

**Adam Stroecker**

Age: 17, Grade: 11

School Name: RenaissanCE Sch of Eastern Shr, Daphne, AL

Educator: JoAnn Clemmons

Category: Poetry

---

## **Human Blood**

Human Blood

A crimson fluid passes through the veins of all living creatures

It brings life, joy, energy, and existence to each life force that it possesses

It holds no grudges, no favorites, no fear

It alone feels nothing but equality to each being it inhabits

At the core of every human, there lies a single heart.

Inside the chest cavity, it pulses, producing life with each passing second.

“Thump,” “Thump,” “Thump”

It circulates blood to every vein of the body, ensuring each receives a fair pint.

Inside every human, blood exists.

Inside every human, a heart exists.

On the surface of every human, skin exists.

In the skull of every human, a mind exists

Fueled by the life-altering fluid known as blood

Thousands of humans stand before me.

I see an array of colors as far as the eye can see

I see mixtures of,

White

Black

Tan

Peach

Carmel

Gray

Brown

And others that are blends of many different shades of skin tone.

They all have one major factor in common.

All of them have blood flowing within their veins.

I stare out at the city, where hundreds of humans live and breath

As I look down the street, I notice a small group dragging a long thin line of chalk down the center of the road.

One pulls out a hammer and begins to stake two wooden signs into the ground before them.

One reads,

“Left only!”

The other reads,

“Right Only!”

Two long lines of people face one another in perfect symmetry along the line dividing them.

Then, they begin to attack.

They begin to scream,

Swear

Pounce

Kick

Punch

Claw

And shove one another!

I notice a few drops of blood have spattered to the ground before me.  
I place my hand down on top of the small pool and let the red fluid coat my palm.  
I stare at it intently, but I can't tell who the owner of this scarlet liquid is.  
On the other side of town, people walk past one another, growling and scowling in anger at one another.  
Off in the distance, I hear bits and pieces of their conversations.  
"Your life is so much easier than mine! It's only because your white."  
"You're homophobic! Everyone else says you are."  
"This country is against all minority parties. Racism never went away."  
"White people are evil and privileged."  
"Black people are dangerous criminals."  
"Gay people are sick."  
"Hispanics are illegal."  
"Asians are ugly."  
I stare back down at the blood on my hand.  
I stab the sharp end of my fingernail down into my thumb  
A single drop of red blood leaks out of the aberration of my skin  
It's identical to the blood on my palm  
So, the individual who owns this red elixir has the same blood as me.  
All humans possess blood inside of their bodies  
It flows out of our hearts and into our veins  
It gives us life and nourishment for our bodies and soul.  
What is truly unique about blood.  
No matter the human, it's always the same deep shade of red.  
No matter the skin  
No matter the sex  
No matter the status  
No matter the faith  
No matter the lover  
No matter the wealth  
No matter the ancestry  
We all have red blood under our skin  
And it proves that we are all equally humans  
Running a race that we are in together  
Till the very end of time