

Freedom Torch

Our heritage is a proud one
We descend from Kings and Queens
But we were ripped from our homeland
Treated like animals, not human beings;

As slaves we built this country
Known as the US of A
It's through our blood, our sweat and tears
America's become what it is today;

Our struggle still continues
But we'll reach that mountain top
Our ancestors passed us the freedom torch
And we dare not let it drop.

African Family Reunion

African family reunion
How interesting it would be
To follow Alex Haley
And retrace our family tree;

Back to our native homeland
Uganda, Kenya or Chad
To see how African life was
Before the good things went bad;

It's sad we can only retrace
To a time when our people were slaves
Ancient ancestral traditions
Carried with them to their graves;

We know little of our heritage
They refuse to teach it in school
Celebrating ethnic diversity
Is something we should all want to do;

An in dept research of black history
Would offer an amazing surprise
We've contributed much to world progress
The truth would open your eyes.

Inventions

Elevator
Typewriter
Lawn Mower
Shoe

Without these great inventions
What on Earth would we do?

Roller Coaster
Helicopter
Pacemaker
Mop

The list of great inventions
Just never seems to stop;

Refrigerator
Gas Mask
Toilet

Bicycle Frame
Though each item differs
There's one thing that's the same;

Each item was created
By inventors who were black
Thanks to their innovation
There is nothing that we lack.

Linda Mayfield-Hayes is a Brooklyn born poet, known to the on-line poetry community as Slendah, believes Blacks should be proud of their heritage and others should try to understand it. In her book, "Afroetry", she uses poetry as a means of teaching Black people about their history, heritage and culture. These are lessons that were never taught in school. Though many of her poems reveal the hardships people of color have endured, they were written to open people's eyes to the fact that Blacks are a strong race of people able to succeed against all odds, while at the same time, contributing significantly to human progress. She wrote this book with zealous devotion to people of African descent, in hopes of reminding them of their strengths, inspiring them to get back on track, and motivating them to strive to be all that God intended. The above poems are from her book "*AFROETRY: Afrocentric Poetry that Educates and Motivates*", the book is available through <http://www.lulu.com/slendah> and at <http://www.amazon.com>.