



Racism is Like a Dying Flower - a community poem by staff and students of PEP Greenview, 2021

Racism is being mean to the world for no reason
It's like a dark cloud over you
It's smog in the air.

Racism is like an incurable disease
A malignant disease, a sickness, an illness, a bad headache that just won't go away.
Can we find a cure?

Racism is judging people by their skin instead of how they act.
It is mean, bad, wrong. Racism is brutal, cruel, deadly.
George Floyd, he was murdered.

Racism is like darkness that hasn't been lit yet.
Racism is like going down a rabbit hole and you can't get out.
How can we light the way?

Racism is knowing you're behind in the game before the game has even started.
Racism is like having a bad day. The most terrible, horrible no good very worst day.
Over and over.

Racism is like a dying flower.
It is heartbreak, sacrifice and loss. It's actually a poisonous weed
And we will not allow it to live

When people see me they judge me because of the color of my skin. I feel judged.
You don't see me at all, you see a black person.
You think that I am a threat, but I won't hurt you.

When you see me, don't be afraid.
See my strength and joy. I am a queen. I am a soldier. See a successful student. See my black ancestors. See me happy.
When you see me, I will do something nice.

When people see me, they think I am a racist, they think I am a cop.
When people see me, they just see my outside. When people see me, they think I don't care.
When you see me, I hope you see a caring person.
Get to know me!

When people see me I don't think they'll ever know who I really am. I don't think they'll ever know what I'm really feeling.
When people see me they don't know what I've been through.
Heartbrokenness. Don't look at my eyes.

There's been pain and also triumph. We need justice, hope, a clear vision for the future.
Black joy is a start, a playful mood, open-mindedness, pride for the culture.
Yet to be fully realized.

Black Joy is family togetherness,
Friends, great joy, grateful joy, radiant happiness.
Black by popular demand!