**2006**

 **11-13 Years**

**1st Place**

**Mluleki Mvubu**

*Should You believe stories in the news about African and the Caribbean?Give examples   I am writing this essay about whether you should believe stories from newspapers and television.*

*Black people originally came from Africa to America in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and lived in Great Britain since 1554. These black Americans were forced to be shifted across the Atlantic in slave ships in which many people died, the slaves sold sugar and cotton plantations in the Caribbean and the Southern States of North America. They had no rights and were treated as animals and machines that made money for the master.   One of the most recurring stories in the newspapers and news channels is about poor and starving people in Africa. This shows a bad image of Africa. Other bad images of Africa that we see repetitively are the civil wars for example in Rwanda the conflict between the Tutsi’s and the Hutus, were black people are being portrayed as savages killing one another. Yes these things do happen but there are many other things that happen which are good.*

*The real beauty of Africa has been disguised and is only noticed for its facilities such as Safari’s full of beautiful animals, and the luxurious Victoria Falls alive in the chilling darkness of the night, or in Egypt were the River Nile is drifting throughout Africa. Or in South Africa were huge herds of animal feed on rolling grasslands being shone upon by the big sunny sky.*

*Very lately Africa’s popularity of music has taken a leap forward, as the death of the late South African pop diva Brenda Fassie has helped in the recognition of African pop. She is well known for her mindless singing from deep within her soul. Brenda has been on many programmes which are shown quite late which is part of the reason why no one knows much about her African culture.   Black boys and men are seen as violent and quite dumb. Whenever a murder is committed by a black person it seems to be emphasised a lot more. Yet white people commit murder in as horrendous ways as black people, but they don’t always get portrayed like savage animals in the news.*

*Television and newspapers only talk and write about bad things, they don’t talk about the hardships that black people have suffered in history through slavery, racism and exploitation of Africa’s resources by the western world.   We need to see more positive things about black people. Recently Anthony Walker’s mum [Anthony Walker killed by 2 white youths] has been shown as a black woman who stands up against hatred. She publicly declared her forgiveness for her son’s killers. Similarly Stephen Lawrence’s parents decided to do something positive out of the tragic death of their son; they set up the Stephen Lawrence trust.   In conclusion I think that you should not believe stories that are one sided, there is negative and positive sides about Africa and the Caribbean as much as there is about the Western world.*