

Love 
Out Loud

VIRTUAL POETRY NIGHT

SCHOLAR AND MENTOR POEMS

March 24, 2021



**HIGHER
ACHIEVEMENT**



Love Out Loud

VIRTUAL POETRY NIGHT

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RESPECT

by Aidyn H. | 7th grade

Brookland Achievement Center, DC Metro

People want to you respect others,
but how can you respect others without respecting yourself?
You are kept silenced like a prisoner,
Swept under the rug like a bug until you crawl yourself out.

Respecting yourself isn't easy.
There are drawbacks and Setbacks.
Maybe it's how the internet portrays you.
Pressuring you until you break through,
When you finally meet their criteria.
Maybe it's how you don't fit the standards,
Or how you're just a bystander.

But just knowing you are enough,
And it's okay to not always be tough,
Will help you find that confidence,
To stand up and believe in yourself,
Because loving oneself,
Will help you find the confidence.

The confidence that will show you that you are worthy.
The confidence that will help you stand up for what is right,
And will bring you upright,
To stand up for others,
So others don't have to suffer.
And you won't have to mutter,
To be heard.



2020

by Aleah B. | 7th grade

Binford Achievement Center, Richmond

All summer long summer was boring.
Covid was messing up everything even employees.

All this protesting, having people dying.
The families are mourning they can't stop crying.

Everyone in this world needs civil rights,
we need to stop picking between black and white.

I would love to contribute to all these fires,
the world is getting worse hours by hours.

In order to get this world back to brand new,
we must conclude but don't forget this big flu.

Coronavirus is another thing we can not decline,
since this vaccine is on the line.

Everyday there's an argument it's either coronavirus,
the president, or black lives matter.

There should be no such thing as diversity,
we're all the same people just different personalities.

We all pledge to the flag every morning
to show our world is truly important.



SHARE

by Alexis B. | 8th grade

Greenbelt Achievement Center, DC Metro

they snap they like they comment they share
with the world makeup tips and how to dance
a couple of pics and thousands of likes
all by the wrist, they say just a few swipes

things are happening
things are taking place
yet we see videos on how to do your hair
people are dying and people are crying
and all we see is how to make you skin clear

they are the reason why so little care
the little ones who adore their videos
are the same ones who will learn not to care

not to care about the beatings
not to care about the protest
not care about injustice
not care about people besides themselves

they will continue to talk about how they get their lips so luscious
but will not understand the true meaning of justice

you
the one who is sitting there
stranger to the world
voice hushed
you will be the reason why they learn to care



you will share and
you WILL teach
make sure that they can reach
an understanding in which they believe,
life isn't fair

teach about oppression
teach about situations
teach about the things happening on the news

your voice is valiant, valid, victorious, Veridical,
and it will reach valleys located on the very verge of this earth.

share because you care
share because you want to see a difference
share because life needs to be changed
share because no one should have to endure pain

SHARE BECAUSE YOU HAVE A VOICE
people will thank you
for the simple reason that you shared
because of you, you saved
a world
a nation
a country
an economy
a family
a child
a life

your voice
the only voice
in which could change a land

all because you stood up and decided to share



NATURE

by Amy T. | 5th grade

Ward 4 Achievement Center, DC Metro

Nature is a calming and Peaceful word; it compromises trees, animals, and birds.
We have learned to call it mother nature, but sadly all we do is ruthless torture.

Nature's so beautiful it blows our minds;
you can lose yourself in it or find yourself at the same time.

Let's be sensible and show our humanity;
let's protect mother nature for our community.

Nature is being destroyed every day.
If we keep wiping away, wildlife will be no colors but gray.

Red berries Blueberries all of a kind,
Destroying Nature is wrongful and not fine

We can all communicate and work together.
If we don't do it now, we won't do it ever.



DEFINE

by Amyah F. | 8th grade

Ward 8 Achievement Center, DC Metro

Washington DC, the Northeast, the southeast,
The wealth or my healthy
The joy, sadness, the emotion,
Playing soccer in the rain, the ballet, the tap, the dance
People who surround me, the fun times the bad time
the crying after school, the short jokes'
the cute clothes or ugly
Who cares because these many things don't define this
A young black gifted girl who is
small and nice but sometimes thinks twice
the sensitivity about everyone especially herself
The love she has for everyone around her
the confidence that builds her up every day
the motivation for her to school every day and do well
Her business every time she wakes in the morning
the funniest that makes everyone laugh
Her having fun and enjoying it.
This is Amyah and what she is defined by with nothing else
Believe yourself and nobody else
Don't let anyone tell your story because you are who you are.



