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Conversations on Growing Up in Care

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"Colour Blind"

by

Tommy Turner

Life stories are rarely black and white
In fact I'd say they're dark and bright
They're lived with shades of black and grey
And shining with the colours of a summer's day

You can't force people by your image to change
Unless you can see life's colour range
And you must never presume you understand another's story
Unless you've also shared in their pain and glory

I never wrote this poem to put you down
Or take from you your education crown
It's just a request to realise the facts
You can't paste with sympathy, life's damaged cracks

You can only come down from your presumptious throne
Listen and speak to people in a common tone
Open your home, your heart and your love
Because you'll never see the true colours from that place up above

The Author:

My name is Tommy, I am 21 years old and I am a 'care leaver' from London, England. For the last three years I have wanted to help children get their voice. I now work fulltime for 'Barnardos' and I also am on the management committee for 'National Voice,' an organisation that has been created especially to give all children who are in or have left care a voice. I am also an advisor to the English Government on issues for children in care and in need. tommy.turner@barnardos.org.uk