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School as a Theme Song

What shark lurks under every desk, silent but deadly?
What carnivore licks her teeth,
patiently waiting to tear her next victim?
I run outside,
Little House on the Prairie here I come,
I tumble down.
Still I'm here,
stuck in the Twilight Zone.
Every word I utter leaves me empty.
I want to scream, but it's too much like a broken
record.

A desperate tune sounding eerily like Twin Peaks
brings me low.
I'm waiting for my musical high, then in bursts
Flashdance.
Nothing can stop me now 'cause I'm a Maniac.
Who cares what they think?
It's just another day in the life of a soldier.
I don't speak anymore.
I'd rather watch, then nobody can step on me.
Glory plays through the air, there's no hope for
these lost souls.
Who are you?

Merlyn's Pen

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As I am a poet I express what I believe, and I fight against
whatever I oppose, in poetry.

”

-June Jordan

MERLYN'S PEN

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Is this a pathetic attempt at joy,
something along the lines of Girls Just Wanna
Have Fun,
but everyone's playing Eric Satie?
So I remain alone in this corner, listening to my
own mindless tunes.
All that's playing is some Elvis song that got old
too soon.
And everyone repeats the same lyrics, nobody
needs to learn the original.
It's what they played on the radio yesterday that
matters.
I'm thinking to a different rhythm.
This is no Gangsta's Paradise.
I drum my favorite Beatles beat and everyone says
to stop.
I'm So Tired is my excuse.
I've got to conquer another day.
I stick to Star Wars and hope Bach doesn't win.

—Juliette Woronov,
Eleventh grade, Tampa Preparatory School,
Tampa, Florida

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