

Black History Quotes

1

“Our nation is a rainbow – red, yellow, brown, black, and white – and we’re all precious in God’s sight.”

– Jesse Jackson

(minister, Civil Rights activist and a politician)

2

“Never be limited by other people’s
limited imaginations.”

—Dr. Mae Jemison,
(first African-American female astronaut)

3

“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings,
we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”

—Thurgood Marshall

(first African American U.S. Supreme Court
member)

4

“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

—Desmond Tutu

(South African anti-apartheid and human rights activist.)

5

“People from different parts of the world can respond to the same story if it says something to them about their own history and their own experience.”

Chinua Achebe

(African poet, professor and novelist)

6

“Many Black People are Doctors, Lawyers, Footballers, Sailors, Investors, Inventors, Philanthropists, Poets, writers, and so on. Who then says Black lives don't matter?”

— Bamigboye Olurotimi
(African technologist, and mentor)

7

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

—Nelson Mandela

(South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader and ex- President)

8

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

—Langston Hughes

(A poet, novelist, fiction writer, and playwright)

9

“I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.”

—Booker T. Washington

(educator, author, orator, and adviser, founder of Tuskegee University)

10

“Diversity is not about how we differ.
Diversity is about embracing one another’s
uniqueness.”

—Ola Joseph

(author, trainer, and consultant, United
States Navy veteran)

“We all require and want respect, man or woman, black or white. It’s our basic human right.”

—Aretha Franklin

(an American singer, songwriter, actress, pianist, and civil rights activist)

12

“I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them.”

—Madam C.J. Walker

(entrepreneur, philanthropist, political and social activist, first female self-made millionaire in America)

13

“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”

-Wilma Rudolph

(an American sprinter, a world-record-holding Olympic champion)

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”

– Nelson Mandela

(South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader and ex-President)

15

“Anyone who makes trouble for others is also making trouble for himself.”

-Chinua Achebe

(African poet, professor and novelist)

16

“Look at the truth from how it stands, not where it comes from. The truth is still the truth no matter whether it is spoken by an Indian, an American, a Chinese, an European, an African or an Australian!”

– Israelmore Ayivor

(an inspirational writer)

“If you have a heartbeat...you can have hope. If you have hope...you have the tools that can bring you to a better tomorrow. These tools have the power to bring you out of all despair. Now keep your head up...Because Anything Is Possible.”

— Timothy Pina

(Poet, Writer and Human Rights Advocate)

18

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

(minister and leader in the Civil Rights Movement)

19

“In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist.”

—Angela Davis

(a political activist, philosopher, professor and author)

20

“We must never forget that Black History is American History. The achievements of African Americans have contributed to our nation’s greatness.”

—Yvette Clarke
(New York Congresswoman)