

And you are calling me colored?

When I was born, I was black.
As I grow up, I am black.
When I go in sun, I am black.
When I am scared, I am black.
When I am sick, I am black.
And when I die, I will still be black.

And you, white people.
When you are born, you are pink.
When you grow up, you are white.
When you go in sun, you are red.
When you are cold, you are blue.
When you are scared, you are yellow.
When you are sick, you are green
And when you die, you are grey...

And you are calling me colored?

Variously attributed to Josh White, "an African child", Malcolm X, the Oglala Lakota, and an anonymous pupil of King Edward VI School, Birmingham, UK; but most likely one of various renditions into English from the French of a poem by Senegalese poet and first president of Senegal Léopold Sédar Senghor (1906-2001).