

Corinne's Poem

It should be we the people, and I the teacher but we all know

schools are racism and discrimination (Aggarwal, 2024)

So even though I'm licensed to teach AND kill --
doing both with precision --
it doesn't matter because

racism is not an aberration of public education or U.S. democracy;
rather, it is their form and function," (Aggarwal, 2024, p. 56)

Now the results are in...
I've committed educational malpractice
With random acts of scholasticide
Traumatizing my students in the same way I was
Retraumatizing myself in the process
leaving me askin'

If I don't feel comfortable, how do I know my [students] are going to be treated equally?"
(Aggarwal, 2024, p. 96)

Because Black Lives Matter and I can't breathe
are only chanted because Black Lives Don't Matter so we can't breathe.

So language is my art
and this is my declaration
I'm both the
heartbreak
& hope
since I'm the first in my family
not fighting for freedom
I fight for life
And my homework for not dying is
refusing to be
designated
to the melanin-segregated
area
of society because in Detroit
original deeds read
"no blacks or Jews" allowed

Changing housing and school
patterns like
sharks in the Atlantic

“Kids have no choice about where they’re born or where they live,”(Kozol, 1991, p. 239)

but zip codes
determines aptitude
not the
initiate sense of
intelligence given by God
to people who look like Him

(because My God, My God why has thoust forsaken me sounds a lot like...why close my
school? And I can’t breathe while callin’ on mama
so God is Black at least)

Black dandelion
roots are stripped
making way for
something new
Still
I fear
The answer
Might have me fighting
For my life since

It’s a moral and political crisis” (Lipman, 2011, p. 128)

allowed because

“you see these children as a little less than human,” (Kozol, 1991, p.231)

But the solution is to
Burn it down and start over until

Education is [no longer] a brittle, abstract ritual (Kozol, 1991, p.175).

Don’t misundastand

I long for the day
where beloved community
is held

Harmony with Mother Earth and a system of peace based on social justice” (Lipman,
2011, p. 159).

a Person orientated society,” (Lipman, 2011, p. 162)

No longer an expendable population (Haymes, 1995, p.13).