

TaKara:

Do you ever sit and ask yourself questions like what is my legacy, what can I pass on to future generations, what stories do I have that my great grand children can tell about me one day... was that one a little too deep okay, nevertheless. Before we can unlock what, we can bring to future generations we must consider what past generations have already passed down for us to inherit, more specifically FAMILY HEIRLOOMS.

The Cambridge Dictionary states that a family heirloom is a valuable object that has been given by older members of a family to younger members of the same family over many years. Family heirlooms can be rings, clothes, land, photographs, almost literally anything that's considered to be valuable to you and your family. Although this broad perspective of what a family heirloom is wasn't always the traditional perspective.

According to the *New York Times* article "Heirlooms, Redefined" by Tiya Miles and Michelle May-Curry long ago some believed that family heirlooms were to be only "practical tools". This piece of journalism challenges that belief. With this piece being published on June 19, in honor of Juneteenth, it calls to attention that African American families often come from an enslaved background making the traditional family idea of what a family heirloom is less significant or non-existent. To provide evidence to this argument Miles and May-Curry gathered 10 African American photographers to capture the stories behind their families' heirloom through images and short story telling. The audience of this piece is not only the readers of the *New York Times* but particularly African American families both with and without family heirlooms to grasp the significance of kinship bonds.

Journalists Miles and May-Curry use emotional appeals in "Heirlooms, Redefined" to appeal to the black community and shed light on the non-traditional family heirlooms that still carry generational significance through photographs and storytelling. By adding the element of nostalgia through the photographs depicting the families and their heirlooms to illuminate the viewers to reflect and relate to the heirlooms exhibited and finding the shared significance behind them. They also empower viewers to be proud of their families' generational gifts by telling the stories of each photographer's heirloom and emphasizing the importance of their value. Miles and May-Curry use this article to redefine the minds behind the traditional and practical ideas of what a family heirloom is and celebrates the commemoration of family heirlooms no matter what they are or what they look like.

With that being said, what is your family heirloom? Regardless of what it may be, it is an important part of family history and plays a role in who you are today. You can now walk away being proud of your family history and carry the gifts to following generations.