A Talkin’-To
Jason Reynolds  Illustration by Andrea Pippins

I could tell you all the bad things, all the bad things that cut and scare and howl and growl and gnash and bear teeth, bright and sharp that glint in the moonlight.

I could tell you all that’s frightening, all that’s frightening and lurking and looming and hiding in the brush, razor-hair pricked up on the back of something too sly to see.

I could tell you about all the loud things, all the loud things that scream and shriek and shred our ability to hear each other, the beasts behind screens, scrolling banners of bully-banter.

I could tell you all the things, all the things that are trying to tell you about you, about how you should run, and how you should run, and how you should run, but I’m about you above all things, above all things, so I’d rather tell you one thing and one thing only:

everything bad and frightening and loud will always hide when you hold your head up, will always hide when you hold your heart out, will always sing a shrinking song when you fly.

An excerpt from We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices compiled by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson

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3. Using the text as inspiration, write a poem describing a situation or event from differing perspectives.

Extension Activities
5. What is the shared lesson in Boney’s “Tell It in Your Own Way” and Khan’s “How to Pass the Test”? Discuss the

3. Read Oh’s “Words Have Power.” Describe the ways in which teasing and bullying can have a damaging

EXPLORING SOCIAL ISSUES:
We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices

IN THE CLASSROOM
Cheryl at cherylwhudson.weebly.com.

Cheryl Willis Hudson is an author, editor, and cofounder and editorial director of Just Us Books. Cheryl has
written over two dozen books for children, is a member of the children’s book committee of PEN America, and has served as a diversity consultant to a number of educational publishers. Learn more about Cheryl at cherylwhudsonweekly.com.

We Who Must: We Now Have Vision
It is an excellent resource for teachers to use as a springboard to discuss

Rise, Resist, Raise Your Voice
Looking at the Anthology as a Whole

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