James Weldon Johnson was an African American born in the late 1800’s to a society focused on segregating his people. However, he knew very few boundaries in his life. He was able to get a college education, and he went on to be a grammar school principal. In 1897, he became the first African American to pass the bar exam in Florida.

A few years later James and his brother together rote the song “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, which eventually became the official anthem of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (or the NAACP). President Roosevelt appointed Johnson to diplomatic positions in Nicaragua and Venezuela.

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