

I Am Me

(Spoken word – please also listen to audio file)

Glasses
Small Eyes
Math Brainiac
Tiger Mom
English deficient
Homogenous in Appearance
Asian

The line in between
The forgotten culture
The never mentioned
The model minority
Asian

Studies by organizations
Published statistics
Cited articles
Black and White
These are the words
Splashed across headlines
These are the races that are remembered
These are the races talked about in classrooms
This is where the discourse exists

The Asian is excluded
In this supposed country of equality
The Asian is the same
The Asian is uninteresting
The Asian is shunned
The Asian is ignored

When I walk into a room
I see faces turn
I can almost hear their thoughts
Asian
Dog Eater
Misfit
Boring
Asian

I feel my cheeks turn red
I want to fly away
And I wish that I could escape
The world of black and white
And hide in the rays of the sun

Yellow
But also able to create
A rainbow of diversity

I feel the shame
The shame of not having
Blond hair and blue eyes
The shame of not fitting Western ideals
The shame of not fulfilling
The American in Asian American
The shame of being Chinese

I have tried to change it
I have tried to act more “white”
To be more free
To rebel
But in the end
That is who I am
Asian

This is what people see
That no matter how I try to hide
I am still Asian
But what they do not see
Is that I am not smart
Because I am Asian
I am not a musician
Because I am Asian
I do not want to be a doctor or a lawyer
Because I am Asian

I am not defined by my culture
I am not defined by stereotypes
I will not be suffocated
By this world devoid of color

I am defined by myself
I am defined by my actions
I am defined by my thoughts
Separate from my race

I am not American
I am not Chinese
I am not Asian American
I am me