



Ask students to read these poems, thinking about how we should treat one another.
Which one do they like the most and why?

Poem One: Anjuma from Azhar Academy 'I am worth more'

My problem is not what comes out of your mouth,
Not the lies you live by.
I am not bothered by your perception of me,
Because I am worth more than this body you are quick to judge.
This outfit, my figure is a distorted shadow,
I have two countries growing within me.
I wear my religion like a halo around my head,
I glow like a firefly and blood flushes and brings life to my skin.
Your skin is dry – you cannot get to what you cannot touch in me,
You cannot make me echo grief that I do not share with you,
This body is my temple, and I have birds singing off key within me.
I didn't ask you to sing along,
Sing with me, or don't sing at all,
Love me, or don't love me at all.
But do not shout your bullet words at me as I walk away,
I am everything that has tried to silence me,
Bullets that I have caught between my teeth.
I have a dragon growing under my tongue,
A Phoenix in my heart.
Do not tell me I am not beautiful, your definition of beauty is sugar coated in lies,
I know this with all the cracks you've made in me, you have only brought more light into me.
Because I am worth more than this body you are quick to judge.

Poem Two: Atefah from Quwwat-ul-Islam 'Just a thought'

I'm a normal girl
I mind my own business
I am a Muslim
I live my life peacefully
But... (line 5)

What if I was alone?
What if I was walking down a quiet street,
And two guys jumped at me, mimicking me,
What if someone discriminated against me for being me?
What if they say, 'what are you wearing?' or 'go to hell'? (line 10)
What if I was treated differently for who I am and what I believe?
But...

I'm just a normal girl,
Who minds her own business,
Who is a student, (line 15)
Who is a Muslim,
And lives her life peacefully,
I guess it was just a thought.

Poem Three: Jonathan St Bonaventure's 'You can't judge a book by its cover'

You can judge a book by its cover, but accept the consequences that makes,
It will help with your path and steps that you take,
You shouldn't make fun of someone for everyone else's sake
If you choose the right path, life will be a piece of cake.

You can question a person for what they wear
But be careful with your questions because they will care,
Your words will change their future, and doesn't come out of thin air
If you make the wrong choice then their hearts you could tear.

You can gossip about one strange name
But by telling other's they'll think that you're lame
Your sanctions are simple, your regret will be a pain
And don't make a bad decision or they'll think you're insane.

But you can't take the mick of someone's belief,
It's wrong, disgusting and a crime just as bad as being a thief
Make the right choices and you'll feel the most relief
So, don't do wrong and cause mischief.

Poem Four: Stratford School Academy 'Diversity Matters'

People fight wars with violence,
They fight battles with cannons and guns;
But open your eyes up to Kindness,
You'll find all the battles you fight will be won.

Kindness is a ray of sunshine,
It shines brightness in people's lives;
If only you'd try to see it,
You'd dance merrily and know Kindness thrives.

When you're feeling sad; you're feeling blue,
You need a friend to talk to;
That act of Kindness triggers your heart,
it runs through your veins,
An antidote for when you are in pain.

Kindness is a ray of sunshine,
It shines brightness in people's lives;
If only you'd try to see it,
You'd dance merrily and know Kindness thrives.

If all people were driven to be good,
There would be no need for gangs in hoods;
We don't want death, evil or greed,
No, worldwide kindness is all we need.

Poem Five: Jummah Hussain from Azhar Academy 'The window'

I see the window, it is stained
bits of dirt of the hatred and anger.
Stains of confusion, disgust and tears,
So, I wipe the stains away.
I peer at the dust of teasing and laughter,
I smell the stench of horrid comments and mockery,
I see in the neglected corner of the window
The growing mould of rejection
So, I wipe the stains away.
The stains are growing faster by the second,
Becoming permanent against the window,
So we all come together
And smash the window, the window of bullying,
So, the stains have nowhere to remain.

Poem Six: Cumberland Students 'Equality'

Everyone is different but in the same way

Questioning things is ok

Use your instincts to tell you what to do

Always be respectful to someone religious

Love your neighbours and be prestigious

Is it true that you can even be just like a family?

The truth is that no one is the same or different

You just need to let your true colours be fluorescent

Poem Seven: Noor Hussain from Plashet 'Who we are'

The way the people around us make assumptions about who we are,
The way the people around us marginalise us because of who we are,
The way the people around us do not see the bigger picture because they don't know who we are.

The way the media presents us,
The way the media makes up lies about us, (line 5)
The way the media have no boundaries in what they say about us,
It's not right, is it?

The way the feelings within us brainwashes ourselves,
The way the feelings within us can change ourselves,
The way the feelings within us can impact ourselves. (line 10)

The way religion asks us to communicate in a positive way,
The way religion asks us to view each other for who they are in a positive way,
The way religion asks us to maintain peace and harmony in a positive way.

It's not right to dismiss, to discriminate or to despise one another solely based on their religion,
It's right to come together, to understand and to educate ourselves based on the beauty of their religion.
(line 15)