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### Yes, I'm Black

According to Anderson and Stewart, "Black literature is the creative written and oral expression of people of African descent and is particularly related to the cultural and sociopolitical experiences of African Americans." There are plenty of examples of black literature around the world. Just like a poem or a book would be considered black literature I believe that black literature could also be black music, black art, and black theater. I would consider those to be black literature because someone had to write it and I'm pretty sure it would have a cultural background behind it. I found a poem by Jermine Hodge called *YES, I'M BLACK!* In the poem he explains what people would expect from a black person preferable a black male and how it is to be black in the world.

He starts strongly, making an argument and make people know who he is and what he is.

Yes, I'm black, that doesn't mean I'm vulnerable to attack,  
I'm just like you, a human, red blood, emotions and a moving figure,  
Why should you treat me like I'm about to pull a trigger?  
I didn't create sagging; I didn't create gang banging so why would you want to  
put the worst on me?  
To get me jailed, tortured, and then to set me free?

In the first stanza he announces his race and tell them that he is the exact same as others because we all bleed red and have emotions. Hodges then asks a question that would make people think

because he wants to know what's the point of acting like he's dangerous because of the color of his skin? He then makes a point that just because he's black doesn't mean he does certain things that other races expect from African Americans.

In the second stanza he explains how scary it can be to be black.

My shadow is scared to walk beside me. Yes, because my shadow is black.

Walking to school to get my education, and they want to search my backpack.

It doesn't matter how long you live, but the way you live.

Having and living life is my greatest gift.

The first line could be emotional because he went in deep. It's so scary or dangerous some may say to be black that his shadow is scared to walk beside him because it's black. He even throws in how he just wants an education, but since people go off stereotypes so much they feel like since he's a black male with a bookbag on his back that he has something illegal in the bag. At the end of the stanza he appreciates that he's alive despite all the hate or discrimination he may get for being black he feels like life is worth living and at the end of the day it's the greatest gift of them all.

Jermine Hodges talked about who he is and basically explains that even though we might not look the same on the outside we all bleed and hurt the same on the inside. His poem lets him put his feelings out to the world and let's the world know that this is how they are treating African Americans. It's like he's speaking for all African Americans because all of us aren't the same and the world needs to understand that. They need more knowledge about our culture and how we feel, and I think it would just help them realize their wrongs.

Work Cited

Hodge, Jermine. "YES I'M BLACK!" *Power Poetry*, 2014, [www.powerpoetry.org/poems/yes-im-black](http://www.powerpoetry.org/poems/yes-im-black).

Stewart, James B., and Talmadge Anderson. *Introduction to African American Studies: Transdisciplinary Approaches and Implications*. Inprint Editions, 2015.