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## Black

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**Black**

By: Keisha Orr

I stand out on campus.  
The only black in a white classroom.  
Uncomfortable stares as I walk  
into rooms and take my seat.  
Does my blackness offend you?

White professors delighted to see  
me mix things up.  
They are not so quick to label me,  
“a problem,” like society has.  
They refuse to join the  
fearful crowds pinpointing  
my brown sugar tone as if it were  
a loaded 9mm or a 12 gauge.  
The Black label is all people see.

Black is the color of my skin,  
hair, behavior.  
Make whites uncomfortable  
when in their space.  
There, am I out of place?  
“Will you slay me like Zimmerman did  
Trevon Martin?” or “ignore me as  
if I don’t exist?”