

6/17/2024



"CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH"

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana that means *"it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind."* The symbol is based on a mythical bird with its feet firmly planted forward with its head turned backwards, and carrying an egg in its beak. To the Akan, it is this wisdom in learning from the past which ensures a strong future. The Akans believe that there must be movement and new learning as time passes while the knowledge of the past must never be forgotten.

1:07 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2sJSF3Xey0>

GALVESTON (Intro), Experience Voices with Andrea Vocab Sanderson

***Juneteenth, Faith & Freedom Original Motion Picture Soundtrack**

The diaspora speak through my skin
The reverberating of salty tides, rusted chain boat rides,
And arriving to the shores of Galveston ports
The commodity of human cargo
Stimulated economic growth
Yet it dashed the hopes of Black people to a bloody pulp
American apartheid begins
The ropes become a noose on the neck
The oppression that crept into a generation of people
Threatening to permanently stifle their survival in a foreign land
The new reality created devastating circumstances
That would last for centuries
Calloused, thorn and thistle pricked hands
Toiling in blood-stained cotton fields
The devastating displacement and the separation of

Fathers and mothers from children, and each other
Became so burdensome
That the voices of the enslaved raised in unison
Towards the heavens for freedom

:43 seconds https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdDLejf_2q4

SET FREE (Interlude), Experience Voices with Andrea Vocab Sanderson

***Juneteenth, Faith & Freedom Original Motion Picture Soundtrack**

Slave owners even used scripture
To reinforce this dogma
That we as servants must honor our masters
With blind faith and obedience
But we began converting our spirituality
Into freedom songs
And roadmaps sung out through Negro spirituals
Soul stirring lyrics
Were a map legend to freedom that guided us north
Through the Underground Railroad
Then came 4 years of civil war
700,000 US citizens slaughtered
4 million people emancipated
But the real question was
Who would tell us
That we had been set free

2:43 minutes https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdDLejf_2q4

FREEDOM DAY (Outro), Experience Voices with Andrea Vocab Sanderson

***Juneteenth, Faith & Freedom Original Motion Picture Soundtrack**

Run tell that
The south has been liberated
1865 Galveston, Texas
The revolution wasn't televised
But it was prophesied
A day of jubilee
Freedom Day
When the spirit of Sankofa

embodied and emboldened Black people
To make an exodus
Take back what was stolen from us
And find redemption from enslavement
General order number 3
Let the revelation blow across your mahogany skin
When you think of our ancestors
And how they rejoiced
Raised their hands and lifted every voice
Maybe you, too, can make the choice
To actualize your dreams
Your privileged to precedence over fear
Declare advocacy of our rights
To proudly remain here
For we shall not be moved
Our bodies and the land where we worked
Belong to us
Give power to credence over supremacy
God gave us privilege to obtain an education
Reparations, and never be let down
Give Black people the same opportunity
As those afforded to everyone else
May every disadvantage be erased
And removed from the shelf
May all forms of discrimination
Be replaced with impartiality
No more race-based offenses
Towards other colors, and creeds
A better day is coming if you believe
And the day is here now
For those willing to stand together to say
Injustice must recede like the tide
Draw back from the shores
And never collide with this land
God unlock the shackles where we stand
May we receive with open hands
Every resource withheld and denied
We can rise up and vote
Take action in every career field
In all political systems

To the highest court in the land
There is a call for justice
And wisdom
May we replace all withering branches of shame
With the blossom of pride
We've allied our hearts to stand together
So may solidarity provide us a guide
To a better tomorrow
For the future we foresee
As we celebrate the beauty
Of being free

5:13 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HsKleCsd30>

BLACK PARADE, BEYONCE'

