue
And her name soon grown
Brought more attention to coloured beauty
Made more of the black community seen as a cutie

Naomi a English model
Proved her spot on the table
She broke barriers and fought for her rights
For her colour to shine bright

The inspirational woman didnt need anyones permission
She stood her ground and made aspirational decisions

Used her voice
And went for what she wanted
And Naomi Campbell created

Niko Lea - Muhammad Ali

The man that changed lives muhammad ali

A brave man once said "Float like a butterfly.Sting like a bee.
You can't hit what your eyes don't see."

A intelligent man once said "Impossible is just a word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing."

A feared man once said "I am the greatest. I said that even before I knew I was. I figured that if I said it enough, I would convince the world that I was really the greatest."

This man is muhammad ali the one of the greatest boxers
to ever step foot on this planet
a man with a very intelligent mind a man with no fears
a man with confidence to lift those who need it most and the world

A man with so much love and kindness to abolish hate of the planet called earth

Stanley Round - Lester Green

The microcephaly man

Lester Green,
only known as beetle juice,
Was a man stuck as a child,
Cursed to never grow.

Trapped as a baby,
Used as a prop
And for a laugh
At dwarf-tossing shows.

Theo Kay - Marcus Rashford

Children hungry and starving
Parent picking up scraps to feed them
Free school dinners were the last resort
But the government dont care
They care about their money
But marcus rashford was the brave one to step forward
The government are outvoted
And all because of the bravery of marcus rashford

The government tries to ban school dinners
They only care about the money
But marcus rashford chanced that
He stepped out and stopped the government
And he won.

Tara Mani - Stephen Lawrence

22nd April 1993
A horrible deed had happened
An innocent black boy
Only 18 of age
Was stabbed to death
By those who were jealous
By those who disliked his race
By those who wanted to sacrifice his life
By those who were nothing but haters.

Edward Goodrum - John Rowe

John Rowe runs down the wing
He goes to the left
He goes to the right
Jonny rowe makes you fright
Jon rowe runs down the wing
He'll run at you
And you cant do anything
Jon rowe runs down the wing
Nobody will catch him
And he has a nice trim

Josh Gates - George Floyd

I can't breathe, I can't breathe; that's what he said
He said multiple times but now he's dead
On the 25th of May right on that day
That's when it changed

I can't breathe simple words but there simply minds could not comprehend what they had
committed, a murder i thought the police were meant to protect not harm
But that day his last words as he gasped his last breath was 'they are gonna kill me'

Isabella Bamford - Frederick Douglass

Whipped and chained,
He trudges through the muddy terrain.
He wonders to himself 'Will it always be this way?'
But he sees a glimmer of hope and he breaks free of his slavery.
Then a while later he is speaking to the world,
'We are people just like you,
Yet you chain us up and burn,
our freedom in front of our own eyes.'
'We yell and we cry,
But you still bury us alive,
And forget about the pain you caused us,
From whipping and chaining,
To force us off the bus.'
He makes his speech clear that he thinks that black people should be free of us.

Evie Wallis-Fahy- Harriet Tubman

She is black,
a slave,
a product of her environment.
She is a rebel,
a warrior,
despite where she comes from,
despite what she is expected to be.

She is black,
She works for a white man,
No,
Work is wrong.
She is a servant,
She is owned by that white man.
Lines are drawn.
No rights, no pay, no humanity
An empty vessel that is worth nothing

Cotton fields,
Reap, sow, harvest.
This is the pattern her life will take
until she
dies.
Her master patrols,
swishing a whip
Crack.
Better than this.
This makes her want to scream.
Unfair.
He is not her master.
The hot, metallic smell
Of blood.
He controls her with blood
She will not be this.

A yearning to escape,
to be more,
to deserve more.
A seed, fast growing,
soon to be a tree, reaching the sky.

A decision. To run.
To be FREE.
This is what she deserves.
And she will fight.

It will take courage.
But there is nothing else
Flight through the trees.
Fear.
Unknown.
Nothing but a slave
Better than this.
A person.
Not property.

She is FREE.
But
It feels wrong.
One small star
Does not fill the sky.
She will go back.
For those who she abandoned.

Many times,
She goes back.
For those who are lost.
She is black Moses.
She is a rebel,
Who fought,
despite having the whole world pushing her
down

She is a rebel
She is free
She is black

She deserves the world

She has a lot of words,
about who she is,
And what she deserves.
And the whole world will
hear them.

