



## Spirit is...

Spirit is my mind, body, and soul,  
 How I act, how I live and how I breathe.  
 Spirit is your future, present and past,  
 Who you are and who you want to be,  
 Deep within—hope, courage, fear,  
 strengths and weaknesses.  
 Spirit is the different vibes and personali-  
 ties that go around.  
 Where you've been and where you are.  
 Spirit is what is inside you,  
 Your hurt and joy,  
 What you carry within yourself.  
 Spirit is having faith in you,  
 That little thing that keeps you going and  
 gives you hope.  
 Spirit is life.  
 Spirit is rejoicing.  
 Spirit is soul.

—Compiled from the writing of  
 Frederick Douglass Academy II students

# VOICES OF YOUTH

## Harlem is...

Thriving  
 Expensive  
 Sad  
 Beautiful.

Harlem is...

Progressing, but we can still do better.

Harlem is...

Well-built  
 Soul  
 Culture  
 Everything.

Harlem is...

The heart of New York.

Harlem is...

Home  
 Strong  
 African American  
 Great.

Harlem is...

The remains of years of struggle.

Harlem is...

Perfect  
 Extraordinary  
 New York  
 Connected.

Harlem is...

An experience.



—Compiled from the writings of  
 The Schomburg Center Junior Scholars

## HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

A poem dedicated to the legacy of Gospel / Blues artist Ethel Waters, one of Harlem's favorites. The title of the poem, a gospel classic, is also the title of her autobiography.

**H** Heal My Spirit God  
**I** In the house of the Lord all are welcome  
**S** Sorrow of our ancestors remembered still

**E** Evil shall not discourage us  
**Y** Yet still we rise  
**E** Everlasting life is ours

**I** I'm Goin' up Yonder  
**S** Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

**O** Old women "Speaking in Unknown Tongues"  
**N** Not gonna let nobody turn me round

**T** This little light of mine  
**H** He's coming back  
**E** Everyone getting lifted

**S** Satan wears a slippery shoe  
**P** Preaching, sweating, and moaning the gospel  
**A** Amen corner,  
**R** Ring Shouting  
**R** Roll Jordan roll  
**O** Old men dancing with holy feet  
**W** We fall down, but we get up!

—6th, 7th, and 8th grade  
 Frederick Douglass Academy II students



My name is Raisa White. I am a young woman of honor, respect and dignity. I was a child who thought I knew it all. Now I am a person who is open minded and listens to what people have to say.

Community is a group of individuals of different ethnicities and ideas who join together to make an impact on their environment.

Harlem is a community.  
 Harlem is founded on artistic inspirations.  
 Harlem was a community of blacks.  
 And now it is a community of many different ethnicities.

Church is my foundation of spirituality.  
 Abyssinian is a community.  
 Abyssinian was a small spiritual church. And now it is a strong spiritual church that now is a big source to the Harlem community.

I think of spirit as a source of faith. With my family our spirits are always high. I have a good spirit and it affects my whole being.

—Raisa White  
 Abyssinian Youth