I'm goin' back to the South
I'm goin' back, back, back, back
Where my roots ain't watered down
Growin', growin' like a Baobab tree
Of life on fertile ground, ancestors put me on game
Ankh charm on gold chains, with my Oshun energy, oh
Drip all on me, woo, Ankara Dashiki print
Hol' up, don't I smell like satya, Nag Champa incense?
Yeah, pure ice (ice), ice (ice), buss down
Uh, flooded (flooded), flooded (flooded), on my wrist, ow
Ooh, goin' up, goin' up, motherland, motherland drip on me
Ooh, melanin, melanin, my drip is skin deep, like
Ooh, motherland, motherland, motherland, motherland drip on me
Eeya, I can't forget my history is her story, yeah
Being black, maybe that's the reason why they always mad
Yeah, they always mad, yeah
Been passed 'em, I know that's the reason why they all big mad
And they always have been
Honey, come around my way, around my hive
Whenever momma says so, momma say
Here I come on my throne, sittin' high
Follow my parade, oh, my parade
Talkin' slick to my folk (my folk), nip that lip like lipo (lipo)
You hear them swarmin', right? Bees is known to bite

Now here we come on our thrones, sittin' high
Follow my parade, oh, my parade
On fours, all black
All chrome, black-owned
Black tints, matte black
Walked by, my window down, let 'em see who in it
Crack a big smile (ding)
Go figure, me and Jigga, fifty 'leven children
They like, "Chick, how?"
I charge my crystals in a full moon
You could send them missiles, I'ma send my goons
Baby sister reppin' Yemaya (Yemaya)
Trust me, they gon' need an army
Rubber bullets bouncin' off me
Made a picket sign off your picket fence
Take it as a warning
Waist beads from Yoruba (woo)
Four hunnid billi', Mansa Musa (woo)
Stroll line to the barbeque
Put us any d@^* where, we gon' make it look cute
Pandemic fly on the runway, in my hazmat
Children runnin' through the house and my art, all black
Ancestors on the wall, let the ghosts chit-chat
(Ancestors on the wall, let the ghosts chit-chat)
Hold my hands, we gon' pray together
Lay down, face down in the gravel
We wearin' all attire white to the funeral
Black love, we gon' stay together
Curtis Mayfield on the speaker (woo)
Lil' Malcolm, Martin, mixed with momma Tina (woo)
Need another march, lemme call Tamika (woo)
Need peace and reparation for my people (woo)
F*^& these laid edges, I'ma let it shrivel up (shrivel up)
F*^& this fade and waves, I'ma let it dread all up (dread all up)
Put your fists up in the air, show black love (show black love)
Motherland drip on me, motherland, motherland drip on me
Honey, come around my way, around my hive
Whenever momma says so, momma say
Here I come on my throne, sittin' high
Follow my parade, oh, my parade

Talkin' slick to my folk (my folk), nip that lip like lipo (lipo)
You hear 'em swarmin', right? Bees is known to bite
Now here we come on our thrones, sittin' high
Follow my parade, oh, my parade
We got rhythm (we got rhythm), we got pride (we got pride)
We birth kings (we birth kings), we birth tribes (we birth tribes)
Holy river (holy river), holy tongue (holy tongue)
Speak the glory (speak the glory), feel the love (feel the love)
Motherland, motherland drip on me, hey, hey, hey
Motherland, motherland drip on me, hey, hey, hey
I can't forget my history, it's her story
Motherland drip on me, motherland, motherland drip on me
Honey, come around my way, around my hive
Whenever momma says so, momma say
Here I come on my throne, sittin' high
Follow my parade, oh, my parade
Talkin' slick to my folk (my folk), lift that lip like lipo (lipo)
You hear 'em swarmin', right? Bees is known to bite
Now here we come on our thrones, sittin' high
Follow my parade, oh, black parade

5:40 minutes https://youtu.be/Z_4Z37Z0r7w?feature=shared

PRETTY BROWN SKIN, ANTON KIING

Pretty brown skin
Pretty light skin
Pretty dark skin
I see African written in you DNA
Hello choco melanin
From the motherland
With your black skin
Never should you want it any other way
First things first
I'm blackity black black
I'm blackity black black
I'm blackity black black
If you don't like that
You're wackity wack wack
You're wackity wack I say what I say

