

Junior Poetry Section (15 years & under)

Sarina Qureshi, Stephenville

**A Story All Too Common: Confessions of a Brown Girl  
(an excerpt)**

People just don't understand, that by their incessant inquiries  
They get an answer, that makes more sense to them than it  
does to me. But what hurts me the most, is that no one ever  
Seems to care who I aspire to be.

Look , where I come from is very important history  
Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying I'm ashamed of my  
ethnicity. But all that it's done is gain ignorance and negativity  
You have to understand it's not easy for me to love,  
When it's been drilled into me.

I understand your curiosity  
But what difference does it make  
If you're Black, White, Asian or Hispanic?

At the end of the day  
If you are to judge me,  
Judge me on my passion, character and authenticity  
Not my race, color or ethnicity