

The African American Experience

By Miguelina Jimenez Tate

(High School Honorable Mention)

A place not welcoming to us is the place we live
Through time we have been shunned and shown hatred
Now we want a place to stand equal among you
We fight for our right to simply exist in your world
We will not be quiet
We will not be thrown to the side
We will make you hear us
And we will prove we are stronger than you think
We have faced the end of a whip and not backed down
The barrel of a gun and stood our ground
The face of a judge and demanded to be heard
Our future will be shaped by us
We will make this place our home
And we will make it safe.