

The American Black Women Who Have Inspired Me... So Far

By: Irish

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery,
Set the underground railroad into action, which took great bravery.
Never lost a passenger, never ran off the tracks,
Eight years of conducting, no one fell through the cracks.

Sojourner Truth never stopped advocating
For women's rights, land grants, and emancipating.

Ida B. Wells was a journalist and civil rights leader.
She cofounded the NAACP and exposed inequality to newspaper
readers.

Mary McLeod Bethune taught young minds,
While Madam C.J. Walker was ahead of her time.
She became the first female self-made billionaire,
By selling products for Black hair.

Bessie Coleman, the first Black woman to fly.
She soared amazingly high.

Blues singers, Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey hit all the right notes.
Making meaningful music was a talent of them both.

Zora Neale Hurston was an author we still read in school.
Billie Holiday had a heartbreaking voice and challenged bad rules.

I also love to listen to Nina Simone sing,
She had a powerful tone that demanded freedom to ring.

Rosa Parks was told she couldn't sit there,
But refused to move because the law was unfair.

Coretta Scott King was more than MLK's wife,
She wrote and publicly spoke her entire life!

Ruby Bridges was ready to learn,
A school for all was what she yearned.

Maya Angelou, pen in hand,
Helped make things right, she took a stand

Angela Davis: for female rights, she had her fist in the air,
And was very proud of her African hair.

Katherine Johnson's brilliant mind kept astronauts safe in space,
Even though she was segregated by her gender and race.

Although she lost the presidential election,
Shirley Chisholm was the first Black female to run and caught people's
attention.

Alice Walker wrote *The Color Purple*, and Oprah Winfrey starred in the
movie.

She is still a powerful woman today, so that's pretty groovy.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Flo-Jo
Were running sisters-in-law who were ready to go-go!

Into space, Mae Jemison flew high.
She was the first Black astronaut who was not a guy.

It took a lot of courage for Anita Hill to speak out,
Despite facing scrutiny and doubt.

Tennis pros, Venus and Serena Williams
Are among the best in the world, hardly anyone can beat 'em.

As secretary of state, around the world Condi Rice flew.
She grew up knowing it was a job she could do.

By setting a great example, Michelle Obama inspires.
Of leading the way, she never tires.

Simone Biles is an Olympic gymnast who makes our country proud,
She is in it to win it and stands above the crowd.

Kamala Harris is a yes-woman to no one.
She's worked hard all her life, and do not think she's done.

Stacey Abrams called for a fair fight.
To flip a whole state takes a lot of might.

Amanda Gorman's powerful words kicked off 2021.
So many influential American Black women, I can't wait to see what's to
come!