

**ERIC  
HOLLAND**  
GRADE 5

## **The Truth**

Truth the opposite  
of lying.

Is the truth  
the right thing sometimes?

The word  
truth is like an  
angel telling me  
to do the right thing.

Can the truth get  
you in trouble?

The truth.



What's wrong with you being white  
And me being black?


We are still equal.  
We can get along instead of being ignorant people.

We might be different races,  
And we might run at different paces.

But that don't mean we should be bad and kill one another.  
We should be good and grant wishes to each other.

Stop fighting and handle it peacefully.  
Instead of being jerks then end up in the penitentiary.

Well, all day long I'm black and bright.  
This is what I think about as I drift off at night.



**ERIANNA  
HICKS  
GRADE 5**

## **The Shooting**

One day I was at my aunt's house, having fun with my cousin and baby sister. As we were playing, my aunt came in and said, "Everyone get on the ground." The shooting began. Outside everyone was shooting at each other.

As I was on the floor, I was crying because that was my first time hearing a gun shot. I was praying that none of us got shot and I hoped they would stop. I was really glad because God told me that it would be all right.

As we got up, I was shaking. My cousin hit something and I fell to the ground. I was crying so bad that I fell straight asleep. When I woke up, I had an excellent morning.



**ERIANNA  
HICKS**  
GRADE 5

I'm in the sky  
trying to survive,  
made up of gases  
as they go through my eyes.

Hitting the floor,  
hitting the ground,  
not turning my frown  
upside down.

I'm not fat  
that's a fact  
and mean people  
discriminate me  
because I'm black.

I'm a black American girl  
and I ain't afraid to say it  
but when you call me out  
that's what makes you a hater  
and makes me greater.

I feel that people go around like they don't care  
And they walk around like it's a country fair.

I hear people getting killed every day