INEQUALITY, DISCRIMINATION, AND RACISM

by Antinae P. | 7th grade

Brookland Achievement Center, DC Metro

All we do is tear down each other everyday
Well what about all those people that want to make a change?
How can we change if we don't even work together to make that change?
We just take all those people for granted and don't even care about what they're saying
Everyday a person endures racism
Everyday a person endures discrimination
If we want peace, we must earn it
And the way to earn peace is RESPECT



SOCCER BALL

by Axel A. | 6th grade

Alexandria Achievement Center, DC Metro

It was my friend I lost it over a barbed wire fence
I was like an abusive friend I would always kick it
It was older than me with the perfectly seemed leather, but I will always be mine



TEACHER

by Brenda K. | 8th grade

Ward 4 Achievement Center, DC Metro

I want to **be** a teacher.
I will be a teacher!
I would be happy to be a teacher and,
I would thank God for making me a teacher.

I will tend to my students like a gardener my
whiteboard, and dry erase marker will be my water hose as
I spray, each and every one of my students with knowledge.
I will strive to be the best **teacher** there ever was.
My stimulating worksheets will be like my shovel as I dig open their
minds and fill them with facts, truth, and certainty.

Teaching will be my **strong** suit.
Teaching will be my profession.
I will not claim to create humanity,
However, through teaching I will contribute to its growth .

Like a parent I will protect the frail minds of MY scholars
and make them 10 times smarter. I will open my heart and listen to them without hesitation
like a **second** mother and guide them to be the best of the best.

Because
All who are Presidents,
Judges,
doctors, **and**
Principals,
All need a teacher in their life.



Because
They contribute to the country
The justice
The health
and the whole world
So without teachers there is no future.



WE THE PEOPLE

by Davion W. | 8th grade

Boushall Achievement Center, Richmond

We the people, applies to everyone right? Wrong.
Instead of asking others you assume
Potential winners getting well wishes from balloons

As I for one would put down the gun and think of their future as a leader.
Could've been a writer, lawyer, teacher, or a local preacher

Now I ain't mad atcha, I'm just blinded by the fact that you kill our blood, get no years in jail
and say guns don't kill people.
What came first, the racial profiling or the thought of fear... think about it.

We the people should be able to go on a run without thinking about our last time on earth.
We the people should be able to get snacks from 7-11 with no problems.
We the people should be able to get in the house safely without any harm.
But no we can't live that luxury. We the people, we the people.



SEASONS

by Derick H. | 6th grade

Alexandria Achievement Center, DC Metro

There are four seasons
In the spring you can hear the raindrops go plink
When there's bees try not to get stinged

In summer you feel the heat
the sun is next to you and feel like you can't even speak
Running to the truck of ice cream you might
But if you don't catch it you'll give out a cry

In the fall the leaves fall down
Like a plane without an engine falling to the ground
Jumping in piles of leaves
But when you're done you might have to clean

In the winter it is really cold
If you've been naughty you'll get coal
Building snowmans and having snowball fights
Hope you don't slip on the ice

The seasons are really sweet
So hope you enjoy and get some sleep



BLOSSOM

by Fertuna M. | 8th grade

Alexandria Achievement Center, DC Metro

beautiful tall and grand
a scenery for comfort and tourism
take your fingers to your screen
move your thumb and index finger in an outward motion to zoom in

can you see the ruff patterns across my coffee bark?

or can you see my 3 broken branches,
the aftermath of a little boy
who thought he could climb to the sky?

maybe you can see the heart carved in by two teenagers
only for one to come back a year later and cross it out?
even the sky was crying in pity

well can't you see the small nest on my left side
home to an eastern bluebird and her 4 baby chicks?
oh the sugary music they always make.

most certainly you can see the mudhole near my roots
made by next generation architects,
right?

not even the pair of sneakers dangling from my branch
hung up by a boy and his friends in loving memory of another
promising to always come back to each other?

you can only see pixels?
How odd.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

by Imani J. | 6th grade

Henderson Achievement Center, Richmond

Black Lives Matter.

That's all I should have to say, right?

Yet Black people fear for their lives every day.

And some Black people don't even have the guts to say Black Lives Matter
or they fear they will be shot down right away.

But I don't get it. Not one bit.

Black lives do matter.

So why are Black people—why am I—so afraid to say it?

Whenever I try, I feel the words flee from my mouth.

Silent as a desert, feeling nothing but despair.

But here, I can say it as many times as I want without objection.

