

Great Minds

Emily, Age 16

Connecticut, USA

(Youth Network for Children's Rights, July '04)

Too many great minds of my generation are faced too early,
with the hardness of the world,
Too many great minds of my generation are being lost to poverty
Lost to the poverty of their grandfathers
Lost, forgotten, erased, to a poverty that is a circle, that cannot stop.

Too many great minds are being lost to war,
lost to wars they did not start,
lost to wars that were started long before their time,
wars that were started by men who do not know their names.

Too many great minds of my generation will never sit in a classroom or read a book.
Never know the trials and triumphs of our common history
Who will never learn the lessons of our fathers.

Too many great minds have been lied too,
have been cheated,
Too many have lost faith in change,
In the promise of days to come.

And the mediums of revolution are stalled.

For these are the poets of this age who will not find their words,
And the drummers who are denied their rhythms,
The artists whose colors are subdued, objectified, to a constant state of gray.

Too many great minds of my generations are forfeited as causalities of corporate
interests, of western ignorance, or western indifference.

246 million child laborers

246 million books unwritten

246 million visions unseen

246 innovations unimagined

There has to be a better way. Let ours be the generation of change.