

## Follow-Up Activity for Classroom Teachers

Created by The Coterie for teachers to use in classrooms after seeing  
*Rise Up*

After seeing *Rise Up* at The Coterie, use this point-of-view poetry activity to further extend your students' experience and to begin discussing their opinions.

- *Spoken Word or Slam Poetry (10-15 minutes)*: Students then find their own silent place in the room with a pen/pencil and a piece of paper. They will write a poem from the point of view of one of the Freedom Riders.

*Wording to introduce the poetry exercise:* We are now going to put ourselves in a historical frame of mind as a Freedom Rider. You will be writing a short poem about something that happened to you during the Rides.

- *Be specific about who you are as the speaker.*
- *Who are you addressing?*
- *What do you see? What interesting ways can you describe the sights, sounds, touch, and smells of the ride?*
- *How did you feel about being on the bus? What strong feelings came up?*

I also find the lessons on this website to be a quick and helpful breakdown:  
<https://www.theclassroomkey.com/2017/04/how-to-teach-poetry-writing-in-4-easy-lessons.html>

*A poem from the script Rise Up by Lisa Evans is included on the back, if you would like to use this as reference.*

***For more lesson plans, websites for you and your students, and book lists, please visit [coterie.edublogs.org](http://coterie.edublogs.org).***

***We welcome feedback about our workshops and resources! Please contact Education Director Amanda Kibler at [akibler@coterietheatre.org](mailto:akibler@coterietheatre.org) or 816-474-2230.***

It's quite okay to be scared.  
It's all right to feel fright.  
Only fools aren't afraid  
When they challenge the might  
Of how it is now and has always been done.

Who cares if it's wrong and that someone,  
Somewhere is underfoot?  
There are forces out there  
Want no good to bear  
From the hopes and dreams of a better world.

It's how you move the air before you.  
First part is the easy part,  
The start  
Of something bigger than you,  
Few.

They call it home of the brave.  
They say it's the land of the free.  
Right now on the road you're thinking,  
This ain't gonna be  
Bad as we feared.

Black and white together going to make a stand,  
Bring overdue change across this new-found land,  
And it's going to be all right, right?  
And it's okay to be scared.