

I Can Feel It In My Soul
After “Stand Up” By Cynthia Erivo

I can feel it in my bones
I feel that truth is spoken
Everything in me awakens
And I listen,
I listen.

Hm-hmm ah, ouh ouh
The beat. The soulful, soft, sound beat
Guides the flow in my chest
In my heart
Loud, loved, lawless

I’m gonna stand up
Chills from my toes-up
My hairs *stand up*
My whole soul struck

The chant reaches into me,
inspires me to be
force, and fat, and free

Move my hands, head, and feet
swirl and snap to the beat
I can feel it in my soul

The People Belonged
Golden Shovel Poem After “Famous” by Naomi Shihab Nye

Every time **The**
People are **loud**,
Every time they use their **Voice**,
Morality, at once, **Is**
On its way to become **Famous**.

They did not give up **To**
That which loved their **silence**;
That **Which**
Erased what they **Knew**;
That which caused all of **It**;

— Caused all of the fight that the people **Would**
For years pass down and **Inherit**.
They did because they ARE **The**
People, and they belonged on this **earth**

Before
Anybody
needed to have **said**
so.

“I can feel it in my Soul” is a poem I wrote last year for an English assignment for which we had to write a piece on a song that meant a lot to us. The song I used was “Stand Up” by Cynthia Erivo, from the 2019 movie “Harriet” about the life of the brave and revolutionary figure, Harriet Tubman. The idea of the song and my poem is to stand up and pave the way for change and freedom, which is how it directly embodies the theme of “Using Your Voice.” In the poem, I describe how this chant makes me feel and how it inspires me to stand up, take up space, and use my voice like Harriet Tubman once did. The verses in italics are from the song, and I sing them when presenting this poem — which I did for my class.

“The People Belonged” is a golden shovel poem after the poem “Famous” by Naomi Shihab Nye. The line I used from that piece is “*The loud voice is famous to silence, which knew it would inherit the earth before anybody said so.*” That line speaks volumes in and of itself, however, I wrote a poem of an entirely different meaning, using each of Naomi Shihab Nye’s words at the end of each verse. In the end, my poem, “The People Belonged,” addresses the theme “Using Your Voice” by discussing the impact and importance of using your voice for change. “The People Belonged” addresses everyone’s inherent place in the world, and subsequently, their place in spaces where decisions are made.