



THE NEWS CAN BE SCARY - BLACK LIVES MATTER

TWO POEMS TO GET US TALKING

BY JANET WONG

To the Families at Emerson Elementary:

It was truly a joy to be able to participate in your literacy celebration last week. I loved seeing your happy faces on Zoom—as well as your foot waves, air bumps, thumbs up, heart thumps, and especially the chicken wing elbows!

Recently we have seen and heard some very upsetting images in the news. I wrote two poems this week to help us talk with each other; you will find them below. I hope these poems will inspire you to write your own poems, too.

The News Can Be Scary

by Janet Wong

The news can be scary.
The news can be loud.
We hear people shouting.
We see them pushed down.

When I feel scared and
don't know what to say,
I can draw. I can write.
I can read. I can play.

I can make up a story,
draw a dragon or fox,
build a world out of words,
or Legos or blocks.

Everything in my world
will be good, will be fair.
And with pencil and paper
I can always go there.

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Black Lives Matter

by Janet Wong

When we say, "Dumplings are delicious,"
it doesn't mean
we only want to eat dumplings all day long.
We can love noodles and berries—and cake, too.

So when we say "Black Lives Matter"
it doesn't mean
our Black friends are the only ones we care about.

"Black Lives Matter" means we understand
many things are not fair,
especially for people who are Black,
especially when police are involved.
It means we will speak up
and do what we can to move forward together,
and not fall back.

Can you say it with me?
Black Lives Matter.
Saying it is the first step
to seeing it come true.
Justice for everyone
starts with me and you.

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With wishes for peace and safety for everyone,

Janet Wong

janetwong.com
pomelobooks.com
Princeton, NJ