

If People Were Colours

By Daisy Ward

'If People Were Colours' explores the concept that our relationship with nature is an unequal one. It is an instructional poem, written in the hope that those who read it might look at their own relationship with Mother Earth, and see if there is any way they could change their behaviour and by doing so treat her more like a friend.

If people were colours what would you be?
Would you be warm or cool in tone?
Would you reflect the forest or the sea?
Would you be of blood or of bone?
I know what colour is the colour for me,
It is the colour of every tree.

Do I mean khaki, or do I mean jade?
Maybe I mean chartreuse or lime?
Whatever I mean my colour won't fade.
For green is the shade of time,
It's the colour of the Birch and the Elm
It's a colour that does not overwhelm.

Green is what has got me through the year.
The isolation, the distance
The illness, the fear.
Nature is what has got me through this grey existence,
And I owe a lot to my friend Mother Earth.
Though she is a friend I'm not sure I deserve.

Before I did some things that make me blush,
I used to have showers that would last for hours,
I used to order online in such a rush,
I used to ride my bike over flowers.
I was a fool back then
It's not a mistake I will make again.

Society tricks us into wanting more than we need,
Encourages us to make mistake after mistake,
If we don't act soon Mother Earth will die from our greed,
And we cannot fix Her after she breaks.
We need Her.
Without Her we could not breathe.
And air is one of the only things
We **truly** need.