

THE CHANGE

Written by:

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The world's dying, disappearing like Mayans
Some of us on the Islands, some of us in the highlands
Glaciers are melted, crying
And fire in the streets
Long lost intelligence, we need some release

Mothers, brothers, aunties, sisters, dying in the streets
At the hands of the ones that they account for the least
Pulling out their guns, to end our lives as we retreat
Had to fight them back, the tongue holds power when we speak

Bit inside America, the taste is bitter sweet
They don't want us here no more, they telling us to leave
There ain't gon be nowhere to go if you can never see
That without all the immigrants this country wouldn't be
And without all the melanin this country wouldn't eat
Just look at all the reasons Colin had to take a knee¹
If we don't speak about it then the cycle will repeat

Create petitions with a vision in mind
Feeding the children, to keep us alive
Pushing for change, but we need more than the budget
This education system just doesn't cut it, so we organize and march
for our lives
We strategize, we plan further to get further
Teach the community its true history and open doors
Provide the resources they locked away to raise the score
Like how to plan ahead and how to share the wealth
Not to mention therapy to protect our mental health
Owning black businesses to earn for a cause
Still young, but we think it's time they pass the baton
Because in 2022 we're done fighting period poverty



Raised a couple million, to set the people free
And then dispersed all the proceeds
Look what empowerment can do when we spread amongst the youth
Because to believe that something's true is to see it being done
When they see us fighting back, the mission's only partly done

So as we all learn about the power we all hold
Check into the present
Where there is change, there is a team
Following a golden spark our ancestors left in dreams
Pushing us to play our part so that the world can see
All it really takes is just a thought, a drop, a seed

Inspiration for this poem:

Young people have been blazing an incredible movement all across the world that is changing the course of history. They are fed up with the way the world is being run by those in power. As a result, they are leading mass protests and school walk-outs, creating small businesses and nonprofits to address the issues, and launching social media campaigns and trends that bring worldwide attention to the problems people all around the world are facing.

There is power in using your voice, but so many young people still struggle with speaking up and voicing their opinions. The act of speaking up allows for everyone to participate, voice their feelings about what is happening, and it comes with a feeling of empowerment. That is why I wrote this poem: to use my voice to share our youth experience of racial injustice and youth empowerment.

*This spotlight chapter is part of
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¹ Colin Kaepernick is a Black American activist and former National Football League quarterback. In 2016, he kneeled during the playing of the National Anthem to raise awareness about racial injustice, police brutality, and systematic oppression of Black Americans.