

## The Big 4 Teachers

By: Linda Lindsay

I thank my Creator and Savior for allowing me to stand before you today. Good Afternoon. I am honored to have been asked to write a poem for our teachers. I would like to thank the big 4 classmates that gave me the meat for this poem/tribute.

Before starting I would like to say hello to my 1961 classmates. We are celebrating our 43rd class reunion. We are truly blessed.



Linda Lindsay

Once upon a time when we were Negroes  
When we were colored  
When we were Black  
The schools were segregated  
Anderson, Atkins, Carver and Paisley  
Were High Schools

The teachers were special...they were extraordinary

Caring, but strict.  
Education was number one  
They had high expectations for their students  
One was never made to feel a dream was too big  
They disciplined, nurtured and encouraged  
Students were taught charm, grace and manners  
Simply more than teachers, Mothers, Fathers  
Grandmothers, Grandfathers, sisters, brothers and friends.

The teachers were special...they were extraordinary

Students will never forget the "Do Right Stick"  
That made hard heads straighten up and do right in class.  
Memorizing McBeth and reciting it using  
The old English accent. Memorizing poetry during  
The Christmas holidays.

They will never forget looking at the keyboard while typing and  
Feeling they had committed a sin. Math being broken down  
So they could understand it. A black woman speaking Spanish fluently.  
Little darling you heard when you were being too slack.

They will never forget being unable to purchase materials/patterns  
And the teacher that purchased them. Seeing the love  
Of God in a human being. One teacher said, always  
Become a lady first. She is still a fox today.

Mr. Man and Ms. Lady we were called. As history came alive.  
A coach said, when you see me fighting the bear  
Don't drop help me, help the bear.  
Whenever you came upon an obstacle,  
it made you reach down in your gut to overcome.

The teachers were special...they were extraordinary

Finally segregation was no more  
To preserve the legacy  
Anderson created the Big 4

**To our teachers you were our Educational Potters  
And we were the clay  
WE THANK YOU!!!**

**For molding us into what we are today.**



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