

**“My Skin”**  
**by Haley Williams**

My skin, I inherited this shade,  
it's not like no other  
it's an ancestral design  
that worked plantation's work  
before sunrise till sunset  
with no pay.

My skin is beautiful  
it's unique in every way.  
It has traveled on many roads,  
danced many dances,  
walked miles of history to get home.  
I'm glad that my color stayed  
when times were tough  
never leaving even though life  
cracked its whip across my back.

My skin is my pride  
generations continued from  
Kings and Queens down to my mom  
now me, it is growing and growing  
to be continued...

as I sway down the streets  
not wanting to hide.  
African American woman,  
proud to have melanin.

My skin is important  
it protects, stretches, and stays young.  
That's a lot to say, but it's strong  
it bounces back, it's resilient

It's the next generation, history-making  
rights-rehabilitating  
Black-lives-matter-creating  
It's loveable, soft, silky, smooth, but no mess taking  
It's just  
a part of me.