

# Lindsay J. Cropper Creative Writing Contest

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## Poem

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Untitled

Matt L Brooks

my blackness is amiable,  
your ally...your friend. Please don't be afraid to come up and say hello.  
my blackness is beautiful,  
my melanin pierces the eye like hook to a fish and draws people in like magnet to metal  
my blackness is cursed,  
a cauldron crafted by the whitest witches, in contents, transforming me into a monster  
my blackness is deeper  
than trenches where war was waged. An endless rabbit hole that I'll never climb out of.  
my blackness is equal,  
not less than, not greater than, just undisputedly equal.  
my blackness is fear,  
for the people around me and most especially, me.  
my blackness is gravity,  
pulling people towards me; keeping me grounded when I feel I'm floating away.  
my blackness is hungry  
for change, for respect, for love. They all seem lightyears away despite feeling so close at times.  
my blackness is irate  
for Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and too many others  
my blackness is jovial  
striving to lift up everyone's day despite being put down too often.  
my blackness is knowledgeable,  
of a disturbing, toxic, past that should've never persisted.  
my blackness is loathsome,  
it hates and is unfortunately hated  
my blackness is mutual,  
shared like icebreakers with close childhood friends;  
my blackness is non-negotiable:  
I'm sorry I can't mold to match your skin. What you see is what you get.  
my blackness is offensive,  
you can shun it all you want but I will never apologize for how I was born and raised.  
my blackness is powerful,  
strong enough to resist the plight of your ignorance. It will move this world in the right path  
my blackness is qualified,  
It doesn't determine my value in the "real world"  
my blackness is rooted  
in a culture of brutality, slavery and systemic racism  
my blackness is symbolic  
of a movement that will survive the test of time.  
my blackness is tireless,  
it does not rest for anyone or anything  
my blackness is "ugly", "uneducated", "uncivil", "uncalled" for,  
my blackness strives to prove these ideas wrong everyday,  
my blackness is vocal,  
used to draw love in and push hate out. My voice holds so much power.  
my blackness is warmth,  
hey now, don't worry. My blackness doesn't bite. Please just give it a chance

my blackness is xenial  
it opens doors for people to enter despite some houses never letting it inside)  
my blackness is longer than yearlong  
it will never stop shouting the names from the past and the ones that arise in the future  
my blackness is zany  
so stop villainizing it when you know nothing of it.