

# Let's Talk About Race

A Poem by Esther Adeyemi



I say 'RACE' and the room stills,  
Breaths are caught and panic ensues  
Eyes dance frantically across the room  
But never quite settle on what matters.  
You see, the word, in its single syllable,  
Holds the power to silence the most intelligent minds;  
So tell me, how do we talk about race?  
I need just one open mind, one willing to understand  
Perceptive to new perspectives.  
I need just a single space to talk, free of senile stares  
And judgement and disapproving glances.  
I walk into a room and I know  
Almost without looking, I might be alone.  
In a sea of white faces, I search,  
Perhaps in futile desperation,  
To see someone like myself.  
You see, the word, in its four letters,  
Can divide nations, generations, places, people  
So tell me, why should we talk about race?  
Because now there's the increasing divide,  
And someone expects me to be colour blind.  
But dare I remind you,  
It may come as a surprise that  
colour won't fade cause you asked it to.  
Let us be truthful,  
Change cannot be expected if no action is taken,  
And nothing is said.  
For my children and their generation,  
RACE should not be taboo.  
I have few words left to say,  
A token of wisdom I once heard.  
When it comes to talking about RACE,  
'Let's all join in'.