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| *Glyn Chambers - Belfast - 17 years old***Two Communities**We live in this street, they live in that street,yet both communities live in Belfast.We follow this religion, they follow that religion,yet both communities believe in God.We vote for these parties, they vote for those parties,yet both communities recognize each other’s mandate.We feel bound to one country, they feel bound to another country,yet both communities are bound to Northern Ireland.We think they are troublemakers, they think we are troublemakers,yet both communities have contributed to the Troubles.We claim they get too much, they claim we get too much,yet both communities wish to create a prosperous, equal society with opportunities for all.Two communities, but what are the differences?http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/images/activities/blackline.gif *Gemma McHenry - Ballycastle, County Antrim*“Being a child of the Troubles in Belfast was normal for me. I didn’t know anything else. Just like children in the slums of cities all over the world who know no better, we knew there was a big world out there but this was our world. The love and security we had at home made up for all the madness going on around us.”“I was brought up in a mixed area (Protestant and Catholic) and I had mixed friends and thought nothing of it. We were all innocent children. I would be asked by my Protestant friends to say the Hail Mary. To me it was the only difference between us. Sometimes I needed to say it to prove I was a Catholic!”“Those were happy days of innocence, but reality hit us with a bomb when a Protestant neighbour was shot by Republican paramilitaries for being a member of the Security Forces. And then a Catholic neighbour was shot for being a Catholic.”“As a Catholic family it became too dangerous for us to continue living there.”http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/images/activities/blackline.gif*Natasha Ritchie - Belfast - 18 years old***Pain or Peace?**Lying in bed you hear a bomb in the distanceClose your eyes and forget, try to keep your innocenceWatching the news, there’s twelve more deadMaybe a sigh or a shake of your head.There’s nothing you can do, there’s nothing you can sayYou can’t stop the pain, make the hurt go away.So you go out to your friends and play your gamesYou’re only young, you can’t make it changeYou learn to ignore, pretend it never happenedWhen you let it get to you that’s when childhood ends.And now there’s a cease-fire, now we have peaceHow long will it last? A few months? A few weeks?You don’t know what to think, a whole new way of lifeYou’re just not sure, but the other way wasn’t right.There’s always been trouble, since before you were bornPeople fighting, people killing, families forlornNow there’s a new way to live where nobody diesBut should we believe it, or is it all just more lies?Will we have a new life where there’s no need to grieveIt’s going to take time before I can believe.http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/images/activities/blackline.gif*Laragh Cullen - Dungannon, County Tyrone - 11 years old***A Dream of Peace**Peace in our country.A truce in our land,Harmony in our world,All war banned.I live in Dungannon,I’ve never known peace,I’m tired of the choppers,Soldiers and police.I’m tired of the sirensThe town’s like a cage,I wish there was peace,I’m eleven years of age. |
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