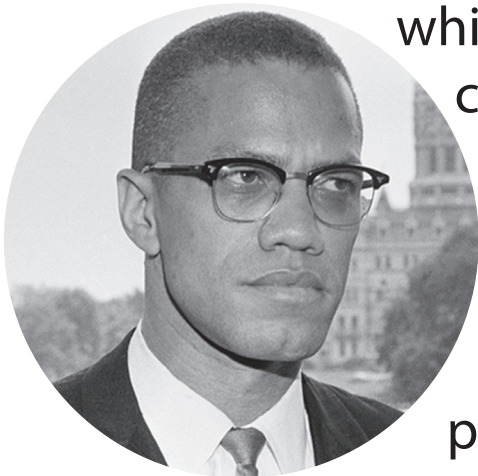# Malcolm X

Malcolm X, originally named Malcolm Little, was born on May 19, 1925 in Omaha Nebraska. His father, Reverend Earl Little, was a supporter of Marcus Garvey, the pan-African leader and was the target of numerous Klu Klux Klan (KKK) threats. In 1931, Reverend Little was murdered. It is suspected that he was killed by members of this white supremacist group.

Between the years of 1946 and 1952, Malcolm X was imprisoned for robbery. Known for his obsession with books, he spent much of his time in prison reading. He tried to memorize the dictionary, and said, "you couldn't have gotten me out of books with a wedge." Also during this time, Malcolm X converted and joined the Nation of Islam,

which was an African American movement combining elements of Islam with Black nationalism. He began attending a local mosque in Harlem and spent the next 10 years there as head of the local mosque. Malcolm X converted thousands of people to Islam during this time.

Malcolm X is often described as Martin Luther King, Jr's 'fiery' counterpart as a believer of pan-Africanism and Black nationalism and opposing King's nonviolent approach, which he felt was defenseless. Malcolm X opposed integration and supported Black separatism until 1964 when he made a religious pilgrimage, the Hajj, to Mecca. He then began to "reappraise the white man" moving towards an approach of integration to fight oppression.

His contributions to the civil rights movement pushed the nation toward change, and his impact is indisputable.