Why?

Rayvon Gary
Why
By Rayvon

I once got caught in some gang violence
Let me tell you, it was far from silent
There was a bunch of Black and Latino's, around 13
Beating down what looked like a bunch of hippies
I was unfortunate enough to be around the block
I think the time was...12:00 PM, on the dot
Oh, they were beating those hippies and having fun
That was, until one of those “hippies” pulls out a gun
I round the corner, see the gun, and try to remain unfazed
Three seconds later, a bullet flies by my face, left me dazed
A gang member, in the fetal, bleeding unto the ground
Five seconds later, flew about twenty more rounds
All those young kids, on the ground, dying
Fearing that I’m next, I run, silently crying
They may have been gang, but I feel they were too young to die
That whole scenario left me with one question. Why?
Why does always seem to happen everywhere?
I already know why though. It was because of all the wear and tear
That the world forced upon them to bear.
I was lucky, I realized, to have what I do
To be unlike them, with trouble constantly a brew
I wanted to stop this, but didn’t know how until I realized
I could share what I saw and ask the very same question...
Why?

I like the idea of asking the question “Why?” Why does this violence exist? I’m from a town called Storm Lake which is one of the most diverse towns in Iowa. I grew up with ethnic diversity being the norm. As children, we didn’t recognize that there was any issue with the colors of skin being different. It wasn’t until parents or other adults imposed these ideas. Having parents that wouldn’t let us play with the other kids because they were different.

What if we explore the idea that racism is taught to youth and ingrained into our culture by adults, and children don’t perceive it naturally?

What if we try to do an informative piece telling parents and adults to be wary of the stereotypes that they instill on their children and the youth?

We could do something to encourage children to ignore the prejudices that older people project onto them.

And we stick with this idea of asking “Why?” do parents/adults feel the need to extend these prejudices to their youth. What if we make something that explores the idea of race/separation being more important as we age?