

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Youth Poetry Contest



Express Yourself for Black History Month

Young writers of Ajax submitted poems based on the Black History Month 2025 theme "The Next Ten Years." One winner and one runner-up were chosen from each grade category.

Winning entries were recognized at a special event on March 21, 2025, the International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination.

Grades 4-6 Winner: Juliana, "Black History Month"

Grades 4-6 Runner-Up: Hendrea, "2035, and Our Lives"

Grades 9-12 Winner: Norvisi, "To Be Ghanaian"

Grades 9-12 Runner-Up: Ianna, "In the Next Ten Years"

ajaxlibrary.ca/BlackHistoryMonth



Grades 4-6 Winner



Grades 4-6 Winner: Juliana, "Black History Month"

Being all equal
Let all the black people have freedom from racism
All of us can be unbroken and unbound
Change the world
Keep loving Social Justice even if its hard
Having anti-racism
In the next 10 years, we can have no prejudice
Sweetness is everywhere
Tear down discrimination
Our heroes had bravery for speeches
Ready to shine our skin
You matter
More words, not fists
Our freedom will be unstoppable
Never use your fists but use your words
To be proud of your race
How to have love.

Grades 4–6 Runner-Up



Grades 4–6 Runner-Up: Hendrea, “2035, and Our Lives”

2035, ten years ahead.
People live in their hands with others.
Some with black mothers,
some with white fathers,
mixed sisters,
and some with Asian brothers.
Through we'll be judged either way.
Cultures, dreams, rights and existence.
But we should fight either way.
For millenniums, centuries, and the next ten years.
Treat identity and races with kindness,
more rights for diversity and equality,
civil rights maybe?
freedom of speech?
Truth and reconciliation for all?
But we have to fight and earn it all.
For these lives we decide and hold,
we have to change what this day,
that will be called history as
another day becomes.
To honour survivors of slavery, war, and more.
And to change these futures for
peace
and
justice.

Grades 9-12 Winner



Grades 9-12 Winner: Norvisi, "To Be Ghanaian"

At the family gathering
a sea of brown and black hands form
The jumbled waves of movement
passing plates of banku and fried fish
soft belly laughs
rising like steam from hot plates into the air
Deliciously Ghanaian

A rainbow of aunties
Adorned in shawls and gold jewelry, African flair
sewn from the shades of the ripest fruit:
Mango, cherry, magenta plum and lemon.
Delicate lace and thick puffs
sparkling against ebony skin, like glittering stars from heaven
Perfectly Ghanaian

Pass the kid's table during dessert
witness the artistic illustrations on their heads
Beauty in the intimacy of intricacy
our hairdressers made up of the family we love
cornrows, twists, affectionately braided
Beautifully Ghanaian

Throughout the next ten years'
I hope to find myself again at this table
Surrounded by the art of my heritage
Hot pride in the heart at the history I've inherited
to love with open hands and plates
I know now is to be a Ghanaian.

Grades 9-12 Runner-Up



Grades 9-12 Runner-Up: Ianna, "In the Next Ten Years"

In the next ten years watch black history rise,
with sass and style, we claim our prize
from the struggles we've faced to the heights we'll reach
our excellence shines lessons we'll teach.
innovators, creators we own the scene breaking barriers living
the dream. So listen up world hear our Powerful Voice,
in the next ten years, we'll make the choice.
Unity and pride, we stand tall and strong,
diversity celebrated, right where we belong.
So buckle up, world, for this historic ride, in the next ten
years, Black history won't hide!
We'll point a future bold and bright,
with black brilliance as our guiding light.
So get ready, world, for what's in store
in the next ten years, we'll seat even more.
No limit. Faith. ♥