

Malik lee
October 18, 2022
SBS3201
Prof. Adomaitis
Letter to self

Dear middle school Malik,

For years we've tried our best to fit in with the popular crowd dating back to elementary school, but here at middle school it hit us the most. You've been bullied based on your appearance along with the way dressed down to how dirty your sneakers were draining you emotionally, crying everyday in the school bathroom rushing home to get away from everyone dreading the idea of returning the next day. Besides the way you've dressed your appearance became another factor like how nappy your hair was or never having a haircut.

Performing duties such as babysitting, washing your aunts' clothes, even in the warm weather wash their cars and begging them to collect funds to buy the garments you felt will allow you to fit in with the crowd. Spending a large amount of money that was not needed purchasing name brand item still didn't make us popular or down with the clique or spending money every two weeks on a haircut from growing it out into an afro which gave us the name "nappy-head" to a mohawk "avatar", or a low creaser "baldy" seemed to make things worse for you.

Your physical appearance wasn't attacked in the mistreatment but more so your mental health. The constant name calling allowed you to believe the things being said was true making you hate yourself wish you had all the money in the world to change these things but that didn't happen. You didn't talk to anyone keeping it all to yourself which wasn't the best thing to do various people were around you that could assist in keeping your mental strong.

Look how far we have come now in our junior year of college doing an amazing job which is still hard to believe, working being able to buy whatever whenever we choose. Even though we didn't fit into that crowd back in middle school made us into the person we are today choosing to move at the beat of our own drum. Another thing our hair wasn't nappy with the right products and a couple of do-overs we realized it's just very coarse, finding the perfect barber who we visit every two weeks still that cuts it exactly the way we want. Never pay attention to the nicknames you were called it was just haters doing their usual job hating. We gained a plethora of friends who uplift our spirits when we need it the most.

With Love
Yours truly,

Malik