Adam Stroecker
Age: 17, Grade: 11

School Name: RenaissanCE Sch of Eastern Shr, Daphne, AL
Educator: JoAnn Clemmons

Category: Poetry

---

Human Blood

A crimson fluid passes through the veins of all living creatures
It brings life, joy, energy, and existence to each life force that it possesses
It holds no grudges, no favorites, no fear
It alone feels nothing but equality to each being it inhabits
At the core of every human, there lies a single heart.
Inside the chest cavity, it pulses, producing life with each passing second.
“Thump,” “Thump,” “Thump”
It circulates blood to every vein of the body, ensuring each receives a fair pint.
Inside every human, blood exists.
Inside every human, a heart exists.
On the surface of every human, skin exists.
In the skull of every human, a mind exists
Fueled by the life-altering fluid known as blood
Thousands of humans stand before me.
I see an array of colors as far as the eye can see
I see mixtures of,
White
Black
Tan
Peach
Carmel
Gray
Brown
And others that are blends of many different shades of skin tone.
They all have one major factor in common.
All of them have blood flowing within their veins.
I stare out at the city, where hundreds of humans live and breath
As I look down the street, I notice a small group dragging a long thin line of chalk down the center of the road.
One pulls out a hammer and begins to stake two wooden signs into the ground before them.
One reads,
“Left only!”
The other reads,
“Right Only!”
Two long lines of people face one another in perfect symmetry along the line dividing them.
Then, they begin to attack.
They begin to scream,
Swear
Pounce
Kick
Punch
Claw
And shove one another!
I notice a few drops of blood have spattered to the ground before me.
I place my hand down on top of the small pool and let the red fluid coat my palm.
I stare at it intently, but I can’t tell who the owner of this scarlet liquid is.
On the other side of town, people walk past one another, growling and scowling in anger at one another.
Off in the distance, I hear bits and pieces of their conversations.
“Your life is so much easier than mine! It’s only because your white.”
“You’re homophobic! Everyone else says you are.”
“This country is against all minority parties. Racism never went away.”
“White people are evil and privileged.”
“Black people are dangerous criminals.”
“Gay people are sick.”
“Hispanics are illegal.”
“Asians are ugly.”
I stare back down at the blood on my hand.
I stab the sharp end of my fingernail down into my thumb
A single drop of red blood leeks out of the aberration of my skin
It’s identical to the blood on my palm
So, the individual who owns this red elixir has the same blood as me.
All humans possess blood inside of their bodies
It flows out of our hearts and into our veins
It gives us life and nourishment for our bodies and soul.
What is truly unique about blood.
No matter the human, it’s always the same deep shade of red.
No matter the skin
No matter the sex
No matter the status
No matter the faith
No matter the lover
No matter the wealth
No matter the ancestry
We all have red blood under our skin
And it proves that we are all equally humans
Running a race that we are in together
Till the very end of time