

*"Don't say I don't have soul or what you consider
to be 'Blackness.' I know what my color is."*

*Whitney Houston (1963-)
Singer and actress*



I AM BLACK

Black like me is hard to be
For some, I am not black enough
I am looked at, looked through and looked around
But what you see is what I am
Not what you think I should be
Yes ... my hair is relaxed
Yes ... I bronze in the sun
Yes ... my talk is correct
And yes ... my closet lacks ethnic appeal
But, when reflecting on me ... I see a queen
Walking with pride of who she is
Who she has been and who she has yet to become
My pride of blackness is not defined
By my style of hair or what I wear
It is knowing my history
And choosing to go forward
It is instilling my children
With values that do not depreciate
And it is respecting my elders
Because they made it possible
For me to proudly say,
"I AM BLACK"