

“MY GREAT BLACK AMERICAN”

By
Terry Stanley

Synopsis

YOUNG TIFFANY (teenager) is preparing to write her Black History Month report “My Great Black American”. She is struggling over whom to write about. Tiffany’s family (MOTHER KAREN and UNCLE JOE) attempt to help but none of their recommendations intrigue Tiffany. Eventually, Tiffany comes to realize that her grandmother’s achievements had a greater impact on their family than any other person in history; so she chooses her grandmother as “A Great Black American”

Ministry/Life Lesson

Greatness is not always based on documented achievements in history. Often times the greatest people (our teachers, firemen, parents) are not documented celebrities or great public figures. Instead of looking in the past and distant places for great people, take a moment and look next to you. Honor persons who are closest to you for the great things they have done and the sacrifices they have made for you and others.

Ministry Focus

Unity, Family

Genre: Drama

Cast

Tiffany - Female teen
Karen - Female (mid-30s)
Uncle Joe - Male (mid-30s)
Grandmother - Female (60+)

Costumes

All characters in normal daily wear

Props

Table and 2 chairs
Groceries
Small table for groceries
Black History books
Notebook paper and pens

Time: 10 min.

MY GREAT BLACK AMERICAN

INT. KITCHEN

TIFFANY AND HER MOTHER (KAREN) ARE SITTING AT THE KITCHEN TABLE. KAREN IS HELPING TIFFANY WITH HER HOMEWORK

KAREN

Okay, who do you want to write about?

TIFFANY

(Frustrated)

I don't know. I've been looking through these books for hours. I don't like any of these people.

TIFFANY PUSHES AWAY FROM THE TABLE

KAREN

These are great Black Americans. What's not to like about Frederick Douglass or Harriett Tubman.

TIFFANY

Everyone writes about them.

KAREN

(Laughing)

C'mon Tiffany, not EVERYONE.

TIFFANY

Uh huh, for real! If it's not one of them, then it's George Washington Carver who invented new uses for the peanut or Booker T. Washington who was a great speaker and wrote his auto-biography, "Up From Slavery", or Crispus Attucks, or Madam C.J. Walker, or Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or...

KAREN

Okay...okay, maybe you're right.

TIFFANY

I want to write about someone whom
nobody knows about.

KAREN

Well, let's try this book, "Great
Achievements of Black Americans." I'm
sure we can find someone here.

GRANDMOTHER AND UNCLE JOE ENTERS. UNCLE JOE IS CARRYING
SEVERAL GROCERY BAGS.

GRANDMOTHER

(Checking grocery receipt) I sure hope
they gave me the sale price on those
sweet potatoes. You know I don't trust
that old scanner thing.

UNCLE JOE

Yea Ma.

GRANDMOTHER

What happened to the time when people
used to punch in the prices so you could
see them?

UNCLE JOE

They invented computers Ma. It's called
"progress".

GRANDMOTHER

That don't see like "progress" to me.
Nowadays you have to ring up you own
groceries and bag them yourself too.

TIFFANY AND KAREN LAUGH

UNCLE JOE

(Realizes he not going to change her
mind) Where do you want me to put these
bags?

GRANDMOTHER

Just put them over there on the table.
I think that computer cheated me. (put
receipt away). That's okay, the Lord
said, "Revenge is Mind".

KAREN

Mama, what's the Lord gonna do...crash
the computer!

TIFFANY

Computers do break down, Ma.

GRANDMOTHER

I rest my case.

UNCLE JOE

(To Karen) What are you doing?

KAREN

Helping Tiffany with her homework. She
needs to write about a Great Black
American for Black History Month, but
she's doesn't like anyone in these
books.

UNCLE JOE

Just choose Frederick Douglass or Booker
T. Washington. Everyone writes about
them.

TIFFANY GIVES KAREN AN "I TOLD YOU SO" LOOK.

KAREN

She wants to write about somebody that
no one else will write about.

TIFFANY

I mean...are these the only people that
contributed to black history?

UNCLE JOE

Of course not. (motions Karen to get up, then takes her seat) Let me help you.

KAREN GETS UP FROM TABLE AND GOES TO ASSIST HER MOTHER

TIFFANY

(Shocked)

Uncle Joe, you're gonna help me with my homework?

UNCLE JOE

Who do you think helped your mother get through medical school?

KAREN

Oh please. You couldn't read the "Table of Contents" in my textbooks.

TIFFANY LAUGHS. UNCLE JOE PLAYS IT OFF.

GRANDMOTHER

Karen, help me make some sandwiches to eat.

UNCLE JOE

(To Karen) She's just jealous because I run my own construction company. (To Tiffany) Now, first let's determine what makes a person great, then we just pick an African American that fits those criterium.

TIFFANY

(Excited)

Hey, that makes sense Uncle Joe.

UNCLE JOE IS BEAMING WITH PRIDE.

KAREN

Oh Lord, I will never hear the end of this.

UNCLE JOE

(Thinking) Now, the first criteria is:
It must be someone who started with
nothing.

KAREN

Well, that's 90% of Black folks!

TIFFANY

(writing) Okay, got it. A poor person

GRANDMOTHER

Being poor is a state of mind. When I
raised your mother and uncle, we didn't
have much, but I never let them believe
we were poor.

UNCLE JOE

Okay, next...someone who overcame major
obstacles.

TIFFANY

Like what?

UNCLE JOE

Anything...

GRANDMOTHER

(To Tiffany) I remember when I was your
age, we couldn't pick a school like you
can do today. The schools were
segregated. Sometimes we have to walk
for miles to attend school. When we got
there, we didn't have enough textbooks
for everyone, so we have to share. It
was even harder to go to college,
because colleges were segregated as
well.

GRANDMOTHER (CONT'D)

I couldn't go to college, but I worked 2 jobs to make sure your mother and uncle got a college education.

UNCLE JOE

Okay, what do we have so far?

TIFFANY

(reading back) Someone who started with nothing and overcame great obstacles.

UNCLE JOE

Okay, lastly, someone whose sacrifice created a better life for others.

TIFFANY

A better life in what way?

- End of Preview -

Tiffany comes to realize that her grandmother met all of the criteria for greatness. Therefore, she decides to select her own grandmother as her Great Black American. This is a great sketch to remind everyone of the sacrifices our seniors and ancestors made for their families.