Amalie Heaton - Naomi Campbell

Naomi Campbell:

Not beautiful enough
Not good enough
Not tall enough, not small enough.
She, black.
Will never be good enough.

Prove all the haters' wrong,
Pose with a fake smile
Everything could change with a click of a camera,
A flash of a light.
Soon she was on the covers of Times, Vogue
Yet not earning the money she deserved.

Watching her peers getting showered with praise
Wishing that one day she would get a raise.
She broke down the stereotypical barriers,
And opened doors for models of colour,
With all the effort she could muster.

She began at the age of 15,
Was not considered enough.
Now, the definition of beauty has been rewritten,
Hopefully someday another young girl can be in her position.

She is black.
She is beautiful.
She is enough.

Charlie Dickerson - JA Lafayette

Clank clank, people ran through the camps
Clank clank, guns rattled through the high winds
His horse neighed in the british camp at yorktown
His hat flew and pen drew the plans of the british attack

Clank clank, clicks from uns filled the silence
Clank clank, soldiers ran up to the walls
He jumped off the brown beast and ran away from the british with his paper in hand
He stopped with a bang outside the american camp

Sir sir i have the plans we should attack at dawn
The paper was passed and the plan was ready for the american revolutionaries
Load their guns and began to march to the british doom

Clank clank, he arrived back at the englishes camp
Clank clank, he ran up the stairs inside the fort

He saw the general benedict arnold and began to plan

BANG gunshots exited the muskets
And the siege of Yorktown began.

Maisie Plane - Alice Coachman

Unable to access her beloved home of sports facilities,
Running shoeless down the dirt road,
Using homemade equipment due to being turned down for using the real one,
She attends elementary school and was encouraged to join the track team,
Working her way up she finally gets recognised,
It's the best moment of her life.
Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama,
1939 - she attends tuskegee preparatory school after being offered a scholarship,
This opportunity required her to keep studying and
training to hopefully reach the top,
This included cleaning and maintaining sports facilities as well as mending uniforms,
She went on to graduating with a degree in dress making,
and became a teacher and track-and-field instructor.

Kristian Mihlyuzov - Moussa Diaby

Moussa Diaby,rejected saudi money
He'll play for AVFC
Moussa Diaby

He has lovely football skills
And his flair is chills
Moussa Diaby

Moussa Diaby,rejected saudi money
He'll play for AVFC
Moussa Diaby

He scores goals
he assists goals
And he is the best

Moussa Diaby,rejected saudi money
He'll play for AVFC
Moussa Diaby

Mya Rouse - Rosa Parks

7am I wake up.
I get changed quickly and go downstairs
I kiss my husband goodbye and leave
I walk down my street seeing my black sisters and brothers
However when I turn the corner I see on the street opposite just white ghosts and nothing else
The trees whisper as I walk past and those whispers eco throughout my ears
the sign above me says
I stand for about 7 minutes waiting for the bus
I can feel eyes on me and it feels as if my breath has been taken away
I hop onto the bus heading straight for the back
My sisters and brothers join me and the ghosts stay at the front
A lady gets on and there is no room so she trys to take my seat

My blood is boiling and one more words it might just tip over the pot
"No" i say
It feels as if the world has gone silent
I dont dare look up
She tells me to move again
I feel like a person standing in the middle of a tornado
"No" i repeat
The tornado is getting closer to me and stronger but i still stand there strong and tall not slouching
one bit
She goes up to the bus driver and squabbles like a cat
My brothers and sisters are shocked
The bus stops
The police officers walk in
"You give this lady your seat or your coming with us"
"The only tired I feel is tired of giving in"
This tornado is strong and powerful and controlling but its not going to knock me over I WILL hold on
and tightly

George Dix - FREEDOM

Maybe you're an activist
Maybe your not
Maybe you stand up for what's right
Maybe you stay in the shadows
Out of the way

Maybe you refuse to give up your seat on a bus
Maybe you stand up against slavery
Maybe you give speeches about segregation

Maybe you're an activist
Maybe your not
No matter what your are you are just like the rest of us
And you deserve freedom.

