

HOW MUCH I'VE GROWN

I've grown so strong these past few years. I have studied my heart out, and here I am now. I'm in the top 20% percent in my whole class. I've been carrying my *abusua* name, which was to always be in the top 25%. I've overachieved that *botaeε*. I'm involved in sports and other extracurricular activities in school. I've been looked upon as a leader and now, I'm just waiting to earn my stripes. I never failed any test nor gave up when studying.

I *anidasoɔ* to be enrolled into Central University in Ghana. The *sukuupɔn* was where my *abusua* has attended for years. It's always been a tradition to be a doctor, lawyer, businessman, or surgeon. My family is very prestigious when it comes to school and education. My dad is a real-estate agent and a history teacher. My mother is an anesthesiologist, which is a very respectful physician. I plan on becoming the first family therapist in my family. Family therapists works with groups of the family or an individual of the family to help achieve family goals and strengths.

My parents raised me to follow the rules and be the best person that I could be, and they provided me with a roof over

my head, they gave me food and water to nourish me, they even gave me *anidasoo*. *Anidasoo* that has lead me here this far. They're my everything and without them, I don't know where I would be today. *Koo anim* is only three days away and I have to figure out My *koo anim* colors.

In my tribe, we pick the colors of our kente, academic, stoles. It's a symbol of ethnic pride and shows how much we've grow since I was a *Akwadaa*. Only me and God know my true colors.

THE 12 COLORS

The kente academic stoles come in 12 different colors that represents a meaning for each color.

Black demonstrates maturation and intensified spiritual *adwumatumi*, while blue represents peacefulness, harmony, and *odo*. Green portrays vegetation, planting, harvesting, growth, and spiritual renewal. While gold defines royalty, wealth, high status, glory, spiritual purity, grey mirrorizes healing and cleansing rituals. Maroon symbolizes the color of mother *wiase*; associated with healing. Though pink is described as calmness, and tenderness, purple expresses *wiase* and healing. Red characterizes as political and spiritual moods; bloodshed; sacrificial rites and death. Silver describes the serenity, purity, happiness; associated with the *ɔbosome*, while white portrays purification, sanctification rites and festive occasions. Yellow is preciousness, royalty, wealth, fertility, and pretty.

After roaming through all the unique colors, I have finally came to a conclusion. All my life, I have been searching to find myself, like a lioness searches for her cub. Some of these 12 colors will show who I am as a person to my peers, friends, teachers, and most importantly, my *Abusua*.

MY TRUE COLORS

Today is the big day in Ghana. *Kɔ anim* has finally arrived on this warm, sunny, 85° weather day. There's piassava palm trees outside and wild monkeys prancing around on the trees. My parents told me to get into the car so that we could arrive at my high school, Holy Child High School. Once I'm at the car, I look at the view of my parent's house and it's absolutely captivating. All I see is a beautiful castle surrounded by palm trees, mountains, and close to the Gulf of Ghana. I want to live the life my parents had. A luxurious life, helping others any way that they can. Once I'd arrived, I went behind the school to sit with my other graduates. I've chosen my true colors. I sit and wait for my name to be called and I can't help but look all around me. I'm absolutely flabbergasted by the view of the school. Everything is in preparation for this event and I've started to sweat bullets.

"Emmanuel Babette," the principal announced. I arose from my seat and marched towards the small stairwell to retrieve my academic stole. I here screams of different voices in the gym. My friends, *Abusua*, and teachers clapping and cheering me on. My mom has a sign that says, "I'm proud to be your mother," and my dad has a smile on his face. I'm overwhelmed with joy and tears are flourishing down my face.

“*Ayeeko Emmanuel,*” “You’ve exceeded expectations.” “Me daa si sir,” as I walked away with my stole. My stole was exactly what I hoped for. My stole gleamed with purity and pride.

I receive the color red because I was a very strong athlete.

People say I am as strong as a lion. I get maroon

because I would go out to help others get out of their sad and dark

days. I have blue because I could sing and I loved to be around others.

I retain green because I was pretty healthy and loved the Earth. I secure

gray because I was spiritual and religious with my walk in God. I wore

gold because of my parents' wealth. Pink because I care

for others, especially those close to me. Then last but not least yellow,

for always keeping the Bible holy and set apart. Some of the colors on

my stole look the colors that shine vibrantly from a rainbow. I have

given my best ever since I was born. Now I’m looking towards the

future of my journey as a young Ghanaian *Abɛɛmuwa*. Only God knows

where I will be and how I plan to show my true colors that shine brighter

than the sun.