

# Once Alone, Now Empowered

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I grew up in a rather diverse school district and never felt out of place until I had AP English, where I was one of few Black students. For the first time, I felt uncomfortable around people I considered friends.

Not because they did anything wrong but because I became aware that my Blackness would somehow make me a mouthpiece for the Black experience with every cultural novel we read. I wanted no part of that.

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