

# Resisting, to Rise

## A Tribute to African American Children

Christine L. Emmons

Small girl walks to school  
Through violent angry crowd  
Proud, determined, calm

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

Nine-year girl retorts  
To police, "I am a child!"  
Resilient, brave, strong

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

Girl sprays lantern flies  
So, woman calls the police  
Curious, bright, bold

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

Seven-year-old boy  
Dives into pool, saves toddler  
Courageous, pure gold

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

This nine-year-old boy  
Graduated from high school  
Driven, focused, cool

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

Teenage girl, thirteen  
Medical school accepts her  
First, caring, clever

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

At only seven  
Youngest opera singer  
Unique, excels, dreams

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

At just seventeen  
One hundred schools want him  
Brilliant, the cream

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?

Whole class accepted  
One hundred, into college  
Power of knowledge

When **you** look at **me**, what **do** you **see**?  
Whom **do** you **see**, when you **look** at **me**?  
A boundary breaker smashing chains  
A treasured dreamer, An unexpected surprise  
Like a powerful muscle being trained,  
I am Resisting, to Rise