Ethan Becker - Mary Seacole

She saved the soles of oh so many,
yet nobody knows of her kindness,
she helped those who had fallen rise,
with her impeccable skill on the front lines,

her name's Mary Seacole,

she deserves so much more,
for she saved so many yet we just ignore her,
She travelled the world by going abroad,
And she set up hotels to help soldiers more,

She was loved and cherished but not by them all,
Discriminated against because of the way she was born,
We can't let this happen,
We can't just ignore,

her name's Mary Seacole

and she helped them all

Leia Luke - Rosa Parks

There was once a black woman who got on the bus,
The driver demanded that she sit at the back with a face of pure disgust,
But she was proud of her colour,
Proud of her race,
She was committed to not suffer in this disgrace.
So she burrowed down into her heart, and into her soul,
Overcoming the fear was her only goal.
The mother of civil rights movement, is what she was called,
To be the first to say NO was really quite bold.
Looking back, she noticed the prison,
Turning forward, she saw liberation,
At the end she did remain,
A single line in the civil rights freedom chain.

M Youngs - Rosa Parks

She boarded her bus,
She was told to give up her seat,
She refused, refused, and refused
She wasn't giving up her seat, no
She was proud of her race
She was proud of her colour,
She was proud of what she had done
She dug deep into her life, thinking of who she was,
She wasn't going to give up her seat,
no.
Not without force

She looked back seeing prison,
She turned forward
no more looking back anymore, no more looking into her past
but looking into her future
Seeing liberation,
Seeing freedom
The right to be herself.

One link to her
One linked to civil rights, freedom for all
She was important now
For not giving up her bus seat
She was now someone
Not just some black lady worth nothing
But now she was a black civil rights activist women

Bhavya Umarnani - Frederick Douglass

4th of July 1952

A day of celebration for many but hollow mockery for a few.
Oppressed by whites who used them as slaves
Stealing their liberty as they boasted about their freedom
Ignoring black people as they cried and suffered
Destroying their liveliness
Enjoying their easy lives
Be warned! Be warned!
A venomous serpent is crawling inside
Coiling and slithering up your neck

Hissing at you
Digging its teeth into you
Change or death.
It's your choice.

Rosa Parks - Molly Ibbotson

Am I a woman who stands up to people,
Or am I a woman who will walk away?
Am I a woman who will do there own thing,
Or am I the type of woman to be obedient?

Which one to choose,
Shall I be me or Rosa Parks?

Am I a woman who thinks not to be in jail for her sake,
Or am I a woman who just has to live with the mistake?
Am I a woman to impact millions of people to be different to change the world,
Or am I a woman who impacted a few people to do something not life changing?

Which one to choose,
Shall I be me or Rosa Parks?

I choose Rosa Parks.

Rosa Parks - Summer McLoughlin

We should have equal rights !

I Rosa Parks was kicked off the bus .
I am black !
I refused to get out of my seat...
For a white person .
We should have equal rights !
I got arrested once ...
Because I refused .
I got let out after a couple hours.
I refused to move again ...
For a white person .
We should have equal rights !
I got arrested .
I was in prison for 2 months .
I had to pay a fine .
We should have equal rights !

Rosa Parks - Tayla Mindham

Rosa parks the mother that thought for civil rights
In 1955 she refused to give up a bus seat
And she was then jailed and had a fine
She refused to give it up because of her race
People say it was because she was tired but it wasn't the truth
She lost her job and thought it was the end

Death threats
Racist abuse
Discrimination

Was there more?

Many people looking down at her
Which led to her family getting pressured

Her family was deprived
They didn't have an opportunity
How can a bus cause this?

Chadwick Boseman - Chase Gregory

Chadwick Boseman was a great man
Most commonly known for his role as Black Panther
In all his movies he brought dignity
To fight for racial justice
One of his speeches was
"Yet, you are young, gifted and Black.
We know what it's like to be told to say
there is not a screen for you to be featured on,
a stage for you to be featured on.

"We know what it's like to be a tail and not the head.
We know what it's like to be beneath and not above."

He was great
He wouldn't hate

He is lost but
He is not forgotten

Elizabeth Freeman - Caitlin Binns

She was trapped in vein
And she were in pain
They need savoury
but she had bravery
she set them free
she had the key
Together we are better
Listen before our brains are batter

She built her ladder
The struggle was like an adder
Slithering up her neck
As she made her own tech
She made the world change
It was a real rearrange
She stood strong then
And we should now
Thank you elizabeth freeman
You fought the demon

Poetry Winner:

She - by Kaila slaughter

She, Daughter of Susan and George Coleman
She, powerful, inspiring, determined, fearless
She loved to learn, her family, and soar with the birds
She loved flying, hated segregation, and loathed the vile comments on
calling women
weak,
scared
incapable of everything.
She feared that
women would never get respect like men,
that people of colour would never be treated the same,
and that she would be unsuccessful and wouldn't make a change.

