

**Cheryl Kaye Marshall**

Age: 17, Grade: 12

Home School, Birmingham, AL

Educator: Emily Marshall

Category: Poetry

---

### **Shhhh! Sit in Silence**

Shhhhh, sit in silence...

Shhhhh, sit in silence...

Shhhhh, sit in silence...

Shhh, it is better to go unnoticed in this moment.

Sitting as a mere soul among others,

Yet not a single one looking at me.

Quiet.

Whisper.

Don't speak!

Quiet.

Whisper.

Don't speak!

Quiet.

Whisper.

Don't speak!

Quiet.

Whisper.

Don't speak!

The world is a dangerous place.

I talk only behind the protection of flowers,

Dressing them in my hair

With gentle care.

Things fair.

BURNING.

"Shhhhh, sit in silence," I say to mania.

Shhhhh, I beg.

Shhhhh, the world spins too fast, too fast.

Shhhhhhhhhhh...