

First Place, Poetry
Grades 7-9

“Truth Pantoum,” Juliana Lewandowski

When a group concludes that the truth “becomes a lie,” but another still believes
We target that person and everyone around them for misinformation
What is truth
Perspective

We target that person and everyone around them for misinformation
A consequence for thinking differently
Perspective
Altering our truth, drawing the line between black and white without any grey

A consequence for thinking differently
Being silenced by your “opponent,” ignored, ridiculed
Altering our truth, drawing the line between black and white without any grey
Can prevent us from achieving pure truth without bias

Being silenced by your “opponent,” ignored, ridiculed
Systematically reinforcing the behavior of the single-story
Can prevent us from achieving pure truth without bias
But by carefully reading and analyzing every story, reading every word, we can paint a
picture of reality

Systematically reinforcing the behavior of the single-story
Like a hurricane, destroying everything in its path, detrimental to society
But by carefully reading and analyzing every story, reading every word, we can paint a
picture of reality
And paradise is restored

Like a hurricane, destroying everything in its path, detrimental to society
Perspective can lock you in a jail cell, trapping you, hiding you, but if you break those
barriers, the world shifts to a better place
And paradise is restored
Everlasting tranquility

Perspective can lock you in a jail cell, trapping you, hiding you, but if you break those
barriers the world shifts to a better place
And we have a clear view of reality: Reading every story, listening to all perspectives,
busting stereotypes, seeing people without bias
Everlasting tranquility
Because at last we are free

And we have a clear view of reality: Reading every story, listening to all perspectives,
busting stereotypes, seeing people without bias
So what is truth, truth is perspective, but PURE truth is reality, as long as one soul still
believes in their truth and pure truth, we are saved
Because at last we are free
When a group concludes that the truth “becomes a lie,” but another still believes

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