So hear me out:

Black Lives Matter.

Black Lives Matter.

Black Lives Matter.



A MESSAGE TO AMERICA

by Izzy and Jersey | 6th grade

Ward 1 Achievement Center, DC Metro

Americans. Staff. Scholars. Also the World.

We Need to STOP Racism NOW!!

We hate watching on the news that every time there's something on BLACK LIVES and white people keep accepting THE FACT THAT BLACK PEOPLE KEEP FREAKING DYING AND THEY DON'T CARE!!!

We also HATE that when BLACK PEOPLE protest they get tased and killed and when WHITE PEOPLE protest they don't get tased and killed. LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE RIOT OF THE CAPITOL!!

We also hate the fact that Non Black people are using stuff that is for black people and other people take our stuff like hair products which are specifically for BLACK PEOPLE.

AGAIN STOP THE RACISM NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



WHAT BOTHERS ME ABOUT RACISM

by Marake W. | 5th grade

Ward 1 Achievement Center, DC Metro

What bothers me about racism, you may ask?

Well you see

I feel that the color of your skin shouldn't matter.

I believe that racism shouldn't be something in our community.

You may ask why?

It's because it hurts people's feelings and people get killed because of it.

Police kill people because of the color of their skin

They judge people before they even get to know them

Or even if they have a weapon.

It's like white people are the predators and colored people are the prey.

It's too often that colored people get less respect than white people

BLM has arrived for a reason,

Because of the way black people are treated.

We can make a change in the world for the better.

Make people believe in humanity again,

By being positive about other people's skin color.



POLLUTION

by Milka I. | 6th grade

Alexandria Achievement Center, DC Metro

Do you feel indifferent when we speak of this global issue?
Don't you see how this world is going bad like a rotten banana?
And I hate to say it but it's becoming part of our everyday routine
I just wanna say if you ever notice the bright beautiful clear day
Know that, sooner or later it will go away
With the way we are now sooner more than later
The world will see that you never get to see that once so beautiful sky,
Again but rather your tears from realizing what could have been is now lost
You say you care you say the world is important to us all but you never DO

You say that you would love to be an activist
But I know those are blind promises and words.
You see the skies and dark clouds coming out of buildings but yet you do nothing
When the day comes that the impact is so so strong you have nothing but a litter filled world
You try and try to fix it all
But you know its too late
You had a chance but swatted it away like a fly.
Now do the actions needed before it is too late
This carbon filled world doesn't have to have a horrible fate

So we shall research and fix this world out of this unpleasant state, and no
We will not back down when it gets hard
We will not falter in the face of our realization that you need to make pollution
Because you don't.
Do something. Show the world or even just your family and friends
What you CAN do against this growing problem. I don't know if a little poem especially one
made by a young person like me is going to change the world.



But I do know little by little if we spread the word to others,
share with them what has gone so terribly wrong in our perfect world
then I know we will accomplish our goal and then we shall sing our victory song.
That's a far far far and long road for us to drive but we will get it done. I know a new era of
great change has begun.

We CAN and we WILL arrive at the end of the road

It will be hard, yes and long, of course but if we show all the new generations to come
A beautiful world to live in rather than the one we are living then it will be all worth it.



THE SON OF KINGS

by Moustapha S. | 6th grade

Alexandria Achievement Center, DC Metro

I am a boy of kings and lions from a family of strong men and women
I am from a Senegalese to American dream
I am the son of 1 million kings and 1 million queens
I am more like you than I am different
I am from peace and love



GUNS DOWN, HEARTS UP

by NiZir H. | 5th grade

Ward 7 Achievement Center, DC Metro

We lost lives. Black Lives Matter.
There is no reason why we should've lost Brenna Taylor
Davon McNeal
Gorge Floyd
They knew what they where doing
It was their choice
Say their names
Don't be scared because if it
wasn't for them they would still be here.
Get your knee of our necks
I can't breathe
Go ahead
Come on take a stand with me
Be the movement and save lives
Black Lives Matter it's do or die



CLIMATE CHANGE

by Noelle T. | 8th grade

Ward 4 Achievement Center, DC Metro

The world around us is changing fast
The ground beneath us is now being trashed
We are trying to fix the deeds of the past
But time is catching up to us way too fast

When the air fills our lungs
Then we realize what needs to be done
First we restore our earth and have some fun
Then we make sure we won't make the same mistake twice
So we don't have to pay the cruel cruel price

Oceans filled with bottles and bags
That used to be an ocean wonderland
If we fixed what we messed up
Then we won't have to give up

