



*To you with love*

Our Daughters, Our Love  
From the Village of Black Women in Columbus, Ohio

To Our Precious Daughters,  
Little Sisters,  
Beautiful Black Girls,

We are sending this letter to you because we want you to know that we see you.

We see your grief, your pain, your hopes and your dreams. We love you more than you could ever know. We are the hug that will comfort you. We stand guard to hold you up and to give you motivation when you need to be stronger. Dear Daughter, Little Sister, Beautiful One, you are not alone. We want you to know that your voice matters, your courage matters, and your life matters. It really does.

One way we can triumph with good is for you to share how you feel and let others know about the pain or confusion you are experiencing. Especially right now. Many of us grew up in a time when we heard, "it takes a village". I am sure you have heard that same expression. You are receiving this love letter today because the voices of your village want you to know that we are surrounding you with love and support.

Children are an important part of our Village too and the students of Democracy Prep Harlem Middle School in New York City with the support and care of their teacher, social worker and nurse are sending you their love and compassion too.

These are their love letters to you. Our desire for the world to know how much you are loved, dear Little Sister, reached the ears and hearts of people who care all the way to New York City!

Thank you, Ms. Samantha Sterling and your students at Democracy Prep Harlem Middle School for showing Black girls across our country how much they are important to all of us!!

Fran Frazier,  
Founder  
Black Girl Rising, Inc.  
Blackgirlrising.net

*Dear Black Girls Rising, Inc.,*

When we heard the news of Ma'Khia Bryant's murder, our hearts shattered. We know the importance of loving ourselves and taking time to heal what hurts. We also understand the importance of bringing this injustice to an end. We are inspired by the work that you do for Black girls in Columbus, Ohio and are dedicated to joining forces from New York City. Please take our letters as a reminder that the fight for justice is long from over, but we need each other. We see you, we love you, and we appreciate you.

*In solidarity,*

Democracy Prep Harlem Middle School



*Dear black girls,*

I know sometimes you feel insecure about yourself and people may judge you for the color of your skin, but we persevere, stand tall, and fight to the end. We don't give up! We are stronger than most. We are fearless and confident in our capabilities. Our melanin is beautiful so embrace the skin you're in. Our skin represents beauty, light brown dark skin girls are equally gorgeous.

*Abigail*  
6th grade

*Hey queen,*

I know a girl more beautiful than a rose.  
I know a girl more sweeter than a strawberry.  
I can't seem to find her but oh she is reading it.  
You are loved no matter what.

*Aidan*  
6th grade

*Hey queen,*

I just wanted you to know you are gorgeous and amazing and that you are special so if you are ever down just know the worlds got you! but I know life is hard right now but trust me everything happens for a reason and god don't like ugly! You are so beautiful to me can't you see. But for real you should model your very gorgeous.

*Mae*

7th grade

*Dear queen,*

“Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.”

“We can only learn to love by loving.”

Anything could happen to anyone at any moment, love for each other. Life is gonna end someday cherish, we are all gonna die someday. SENDING YOU ALL THE LOVE QUEEEEEENNNNNNN!!!!

*Malachi*

8th grade

*Thy beautiful queen,*

Courage What is Courage? Courage is the ability to do something that frightens one and to have strength in the face of pain or grief and what you queens have is beyond courage. You have truly inspired me to look beyond myself and upon this world and thy beautiful faces. You have faced many adversities while I have faced none. The world's beauty pales in comparison to yours. By the words of the Great Shakespeare 'If music is the food of love, play on' So you will play on in my heart my Beautiful queens and another by William 'Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind' I am painted blind. And last but not least 'I love you more than words can wield the matter, Dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty'.

*Ghad*

8th grade

*Dear black girl,*

The pain, and suffering to be kept quiet. The pain for these black girls to be silent. The grief for those who died by a bullet. The ones who cry, because their daughter died. The ones that got shot, without a living cry. Daughters, and babies are in foster homes, trying to escape, but they don't even have hope. Girls in juvie detention feeling worthless, but baby, you are so worth it. Stay strong, because you're one of the few, that is pushing, and really have a good point of view. Yeah, it's sad, but girl watch in a few, you're going to get there, and inspire them too! Girl I love you, stay determined.. You don't have a weak heart, so don't regret it.

*Dejahnia*  
8th grade

*Hello beautiful,*

While tragedy does have its hard feelings in life, tragedy is also a key that opens closed doors for better possibilities, like how forest fires destroy most of the plant life in any forest, but also creates nutrients for surviving plants, that grow taller and taller, and create more nutrients.

The death of Ma'Khia Bryant is not a good thing, no one should die for defending themselves, neither for being black, or being suspected of doing treachery, but in the midst of these tragedies, comes forth attention to the problem, like how the death of George Floyd had sparked Black Lives Matter movements that went across the globe.

Ma'Khia Bryant's situation is no lesser than George Floyd's, it will create more attention to you girls and have more financial support, and support from around the world. While her name will be shouted out as much as Mr. Floyd's, yours will shine as well, and give you a better standing in life.