And that's that
This is for 'em queen
That's rocking 'em kinky twist
From box braids to bantu knots and full lips
'Em dreadlocks, Crochets, afros and real hips
'Em pom poms and some edges that's real slick
Now catch this
Your black presence is necessary
From big mama to Auntie Obama as First Lady are validated
I still remember my mother's gumbo
Saturday mornings waking to soulful sounds of Gospel
The richness of ancestral legacies and culture
Our history extends beyond our American borders
So please believe the hype
You're not too much
You are enough
Never shrink back
Always speak up
Head tilted high
One fist to the sky
Don't doubt your worth
Always add tax
Know yourself first
One thing's for sure
You're made in the image of God
Shape of the melanin bob
Black woman, you'll never be stopped
Pretty brown skin
Pretty light skin
Pretty dark skin
I see African written in you DNA
Hello choco melanin
From the motherland
With your black skin
Never should you want it any other way
Second thing first
Still blackity black black
Still blackity black black
Still blackity black
It's a blessing not a curse

Don't ever forget that
Don't ever forget
If you need reminders then run this back
You so pretty for a black girl is not a compliment
Don't white-wash who you are to be an option
You don't sound white
You just finished up your doctorate
Black Benz, new house
Pocket's real lucrative
That's right
Ballsy CEO
Boss chick
Killing stereotype
Switching up the narrative
Ain't no explanation needed
That's all here it is
Raising black kids with some black skins
Liberation
Educate them
Let them dream big
Adding flavour
Keeping seasoned
Give 'em reasons
To believe in what our ancestors dreamed of
You are beautiful, invaluable
Distinguishable royal
Next time you look in the mirror
Pause and say: Black girl, I love you (I love, I love)
Then repeat
One thing's for sure
You're made in the image of God
Shape of the melanin bob
Black woman, you'll never be stopped
Pretty brown skin
Pretty light skin
Pretty dark skin
I see African written in your DNA
Hello choco melanin
From the motherland
With your black skin

Never should you want it any other way
Pretty brown skin
Pretty light skin
Pretty dark skin
I see African written in your DNA
Hello choco melanin
From the motherland
With your black skin
Never should you want it any other way
Remember who you are
Remember who you are and whose you are (shooting star)
Don't forget that part (that part)
Know that you belong
Just as you are
With your pretty brown skin

3:02 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyNLRyF9KQ8>

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, ALICIA KEYS

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.
Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,

'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

3:58 minutes <https://youtu.be/FkUtYqwIHDM?feature=shared>

BROTHA, ANGIE STONE

He is my king, he is my one
Yes, he's my father
Yes, he's my son
I can talk to him 'cause he understands
Everything I go through and everything I am
That's my support system, I can't live without him
The best thing since sliced bread
Is his kiss, his hugs, his lips, his touch
And I just want the whole world to know, about my..
Black brotha, I love ya and I will never try to hurt ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
'Cause you're my black brotha
Strong brotha and there is no one above ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
He's misunderstood (yeah)
Some say that he's up to no good around the neighborhood
But fo' your information
A lot of my brothers got education (now check it)
You got ya wallstreet brotha, ya blue collar brotha
Your down for whatever chillin' on the corner brother
A talented brotha, and to everyone of y'all behind bars

You know that Angie loves ya
All my black brotha, I love ya and I will never try to hurt ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
'Cause you're my black brotha
Strong brotha and there is no one above ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
'Cause you're my black brotha
Strong brotha and there is no one above ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
You mean so much to me, you give me what I need
I'm so proud of you, I said I'm so proud of you
I love you for stayin strong, you got it goin' on
I'm so proud of you (I'm)
Going through thick and thin, brothas you gonna win
I'm so proud of you (I said I'm so proud of you)
Whenever you facin doubt, brothas gon work it out
I'm so proud of you (I got my shakable faith in ya)
'Cause you're my black brotha
I love ya and I will never try to hurt ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
'Cause you're my black brotha
Strong brotha and there is no one above ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
'Cause you're my black brotha
I love ya and I will never try to hurt ya
I want ya to know that I'm here for you, forever true
'Cause you're my...
Oh, oh, for everyone of ya'll you know that Angie loves ya
Oh, oh, for everyone of ya'll you know that Angie loves ya
Yeah

EXERCISES:

1. Reflect on one of the songs we listened to today and write about your own interpretations.
2. Write about your own life experience or poem related to our theme of Juneteenth, perhaps you would be willing to read your work at our Juneteenth party on Friday June 28 at NOON.
3. Write about anything you want to!
4. Don't write anything at all, and simply enjoy the conversation among the group!