

2 anecdotes from Ithaca..Mihaell came up to me in the hall waving his notebook shouting: "I've written 11 poems ever since that man came!!" His teachers are thrilled..Also, the Tech teachers son is a student at Ithaca College who chose to do his poet study on you because his dad brought home the DVD and book because his daughter was at ACS and she loved you too so the whole family is behind this Ithaca college poet study presentation.

**Susan**  
**Ithaca, NY**

Basically, I started out here teaching a "Character Education" class to at-risk 7<sup>th</sup>-12th grade Zuni Indians here in the Pueblo of Zuni. Most of my students are heavily involved with gangs and drugs. They are SOOOO smart, they are just unsure and discouraged about the prospects they have waiting for them in life.

In any case, one of the thematic units I created was on HOW WE COMMUNICATE WHO WE ARE and with that, I explored the number of ways we communicate personal stories, emotions, and struggles. Among the many mediums I presented to my kids (painting, photography, dance, music, and literature), I played the first poem on your "A Black Man's Anthem" CD...you recounting your family's story in the Congo. My students listened with fascination. They were stunned, awed, and overwhelmed - COMPLETELY HOOKED.

Omekongo...that poem opened their eyes to not only new forms of communication, but new cultures, new struggles, new people, and new worlds - worlds apart from their own. It was a powerful teaching tool and they asked to hear more. Further, they asked to learn how to create something similar about their native histories. I was excited to see THEM so excited and I wanted to let YOU know that you inspired a bunch of 7<sup>th</sup>-12th graders who, among other things, have often been labeled as "unmotivated" (thus their assignment to the class). I told them that I would like to talk it over with the creator of the CD - YOU - so that we have your permission...

**Claire**  
**Arizona**

Hello Omekongo,  
I listened to your CD this week. Wow! This is an extraordinary work of art. I found this CD to be encouraging, enlightening, challenging and informative. I really feel that I don't really have the adjectives in my vocabulary to adequately describe what I feel or think when I listen to your poetry...All who are exposed to your work should be motivated to move from their couch of apathy and complacency to community activism in what area they are drawn to help improve the community for us all. Keep flowing those outstanding pieces!  
Love & Peace

**Ms. McCants**  
**Washington, DC**

Cher Omekongo,

Je te felicite pour tes "achievments so far" et t'encourage dans tes projets..Je vis en Afrique du Sud...S'il t'arrive de passer par ici: fais-nous signe! Nous serions ravi de t'accueillir.

**Mr. Wombo**  
**Pretoria, South Africa**

I had the pleasure of hearing your poetry for the first time last night...I had to drop you a line because I have never been so moved to tears by anyone's poetry until I heard you. I felt as if my soul needed that release and the tears had been held back for so long!...Christina told me that you would be in Philly again soon, I wanted to know where the venue was and if I too can be added to you email list. Thanks you and Keep up the good work.

**Ms. Hemmings**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

I first heard of you and your poetry at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. during the summer of 2005. I had taken a workshop on the media that was led by you. I was entranced from the very beginning when you read the poem "My Life is a Reality Show." I was even more enthused upon your vast knowledge of what the media has not shown and was amazed to find out the censorship and corruption in our national news. Although the air conditioning in the hotel room where we were located was broken, you kept the mood uplifting and I soon forgot of my sweat and near heat exhaustion. After finally finding your website and more of your prose, I fell in love with your work...These works not only appeal to the emotions of the audience, but have points that resonate in the mind about the growing problems in today's society. Yet, upon reading these, there is a hint of color and attitude with the occasional rhyme and the moving rhythm.

**Megan**  
**Lake Placid, NY**

Omekongo lead us on a journey from the streets of Boston to the killing fields of the poverty ravaged Congo, encouraging us to take a stand on all forms of oppression...We were enlightened to the plight of our brothers and sisters in the motherland. He dropped knowledge without being preachy. He was more like teachy and we were his students. If you didn't learn something about yourself last night, you missed his intent.

**Fred,**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Words cannot describe what I feel inside. Your performance at the Bat Center...has captured me, my inner voice has suddenly started speaking again...I feel challenged and compelled to educate myself, my inner most feelings have since been put on paper. I have been inspired, I have been sanctified, I have been rejuvenated...My soul has been touched by your work . THANK YOU OMEKONGO,

**Nomalizo**  
**Durban, South Africa**

I listened to your CD...It's is good I as expected it would be. I actually listened all day while packing clothes in the storage over the weekend. It helps me get through these times.....I believe you are really a blessing to whomever hears your voice.

**Nicole**  
**DC**