Hope you can feel great after this letter, always do.

*Elian*  
8th grade

*Hello,*

You may not know me but hi I may not know what you are going through how you feel or even what your think about but if you feel like giving up for any reason,Don't you have so much to life for you may not know what that is but when it comes you will love it,life is Obviously not cupcakes and rainbows,But i do want to say i'm proud of you for just living,even if your have a hard time your here somewhere on the same plant,you are loved and you will be loved even if you don't or do know them,Remember You are Strong enough to face it all,even if it doesn't feel like it right now,and Falling down is a part of life you just need to get back up again,You are a beautiful your skin color shines through you don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

*Fatoumata*  
6th grade

*Hello beautiful,*

I hope your doing fine. Whatever is going inside your mind i want you to breath in and breathe out and tell yourself everything will be fine. Lets talk about your future what do you want to be in the future whatever it is i hope you succeed. You are a queen so never miss judge your self your beautiful :).It is very good talking to you always remember your decision matters as well. Besides you are the queen so it just makes sense. Also treat people how you want to be treated. It was great talking to you have a nice day queen.

*Frederick*  
6th grade

*Hey queen,*

There will always be people that disagree with you , or say something not very nice to you , but there will also always be people who love you , who care about you . You can do anything you dream of doing . Believe in yourself , that's the most important part . Tell yourself that you're perfect because you are, in your own beautiful way.

*Leslye*  
6th grade

*Hey beautiful,*

I hope that you are pushing through this tough time right now because I know that right now, it can be difficult. But, keep having that motivation because I know that you can do it because you are a strong person!

*Akira*  
8th grade

*Dear beautiful Black girl,*

My name is Avery and I am just like you. Your skin color is beautiful, your skin is like pearls, your hair is like silk, your mind is beautiful and special, and your heart is like a gem. You are beautiful, don't let no one tear you down. They will always throw sticks and stones but you will come back up again like a bird flying high into the sky.

*Avery*  
6th grade

*Hey Black queen,*

My name is Leiani Lynch, and I am a six grader in DPHMS, and I wanted to let you know that we are here for you! And girls must stick together! <3 You are a black GODDESS and don't bother about what people say about your skin, because you are beautiful. Don't let any racist people bring us down because we will rise. Racism may not never end, but we can bring it down if we try. If your in a dark moment right now just let me tell you, even in Pitch black, you can still see light, as long as you follow it, as long as you keep trying to reach for it, you will. No matter what size, race, gender, sexuality, or disability, you deserve love, and don't let anyone tell you different. :)

*Leiani*  
6th grade

*Hey,*

I hope you know that you are loved, and I hope you are doing well. PLEASEE never feel like you aren't enough; you are more than enough. You are the sunlight in this dark world. You bring joy to people's lives.

*Ashley*  
8th grade

*Dear girl,*

How's your day today? Well hello my name is Imani, I'm from NYC. I'm sending you love to wherever you are. I hope I made you happy today.

*Imani*  
8th grade

*Hey queen,*

We and many people are trying to fight for the rights of many girls like you. Remember to always keep in mind that you are loved by so many people. Even though society might insult you, just keep in mind that, that doesn't matter because at the end of the day you are gorgeous just as how you are. Also, make sure to keep in mind that you are so valuable and no matter who you are you have a voice that should be shared to the world to let uneducated people know that they shouldn't insult you. This world is harsh and cruel but you just have to fight forward and stay positive, no matter what.

*Denise*  
6th grade

*Hey queen,*

Your will of life will come sooner than you think. You can't spend your life worried about the little things. Queens are mad to stand out not stand in. As I am coming slowly to the end of this letter, remember this: "They laugh at me because I'm different, I laugh at them because they are all the same." Think about who inspired you to be you and SLAY ALL DAY don't let no one tell you different

*Anonymous*

*Hey,*

My name is Hannah , and I know you might be in a hard time right now but just know that everything will get better and you are a beautiful young black girl and I know that you future will be bright .Just like Beyonce said once “Your queerness is beautiful .Your blackness is beautiful. Your compassion ,your understanding ,you fight for people who may be different from you is beautiful. I hope you continue to go into the world and show them that you will never stop being yourself.”

*Hannah*  
6th grade

*Dear beautiful person,*

I hope you're doing great, by getting these letters, I hope these make you feel better. I know times are tough, I've been there before, but not as much as you, you're chosen to be in this world. You are meant to live a life, if there is, always trust your gut to get where you want to go. Listen to yourself the most, don't let other people judge you, only one person can judge you, and I'm pretty sure you know who that is. Just so you know, I am a 6th grader and I am 11 years old, my name is Matthew.L, and I hope you feel better after this. Stay strong through these times. Have a good day.

