Your Name

Instructor Name

Course Number

Date

How can I not say something?

To continue the discussion on the topic of "racial discrimination", a poem by Frances E.W Harper has been chosen. She wrote the poem, "Bury Me in a Free Land" to share the two key themes of demise and injustice. The main idea of the poem is that even death can't set a person free until injustice and slavery is prevalent in a society. The speaker shares that she does not want to get buried in a land of slaves. She also deliberates the horrors of slavery. The poet is an African-American abolitionist and got published in The Anti-Slavery newspaper.

Overall, both the song and the poem share the theme of racial discrimination. The poem was written back in 1858 when the racism was at hype in American society while the song is the latest one and shares how signs of racism are still alive in the society. The song uses a melodic structure to illustrate a dejected picture of society in which angels are killed in the name of racism. "I confess I am lost, In the age of the social, on our knees, take a test, To be lovin' and grateful (Lady Gaga - Angel Down). The poem utilizes the strategy of metaphor to depict slave owners, "Of bloodhounds seizing their human prey" (Harper). By employing the techniques of imagery and emotional language, the poet protests against slavery and the real lives of slaves.

Both poems shares the discrimination and slavery of African-Americans. The poem conveys the message of freedom for blacks and makes the audience of poem question slavery. For her, slavery would not even let them rest in peace after death because they will be buried in a land of injustice and slavery. Lady Gaga in her song shares the message that how angels are killed and questions the policymakers for not responding on such heart reckoning incident. She intends to use the power of voice to question injustice in society. The external source reveals the power of poetry in the civil rights movement (*D. A. Powell Reads Frances E. W. Harper’s “Bury Me in a Free Land” (Poetry of American Identity, Poetry of America, Poetry and Literature, Library of Congress)*).

**Works Cited**

D. A. Powell Reads Frances E. W. Harper’s “Bury Me in a Free Land” (Poetry of American Identity, Poetry of America, Poetry and Literature, Library of Congress). https://www.loc.gov/poetry/poetry-of-america/american-identity/dapowell-francesharper.html. Accessed 7 Sept. 2019.

Harper, Frances Ellen Watkins. *“Bury me in a free land."* JR Sherman (1992) African-American poetry of the nineteenth century: An anthology. Illinois: University of Illinois (1845).

*Lady Gaga - Angel Down*. 2016. *YouTube*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=SRlady+gaga+angel+down&v=PehnftZHU6E.