

Sample Submission #2– An excerpt from the Adventures of Dan Aiki (pronounced “don-I-key”) by Edward L. Powe ©. The sample below was taken from Book I (of a series of 10 books) dealing with the adventures of a Northern Nigerian boy belonging to the Hausa group who ages throughout the series.

Action is better than idleness.
Moving forward is better than standing still.
If you come upon thorns, you step on them.
If you come upon money, you pick it up.

The Prophecy

When I was just a lad of five,
I took a journey east.
But even at that young age, I
Feared neither man nor beast.
With two cents in my leather pouch
And hatchet in my hand,
I had set out in search of luck
To the heart of Hausa land.
After traveling two full days,
Or maybe it was three,
I saw an old man on a hill
Just smiling down on me.
Despite the summer heat, this man
Wore neither shirt nor hat.
Clothed only in a loin cloth,
Upon a mat he sat.
When I saw him sitting thus
Straight up the hill I ran;
For this was surely without doubt
A pious, holy man.
“What do you seek, o peerless child?”
The wise man said to me.
“I’m seeking luck o holy one
And my name is Dan Aiki.
As the wise man looked me up and down,
My heart filled with suspense.
“What have you in that pouch?” he asked.
I said, “I have two cents.”
“Two cents is not enough” he said.
“Return home Dan Aiki!
Only with luck does one find luck,
But here this prophecy:
You shall have a prolonged life
Filled with adventures bold,

Routing lions and slaying giants
Until you grow quite old.
And warriors will intone songs,
In praise of Dan Aiki;
For there'll never be in Hausa Land
A bolder lad than thee."
I took my hatchet and my pouch
And set off happily
Filled with expectations of
My life that was to be.