*Matthew*  
6th grade

*Hey,*

Keep fighting and keep staying strong and don't ever give up. The way you were placed was meant for a reason because you are special in some way shape or form. Then the more you put your mind towards your dream and having a big success list then follow it and give it your all. Also, maintaining your attitude and having a good feeling about it good things would come your way and more doors will open for you

*Ian*  
8th grade

*Hello,*

My name is Saliou. My sister also lives in Ohio. I hope all you girls find parents to love and take care of you. I hope you all have food to live. I also hope that all of you have a wonderful day from here on out. I hope all of you know you are super intelligent.

*Saliou*  
6th grade

*Dear queens,*

I write this message to let you know that I'm here for you through the strong and through the weak. Not only you guys but every black woman out there deserves respect. And because of you guys I think I know what I want to be when I grow up. An activist I would like to become an activist because I would like for matters that people don't speak about that need to be spoken about. Because of you I would like to take more action in black movement then I already do now.

*Shane*  
7th grade

*Hey dear,*

I just want to let you know that you are the best and you don't have to change for anyone or anything just be yourself. I would love for you to listen to this, if no ones gonna say it then I will, I love you, forget everyone who brought you down and focus on rising up. I know that times are hard at the moment but thats fine, you can still rise up and be the best you can. I want to see you grow and achieve your goals and dreams. Never give up on what you want instead, you should keep going and try hard! You can do this!

*Stephany*  
7th grade

*Dear Black queen,*

I'm Jaliyah and I have the same black beautiful skin as you have, just remember to not let anybody take control or try to push you down / bully you because of the color of your skin. Speak up for yourself and tell someone when they are wrong when they speak to you.

*Jaliyah*  
6th grade

*Dear love,*

There are many things in this world that are very difficult. But In life no matter what you are gonna have your ups and downs. But forever you should keep your head up queen. Don't forget people care about and love you no matter what. You are forever in my thoughts and prayers and many others too! So keep your head up and don't give up :)

*Jamarie*  
8th grade

*Dear Black sisters of all ages,*

I know how bad it has been since the covid started again. So I would love to write this letter because the girl we all know was killed and also in foster care. We will always be here for you no matter what because I believe all girls need love in the world. But if we ever see each other I will be the one to hug you first. I might also want a sister (shhhhh.... Don't tell anyone). I am a girl too just like you guys and I understand what it feels like but also I know that you don't get the same love.

You should remember these things that you are:

You are beautiful

You are smart

You are outrageous

You are everything

You are life

You are the world

*Sierra*  
8th grade

*Dear love,*

I hope you are having a good day. I just wanted to let you know that you are strong and beautiful. You shouldn't let anything bring you down. Sometimes you face difficulties not because you're doing something wrong but because you are doing something right.

*Janiya*  
8th grade

*Hello queen,*

I don't know how you are doing right now but I hope you're doing okay. But if you're not, I hope this letter makes you happy and amazing like the queen you are and that you are doing great today. You are an amazing and powerful person. I think that you are a powerful woman that can do bad all by herself like poison ivy, one of my 3 favorite super villains in the DC world the other 2 being Harley Quinn and Catwoman because they don't need anyone and they do their crimes for themselves. And I think that you are a phenomenal person inside and out and that your beautiful.

*Anonymous*

*Dear beautiful Black girl,*

My name is Kylie I am just like you a young black girl in America but I just wanted to stop by and let you know that the color of your skin does not define who you are because inside and out you are beautiful and no matter how these racist people feel about the color of our skin we know the true us and throughout your hard times remember "i am beautiful, i am a black queen, and i don't care how these people feel about me" and not only that the great Maya Angelo once said "you may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise" so just remember you are so beautiful and don't let anybody defined you and still like air keep rising beautiful black girl and don't even forget that your melanin is popping.!

*Kylie*  
6th grade

*Dear beautiful Black girl,*

This world may be cruel, hard, mean, and sometimes tough but you are worthy of everything good, beautiful, and loving. I hope that you always feel loved, welcomed, and proud of who you are. I hope you know that black is beautiful. Black is royalty. Black is classy. Black is smart. Black is brave. You are brave, smart, and worthy of more in this world. May you always continue to grow in more ways than one. May you always feel empowered, strong, and loved. I just wanted to send you some words of love and know that from one girl boss stranger to YOU, I send you nothing but love, support, and kindness. Push to achieve your goals and dreams and never give up, this world is full of opportunities and know you are deserving of all of them.

*Ms. Rivera*  
Teacher

*To a beautiful queen,*

I want to let you know that I hear you, I see you, and I appreciate you. You are loved and appreciated for your skin and wisdom. I know that it's a hard time for you right now but always keep your head up. Don't let your crown fall off your head! I am sending you so much love, light, and positivity. You still have the opportunity to be great and don't ever let anyone tell you different. I will leave you with this quote "Don't give your past the power to define your future"

*Mr. Roja*  
Social Worker



*Black Girl Rising, Inc.*



**“Placing Black Girls at Promise”**

**BLACK  
GIRLS  
MATTER**

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