

# **“Hope is a Strange Word”**

## **by Hillena Mehari**

I am a woman of color  
I wonder if I was white would it be the same  
I hear, “Her hair is too big, it’s distracting”  
I see no reason for my hair to be free  
I want my hair to be unconfined  
I am **oppressed**

I pretend to fit in so I tame my hair  
I feel trapped in a dark cage  
I touch captivity  
I worry I will never be free  
I cry because people will never accept my hair  
I am still a woman of color

I understand my hair is my crown  
I say, “My crown is what makes me me”  
I dream everyone will see my point of view  
I try to stand up for others and myself  
I hope I will grow as a person  
I am **free**