

I'm Drowning

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I was swimming

Small eyes, said the glasses on my desk
I closed my eyes and couldn't see anything
I opened my eyes and everything was foggy
Like clouds that obscured the moon
I couldn't see with my glasses
I guess they were right
But why me?

Smartie, said the assignments I've turned in
I gave back her homework
The homework I did
I have been manipulated, mocked, and threatened,
But why me?

Go back home, said my classmates
Go back to China
Go back to where you belong
I felt unwanted, I felt unsafe, I felt miserable
But why me?

Virus, said the strangers along the road
The virus I'm known as
The virus we are known as
I felt anger, I want to shout
But I'm just a kid, an Asian-American

Who would ever listen to me?

They laughed and stared but I never knew why

I just laughed with them

I finally understand why.

It was evident they were laughing at me

I was just too young to see

I understood what was happening

I understood but my question was still

Why?

He got slashed in the face, sixty-one

She was shoved to the floor, ninety-one

She was burnt to death, eighty-nine

They were stabbed, but the murderers just

casually walked away in broad daylight.

It rains

and it rains.

and it rains.

Almost a billion times a day.

Wiping tears off my soaked face

sobbing as if it was *raining*.

But this rain wasn't like anything else

It hurt and it stung

I was drenched in *rain*

I want to speak, to raise my voice

But it was too late

I was drowning, but maybe not in a pool this time...