Now it's our turn to appreciate what we have
So future generations can have a chance at the amazing world we have



RACE AND APPEARANCE

by Nya J. | 7th grade

Mt. Royal Achievement Center, Baltimore

My hair is curly
Not straight or wavy but it's like my hair is an early
combination of coarse and straight and it's obedient
it needs no ingredients
yes but then again it's coarse
but not coarse
it's straight
but not straight
it's very easy to notice it even started a debate
on whether it's coarse or straight
or even straight or coarse
but the word curly is a reasonable source
yeah a force

I got made fun of a lot
It's like they were planning to plot
on me
I don't know why but it's not right and you need to agree
kids made fun of my teeth
"What did I do to make you see underneath"
My lips that are thick but
not thick
Thin
to some people where do I even begin
It's time to formulate a plot
to get out of this because its all I've got



I look white
to some people but not Black enough for others
I want to talk but not get in a fight
But every time I talk it's always "I gonna get my brothers"
Can people just stop having to deal with race
I guess not we have to shove it in their face
Lose your race
Face
Your past
Just last
You can't forget
That there is no regret
for being you
That's who
I believe in.



A FROG'S LIFE

by Randy A. | 8th grade

Alexandria Achievement Center, DC Metro

Finally, morning at last
I hear the sound of water while eating organic food
Sticky pads on feet
Hops on lily pads
I jump into the pond
I am a big frog
I am not just big but cute
I am the best frog



LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD

by Zeinab D. | 6th grade

Ward 4 Achievement Center, DC Metro

Small voices don't get listened to
For people are always saying they don't care
Only if they knew these voices could change the world
They would change the world like no one else could
If only the people listened to the small voices
If only the people didn't argue instead of listening
If only people knew these small voices were once ignored
So, listen to small voices
For they will change the world.
Let our voices be heard.



KNOCK, KNOCK

by Antoine RJ Wright

Former mentor at Lakeland and Cherry Hill Achievement Centers, Baltimore

Knock, knock
Who's there
I don't recognize that voice
And I dare not open that box
I don't want to cause another choice
That has me seeing the locks
Let me stand near the...
Knock, knock
Can anyone hear that
Each time I fear that
Rising tunes and fear cap
I ain't about that
So would you please tell me who you...
Knock, knock
Nah man
This one has a subtle rumble
This one feels a trouble tussle
I'm going to pull on my stubble
Pensive
Yea man
I can't be trouble trouble toil and bubble
These cats out here on this heated rubble
Talking some
Distant planets aren't so far away
But my planet is so hard to stay, on
Can anyone find Gaia
Knock, knock



Love Out Loud
VIRTUAL POETRY NIGHT

Knock, knock
They make me stand in virtual fires
Call themselves teachers yet I'm inspired to hire YouTube and IG
Yet I'm in a screen
Why can't you see
I'm trying hard
I'm not trying to be mean
But you try flying when your ticket to dream
Sits in press releases behind masks and vaccines
You try developing a sense of social clean
But cannot understand the tone alone sings
Can't comprehend the grip a home brings
When the classroom was the peace and the zen you now ring
Yea it's all good the pawns have a heroes ring
But does normal also mean my lungs don't get cleaned
Does normal also mean books off the bindings
Busses off the timings
Parents lost the job things
Does normal to you mean the numbers on the screen
Mean more than the breath a filled soul sings
Knock, knock
Is anyone out there hearing me
Trying to get out this screen
Out this mask
Out this dream
There's a life out there
Let me see what it means to breathe
Knock, knock



ONE DAY

by Teri Porter

Former mentor at Lakeland Achievement Center, Baltimore

They say one day it'll all make sense...
They said one day you'll look back & smile
They said one day you'll be happy.
They said **ONE DAY** we won't have to fight.
One day we won't cry, we won't **die**.
One day we won't break.
They said **ONE DAY** we'll have *freedom*.
See I've been waiting for that day for a long time.
We been waiting for so many somedays & onedays that I can't even tell this day apart from the next.
We've been marking our calendars.
We been waiting for the clock to strike.
Waiting for Freedom's hour like a ball drop on New Years...
Justice is a name that doesn't ring any bells.
Hope's clock just struck midnight and Strength didn't leave any glass slippers behind. We don't know where to find them.
One day we'll be equal.
One day lil black & brown kids will **speak joy**.
One day our cries will be heard.
Our voices bellowed from the loudest peaks.
One day the silence won't continue to drown out our laughter.
They said one day we'll be **FREE!**
I'll guess I'll just count the days *until that someday*.