

**Bloom**

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Robert Edgar**

My Mother was a teacher  
And her dad and mother too  
He coached Jesse Owens in high  
school  
She helped the deaf to speak like you.  
Mom asked if I'd read John Dewey.  
Ever noticed children draw?  
Their sketches aren't just pictures  
They're maps of what they are.  
  
And they take what they learn  
And they take what they learn  
And they take what they learn  
And they draw portraits of angels.  
  
And my sisters became teachers too  
Taught children how to read  
Tiny black kids in Valdosta  
And island kids of Balinese.  
  
And they're teachers teaching  
teachers

And they're shepards of grazing souls  
And they try to help the youngest  
Help them rise up on their own.

And the kids took what they learned  
And they took what they learned  
And they took what they learned  
And wrote their tickets to the world.

Me I taught in colleges  
For a while after school  
On Valencia, in San Francisco  
And in a Tampa vestibule.  
Don't think I did too much harm  
I was too young to do much good  
But the kids I met were honest  
They conjured souls that stood.  
And they took what they learned  
And they took what they learned  
And they took what they learned  
And they made themselves a life.

People come to America

To study in our schools

Some are noisy but iridescent

Others quiet, loving and cool.

A couple came here to learn to fly

Where else would they go?

They came to where they'd learn  
quickly

They walked up to the pilot's door

And they took what they learned

And they took what they learned

And they took what they learned

And they burnt those buildings like a  
pair of fuses.

Got to outrun history

Not with threats held by knives.

This should be a land where empathy

Is nurtured in our lives.

Got a handful of bets this time around

Can't squander this chance to be

I'll cradle this nation to my breast

Relearn the reasons to be free.

And take what we've learned

And take what we've learned

And take what we've learned

Redraw this country, in our children's  
image, carefully.