

Don't Shoot! I can't Breathe

Don't shoot! I can't breathe
 Blood covered tattoos and ripped sleeves,
 laid on the streets
 Money and Power motivates greed,
 washing off stained sheets
 Living in social misproportion ignites sacrificial unbridling
 mental distortion, tired of being the bigger man
 I'm out to get the ham
 Livin' life like if the 50's was still the norms
 Tired of going through the worse of storms
 Shit is mad outrageous to live like ape ages
 Where you gotta protect yourself from 12 gauges
 That's one shot too many, our last breath is coming real heavy
 Battle wound scars that still scream loud, willing to die for rights
 it's why we remain so proud
 Ignorance is envy but it's not the first time we kill our enemy
 Too divided will cause more drug and violence, It's proven shown those who lack of parental guidance,
 no option to choose but life of no morals when you live for survivance
 Mino in a pool of piranhas, where you don't know who all is really ya patnas
 Even if ya keep your bond metamorphic,
 there's no telling who will really be behind your rigormortis
 Rest In Equality Ms.Chisholm
 We Are Unbought and Unbossed.
 --Octavio Gonzalez-Rolon



Jeff Seniors pose for a group photo.

4 Years in One Poem

Born sinner, the opposite of a winner
 All the lame **g**'s showed me what not to do
 Not easy to ditch fear, believe it
 The fact that I may never make it
 Born sinner
 I dont trust people enough beyond they surface
 Let these words be your earth and moon
 You consume every message
 Born sinner
 You can't imitate me
 How clutch are the people that say they 'love' you?
 And who pretending
 It's all over now
 Ain't nothin' finna break my stride
 Nobody gonna slow me down

Born sinner
 If you don't like me you gone hate me
 The secret is i'm actually broken
 If I have to go I hope my soul is still eternal
 And my momma don't forget about me
 I pray my bestie wont forget about me
 Saw things I imagined
 Born sinner
 Learning on the low key, shining
 Tryin' to keep to myself
 You can mind yo business
 How could I be mad that I aint yall
 Every trial and test is a lesson
 Knowledge is the most powerful weapon
 But how'd I win if it was on 2% knowledge
 People always told me I was bad I was misunderstood
 I was born sinner but THIS IS IT (WHAT?!)
 Born sinner, DIDN'T QUIT (WHAT!)
 --Rene Douglas

Dear Covid-19

We should call you Covid-20 but we're going to leave that alone.
 Covid, why did you come to bother us
 You ruined most of my plans to become an adult
 Because of you I haven't seen my friends for 2 months
 Because of you I've been bored and I had to find something to do.
 I can't take the news anymore
 Covid, you've really stirred up some mess
 Covid I will never forget you but you probably feel the same way, you'll be back
 Covid! I can't believe you had me thinking it was the end of the world.
 Damn, who would've thought that this would happen so soon?
 Coronavirus, Coronavirus, Coronavirus.
 Thank you Covid for teaching me how to: cook, have patience, become more humble, learn about myself, and distancing me away from the negativity that surrounded me on a daily basis.
 --Sonia Johnson

Thoughts on a Senior Year

Guess what happened?
 This is the last homework i'll ever do!
 Where is my mom?
 What are friends for?
 What am I supposed to do? Huh?
 Where am I supposed to be?
 What are they talking about?
 Where's the heater?
 I promise I won't go to sleep!
 Can you help me with this?
 Yummy Yummy Food!
 All I did was laugh!
 I got a PROBLEM!
 Nice view of the football field!

Did I leave my blanket in here/ can I?
 Surprise!!!
 I'll be back in a min!
 Pajama day is everyday!
 Where are my chips?
 I was right!
 This senior year sucked!
 I'm a stronger person now!
 I'm wiser now!
 THANK YOU PEOPLE!!
 Thank you for pushing me to be the best I can be
 Where do I go from here?
 I don't want to move on
 I don't like change
 The things I do for people
 I am proud of who I have become through my high school experience!
 --Clarissa Jennings-Ramsey

2020 Senior Year

It started out great,
 I met new people,
 Made new friends,
 But December came and Coronavirus hit the world,
 Schools are getting canceled,
 People aren't able to leave their house,
 For their safety of course,
 Than March came and it hit Oregon,
 School gets canceled,
 Senior year is ruined,
 A year we've been waiting for 13 years,
 It's not just any other year,
 It's a huge milestone in all of our lives,
 "Waiting to see what happens in the following months, before graduation gets canceled"
 Says the district,
 Well there's one piece of good news,
 Most of it's bad nowadays,
 Parents say,
 "I feel bad"
 Or
 "I don't know how to help"
 There is no way to help,
 We just had this huge thing ripped out of our arms,
 We were almost there,
 We may never walk the halls again,
 Sit at lunch eating with friends,
 Talking to teachers and laugh about classes,
 All of it,
 It's just gone,
 Class of 2020,
 'The lost opportunities'
 --Jayden McKinney

Black and Female

Try being black and a woman
 Constantly I'm working my butt off to prove that I'm as smart and strong as a man can be
 By also having to deal with the fact that I sometimes can't get a job because of my f***** name,
 Or being racially profiled, also while being followed around in stores, and when a cop pulls me over I'm praying that I don't end up on national television
 I can't just pick one or the other
 I have to struggle with both.
 As black people we can't jog in a neighborhood without being lynched
 We can't walk outside wearing a hoodie
 We can't walk with a bag of skittles in our hand
 That's why we scream Black Lives Matter,
 Because all lives will matter once ours does.
 --Samaya Morgan



Charles Washington

Born: 1951 - 2012

Former Publisher of the Portland Observer

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