

**Spoken Word Entries**  
**2nd Place**

**Black Problems**  
**By Mya Webb**  
**Age 17 – Hillside High School**

Black Problems

more like wack problems,

being called wack because I decide not to slack problems.

Am I really the problem because I chose math problems before I chose to become a product of my past problems?

Did yall not read the same history books I did of pages and pages and pages of how we were named the problem and now I'm facing peer problems because I decide to learn from my ancestors problems. No, I refuse to take a seat to the ignorant like Rosa Parks or park my mind in its resting spot and rest myself in the crowd of blacks with problems.

I'd rather take the fast train like Harriet and find my dreams deep inside my intelligence, because conformity is only Satan's jaw into gnawing every little ounce of development from the mind of a young black problem like me.

Black problems

Oh no, I'm not done, because black problems are everlasting..

Which is an attribution that is a contribution into this poem, or should I say testimony?

Testimony

Test-my-homies

Because they are blind to the black problems of our kind. They see no reason to stop saying nigga because as long as Jigga says it, its okay.

They don't remember that these "role models" are only soul swallows that fogs their empty mind with "black problems" of not selling enough dope this week or getting in trouble with your girl this week.

ARE THESE YOUR PROBLEMS?!

When an unforgiving sun darkened the melanin of the sacrificial souls that only wanted a taste of freedom so they ran as far as they could but when found and asked what was their "black problem?"

They answered.. "There IS NO problem."

See this is your problem, you found logic in saying the n-word that degraded our kind for years WHAT KIND of man would think that reverting backwards down the zipper of this timeline would heighten your worth in the newly appointed slave master, and NO I'm not talking about white people.

We have segregated ourselves into more problems

Now, if you have gotten lost in the cryptic maze in which I call black problems then so have I.

But take this with you,

Black problems are defined by black people so hold yourselves accountable for your problems because these black problems are our problems.

Thank you.