**2009**

**8-10 Years**

**1st Place**

**Floriane Fidegnon**

***Where have you learnt the most about African history?***

***At school, from your family or somewhere else? What is your***

***favourite story about African or Caribbean history?***

During most of my life, the places where I have learnt African history is the library; books, school; black history week, Claudia Jones; assemblies and my family; my history. I have learnt about black history through everyday life but the library’s books are the most informative. I have learnt that my people in Africa have chosen to fight for themselves. Without that independence, our countries would be lost to people who decided to own our land. We gained respect and we kept it. When I hear the word Africa I think of a united nation filled with gold, wealth, peace, happiness, culture, dance, food and love. we have our ups and downs but our spirit is great.

I know the most famous black people and what they did e.g. Malcolm X, I admire him for his speeches and his strength. Jean Baptiste, I admire his creativity of originating Chicago. I adore Benjamin Banneker for working hard enough to be one of the cleverest men in the world. I love the strength that Shaka had and used to conquer and become the strongest tribe in South Africa.

In school I learnt that Mary Seacole went to Russia in the Crimean war in 1857 to heal injured soldiers and she wrote a book. In my supplementary school Claudia Jones I’ve learnt about African women for example Rosa Parks, Michelle Obama, Katherine Dunham, Harriet Tubman and doctors, female speakers and activist.

At home I learn about my African ancestors and what they did and how they lived. I learnt that my mum’s grandma’s mum’s grandma married a Brazilian slave trader. They inspire me to help people because ever since charities have been introduced my Grans and great grans have given to charities and I want to be like them. I am a bit like my dad’s mum because she smiles like me and she has the same personality.

My most favourite African or Caribbean historic story is the life of Shaka Zulu. Shaka Zulu was born a Zulu prince but his father wouldn’t claim him as his son. So he and his mother travelled from village to village being called names. They journeyed from tribe to tribe until they reached the powerful enemy of the Zulus; the Mtewa. At around 1800s, the king of the Mtewa ordered Shaka to conquer the Zulus. Shaka was filled with joy this was the chance to get what was his. He conquered them and became their leader. He is still admired for his power and how he organised his army. The Zulus became the most stealthiest and powerful tribe in the whole of South Africa.

The reason why I like this story is because it is about persevering and conquering what is yours. This leads back to the perseverance that the whole of Africa showed to get to where they are now- free. That is why I am proud to be of African descent. Because we are filled we spirit and pride.