



“There was no such thing as a Black superhero”

1_ One Halloween, a little Black girl was trick-or-treating
around the neighborhood, dressed up in a superhero
costume, but her face was painted white. When I asked
her why, she said that her sister told her that there was
5_ no such thing as a Black superhero. She was right. When
I turned on the television, everyone was always White.
Superman was White, Santa Claus was White. They
even made Tarzan, king of the jungle in Africa, a White
man. I noticed that Miss America was always White, and
10_ the president living in the White House was White, too.
Nothing good reflected our image.

At that early age, I could see that something was very
wrong. I didn't understand it. I thought that my skin was
beautiful, I was proud of the color of my complexion. But
15_ everything black was considered bad, and undesirable.
Like black cats bring bad luck. Devils' food cake was the
dark cake, and angel food cake was the white cake. These
may have been subtle messages, but the effects were
profound. Every day these messages shaped the images
20_ that I and other non-white children had of ourselves.

I didn't know how, but I knew that I was going to help my people. Somehow,
I was going to make a difference in the world. The more injustice that I saw,
the stronger my feelings grew. It made me feel that I was here for a reason. [...]

I thought boxing would help me be that public Black role model who was
25_ missing while I was growing up. I thought my purpose was to be that hero who
showed children that Black is beautiful. I thought my purpose was to be that
champion who showed White people they couldn't treat Blacks like second
class citizens. I learned that all of these accomplishments were important, but
even more important, I gained a platform that allowed me to carry out my real
30_ mission, which has been to encourage all people to respect each other and to
live in peace.

The Soul of a Butterfly: Reflections on Life's Journey, Muhammad Ali, 2004

There was no such thing as a Black superhero

1. First paragraph: (line 1-11)

- a) What time of the year is it?
- b) How do you know?
- c) Why is the girl's face painted white?
- d) Choose 3 examples of white overrepresentation in the American culture:
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2. Second paragraph (line 12-23)

- a) Was Ali proud of his skin colour?
Yes No
- b) Why? Quote from the text:
- c) Write the 2 examples of black people being represented in a negative way in the world:
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- d) When Ali was a child, he didn't think that he would be important for his community.
True False
- e) Why?

3. Third paragraph (line 24-31)

- a) What did Ali think first, what was his objective?
- b) What was his real aim?