

Prompt: If I had met Shirley Chisholm, Guyanese American and first Black US Congresswoman
Submitted by Sheliza Amin

One of my greatest inspirations, and I knew that meeting her would never happen. Who'd have guessed it'd happen? For those who are unfamiliar with this Shirley Chisholm is great woman, she was a politician, educator, and novelist in the United States. She was the first black woman elected to the United States Congress. representing New York's 12th congressional district, a district centered on Bedford-Stuyvesant, for seven terms from 1969 to 1983.

Let's start at the beginning: I was strolling down the street when I came into contact with something or someone. When I looked up, I was greeted by a pair of dark-colored eyes that belonged to the one and only Shirley Chisholm. For a few seconds, I was stunned until I regained my composure. Shirley Chisholm, the well-known woman who rose from the ranks of a nursery school teacher to the top and became the first black woman to be elected to the united states congress. She left an indelible mark on history, and her name will live on forever. Returning to the story, as I struggled to stand, she (Shirley Chisholm) extended her hand to help me. I had a number of questions in my head that were just itching to be answered. A quick "hello" from her jolted me out of my thoughts, and I hurriedly returned the greeting. It wasn't every day that you stumbled across your idol on the street. She understood what I was thinking because of my facial expression she then said, "I know you have a lot of questions, but I don't have a lot of time, so I'll answer the most essential one." As she stated, I did not think long but extremely hard. I knew what I was going to say: "How did you get to where you are now?" "I worked really hard and never forgot what my aim was," she said with a smile. She also informed me that if I worked hard enough, I could achieve my ambitions. She gazed at me with compassionate eyes, and I stared at her with admiration.

I never forgot that day and I certainly did not forget what she said. It was a unforgettable moment that will be with me for my entire life. That was the day I met my role model the one and only Shirley Chisholm.