She proved the world wrong,
She changed the world and became her own dream.
She wanted to see women and people of colour to all have an equal peaceful place in the world
and be respected the same as everyone else.

She, Born in Texas, moved to Chicago,
lived in the sky soaring and gliding
like she was born for.

Poetry Winner:

Aaron Jantjies - Here I am,

Here I am,
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela a prisoner on the most deserted island, Robben Island
I never thought it would be this way
I never thought I would be stuck here forever
A black man just once to be treated fairly but no
They silence him
They beat him
Take him away from his family
Tear his confidence away from him
Force him behind bars on a deserted island
Make him work hard labour for all of his life
And starve him

But no, I will not give up
I will not back down
I will not stand for this
And will fight on for change
Twenty seven years I have been on this island in hard labour and I will do everything I can for change
And I know change will happen in my heart it is just a matter of time
And though they beat us
Silence us
And kill us

We must learn to forgive and forget
We must pardon their brutality and forgive them
My name is Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and I will fight for change whatever the cost

Poetry Winner:

Dabira Shotimeyen - Why

Why do i have to be scared to walk outside
and be scared of people shouting racist stuff
Why should people be playing football
and the crowd shot a racist comment

Why should i have to sit by myself on the field because others doesn't want to let me play because of
my skin

Why should i be scared to talk in my own language because people will start making fun of me

because it sounds different

Exactly

it shouldn't be happening
we should think before we say stuff
im not saying i'm perfect but i'm still trying we can fight together
let's fight racism
jẹ ki a ja papọniyan ti o le ka ti o ba ni experience racism awọn oniwe-ko rẹ ẹbi

Imade Grey's (Sixth form Student) Speech

Speech

I realised I was Black at aged 5 when the other girls were playing princesses and I couldn't place the gold plastic crown upon my unruly curls, let alone find a princess that looked liked me to play as. I understood what racism was at age 11 in my first week of secondary school when a group of older boys threw a banana skin at me and compared my features to that of a primate. My understanding of racism developed for the rest of my high school experience as practically every week, a new incident of racial discrimination occurred against me. I like to think it made me stronger, if I could take years of racial torment I could take anything life threw at me. I have been consistently applauded for my strength and resilience and while I appreciate the sentiment I would like to reiterate that I should never have had to be strong, I was a child.

This is why events such as this are so integral because it demonstrates to Black students that their heritage is something to be celebrated and embraced as opposed to something to be ashamed of. The existence of Black role models are vital for the acceleration of Black students across schools nationally, because it highlights that every door is open for us, should we wish to open them. I would like to say to every Black student in this room today that your contributions are valued, you are just as deserving of success as your white counterparts and nothing is "out of reach" for you. Additionally, I would like to stress the importance of embracing your blackness, because Black is beautiful and Black is excellence. And so, with this year's Black History Month theme being "celebrating our sisters", I see it as necessary to remind my sisters that we are beautiful, no matter who tries to tell us that we're not. Our blackness is a masterpiece, we ooze divinity, melanin and honey. There is history, strength and power in the colour of our skin. We are descendants of warriors and their spirits live in our blood. We are black without apology.

Before I finish, I'd like to take a moment to thank Mr Whiteman for his unyielding effort in ensuring today could happen and his tireless work into implementing diversity in Thorpe's curriculums. He has not only been a wonderful teacher to me, but an incredible confidant and my constant reminder that I am not alone.

Thank you all for listening.

Why did we create a poetry competition?

We set up this poetry competition in the school to go alongside that BHM national poetry competition for saluting our sisters.

Our year 8 students are doing a unit now called "Voices for Change" where we look at powerful speeches in history: suffragettes, abolitionists, and climate change protests as tools for how they have effectively enacted change.

After a lesson by Frederick Douglass, an American abolitionist, we gave students time in their English lessons to produce a poem about a black person, man or woman, of any nationality, who inspired them.

We had poems about:

Historical figures: Elizabeth Freeman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Mary Seacole, Muhammad Ali, Bessie Coleman, Harriet Tubman.

Contemporary figures: Naomi Campbell, Marcus Rashford, Moussa Diaby, Lauren Elizabeth James, Lester Green, Stephen Lawrence, John Rowe

Poetry can be a great way to express a complex emotion precisely. And these three poems were great examples of student expression, and the ability to channel feelings of anger, admiration, resilience, confusion, hope.

bundled precisely into words.