

Writing: 5-8th Grade. Honorable Mention.

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"We Were There"

We were there
Step by step
Bare feet on the dry ground
241 miles
Across vast western India
We do this for our people
Even with the sweat
Dripping down our faces
We are not silent
We are not violent
They will not control
Us
Our Country
Our Salt

We were there
When a six-pointed star
Meant death
Young children silenced
From the formula
That made their DNA
Starving, crying, horrified, dying
Was our future
When we were inferior
They took our things
Even shaved our hair
And eliminated our bodies by millions
We had lives
A bright future ahead
But our souls remain
Forever in memories
Never to forget

We were there
Standing for equality
We are all human
Colored or not
We sat at the back of the bus

Labeled by our appearance
But we would not settle
To be treated like inferiors
We are Americans
He said "I have a dream"
So we found hope
He said "I believe"
So we did too

Throughout the trials of humanity
We were there
In 1930
For the salt march in India
We were there
In 1933
For the Holocaust in Germany
We were there
In 1963
For African American inequality

We were there
And are here today
So remember

We might have been weak
But we used our voices
Where a single word
Carried power

Words are formidable
To the oppressor
So we must not
Be named as bystanders
Fade into the background
Letting others suffer
For if the brave people of history
Kept quiet
Failed to rise up
Hope would die
Justice would be killed
And

The evil would win
We carry the ability of change
But
The world will not change
Because we want it to
We have to act
We were there
Where are you?