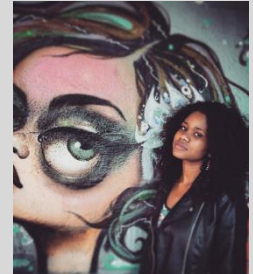
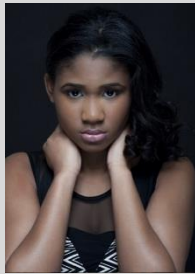




Akilah Alexander

[Writer](#) | [Producer](#) | [Director](#)

Akilah Rasheeda Alexander was born in Georgetown, Guyana to Tricia Hughes, a humble bank teller. Before she was three months old, Akilah was given books as gifts. Her mother read to her every night before bed, and at the age of three, Akilah learned to read. With this new talent, she was left to her own devices, and while other children itched to go outside and play, Akilah wanted nothing more than to find someplace quiet to read her favorite books. She developed such a strong love of the language she heard everywhere around her. After she and her mother immigrated to America, she quickly adapted to the new society that welcomed her and her unique background. Her distinct “Guyanese” accent was lost within a week of attending Kindergarten classes because she found it much easier to communicate with her classmates when they could understand her. It was her appreciation for language that helped her assimilate ... [See full bio below](#) »



However, despite how well she fit into her new culture, Akilah remained proud of her country of origin and continued to view it as the place where she discovered that words could be brought to life. It goes without saying that in time, she developed yet another talent: the ability to paint with her words and shape whole new environments out of varying sentence structures. She was introduced to writing through online video games, where she was able to create her own characters and develop them thoroughly. At the age of twelve, she found a community of writers, like herself, and delved into a world she created with her friends—friends of various backgrounds.

Although her writing was far from perfect in the beginning, like a sponge, she soaked up any opportunity she had to improve. In high school, English became her favorite subject. “I never shied away from essays like my other classmates did. Even if I did procrastinate more than a few times, I always saw in-class essays as a challenge and an opportunity. I wanted my teachers to know that I was more than capable of expressing my ideas,” she states.

Nonetheless, her confidence was dashed when she received her first English 1102 essay grade in professor Turula’s class. With her grade came the realization that she was far from being a skilled writer. So, she buckled down and opened her mind—determined to perfect her talent and bring her ideas to life.