



BLACK/WHITE

By Amy León

Black boy born with
Loose noose round his neck
Black man will die with one

Black boy loves to read

Black boy likes sports

Black boy is told
Sports will be his only path
To success

Black boy is told
He will be incarcerated
In his lifetime

Black boy is told
To be quiet
Keep hands at side
Keep voice low
Look 'civilized'

Black boy is threat

Black man is overqualified
Black man doesn't get
interviewed

Black man in suit
Is portrayed as
Black boy playing dress-up

Black boy
Makes the news

Black boy
Gets shot at 17

White boy born with
Halo round his head
White man will die with one

White boy loves to read

White boy likes sports

White boy has options

White boy is told
He will get away with
Everything

White boy is told
To have fun
Remember his lunch
Brush his teeth
Be home by nine

White boy is child

White man is under-qualified
White man starts on Monday

White man in suit
Is portrayed as
White man in suit

White man
Reports it

White boy
Learned to shoot at 15

Black boy
May or may not live
To see university

Black man will not
Know how to talk about this
With his son.

White boy
May or may not
Take a gap year

White man will
Never have to.



POEMS