

There has always been a part of society that did not, and does not want the average African American being to grow, and to become their own person, who is able to stand up for themselves. In this poem by Tupac Shakur, he speaks of a rose who defied all laws of nature, and was able to nurture itself even though it grows out of a crack in the concrete. When nobody else would help, it learned to love itself, and it learned to 'breathe fresh air'. This poem is a wonderful example of how an African American person may learn to grow, to mature, and to love themselves, even when society is always trying to tell them they cannot ever succeed due to the color of their skin.

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## **The Rose That Grew From Concrete**

Did you hear about the rose that grew  
from a crack in the concrete?  
Proving nature's law is wrong it  
learned to walk with out having feet.  
Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams,  
it learned to breathe fresh air.  
Long live the rose that grew from concrete  
when no one else ever cared.

- Tupac Shakur