

**Poems by pupils at George Mitchell School, Leyton.
Written in the Journey to Justice poetry club.
With many thanks to their teacher Parul Motin.**

Chain Reaction

When you see me, what do you see?
Am I a creature because I'm black?
Am I different to white people?
Is it the way I talk, is it the way I think?

You make ridiculous owl sounds as I pass,
You can compare me to the craving chimpanzee.
But I will release the fire inside of me, and suffocate your soul...
Meet the Lioness who'll silence the noise.
I will bury you and your ghastly words.

When you're hot you're red,
When you're sick and purple
You'll die grey and feeble.
Yet you call me coloured?
Black. The other.

Because I'm black, does that make me a criminal!
Why do you fear me? Why is my face a disgrace?
Why do you keep scratching my skin?

What are these pigeonholes?
I'm Mexican so I'm a rapist,
White I'm butter perfect!
Ugly so I live in poverty?
Weird so send me to a mental asylum?

I'm just curious why black never gets answered.

This will make you cry

- Trinity Bibbon

This poem was inspired by the Ruby Bridges story. Racism still exists in our schools and we need to help one another understand different cultures and religions.

Dried Flower

I'm fat, but do you know why?
It doesn't matter if I'm fat, large or big,
I will never lose my soul.
Just maybe my heart at times.

I'm innocent, fresh like a blossomed flower.
The nature protects me but you,
Look at me and insult me,
'Fat elephant, ugly whale, fat shit'

Have you ever looked in my eyes?
Have you seen the sea reflecting in them?
Have you noticed the sun disappearing in the darkness of my pupils?
How would you feel if your bones were aching every day?
Imagine you empty stomach, so hungry,
But your mouth makes everything taste lifeless.

I was thin as a tree branch, losing its leaves.
My bones were as fragile as a bird's bones, crushed by a lorry.
I was leukaemia, but leukaemia never beat me.

- Alexandra Letu

Inspired by 'Still I Rise' by Maya Angelou.

I am shy,

But I can start a riot.

Don't be fooled by my silence.

I am soft, soft in the voice.

I am strong,

So, I will not be QUIET.

- Samira Hussein

Inspired by Maya Angelou – empowering women's rights

I am unbreakable,

I am powerful.

You can't break me, because I am the devil in the night.

The sun in the sea,

The sparkles in the jet black sky.

I am attractive ,

I am gorgeous,

Don't JUDGE me.

Because I know who I am,

I am cute.

How could you dislike me?

I am perfect

Because I have imperfections,

And you cannot JUDGE me.

You can be jealous,

But remember...

We're already in a callous WORLD.

- Maya Hristova

Inspired by Maya Angelou – empowering women's rights

Stop the rain

Justice justice,
I can't fight alone,
I can't rid this pain.
Justice justice
I need help.
Justice justice
Please stop the rain.
Xenophobia is not an option,
According to the law.
But we see it today, we see it in history,
Think of Stephen Lawrence, Rosa Parks and millions more.
This is not fair. People need care.
There shouldn't be racism there shouldn't be treason.
Stop the subversion.
Justice justice,
I can't fight alone,
I can't rid this pain.
Justice justice
I need help
Justice justice
Please stop the rain.
Why are people segregated from each other?
And kids around the world separated from their mother?
Is it worth the killing?
Bruising and blood spilling?
People are dying
People are crying
Newspapers are lying.

Justice justice,
I want justice.
I want support from the world around,
I cannot bear the pain of my sorrows anymore.
Justice justice,
I can't fight alone,
I can't rid this pain.
Justice justice
I need help
Justice justice
Let us unite
Justice justice let's put up a global FIGHT!

Inspired by the murder of Stephen Lawrence, this poem is urging people to accept history but calls on them to create change to stop racism.

I am attitude,

I am strong,

I can do anything.

If someone tries to get rude to me,

I will show them my gratitude, because I am better.

I am strong.

I can fight. I am Jacky.

- Jacky Yenga-Matmu

Inspired by Maya Angelou – empowering women's rights