

A Poem For Black History

A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY

BY TOI DERRICOTTE

We like the houses here.
We circle the lake turning
into dark cleavages, dense-packed gleamings.
We could live here, we say.
We're smiling, but thinking
of the houses at the last resort:
The real estate agent looked surprised
when she saw Bruce's face; then flipped
quickly through the glossy pictures—
I'm sure you won't like this one;
I can tell it's not your kind.
Our house in Essex Fells
took a year to sell and sold
to a black family. A friend explained,
once a house is owned
by black people, they're the only ones
they'll show it to. Do we want to live
some place with a view
overlooking the politics?
When we pass
an exit named "Negro Mountain,"
Bruce smiles and jerks the wheel
as if we almost missed our turn.
Why must everything we want
come by stealth? Why is every road
in this bright country furnished
with its history of hatred? Yet
we keep smiling, driven
by a desire beyond the logic
of if we can afford it,
and whether we would love
or hate it if we did buy.

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A poem for black history serves as a powerful reminder of the struggles, triumphs, and resilience of Black individuals throughout history. Poetry has long been a medium through which people express their feelings, thoughts, and experiences. When it comes to Black history, poems can encapsulate the pain of oppression, the hope of freedom, and the beauty of culture. In this

article, we will explore the significance of poetry in Black history, highlight notable poems and poets, and discuss how these works contribute to our understanding of the Black experience.

The Significance of Poetry in Black History

Poetry has played a crucial role in articulating the Black experience, often serving as a voice for those who have been marginalized. Here are some key reasons why poetry is significant in Black history:

- **Cultural Expression:** Poetry allows for the expression of cultural identity, traditions, and shared experiences within the Black community.
- **Historical Documentation:** Through poetry, important historical events and figures are immortalized, providing a lens through which future generations can learn.
- **Emotional Resonance:** Poetry captures the depth of human emotions, making it an effective way to convey the struggles and joys of Black life.
- **Activism:** Many Black poets have used their works as tools for social change, addressing issues such as racism, inequality, and injustice.

Notable Poems and Poets in Black History

Throughout history, numerous poets have made significant contributions to the literary landscape. Here are some notable figures and their impactful works: