

## Normal Kid Stuff

3 black teens walk down my street  
young talking, innocent laughing, backpacks and headphones  
normal kid stuff  
these boys are tall  
they look like men

the one in a blue t-shirt might be the funny one  
I think the shortest one is book smart  
the quiet one, the leader

before I can stop myself I run out after them shouting:

*Don't put your hands in your pockets! Don't run too fast! Try not to yell!*

the one in a blue t-shirt stops, takes off his headphones  
the quiet one pulls his hood down and unzips his jacket  
the shortest one smiles and flashes two thumbs up

when he's older, reminders to my son will be simpler:

*Don't forget your umbrella. Did you finish your homework?*

maybe my son will be friends with a funny kid in a blue t-shirt  
a smart kid killed  
for having the wrong color skin  
my reminders to my son when he's older, harder:

*Some people who kill things they are afraid of and then beg for grace.*

I hear them laugh again  
from my porch I see them chase into the street  
yelling and teasing  
normal kid stuff

maybe I'll learn their names on my newsfeed  
their life a #hashtag  
and I'll know whether they were the funny one  
or the smart one or the leader  
posthumously