

Boy Blue

Jelal Huyler

Boy is born.
He is beautiful, as everyone is.
He is brown, like his parents.
He is loved.
He grows.

One day coming from school, cops stop boy.
Cops do not love boy.
Tell boy so.
Call him stupid. Bad. Stupid. Ugly. Brown. Black. Black.
Brown. Ugly.
Call him stupid. Bad. Ugly.

TV tells boy what cops say, true.
Teachers show boy they believe what cops say, true.
News say, tubes say, people say,
Seems like even steeples say, what cops say, true.

Boy blue.
Brown boy blue.
Forgets he is loved.
Love does not love him.
To him, only bad love him.
Only black love him.

Cops say black bad.
TV say what cops say is true.
Brown boy blue.

Gets his own face misconstrued.
Is what TV say is true.
Brown boy get hot.
Burning red hot.
Brown boy red hot.
Get pushed and pop
Past point of control.

No one to hold him.
Just scold him.
Mold him into what cops say, true.

TV say what cops say, true.
But brown boy just blue.



This image is from the youtube video of Jelal Huyler reciting "Boy Blue," which was featured in the film "Cracking the Codes," <crackingthecodes.org>. His poem is reprinted here with permission.